



Serving Mid-Michigan

Rocket Review

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Mackinac Bridge 50th Celebration

By Vicki May

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R.E. OLDS CHAPTER MEMBERS AND THEIR OLDSMOBILES TAKE PART IN HISTORICAL EVENT - THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MACKINAC BRIDGE

June 1958 saw 103 1958 white Oldsmobile convertibles parade across the Mackinac Bridge in the original dedication ceremony. Eighty three of them carried queens representing each of Michigan's 83 counties, with the other 20 carrying various dignitaries. When these convertibles came off the bridge, they virtually disappeared. The glory of any of those '58 Oldsmobile convertibles celebrating one of Michigan's greatest achieve-

ments, 50 years later, was not to be.

The goal to be met by the 50th Anniversary organizers was to find 50 convertibles, one to mark each year the bridge has carried automobiles across the Straits of Mackinac. Car clubs across the country were contacted to seek out the 50 convertibles.

In late 2006 Ed Reavie, organizer of the parade, contacted Judy Badgley to seek out the years that were yet to be filled. He had already located about half of the cars needed. Judy quickly volunteered Chapter members where our cars would fill the blanks. The

following Chapter cars were ultimately signed up:

- 1961 Dynamic '88 - Tom and Jan Hummer
- 1967 442 - Ken and Michelle Brochu
- 1968 Cutlass - Wayne and Vicki May
- 1969 Cutlass - Don and Eva Cooper
- 1970 Pace Car - Steve Zaban
- 1972 Hurst - Doug and Judy Badgley
- 1994 Cutlass - Ken and Joanne Lovell

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Chapter member's cars on display in St. Ignace for the historic Mackinac Bridge 50th Anniversary Celebration

**2007 R.E. Olds Chapter
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Board members are elected for a one year period of time at the Annual Banquet Meeting. Officers assume their office beginning February 1st of the subsequent year in which they are elected.

General Club meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at various locations, but usually at the R.E. Olds Museum in Lansing. Contact Ken Nicholas at the number shown above for more information.

Oldsmobile Homecoming Car Show committee meetings are held periodically through out the year. Contact Don Cooper at: HOMECOMING14YRS@aol.com for more information.

Greetings from Your President



July has been an exciting and busy month for the R. E. Olds Chapter. First, we had a great time at the Oldsmobile Nationals in Bowling Green, Kentucky. What a great opportunity to spend time together, display our Oldsmobiles, scrounge through massive amounts of Oldsmobile parts, literature and memorabilia, meet new people, learn more about Oldsmobiles, and gain a new appreciation for air conditioning (yup, it was a little warm there). The Music City Rockets were wonderful hosts, and did a great job. We were also glad to see the smiling faces of members from the Motor City Rockets, who were on hand to help with registration, awards, etc. They should be well practiced for the 2008 Nationals they'll be hosting in

Detroit. Bringing home **First Place recognition** from the Nationals was **Don and Eva Cooper, Tom and Jan Hummer, and Wayne and Vicki May**. Doug and Judy Badgley were there at the swap meet with lots of Oldsmobile goodies. They were a little hard to find at times since they were often housed under various aliases. That's a whole other story. Ken and Marsha Nicholas were there taking care of official Zone and OCA business. For a while I thought we had entered a time warp; I thought I was at the Lansing Homecoming show. You'd be amazed at how many of our Homecoming T-shirts were being worn at this meet. It really is an indication of how popular our Homecoming show is. We can definitely be proud of our efforts!

Next, several members participated in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Mackinac Bridge. We were honored to have our classic Oldsmobiles included in the historic parade across the Bridge. An article on this event is elsewhere in this issue.

Take a deep breath, polish those cars, and get ready for August and September activities. Don't pass up the opportunity to get together with fellow Chapter members at the 28th Street Cruise, the Hastings Car Show, the Old 27 Cruise, the September Poker Run and pot luck, and other activities published in your Rocket Review.

Fun and Friendship is the goal. Enjoy the journey.

Vicki



Notes from the Editor

So when I mailed our last newsletters, I asked the clerk if there was any way to reduce the amount of postage we pay. After some deliberation, the postal clerk said, "Well, if you fold the newsletter in two again [like I used to do], it can be sent for 54 cents!" In short, that is why your newsletter is now folded like we used to do.

Obviously, I am writing this in

advance of its mailing, so if the postage turns out to be different than what I just quoted above, I'll talk about that next issue.

I'm not sure how all of this works, but if our new rate truly is .54¢, that would be .09¢ less than we paid before the postage rate increase! That, folks, is your government at work for you. You win some, and you lose some. This time, I think we won.

Wayne

R.E. Olds Chapter Membership Application

New _____ Renewal _____ Application Date ____/____/____
 OCA Number _____ Birthday - Month _____ Day _____
 Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ - _____
 Home Phone (____) _____ - _____ Work Phone (____) _____ - _____
 E-Mail address _____
 Spouse Name _____ Birthday - Month _____ Day _____
 List of all Oldsmobiles owned:



You must be a member of the Oldsmobile Club of America to join this Chapter.

Chapter dues are \$10.00 a year or 3 years for \$25.00.

Send application and make check payable to:

**R.E. OLDS CHAPTER
 OLDSMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA
 P.O. BOX 80101
 LANSING, MICHIGAN 48908-0101**

R.E. Olds Chapter is a regional chapter of the Oldsmobile Club of America, based in the Mid-Michigan area. The Chapter received its charter in 1984, and has served Olds enthusiasts in the area since then. A bi-monthly publication, ROCKET REVIEW is sent to members and offers a variety of member stories, technical information and a classified ad section. As a member of the chapter you are invited to join the group at various car show around the state and enjoy family oriented car club activities.

How to Join the Oldsmobile Club of America

Visit the Oldsmobile Club of America's web site: www.oldsclub.org for an application form, dues schedule and other club information and benefits.

RE Olds Chapter Dues

Dues are \$10 for 1 year or \$25 for three years, renewable each June for all members and payable to R.E. Olds Chapter. Mail to: RE Olds Chapter OCA, %Joe Pohl, P.O. Box 80101, Lansing, MI 48908-0101. A renewal form is not necessary. Your address label contains the year in which you need to renew your membership. For example, if the "RN" code after your name is "RN07", then your dues are renewable and due in June 2007. No additional renewal reminder will be sent to you.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

Club Meetings for 2007 are usually scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month at the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum at 7 PM . Scheduled meeting dates for this year are: **September 4th, October 2nd, November TBA, December 4th.**

A Note from Chuck Mitchell

"I wish to thank the people that signed the homecoming poster. It is hanging on the living room wall by my bed. Also the members that sent cards; in case I missed somebody."
 "Am still getting up and looking at the top of the grass so think I will be around for a while yet."

Monthly Meeting Programs Needed

Do you have a suggestion for a speaker or program for our monthly meetings? Someone or something that would be interesting to share with your Oldsmobile friends? Let us know your ideas. Even if you have a topic of interest but don't know who to contact about doing a program, let us know and maybe we can find someone. Contact Judy Badgley at 517-337-0444, weekdays or e-mail: dbgarage@netzero.net.



Happy Birthday

September Birthdays - Joe Pohl 11th, Wayne Jacobs 13th, Mike Ross 14th, Dwain Hilliard & Wayne Mason 16th, Marsha Nicholas 19th, Al Zvara 22nd, Tom Hummer & Randy Thayer 25th, Deborah Shank & Cheryl Spalding 27th.

October Birthdays - Dave Lehnen 1st, Sheridan Morse 3rd, Scott Bischoff 5th, Jim Brehm 6th, Lori Emmons 8th, Harry Emmons & Dan Mroczak 9th, Ashley Jones 11th, Shirley Place 13th, Ken Nicholas & Susan Pohl 16th, Linda Heminger 17th, Judy Badgley 28th.

If we don't list your birthday, send yours/spouses birthday information (month and day only) to wemas@comcast.net . In the subject line put R.E. OLDS. Or snail mail to:

Wayne Mason
 2713 W. Clark Rd.
 Lansing, MI 48906

Grand Rapids 28th Street Metro Cruise

Hello Fellow R.E. Olds Chapter Club Members:

I have recently been in contact with Mr. John Leese who owns HARVEY CADILLAC on 28th St. in Grand Rapids. Along with owning the dealership Mr. Leese also has some classic Oldsmobiles.

He has agreed to make room for 30 Oldsmobile's, from our Chapter, to park at his dealership on Saturday August 25, 2007 for the 28th St. Metro Cruise. Cars need to arrive between 9:00a.m. and 11:00a.m. There will be a DJ providing music and a food wagon at the dealership.



This year they expect over 4000 cars! At approximately 3:00 p.m. they will begin the cruise on 28th St.

If you are interested in attending this event please contact me as Mr. Leese wants a count on the number of Oldsmobiles we will be bringing. My telephone is 517-

676-5630 and my email is: ret369lpd@sbcglobal.net.

This is for OLDSMOBILES ONLY!!!

Thanks, Mike Ross



Attention: R. E. Olds Chapter Members
 You are invited to a **Poker Run**
 Saturday, September 15, 2007 10 am
 at the R.E. Olds Museum

Beginning at the Museum, you will receive directions for a 55 mile drive through mid-Michigan. It would be great if the weather cooperates and we can drive our Oldsmobiles, but this is a rain or shine event. Along the way you will make five stops to select a playing card, before reaching your final destination. We will end at Mooville, near Nashville. This is a fully operational dairy farm with a petting zoo for kids and a great ice cream store. We have

reserved a room for us to have our lunch. You are asked to bring a dish to pass, your own beverage and table service. Following our lunch, we can take a tour of the farm and see how we get our dairy products. The tour costs \$5 each, payable prior to the tour. At the end of the tour you receive an ice cream cone.

We do need to know a general idea of how many will participate. Please notify Judy Badgley at 517-337-0444, (weekdays), if you will be coming.

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Judy was called several times to fill in the blanks, but the years needed were years that Oldsmobile didn't make a convertible.

All in all, eleven Oldsmobiles participated in this historic event. There were two 1958's, a 1988 Cutlass from the GM Heritage collection, and a 1974 Delta 88 pace car owned by Judy and Doug Badgley's son, Calvin Badgley. Once again, Oldsmobiles were making history.

The adventure started Friday afternoon, July 27th when members met to caravan to the celebration. It was a top-down day that was enjoyed by all.

Everyone agrees that the weekend was amazing. We drove in parades in each of the towns on both ends of the Bridge, St. Ignace and Mackinac City. After parading through St. Ignace to a large crowd, the convertibles were staged once more for the closing of the Bridge to all traffic to prepare for the crossing by the convertibles. We paraded across the Mighty Mac. It was very exciting to be a part of a once in a life-time experience where the Bridge was shut down to all traffic so the convertibles and honored passengers (governors, Bridge workers, past and present

princesses and queens...and, of course, R. E. Olds Chapter members) could cross the Bridge four lanes wide, just like in 1958. Eva Cooper said it all when she wrote a personal note about her experience - "What a wonderful sight! The smiles on everyone's face, as we drove across the bridge was amazing; everyone talking to each other, the honking of horns and everyone's cameras clicking away. The lead car, carrying Governor Granholm, stopped $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way across the Bridge and everyone was either standing in their cars or getting out to snap one more picture of the cars,

After parading through Mackinac City, the parade cars returned to Bridge View Park on the St. Ignace side of the Bridge to be displayed for the afternoon. It was a beautiful site to behold; all those beautiful convertibles with the Mackinac Bridge in the background. We enjoyed talking about our Oldsmobiles with the visitors and other participants.

When the Oldsmobiles crossed the Bridge in the 1958 celebration, each car was presented with a specialized license plate; each car that participated in the 50th Anniversary Parade also received a specialized license plate commemorating the his-

toric milestone of 50 years. I know that will be a treasured keepsake, along with the many newspaper articles, photos, and on-going favorite stories.

The grand finale to the festivities was an amazing fireworks display. Fireworks were launched from St. Ignace, Mackinac City, and Mackinaw Island. Those of us that watched from Bridge View Park in St. Ignace were very close to the launch site. It was a fantastic view, and everyone agrees that they were the most spectacular fireworks any of us had seen.

It isn't possible to end this article without saying what an honor it was to be a part of this historic event with such wonderful friends. We did the Chapter and Oldsmobile proud!

More information, pictures, etc. can be found on several websites - just Google Mackinac Bridge celebration and enjoy.

Thanks to Judy Badgley, Eva Cooper, Jan Hummer, and Willis Dennis for sharing their personal notes on their experience at the celebration, and to Troy Collins and others for sharing their photographs.

Vicki May



Oldsmobiles parading through the streets of Mackinac City as part of the Mackinac Bridge 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Secretary's Report



R.E. Olds Chapter General Session Meeting June 5, 2007

President, Vicki May called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. There were 26 present at the meeting. There were no first time guests.

Presidents Report:

1. Vicki welcomed the members and guests for attending and thanked all for attending. Each person introduced themselves and told what Oldsmobile's they had and how many years they were a member of the club.

Board Meeting Items: The board reviewed the financial status of the club. There was a request for a donation from the Beekman Center that was tabled until next meeting.

Vice Presidents Report:

There was no report.

Treasurers Report:

1. Dave Violetta reported: The balance on hand as of 4/30/07 was \$15702.43. Revenues for the month were \$2471.50. Expenses for the month were \$1298.11. The balance on hand as of 5/31/07 was \$16875.82. Jim Brehm moved to accept the treasurers' report as read. Joe Pohl seconded the motion. The membership approved the motion.

2. Operating Budget:

Special Events Budget: All car show bills need to be submitted to Dave

as soon as possible after the show.

Secretaries Report:

The minutes of the general session meeting for May 2007 were presented to the membership and opened for discussion. Mike Ross motioned to accept the minutes as read. Wayne Mason seconded the motion. The membership approved the motion.

Newsletter Report: The news letter is planned to go out the third week in June. It will contain pictures of the Homecoming show. If there are any articles that you have please submit them Wayne.

Membership Chairman Report: Joe Pohl:

1. New Applications: Vicki announced that Joe Pohl will continue in this position and Wayne Mason will assist Joe by getting the mail.

2. Member retention letters/calls: Three new members were added and four paid their dues this past month

Social Events/outings

OCA Chapter Representative Report: No report

1. Compliance Report:

Member Retention letters/calls

Old Business:

1. Homecoming: Judy Badgley reported that the spots for help during the show were filled. Ed reported the current statistics for the show.

2. Chuck Mitchell is ill and in the hospital. His Son is helping with the door prizes.

3. Vicki requested that if anyone is available to help decorate cakes on we are meeting on Thursday at Vicki's house.

4. Joe motion to invite the photographer to take pictures of the cars as they arrived. There was

discussion that she slowed the registration process down when taking pictures in the registration line. Judy suggested that homecoming committee decide what to do with the photographer.

5. There are Oldsmobile post cards of the plant available.

6. Debra sent a letter to Vicki stating that the funds for the R.E. Olds statue have been satisfied Thank you.

New Business

Motion to Adjourn: Jim Harsant motioned and Harry Emmons seconded the motion. The motion was approved

Respectfully submitted: Ed. Shand, Secretary.

There were no expenditures approved at this meeting.

Mike And Joe

R.E. Olds Chapter General Session Meeting July 10, 2007

President, Vicki May called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. There were 23 present at the meeting. There were no guests present.

Presidents Report:

Vicki welcomed the members thanked all for attending.

Board Meeting Items: None

Vice Presidents Report:

Harry Emmons turned in a little more money from pop cans salvaged from the Homecoming show.

Treasurers Report:

Dave Violetta reported: The balance on hand as of 5/31/07 was \$16,875.82. Revenues for the

Minutes - continued from page 6

month were \$9,780.00. Expenses for the month were \$6,717.47. The balance on hand as of 6/30/07 was \$19,938.35. Dave provided a report on the homecoming expenses. The Homecoming show yielded a profit of \$3,041.00. Harry Emmons moved to accept the treasurers' report as read. Jim Brehm seconded the motion. The membership approved the motion.

Secretaries Report:

The minutes of the general session meeting for June 5, 2007 were presented to the membership and opened for discussion. Ed read some notes received from some who attended the Homecoming show. Mike Ross motioned to accept the minutes as read. Jim Harsant seconded the motion. The membership approved the motion.

Newsletter Report:

Wayne Mason reported: The postage for the newsletter would be reduced if the document is folded.

Membership Chairman Report:

1. New Applications: Three new members were added and five paid their dues for the month. Post cards will be sent to those who are delinquent in their dues.

Social Events/outings: The Hurst Club held a road rally it's a 55 mile trip. Is there any interest from the club to arrange a similar event? It may be a good time for a pot luck dinner at the end. The suggested date is Aug 15th Saturday. This date conflicts with the car show in Grand Rapids. Judy will check on a September date for the event and report back next month.

OCA Chapter Representative Report:

1. Compliance Report: Chuck is at home and doing much better than anticipated.

Member Retention letters/calls

Old Business:

Homecoming: Judy Badgley reported: The first meeting for the 2008 Homecoming was conducted. The committee checked out another area for next years show and determined it was not suited for the show. We will continue at the current place. The committee is looking at ways to increase pre-registration.

New Business:

1. Vicki read a thank you letter from member Chris Heminger and the support received from the club.
2. The club received a donation request for the Beekman Center, Special Cars for Special kids. Last year we gave \$250.00. Jim Harsant recommended a \$500.00 donation for 2007. Jill Gilbert provided information on the organization and event. Gary Castele motioned to provide a \$500 donation to Beekman Center. Dave Violetta provided a financial breakdown of club profits. It was requested to have guidelines established for all donations received and at this time there is no budget set aside. Joe Pohl presented the rationale to support this

activity. Jim Harsant recommended that the board establish a budget for donations and the board to receive requests and pass them to the membership.

3. There was a discussion on the merits for donating to other organizations and the impact on the club.

4. Harry Emmons amended the motion to donate \$250.00 to the Beekman Center. Gary Castele accepted the amendment to his motion and Jim Brehm seconded it. The membership approved the motion with 2 opposing the motion.

There were some car show details shared with the membership.

Motion to Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Harry Emmons and supported by Andy Gilbert. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted: Ed. Shand, Secretary.

\$250.00 expenditure was approved for the Beekman Center at this meeting.

CAR SHOWS & CRUISIN' 2007



Woodward Dream Cruise in Ferndale
August 17th, 18th & 19th, more info at:
<http://www.ferndaledreamcruise.com/> or contact
 Michael C. Lary, Event Coordinator, 149
 West Nine Mile Road, Ferndale, Michigan
 48220-1730, (248)546-1573,
 (248)591-7034 Fax.

Old US 27 Power Tour, Coldwater to Cheboygan, August 21st - 26th. Open to 1979 and older cars. More info at <http://www.old27tour.com> or call Craig Parrish (517) 394-7344.

Special Cars for Special Kids, September 9th, Beekman Center, Lansing - 10am - 4pm. Call Jill Gilbert at (517) 712-9597 for more info.

Oldsmobile Homecoming . . . the Rest of the Story

By Judy Badgley

The 15th Annual Oldsmobile Homecoming show has come and gone. It was the biggest show yet. It seems that each year there is growth, so we must be doing something right. I would like to share some facts about the Oldsmobile Homecoming car show that not everybody knows.

The Oldsmobile Homecoming car show originated in 1992. The celebration of Oldsmobile's 95th birthday, hosted by Oldsmobile had just ended. Ken and Marsha Nicholas, along with Jack Harron of Canada happened to run into Rod Dimon, our soon-to-be R. E. Olds Chapter president. During the course of conversation, Ken mentioned that it might be "fun" to put on an Olds car show every year. With all in agreement, Ken spoke with Dennis Castelee, then-current Executive Manager of the Oldsmobile Club of America. Dennis agreed that it would be a great idea and contacted Helen Earley of Oldsmobile Public Relations. The seed was planted and would soon start growing. Dennis was actually the one who coined the "Oldsmobile Homecoming" show name.

Planning and organizing the Chapter's Annual Oldsmobile Homecoming car show was a good way to prepare for a "really big show" such as the Oldsmobile Centennial. A committee was formed consisting of: Ken & Marsha Nicholas, Jack Harron, Rod Dimon, Helen Earley, Dennis Castelee, Joe & Shirley Place, Don & Eva Cooper, Peter Tierney, Abel Anzuldua and

Ashley Jones. Their purpose was to organize a "team" of people to help Oldsmobile host its Centennial celebration to be held in 1997.

The Chapter's first Homecoming show was held in 1993 in the Townsend Street parking lots across from the Olds Administration building near downtown Lansing. It was a joint financial effort between the R.E. Olds Chapter of the Oldsmobile Club of America, and the Olds Club of Canada. The show was a success, but it was decided that joint partnership was not the best way to put on the show.

The Homecoming show continued to be held at the Townsend Street site for five more years, until the show outgrew the available space. In 1999, the show moved to GM's Lansing Plant 5 (Quad-4 Engine Plant) on Canal Road in Delta Township. The show continued there for three more years until GM decided to close the facility, and the site was no longer available for use. In 2002 the show moved to the State of Michigan General Office Building at the Secondary Complex, which is our current show site.

Through the years there have been many people who worked on the Homecoming Show's organizing committee in addition to those volunteers on show day. Ken Nicholas chaired the committee from the beginning until 1999 (seven years), when Pat Robinson took over. Pat was chairman for two years, and then Scott Whittaker chaired the event from 2002 until

2005 (four years). For the last two years, the committee has operated without a leader. Next year, Nicholas' and Coopers have volunteered to co-chair the event.

There have been many Chapter members and non-Chapter members who have contributed greatly to the success of this show. In addition to Chapter members, there is a growing group of Olds enthusiasts who choose not to be a part of the Chapter, but are willing to lend a hand to help with Homecoming. All people wanting to help are gratefully accepted.

The table on page 9 contains past show statistics. Where "NA" appears, we were unable to locate the figure. The "CARS" column includes a total of the number of cars in the "for sale" lot as well as the number of display cars. Figures shown in later years for the swap meet reflect the number of vendors and the number of spaces used. Earlier year swap space figures indicate only the number of spaces used. The only year that didn't show an increase in show car attendance over the previous year was 2002. That was attributed to bad weather and the fact that Oldsmobile also held their 105th birthday celebration in Lansing that year.

It is important that our Chapter document its history since we are now twenty-three years old. The purpose of this article has been to inform newer Chapter members how this spectacular show has come to be known as the "largest one day Oldsmobile show in the world". As

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Homecoming Statistics from the past fifteen years

YEAR		LOCATION	CARS	SWAP	PROFIT
1	1993	Oldsmobile Administration Bldg.	154	27	NA
2	1994	Oldsmobile Administration Bldg.	221	36	NA
3	1995	Oldsmobile Administration Bldg.	254	39	NA
4	1996	Oldsmobile Administration Bldg.	300	58	1600
5	1997	Oldsmobile Administration Bldg.	342	87	NA
6	1998	Oldsmobile Administration Bldg.	346	75	NA
7	1999	Plant 5/ Engine facility	320	NA	2844
8	2000	Plant 5/ Engine facility	378	56	1973
9	2001	Plant 5/ Engine facility	NA	NA	NA
10	2002	State General Office Bldg.	330	60	-198
11	2003	State General Office Bldg.	438	75	1579
12	2004	State General Office Bldg.	471	125	1963
13	2005	State General Office Bldg.	473	55/82	3669
14	2006	State General Office Bldg.	491	75/135	2802
15	2007	State General Office Bldg.	555	74/145	3080

Homecoming - continued from page 8

it turned out back in 1997, our Chapter did not have the responsibility of hosting the Oldsmobile Centennial. However, many of our Chapter members were instrumental in helping Oldsmobile host that amazing show, and it would not have been nearly as successful without the knowledge gained from the R. E. Olds Chapter hosting their own Oldsmobile Homecoming show. The Oldsmobile Homecoming is a very important part of our Chapter history.

The photos (right) are of the original committee members who are still active on the committee. **A BIG thanks to: Ken and Marsha Nicholas, Joe and Shirley Place, Don and Eva Cooper, and Ashley Jones.** You have all contributed to creating an important part of Oldsmobile history.

Original Homecoming committee members who are still active today



Shirley & Joe Place



Ashley Jones



Eva & Don Cooper



Marsha & Ken Nicholas

Olds Parting



with Willis and Troy

When we last left you, we had some additional side trips planned with Ken and his family, and also the car and stuff-auction coming up on June 23rd. The side trips amount to one "all dayer", and a shorter one 'cause I needed to rest up from the "all dayer." The long trip took us to Guitar Center in Flint. We start at 9 AM and arrived at our location a little after 10 AM. While we had the location right, we didn't have the correct time. They didn't open until 11 AM, so we headed up to Saginaw where there was another Guitar Center. Arriving a little after 11 AM, we were welcomed with open arms by a person with spiked hair and a two year hearing lost. After buying almost a gross of guitar strings and two electronic guitar tuning devices, we headed over to the Bed and Beyond where Ken's wife went with their daughter to protect their hearing. We then headed up to the salvage yard on M65 (Spencer's) after stopping at the only safe place for Ken and the family to eat - Mickey D'S. After the family cruised the yard, we headed up to Merlin's (Melrose) savage yard off M55. This was our real reason for the long trip. After cruising the yard for '58 parts and looking over Merlin's '57's, Ken bought the parts we had gone up there for. We then headed towards Michigan's Route 66. We got as far as Houghton



After resting for a while (maybe a day or two), we headed to the western store to get some "sh** kickers" (that's cowboy boots for you city slickers) at Tom's Western store over on M21. I almost missed the place because they had replaced the horse with a long horn steer (for you city slickers that's a cow with really long horns on its head). After trying on a number of boots,

Lake when we ran into a car show at the Big Chicken and Little BQ Pig place (of course that's not the real name - just a reference point for those of you with bi-focals). I'll



throw in a couple pictures, 'cause Wayne said he needed some filler.

Next up was a Dodge or Plymouth coupe we passed on M55 as we headed over to M66

(Yes, another picture included), and I forgot to mention the '58 2dr hardtop Chevy (gotcha) at M23 and M65 (Yep, another picture). We finally made it to M66 and started heading back home. On the way down M66 we saw a '51 Studebaker up on a hill, although we didn't take a picture as we buzzed by at about 60mph. Our next stop was in Sheridan at Beard's Lee

Oldsmobile (of course we took pictures; after all it was an Olds place). It was now approaching seven hours since we had last eaten (not counting the soft serve

ice crème twist we had at West Branch). We could not find another safe Mickey D's at which to eat. We finally found a Mickey D's on M66 in Stanton. We continued on home and I arrived back at my house about 10:30 PM after dropping Ken's family off at their place.

After trying on a number of boots,

See Boots | page 11



Boots - continued from page 10

Ken and his son and daughter were ready for the range (a flat or hilly piece of land void of everything). I think by now you know I was getting tired, having met myself coming and going a number of times. We still had the car and stuff-auction coming up which explains what happened there.

On June 23rd, we arrived at the auction sight about 9:30 AM, because the auction was scheduled to start at 10 AM. All auction cars were parked in various rows in a lot on the corner of Shiawassee and Cedar street. I went into the shade of the building where most of the cars had been stored to check out the Slot machines and Pinball machines that I was planning (thinking about) to buy if price wasn't too high. I had seen some slot machines in town before and checked on Ebay for pinball machines prices. The auction started by selling the stuff

in the building. I had brought a plastic card to cover my not-to-high items since payday (pension) was two days away. Three slot machines and one pinball machine later I was done (or so I thought I was) for the day. If you haven't been to an auction before, beware of making any kind of movement above your waist line while in the presence of a fast talking person with a pointy finger you can't fully understand, and a number of assistants that are constantly grunting something in an effort to apparently clear their throats of something. If you don't heed my warning, you may be asking yourself how you bid a ridiculous amount of money on something that the fast talking person with a pointy finger said was sold to you (no I didn't make this mistake). The mistake I made was staying for the auction of the cars. I think they saved the cars for later so they could work the bidders into a spending frenzy,

and buyers would therefore overlook what I warned you about earlier. Once again it was the story of the good angel on one shoulder and the bad angel on the other,

and how they fought to a draw through 36 cars. On the 37th car the bad angel sucker punch the good angel and thoughts of spending limits on my plastic card entered my head, and just as quickly left as the bidding went back and forth. When the smoke cleared, the fast talking person was pointing his finger at me and his grunting assistant confirmed that car 37 was now mine. I then headed to get my little trailer to take my slot machines and pinball machine home, and home wondering what had just happen. I also loaded some items that Ken bought and some that another friend of mine bought, and the friend helped me get car 37 from the auction home. A picture of car 37 (below) is also included in this article. If you remember from my last article, I indicated that I would have to live to be 120 to get everything done. I was wrong, make that a 130 and no more auctions.

Willis and I took Ken and his family back to the airport on the 26th of June so they could fly back home, and I could sleep for two or three days. In our next article we will actually get back to talking more about cars.

Till Later,

Happy Oldsing With Willis
and I

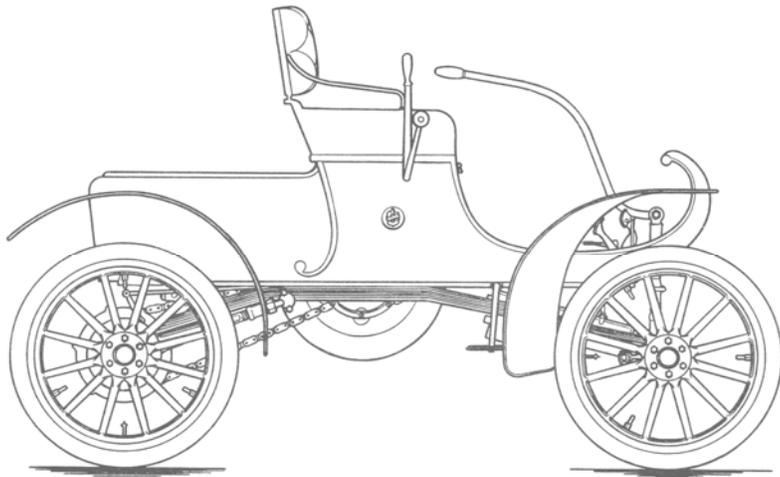


Left - The Mackinac Bridge under construction as it appeared over 50 years ago. Construction first began in May 1954. The two support towers are 752 feet high, 552 feet of which are above water. Notice the roadway had not yet been constructed when this photo was taken.

Thanks to Harry Emmons for the loan of his photo post card of the bridge under construction.

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