

# What's New in Birdland

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## MIGRATIONS

by BOB GROWDEN

Your summer replacement is back. Last year at this time, our Activities Chairman, Andy Larsen, went into the hospital for an operation. This year there have been a few changes in the Activities seat, so here I am, trying my hand at it again.

I think I am like the New Mexican Indian who, several years ago, was sending a few smoke signals. He had his dampened blanket at work and the puffs of smoke were going up as he was communicating with a representative of an adjoining tribe on a distant mesa. The puffs of smoke continued and he had just about gotten through the news events and was going into the sports final. It happened to be the day on which the atom test number one let loose and over there in a far distant section of the desert this huge mushroom of smoke ascended to the skies. A few moments later there came the most earth-shaking boom which this or any other mortal had ever heard. The Indian simply folded up his blanket, dampened the fire and trudged disconsolately off into the deepening shadows of the desert muttering to himself, "I wish I could talk like that." Well, so do I.

The Turtle Rock Gimmick Rally Fun-Khana was a success. Twenty-four autos attended. (Thanks to the large turnout of Birds, we succeeded in attracting so much attention that four passing sports-car enthusiasts decided to join us.) A total of 52 attended the picnic. The Rally to the Park everyone enjoyed; the Fun-Khana was a balloon-breaking contest with some 15-odd sports cars running through the zig-zag course (laid out by Andy Larsen). All in all, everyone had fun and the weather was perfect. I am sure everybody there will thank Skip Riggs who made the arrangements, and to top it off, the Club made money.

The Concours d'Elegance which was planned for July 17th, has been cancelled.

With such short notice about the July event being called off, I am caught short for an event in July. However, Dwight Johnston has had a tour planned for some time to Big Basin, so we are moving it up to fill the breach. This is a beautiful drive down Santa Cruz way via Skyline Blvd. For those who haven't been there, Big Basin is a large grove of Redwood trees with a stream running through and dammed up for swimming. Picnic tables abound and deer run wild in the area. Facilities in the park include a

restaurant, delicatessen (hickory-smoked pork ribs sold by the pound), etc. I am sure everyone will have a wonderful time, and for those who want to go a few miles further, there's Santa Cruz. So, let's turn out for this Great Tour at 9:30 a.m., July 17th. From Jack London Square, of course.

August? Who's heard of Marsh Creek Lodge?

## TECH TIPS



by FRANK FICKER

— Continued from last month

How to trace IGNITION troubles. Tips on how to find what's wrong . . . tricks to get you home.

Last month we talked on how to check to see if we had a nice fat spark from the spark plug wire. So we have no fat spark! Let us do some tracing. Grounded high-tension wire. Examine the heavily insulated wire running from one of the coils to the distributor. If its insulation is cracked or chafed where it passes near a metal part of the engine, the spark may be short-circuiting. Bend the wire away from the metal and tie it with a strip of cloth to hold it away. Then press each end of the wire firmly into its terminal nipple.

Defective distributor rotor.

Snap off the spring clips at the side of the distributor, then lift the cap up and to one side. (Caution: Don't pull the wires out of the cap.) Check the inside of the cap for condensed moisture and wipe it clean. Pull the bakelite rotor upward to remove it from the distributor shaft. If its central contact is dirty or blackened, scrape it clean. If it has a spring-leaf contact, bend it up slightly to increase its pressure. When replacing the rotor after checking other distributor parts, be sure the indexing part of its hub lines up with the mating flat part of the shaft; then firmly press it down into position.

More about IGNITION troubles next month.



June 19th was the kind of day just designed for car enthusiasts and running rallies. Twenty-four cars assembled at Jack London Square to run the Gimmick Rally to Turtle Rock Ranch on Mount Diablo.

The Gimmick Rally, a product of a lot of hard work on the part of Bob Growden, demanded the constant attention of navigator and driver. None managed to come in with a perfect score. However, three cars came in with three errors, tying for first place, so Bob endeavored to break the tie by asking questions pertaining to the route. Gene Andrade and Levita placed third with Lew and Faye Edwards second. Larry and Dottie Farrell won first place.

We then indulged in a cool swim and a period of relaxation prior to lunch. While some lazed in the sun, Dick Spickelmire, Bill Houston, Andy Larsen and Bob Growden laid out the course for the Fun-Khana. It was a low speed run but enjoyable. Don Highley placed third in a Sprite, Jim Betten-court in an MGA was second, and Art Horsfall came in first. Unfortunately, we don't have the navigators' names. They had to do a large share of the work, some of them becoming so engrossed in their jobs that they almost ended up in the boxes with the elusive balloons.

All during the Fun-Khana the bachelor element of BATOC was conspicuous by its absence. At the conclusion of the event we all proceeded to the pool and found our missing unattached male contingent. They were so enthralled by a vision of feminine pulchritude in an itty-bitsy, teeny-weeny, itty-bitty red bikini who later changed into the latest version of "Short Shorts", that they didn't even know there was a Fun-Khana.

Naturally, those most engrossed in this fetching, undulating bit of fluff were Joe White (who else?), Jack Taylor, and the man with the roving eye, Paul Tanzillo. Hope you fellows have managed to put your optical orbs back in their sockets. (This was a bit of scenery that our absent Editor could have elaborated upon far better than I.) (Ed. — You did fine, Fran. Made us sorry we didn't go, and a reporter can't do a better job than that.)



# PRESIDENT'S PERCH



by ART HORSFALL

Had a fine turnout for Turtle Rock as reported elsewhere. Summer always brings out the Birds and the spirit of "togetherness" is back again.

We welcome Bob Growden and his helper, Andy Larsen, who are taking over the Activities department from this point on. Skip resigned for reasons of his own after a strenuous two months of getting us rolling again. Bob has been our dark (work) horse for a year or more, having contributed his talents toward planning and laying out many of our events during that time. It even surprises me how often he has been involved in these events while remaining in the background. Andy proved himself in 1959. Thanks to both of you for filling this vital need.

Welcome to two more new members! Elton and Jean Wolfe, that nice couple in the Big Bird, and Art Bellasano with his Raven — er, '57 Blackbird, joined the ranks since our last get-together. The Spickelmires and Fulcos became "official" a month ago, so membership is looking up. Lots of names on the prospect list, too.

Some old faces have been showing up again — figuratively speaking, of course. Dom and Joyce Fulco, Gene Andrade and Levita, Larry and Dottie Farrell, to name a few. Keep coming around, folks. I like old faces.

The Speed Age is surely here. In an effort to quicken the pace at our General Meetings, we are going to dispense with the reading of minutes and Treasurer's report. Those who wish, may call for these at the end of the meeting so that those disinterested may mosey on home.

NEWS BRIEFS: Frank and Grace Ficker plan to enjoy their new sailboat to the fullest and won't be much in evidence until the fall months... Ken Keyser and his "Indian" gal (Hallowe'en Party), Betty Duncan, were married on June 26th. They're in the market for another Bird so they can join the Club again... Bob Perry got married recently too. Now resides in San Francisco with his Marie, so that's one reason we haven't been seeing him... Lew Edwards and Doris Carroll sustained damage to their cars in traffic mishaps... Lori Elizabeth made her appearance in the Growden family last month. Now perhaps we'll be seeing Doris G. once in awhile... Had 18 people for dinner at the June meeting. High time, too, as the Driftwood people weren't too happy with the "throng" of six who ate prior to the May meeting. We counted 36 adults at the last meeting, plus assorted kinder. However, it should be noted that dinner was 15 minutes late in getting under way, which caused the meeting proper to begin an hour late, making the eat-at-homes melancholy to say the least. We must make every effort to begin at 8 sharp as advertised in this paper. By the same token, those who don't eat, shouldn't show up around 7 along with the diners. With all that time to kill, they spend

it at the bar, and who's to say liquor doesn't play a part in the later discord when the meeting gets under way? . . . Two Board members have moved since last month — the Neisses to 3000 — 60th Avenue in Oakland, and the Horsfalls to 324 Warwick in the same metropolis. Bring your address list up to date by recording these changes before you forget.

## ON BEING A BETTER MEMBER

Are you getting your money's worth out of BATOC? What is it doing for you?

After you have thought about this for awhile, begin to turn the questions around. What are you putting into the Club, what are you contributing in time, thought, energy, ideas? What are you doing for it?

No doubt you have found some things wrong with our group, things which you think need improvement. What are you doing to bring this about? Perhaps you have withheld judgment and not voiced your opinions because you did not want to acquire the reputation of fault-finding, or you didn't want to discourage officers whom you feel are living up to the utmost of their capabilities. Of course, if you were to make criticisms, you would want them to be constructive, creative, helpful — not merely condemnacious. You want your comments taken in a friendly spirit so you will not be misunderstood.

You should voice some of the things you have been thinking, feeling, observing. You can advance your ideas tentatively, asking other members to corroborate or correct you. One way to begin is to say something like, "Now I think the Club has done a wonderful job to this point, but are we doing all that we might to hold the interest of our membership, or to interest new members into joining? I'd like to have a discussion about our goals. Perhaps we have lost sight of our original purposes. I also wonder if we could not work toward these purposes more intelligently or effectively?" You do not say this in a condemning sense or as a busybody tearing down, but rather as a member who is only trying to increase his own contribution to the group's wellbeing.

How about some of you quiet members speaking up once in awhile? Particularly you shy wives. Many of you have sound ideas to share if you only would. Get one of them in a two-party conversation sometime and see for yourself.

As you listen to what is said at general meetings or committee gatherings, you may perceive other needs or roles. Sometimes you can express the feeling of a group, putting into words what a number of people feel but which nobody has expressed. This can be a very useful kind of clarification. Or you may suggest that the standards of the Club are sinking, that the members need to be reminded what those standards are, or should be. You may feel that strongly, but as you study the needs of those who are working hard for the Club, you should also see the necessity for a kind word, for an expression of appreciation now and then. No matter how modest, most people like to feel that they are deserving of credit for

what they are trying to do.

These are positive, constructive reactions you may have as you survey the activities of the Club. You may also have some negative reactions and you try to think what might be done about certain faults which are common to all clubs — even our own. You notice with amusement, or perhaps growing resentment, how certain members express their ego and vanity. Some like to talk all the time; and you get tired of that. Others, in order to assert themselves, apparently want to block everything, for they seem to oppose everything anyone else suggests.

These are problems which demand some thought. However, you cannot jump to conclusions too quickly. You may be misunderstanding the behavior or motives of others. When a person expresses an opinion, you may think, "What he needs is a soapbox." Most likely, though, in his own way, he has the best interests of the Club uppermost in his thoughts. You should not judge persons too harshly, for their motives may be above reproach.

One final word about the amateur comedian who ought to be in vaudeville or on television. He's pretty proud of his wisecracks and a general membership meeting constitutes a ready-made audience. He expects applause and laughter for his flashing wit. He has a wonderful time horsing around, kidding people, being the life of the party, but he can be exceedingly disruptive during a meeting. I hope you are not one of these. But if you are, how about putting your humor on paper and submitting it to your Editor? He can use some lively material to enhance these pages.

## MISCELLANY

SOFT TOPS WANTED — We have calls for at least three soft tops. If you know of any that are for sale contact your Editor. . . Bert Melberg is offering his '56 prize-winner for sale — Contact him at Cirimele Ford. It has fewer than 10,000 miles and is a honey! . . . For some reason which is 'way over our punkin head, Skip Riggs withdrew his own motion to increase the Club dues. Whether the subject of voting will be brought up again at this month's meeting is beyond our ken. . . We cannot adequately express our appreciation to talented Fran Larsen for the fine articles she submits month after month. This Club doesn't always go along the way she thinks it should; nevertheless, she never allows her disappointment to affect her enthusiasm. Don't know how we ever got along before she joined the Club. Incidentally, more of you should make use of these pages. You are one of the stockholders and have every right to be read. . . A mysterious "Mr. X" professes to be miffed at the way BATOC is headed, and offers to set it right if we but print his articles. Said contris are written in a style suggesting a magnificent hoax, yet he asks that we do no editing. If Mr. X is for real, let him submit his questionnaire; then we'll decide about printing his malediction.

## MEETING NOTICES

- 7/6 — Activities — Horsfalls, 324 Warwick, 7:30 p. m.
- 7/12 — General Membership — The Driftwood, 1413 Park St., Alameda, 8 p. m. Dinner at 7:00 p. m. SHARP!
- 7/22 — Membership — Edwards' home, 3451 35th Avenue, 7:30 p. m.