

Victoria Chapter Newsletter

December 2013 - January 2014

Bill Bouchard - Editor

Editor's Notes

I try to keep our newsletter to ten pages, for a few good reasons I think. Newsletters are published very two months and I feel that's a good frequency and there's only a certain amount of interesting material available. As well, from a practical position (and I tend to be practical) I can mail the ten page newsletter at regular postage rates to our non-computer members but add one page and we're into the higher rate!

Speaking of interesting material, I can always use more choices from more members. So if you have a story or pictures let me know. Contributions are encouraged because what you might think of as everyday information to you could really be interesting to others! Let me know, please.

While I'm on the topic of contributions and participation for this newsletter, I can offer a special thanks to those members who have offered material and who have taken pictures this past year. At the risk of leaving out a name, and please let me know if I have, numerous pictures have been sent to me by Liz and Paul Taylor, Don and Dolores Stevens, Richard Johnson, and Rita Green. Of course when story material is given to me, such as the Norrie article in this issue, there are often accompanying pictures.

Following our elections at the November meeting Heinz did offer to handle Sunday tours for 2014. Let Heinz know if you have tour ideas or if you can organize one of the Sunday runs. If you are unsure of organizing a tour there will be another member who can assist.

Entertainment at our meetings is my responsibility for 2014 so again, ideas, input and even presentations are welcome. Let me know.

Cheers, Bill Bouchard
Editor

MEMBER APPRECIATION NIGHT - Tuesday December 3

At our December 3 general meeting we celebrate our members and treat ourselves to complimentary sandwiches, sweets and beverages. I have listed here the activities that we had the opportunity to enjoy, without listing member's names who had some responsibility for these activities.

General meetings at St. Luke's Church Hall on most first Tuesdays of each month.
Executive meetings at Executive's homes on most of the last Tuesdays of each month.
Vinettes meetings with more of a highlight on the social side of their membership.

These were our Sunday runs on the second Sunday after the first Tuesday!

Sunday January 13 - There were dry roads and a dull sky prevailed. We ended at Tia's on West Saanich Rd. for this Highland Twist run.

Sunday February 17 - Appropriately highlighted as a Hearts and Flowers run. A very brief drizzle didn't register on the spoil meter. Refreshments at Highlands Pacific Golf Course.

Sunday March 17 - St. Patrick's Day run, with lots of green displayed. We ended at John King's and then to Bill Mattick's for late afternoon goodies.

Sunday April 14 - Bloomin' Blossom Run toured us through some of the woods of Broadmead and then over to Brannigan's for our supper spoiler.

Sunday May 19 - A nice weather day on the long weekend, for Mad about Metchosin.

Sunday June 16 - Father's Day and You're Always Wine-ing with a peninsula drive to Muse Winery.

Sunday August 18 - Fun in the Sun was warm and clear with our refreshment destination to the Sherman's.

Sunday October 13 - Again with nice weather and a highlight of the colourful foliage of Fall with a titled Ghostly Tour. Refreshments were at the Olympic View Golf Course.

Sunday November 17 - This was the finale for 2013, a Remember November run that ended in Esquimalt and an early dinner at the Princess Mary.



And more to come.....

New Year's Day run - This was a good weather day and at least one top down on the barometer.

Ice cream run - Our 14th annual, in July. Free ice cream at the Thomas's yard after the 75 minute drive.

Spring tour - West Coast Adventure this year to Port Alberni and a cruise to Bamfield.

May Tour - Meet the Dean in Kamloops. Next year in Revelstoke.

Island Challenge - September 6,7,8 organized by the Cowichan Valley Chapter. The 2014 Island Challenge weekend is to be organized by our Victoria Chapter.

Swap Meet - Sunday June 23. THE Chapter event of the year for public participation, member's volunteering and revenue generating.

Luther Court - June 17 and **Oak Bay Lodge** June 26 - We fulfilled two invitations to display our cars for residents at these facilities.

Horticultural Centre of the Pacific - A few members displayed their cars and enjoyed the day at this public open house event.

Corn roast - Sunday September 8. Warm and sunny at Heritage Acres with free steamed corn, hot dogs, ice cream, train rides and a good display of our cars.

Christmas in the Village - Fun at our annual participation in this family Christmas and fund raising event at Heritage Acres. November 23 for decorating and December 6 for our volunteer night.

Thanks to the Executive, and to those who have taken on the numerous responsibilities and to Vinettes for the post meeting refreshments.

Thanks to Members who support this Chapter by volunteering, attending meetings and participating in activities.



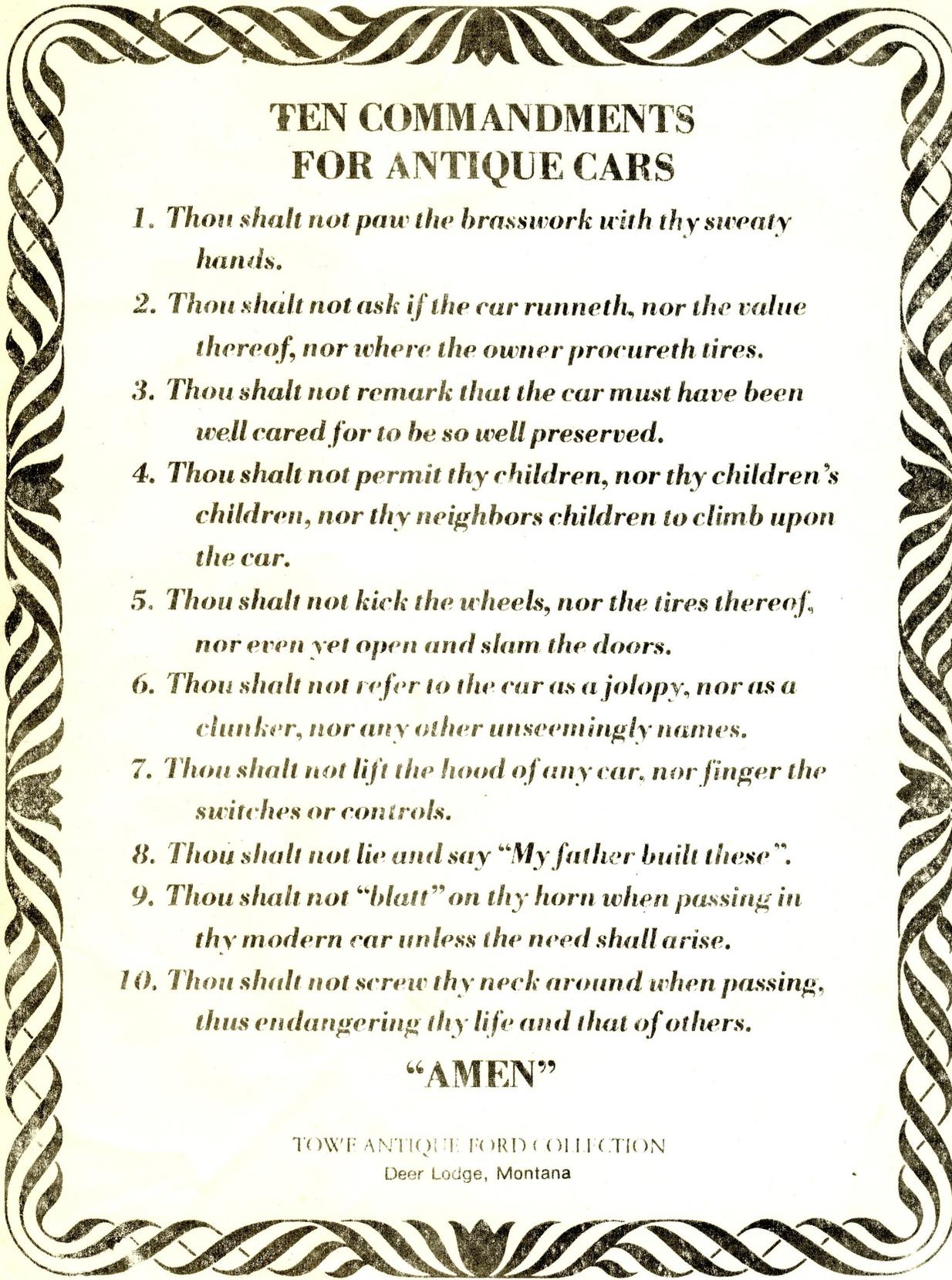
Decorating teamwork - Heritage Acres Christmas

Every year, well at least for the past 13 years that I can recall, our Chapter has been involved with Heritage Acres in their Christmas in the Village event. Over the first two weekends of December the buildings at Heritage Acres are brightly decorated in preparation for the public to attend and have fun. The lights, train rides, Santa visits and lots of refreshments are thoroughly enjoyed by the visitors and from all of this Heritage Acres gains public awareness and revenue. Bottom line is the revenue as this is a major fund raiser.

For many of our Chapter members this is a chance to help a local organization and to have some enjoyment. This year we had 14 members out on a perfect Saturday November 23 to decorate our usual three buildings. Our decorating team of John, Paul, Liz, Kurt, Heinz, Richard, Jane, Karen, Dave H., Dave R., Don, Pete, Linda, and Bill (really missed Bill N. this year!) have become “almost experts” at the freelance decorating. Within 1 1/2 hours we are done.



Now most of us who decorated will again be there for Friday December 6 to volunteer for the admission gate and parking on the opening night of public viewing and entertainment.



TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR ANTIQUE CARS

1. *Thou shalt not paw the brasswork with thy sweaty hands.*
2. *Thou shalt not ask if the car runneth, nor the value thereof, nor where the owner procureth tires.*
3. *Thou shalt not remark that the car must have been well cared for to be so well preserved.*
4. *Thou shalt not permit thy children, nor thy children's children, nor thy neighbors children to climb upon the car.*
5. *Thou shalt not kick the wheels, nor the tires thereof, nor even yet open and slam the doors.*
6. *Thou shalt not refer to the car as a jolopy, nor as a clunker, nor any other unseemingly names.*
7. *Thou shalt not lift the hood of any car, nor finger the switches or controls.*
8. *Thou shalt not lie and say "My father built these".*
9. *Thou shalt not "blatt" on thy horn when passing in thy modern car unless the need shall arise.*
10. *Thou shalt not screw thy neck around when passing, thus endangering thy life and that of others.*

"AMEN"

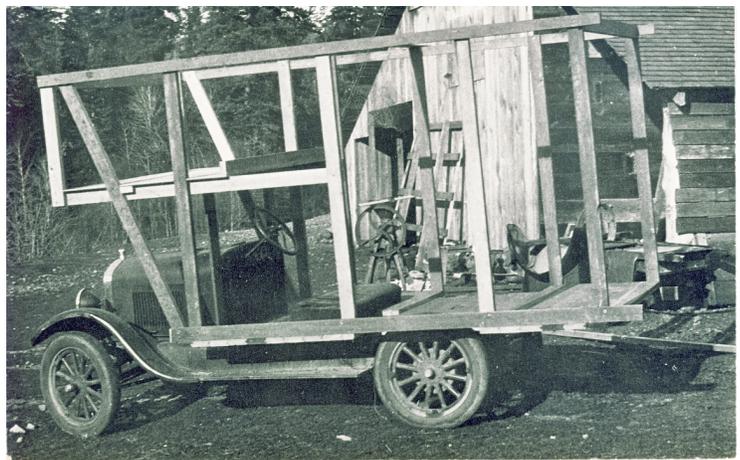
TOWE ANTIQUE FORD COLLECTION
Deer Lodge, Montana

Spencer Adventure - Story material/pictures from Norrie Spencer

Norrie Spencer had history and a hefty background of family experience to support his interest in completing the 1980 Cross Canada tour in the newly built camper that he added to his truck. The eleven foot camper that he built became a solid part of the 1931 Model AA truck that, with some level of comfort, accommodated his family on the journey across Canada – and back.

It was Norrie's grandfather who had started the journey for Norrie and his family. Alex Spencer was a homesteader at a remote and peaceful place close to Port Alberni. The trek for Alex started at Victoria in 1892 and after a three day walk he arrived near Alberni to purchase a quarter section of property and build a log cabin at Beaver Creek. Two years later he returned to England, married his sweetheart and came back to build a second log cabin at McCoy Lake. Later, another quarter section of land was purchased in Alberni, a house was built and it was here that Norrie's father Alwyn was born. So it was in 1933 that he was ready for additional responsibilities, not the least of which was to marry Violet. But marriage would require a honeymoon and he knew that a camping holiday was in the books. So creativity was a big part of being practical for there was to be a new camper completed before the wedding in May 1934.

Construction of the camper commenced in 1933. The mechanical for this camper was a 1927 Model T automobile. The body was removed from the cowl to the rear bumper. The Model T engine was retained but looking ahead to the long journey there was a ruckstell axle installed. The Model T body was replaced by a hand-built camper, all of it built with locally scrounged wood secured with carriage bolts and a great deal of trust. The exterior was neatly finished with edge grain fir secured by nails. The outside roofing was completed with a cover of canvass that was carefully stretched to provide a weather proofed interior. The camper was to have most of the comforts of home and this included a wood burning cast iron stove for cooking and required heat.



Above: Camper under early construction.
Left: Violet Spencer checking her honeymoon home.

There was a big deadline for the completion of this camper because the wedding for Alwyn and Violet was set for May 10, 1934. The honeymoon was immediate with a road trip that commenced with the drive up island and a ferry to Powell River. This was to be a journey of great distance and with many BC roads not paved, great adventure. From Powell River there was the drive to Vancouver and then east to Hope and the Fraser Canyon to Lac La Hache where the road became very difficult, so it was down to Kamloops before enjoying the Okanagan. Crossing the border the road trip took the newly-weds to Bend Oregon, Crater Lake, Lake Shasta and the redwoods of California, being the most southern point. The return journey included the ferry from Port Angeles to Victoria. Saanich was to be their new home, after they purchased property at Piedmont and East Saanich Road (now Highway 17).

The Model T camper was a part of the Spencer family until 1950. Fords remain a big part of the Spencer family with Norrie having Model A's and his brother Don having a 1929 Model A Roadster that he has owned since 1957 and brother Gerry with a 1928 Model A Coach. These cars and their other vintage vehicles are restored and very road worthy.



Camper almost completed and ready for the three month trip. Note the new 'windshield' and the creative use of available windows for the camper.

Right: Rear of camper, showing two storage boxes on the back and stove pipe to exhaust the cast iron stove that served for cooking and heat (even when you didn't want extra heat in summer!).

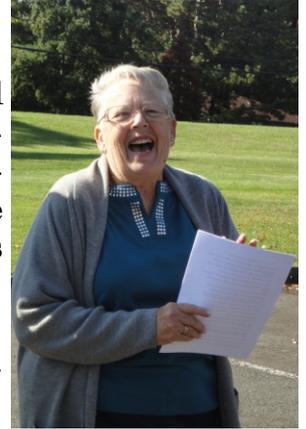
In a future issue there will be a story of the Norrie & Rose camper and their cross Canada trip.



Sunday October 13 - A glorious Sunday run.

It was to be a full Ghostly Tour, however the Royal Victoria Marathon required modifications to the original route and plan. The Vinettes pulled together a great modified outing and there was total enjoyment with the route, the refreshments and just in case the Vinettes had something to with it, the weather.

Our tour boss (almost said master!) was Rita Green and she provided a good briefing and an on time departure. I think that the instructions were clear because I didn't see any wandering participants. There were certainly many opportunities to wander and miss the designated turns because the fall foliage was at its best. The bonus day allowed for the convertibles to be in the tops down mode. You know it's good when the Hilder convertible top is down!



Refreshments were enjoyed at our destination, the Olympic View Golf Course. Fresh and custom made muffins just baked for us.

Thanks Vinettes.



Sunday November 17 - Remember November

Richard Johnson took us on a direct route to Cadboro Bay and then the Marine Drive waterfront, to town and then ending Westbay marina. The route was designed for us to experience many of the war memorials in Oak Bay, Victoria and Esquimalt. Among them was the Roll of Honour across from Cattle Point, the Cenotaph and Homecoming memorial in Victoria, the Memorial Park in Esquimalt and the access to Veteran's Cemetery.

At the end it was the Princess Mary Café that presented a great menu and at our table the "awesome fish and chips". Thanks Richard

Happenings:

Sunday December 1: Awards Buffet at Royal Victoria Golf Course. Reception 12:30, Buffet 1:30, followed by awards. Tickets are \$30 and available from Jane Thomas.

Tuesday December 3: General meeting at usual place and time. - member appreciation, with sandwiches and pastries.

Friday December 6: Some of us have decorated Heritage Acres for Christmas in the Village and now we will volunteer on December 6 evening. Call if you can assist.

NO Sunday run in December

New Years Day: Annual New Years Day run with meeting at regular place at 1 pm and departure at 130. Refreshments after the run and don't forget the Mustard Seed.

Tuesday January 7: General meeting, 730 pm at St. Luke's Church Hall. Member Patrick Jones will have an interesting and entertaining presentation following the meeting.

Sunday January 19: Sunday run, meeting at 1 pm at Pacific Forestry Centre on West Burnside.

Elections for 2014

Election night was Tuesday November 5. Directors Harvey Sherman and Richard Johnson had prepared for the evening and took us through the process. There was no hard fought campaign for any position and the outcome was completed in time for an active and entertaining auction.

Executive

President - Paul Taylor

Vice-President - Dave Rogers

Secretary - Bill Bouchard

Treasurer - Brent Morrison

Directors - Harvey Sherman, Richard Johnson, Jane Thomas, Jim Morgan

Governor (2 year term) - Brent Morrison

Committees

Tours (filled following election) - Heinz Mueller

Entertainment - Bill Bouchard

Membership - Jane Thomas

Sunshine - Dolores Stevens

Web/Facebook - Liz Taylor

Swap Meet - Dave Rogers, Becky Rogers, Marc Brown

Restoration and Preservation - Harvey Sherman, Gordie Thomas, Bruce Hopkins

Chapter Correspondent - Don Stevens

Chapter Newsletter - Bill Bouchard

Auction - John King, Heinz Mueller, Reg Potts