



# Gas Gauge

## Ye Olde Car Club

### October 2015 Newsletter

#### The President's Message

Well even though I'm not the president I thought that since Robbin was absent we still needed something in the newsletter this month, so here goes.

When I think about the YOCC, I have a plethora of memories; cleaning out the horse barn on 27<sup>th</sup> and Washington so that we could have the first swap meet, then setup and registration every year at the fairgrounds (thank you Simmelinks for making that move happen). Car tours were always fun, especially if there was a rumble seat open. If the screen-side was along there was always room to ride in it. The tours were sometimes educational (museums) which as a kid I thought 'oh how boring' but funny, when I was setting up a speedster run I had to stop at one of them and it seemed more interesting now. Other times the tours were just around the area and to a great place to have a picnic, maybe even fly a kite. But some may even remember the trips to camp Wooten; I know I won't forget since my first 'real' kiss happened there. Wish I had video of some of the dancing that went on!

As an adult having my own car makes the experience more fun (I get to drive). That's one of the reasons I challenged the club members earlier in the summer to take someone under the age of 50 for a ride in their vehicle. Thank you to those that volunteered to take the homecoming court out on the field. That counts. Get someone excited about antique cars, the feel and sound of a straight eight is something unique (just one example). Next thing you know they will be asking if you know about any cars for sale.

For next year let's get out and tour on a Saturday when the kids/grandkids are out of school and they can ride along. We have enough members that 1 person can volunteer a month to do a tour from March to October, otherwise I will have to start 'recruiting' ☺, so start thinking of where you would like to lead a tour. It doesn't have to be long and of course if it has ice cream at the end that is a bonus!

Happy motoring, always remember rubber side down!

DaJuan, Officer at Large

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#### EVENTS

**Thursday, October 8** the Ladies Luncheon was held at Holy Mac & Deli and had 13 ladies present. Ingrid Smith hosted the event. Thanks Ingrid.

**Saturday, October 17 - The American Cancer Society** is holding a 5K walk on Saturday, October 17 in Columbia Park. YOCC has been invited to have antique and classic cars parked near the assembly area for folks to look at. Walker registration begins at 7:30 am; and walk at 9:30 am. Cars will be between the stage and boat launch.

**Saturday, October 17 - Brookdale Torbett Assisted Living** - 221 Torbett St., Richland - In the planning process - will have additional information.

**Saturday, October 24 - 1st Annual Show & Shine and Food Drive** - Sponsored by the Bowtie Rollerz, To be held at Barley's Brew Pub, 3320 W. Kennewick Ave., Registration is 10:00-11:00 am, Registration is Free. Awards at 3:00 pm Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to Second Harvest. Contact Jim Sweeden@gmail.com 509-987-4382 for info.

**Saturday, November 7 - West Richland - Veterans Day Parade** - 9:30 am, Between 62nd St. and Grosscup Road in West Richland, WA

**Thursday, November 12 - Ladies Luncheon** will be hosted by DaJuan Recknagle at Frost Me Sweet, 710 The Parkway, Richland. Call DaJuan for reservations, 509-948-0340

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## **BITS & PIECES**

\*\*Today, I asked my mentor - a very successful business man in his 70s- what his top 3 tips are for success. He smiled and said, "Read something no one else is reading, think something no one else is thinking, and do something no one else is doing."

\*\*2 minute video that could save you, good to know ...  
<https://www.facebook.com/airene.carino/videos/757336490987780/>

\*\*A man traveling in southern Indiana was headed for the Kentucky border...when he saw a large sign..."LAST CHANCE FOR \$1.25 GAS!!!" He still had more than a quarter of a tank left, but figured he'd better take advantage of this opportunity to full up his tank. As he was getting his change from the attendant, he asked, "How much is gas in Kentucky?" The attendant replied, "\$1.10..."

\*\*I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, "Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?" To which I replied, "If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" She smiled knowingly and nodded, "That's why we ask."

\*\*Class trip to the Coca-Cola factory. I hope there's no pop quiz.

\*\*We think it's time to rename the days of the week. Sunday; Post-Sunday; Not-Monday; Pre-Friday Eve; Friday-Eve; Friday; Saturday. Thanks to Frances Wyland for this cute look at our calendar.

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## **Appreciation:**

To Ye Olde Car Club members and friends,  
Thank you for your caring comfort, condolences and participation at David H. Underwood's memorial services, September 13, 2015. We also thank you for your club donation to the Tri-Cities Hospices in David's name.  
Gratefully submitted,  
From the families and friends of David & Dwight Underwood

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## **Hot 1946 Ford**

I was at a car show in Spokane with my 1931 Ford and I was parked next to Gary Johnson from Walla Walla who had a 1946 Ford.

I talked to Gary and he said there was a car show in Walla Walla in a couple of weeks and that I should go to it. So my son, wife and myself trailered the '31 to the car show and hung out with Gary.

Gary said there was a guy that owned a hotel in Walla Walla and he was going to sell his '46 to him.

A couple of weeks later we trailered the '31 to a car show at the Casino in Pendleton and Gary showed up. Gary said the guy that was going to buy the '46 backed out.

I was sitting in the '46 with Gary and asked him what his best price and I made the deal and my son and I went and picked up the car on Monday.

The only thing I have done to the car is put the right sized tires on it and had the Ghost Flames put on it.

I have had the car for fourteen years.

Roger Gress



Before Roger bought the car.



Before pinstriping



With Pinstriping

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### **Kids are back in school**

**Slow down.** Speed limits in school zones are reduced for a reason. A pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 25 mph is nearly two-thirds less likely to be killed compared to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling just 10 mph faster.

**Come to a complete stop.** Research shows that more than one-third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones or neighborhoods. Always come to a complete stop, checking carefully for children on sidewalks and in crosswalks before proceeding.

**Eliminate distractions.** Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of crashing. And children can be quick, crossing the road unexpectedly or emerging suddenly between two parked cars. Reduce risk by not using your cell phone or eating while driving, for example.

**Reverse responsibly.** Every vehicle has blind spots. Check for children on the sidewalk, in the driveway and around your vehicle before slowly backing up. Teach your children (grandchildren) to never play in, under or around vehicles.

**Watch for bicycles.** Children on bikes are often inexperienced, unsteady and unpredictable. Slow down and allow at least three feet of passing distance between your vehicle and a bicyclist. If your child rides a bicycle to school, require that he or she wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet on every ride.

[ShareTheRoad.AAA.com](http://ShareTheRoad.AAA.com).

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## Vanishing Americana: Five Formerly Common Road Trip Sights

*Sometimes the most enduring travel memories come not in what you do when you reach your destination but in the stuff you see along the way. Check out this shortlist of roadside sights once commonplace along America's highways and rural byways that are now disappearing or completely gone.*

### **Full-Service Stations** *source: gilmorestation.com*

If you're old enough to remember Esso gas ("Put a tiger in your tank!") and Mobile's flying red horse, then you probably remember the days when the corner gas station offered more than cheap coffee, bucket-sized fountain drinks and two-for-one breakfast burrito deals.

Drive into just about any gas station up until the early 1970s and the ding-dong bell activated when your tires rolled over a hose strung across the asphalt in front of the pump would bring attendants running to pump your gas, check your oil, squeegee your windshield and — because every service station back in the day had a garage and experienced mechanics on the premises — service just about any mechanical need your car required.

A combination of economic factors led to the slow demise of the full-service station. The long lines and high prices brought on by the oil embargoes of 1973-74 started the trend in self-serve stations that could then offer lower prices to penny-pinching customers. Ditto for the wave of discount auto parts shops, specialty tire stores and quick-lube facilities that finally made full and friendly corner gas service sadly obsolete.

### **Phone Booths**

Once a fixture on just about every busy American street corner, the iconic glassed phone booth has quickly become a dinosaur of communication technology. Sure phone booths could be dirty and smelly, covered with graffiti, foul drawings and obscene messages of the sort that have no place in polite society, but the nostalgic among us also remember the phone booth as the place where Clark Kent disappeared to change into the Man of Steel. And then there were any number of Hollywood films in which a phone booth has been used as everything from a time-traveling portal to a perfect cinematic refuge for a lonely and, usually, rain-soaked hero to reach out and touch someone he loved.

### **Hitchhikers** *source: fortune.com*

Ever wonder how sticking out your thumb became the universal symbol for hitchhiking? Writing for [Slate.com](http://Slate.com), Forrest Wickham found the actual origin for the gesture rather murky. The first reference to "thumbing" however, happened in a 1925 article in American Magazine that described how "the hitch hiker stands at the edge of the road and points with his thumb in the direction he wishes to go."

In the decades after, "hitching" as a means for people looking to find work and/or see the country on the cheap was more than just common. It was an actual "movement" pretty much until the late 1960s. Then three things happened, according to this NBC News report quoting Syracuse University popular culture expert, Robert Thompson.

The interstate highway system took over as the principal route of long-distance travel, and hitchhiking was forbidden on these well-patrolled throughways," Thompson said. "Law enforcement in many communities began taking a less casual approach to hitchhikers." And finally, he said, "a generation of paranoid horror tales of what can happen if you hitchhike scared the bejesus out of most people who might otherwise have taken up this unique form of ad hoc carpooling."

**Barn Ads** source: wikipedia.org

Once a popular medium in rural America for advertising roadside attractions, restaurants and chewing tobacco, barn ads largely fell into obscurity in the mid-1920s. One company carried on the trend — Mail Pouch Tobacco. The company started advertising on barns in the late 1880s and continued the trend under the Bloch Brothers Tobacco Company of West Virginia into the early 1960s when some 20,000 Mail Pouch barns were scattered across 22 states.

**Mom and Pop Motor Courts and Motels** source: wikipedia.org

During the 1930s and after WWII, private owners dominated the roadside lodging trade and, according to this retrospective over at Motel Americana, “offered a glimpse of the American Dream: home and business ownership on the same site.” Every motel (or “motor court” as they were called back in the day) used to have it’s own style and charm. Owners used to model the façade of their establishments with brick, stucco, even logs — whatever fit the local architecture and served to attract more guests.

But then, according to Motel Americana, came the interstate highway system that began snaking across the nation in the 1950s and 1960s. “Chains like the Holiday Inn began to blur the distinction between motels and hotels...[and] the thrill of discovering the unique look and feel of a roadside motel was replaced by assurances of sameness by hosts ‘from coast to coast’.”

**And don't forget:**

- Roadside parks that had just a picnic table, charcoal grill and a trash barrel
- Burma Shave signs
- Howard Johnsons: was it 24 or 26 favors of ice cream
- Drive-In movie theaters

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**Washington** has 39 counties, and from 1935 through 1981, all passenger car license plates could be distinguished based on their county of issuance. ... Pierce, and Spokane counties began to exhaust all their allotted letter assignments. ... so the state elected to cease manufacturing specially coded plates around 1980.

Private passenger car license plate assignments:

<u>County</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Plate</u>
King	A	Cowlitz	N	Adams	AD
Pierce	B	Walla Walla	O	Asotin	AN
Spokane	C	Whitman	P	Douglas	DO
Snohomish	D	Clallam	Q	Island	IS
Yakima	E	Benton	R	Franklin	FN
Whatcom	F	Kittitas	S	Pend Oreille	PO
Clark	G	Lincoln	T	Columbia	CO
Grays Harbor	H	Okanogan	U	Grant	GT
Kitsap	I	Pacific	V	Garfield	GA
Thurston	J	Stevens	W	Skamania	SA
Chelan	K	Mason	X	Wahkiakum	WA
Lewis	L	Jefferson	Y	San Juan	SJ
Skagit	M	Klickitat	Z	Ferry	FY
License Dept	JJ	County	CX	City	MX
State	SX				

Thanks to Dwight Underwood for this contribution

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Photo provided by Overlap Historical Association

## 1902 Franklin

The Franklin Automobile Company was an American manufacturer of automobiles in the United States between 1902 and 1934 in Syracuse, New York. Herbert H. Franklin founded the H. H. Franklin Manufacturing Company in 1893 and, in 1901, teamed up with engineer John Wilkinson to develop an air-cooled engine. In 1902, the Franklin automobile was introduced. Because he was the primary investor, Franklin assumed control of the company, and named the auto manufacturing division Franklin Automobile Company. As president, he managed the company finances and business administration. Wilkinson was named chief engineer and granted control of the engineering and manufacturing operation.

Franklin worked as a newspaper publisher, real estate agent and Columbia Bicycle shop owner in Coxsackie, New York. After he quit the publishing business in 1893, he relocated to Syracuse, New York.

Throughout its history, Franklin was a luxury brand and competed with other upscale automobiles of the day. As such, it fell victim to the Great Depression along with many luxury car manufacturers. The company sold about 150,000 cars over the course of more than 30 years in existence.

The first Franklin took two months to build and was on the market by June 23, 1902. It holds the distinction of being the first four-cylinder automobile produced in the United States. Most cars of the time had a single or two-cylinder motor. As Franklin had hoped, the four-cylinder engine eliminated the "bouncing" which the more common one-cylinder engines suffered.

The car weighed 900 pounds (410 kg) and traveled up to 12 miles per hour (19 km/h). The auto had a vertical four-cylinder air-cooled engine, which was considered simpler and more reliable than water cooling, with overhead valves set transversely at the front of a wooden chassis. Franklin Automobile Company was a leader in innovation. The company's advertisements and brochures explained that air cooling did away with the "radiators, hoses, water pumps and headaches of 'normal' engine boiling and freezing."

The car was test driven on a short trip to Cortland, New York, and returned home by way of Skaneateles one afternoon. S. G. Averell, a New York sportsman and relative of New York Governor, W. Averell Harriman, bought the car on June 23, 1902. He paid \$1,200.

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## POSITIVE GROUND

Does your antique car have positive ground?

My 1951 Plymouth was switched to a diet of Ethanol-free gasoline last month. It seemed like a good idea, particularly for those weeks of winter when it is not driven much. A hundred miles later the idle seemed too rich and it missed occasionally. Then one morning it stalled and was hard to restart. Some adjustment was in order.

Like other 6 volt Chrysler brands plus Ford, Cadillac, Studebaker, VW and others, my Plymouth used positive ground with the positive battery cable attaching to the frame and engine block. With a positive ground the distributor points wire attaches to the positive (+) coil terminal. A quick check showed my coil to be wired backward which I corrected.

I then proceeded to install a new set of spark plugs and look into the idle mixture. Alcohol-free gas made the idle seem richer, this was confirmed when turning the idle mixture screw in made the engine speed up. I continued to turn it in slowly until the engine began to slow, then turned left 1/4 turn.

A short check-out ride showed it runs better. It starts quickly cold or hot, has no miss under load, a better idle, no stalling at corners and I'll bet my gas mileage is better too!

What did I learn from this? If you have a positive ground car, verify that it is wired correctly and when changing to alcohol-free gas it would be a good idea to check your idle mixture afterward.

Dennis McGillis

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## Halloween Comes to America

As European immigrants came to America, they brought their varied Halloween customs with them. Because of the rigid Protestant belief systems that characterized early New England, celebration of Halloween in colonial times was extremely limited there.

It was much more common in Maryland and the southern colonies. As the beliefs and customs of different European ethnic groups, as well as the American Indians, meshed, a distinctly American version of Halloween began to emerge. The first celebrations included "play parties," public events held to celebrate the harvest, where neighbors would share stories of the dead, tell each other's fortunes, dance, and sing. Colonial Halloween festivities also featured the telling of ghost stories and mischief-making of all kinds. By the middle of the nineteenth century, annual autumn festivities were common, but Halloween was not yet celebrated everywhere in the country.

In the second half of the nineteenth century, America was flooded with new immigrants. These new immigrants, especially the millions of Irish fleeing Ireland's potato famine of 1846, helped to popularize the celebration of Halloween nationally. Taking from Irish and English traditions, Americans began to dress up in costumes and go house to house asking for food or money, a practice that eventually became today's "trick-or-treat" tradition. Young women believed that, on Halloween, they could divine the name or appearance of their future husband by doing tricks with yarn, apple parings, or mirrors.

In the late 1800s, there was a move in America to mold Halloween into a holiday more about community and neighborly get-togethers, than about ghosts, pranks, and witchcraft.

At the turn of the century, Halloween parties for both children and adults became the most common way to celebrate the day. Parties focused on games, foods of the season, and festive costumes. Parents were encouraged by newspapers and community leaders to take anything "frightening" or "grotesque" out of Halloween celebrations. Because of their efforts, Halloween lost most of its superstitious and religious overtones by the beginning of the twentieth century.

By the 1920s and 1930s, Halloween had become a secular, but community-centered holiday, with parades and town-wide parties as the featured entertainment. Despite the best efforts of many schools and communities, vandalism began to plague Halloween celebrations in many communities during this time. By the 1950s, town leaders had successfully limited vandalism and Halloween had evolved into a holiday directed mainly at the young. Due to the high numbers of young children during the fifties baby boom, parties moved from town civic centers into the classroom or home, where they could be more easily accommodated. Between 1920 and 1950, the centuries-old practice of trick-or-treating was also revived. Trick-or-treating was a relatively inexpensive way for an entire community to share the Halloween celebration. In theory, families could also prevent tricks being played on them by providing the neighborhood children with small treats. A new American tradition was born, and it has continued to grow.

The National Retail Federation (NRF) forecasts total Halloween spending—including candy, costumes, and decorations—to come in at \$7.4 billion this year. The National Retail Federation estimates that people will cough up \$350 million just on Halloween costumes—for their pets.



[www.theatlantic.com](http://www.theatlantic.com)

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# *Women's Corner*

## **HOW TO GIVE A CAT A PILL**

1. Pick up cat and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
3. Retrieve cat from bedroom and throw soggy pill away.
4. Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm, holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.
5. Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden.
6. Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore now growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.
7. Retrieve cat from curtain rail; get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines and vases from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.
8. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.
9. Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink 1 beer to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.
10. Retrieve cat from neighbor's shed. Get another pill. Open another beer. Place cat in cupboard and close door onto neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessertspoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.
11. Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Drink beer. Fetch bottle of scotch. Pour shot, drink. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Apply whiskey compress to cheek to disinfect. Toss back another shot. Throw T-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.
12. Call fire department to retrieve cat from across the road. Apologize to neighbor who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap.
13. Tie the little cretin's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table, find heavy-duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of filet steak. Be rough about it. Hold head vertically and pour 2 pints of water down throat to wash pill down.
14. Consume remainder of scotch. Get spouse to drive you to the emergency room, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way home to order a new table.
15. Arrange for SPCA to collect mutant cat from Hades and call local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

## **HOW TO GIVE A DOG A PILL**

1. Wrap it in bacon.
2. Toss it in the air.

Thanks to Billie Bowland for this delightful look at the differences between cats and dogs.

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries in October



### Birthdays

Rick Ball	October 14	Judith Becker	October 9
Jean Bunch	October 15	John Calhoun	October 4
Larry Campbell	October 20	Darlene Cooper	October 3
Rachel Gould	October 4	Sharon Gress	October 20
Christy Gress	October 21	Ed Hue	October 9
Lee Jackson	October 7	Susie Lindberg	October 16
Frances McGillis	October 4	John Nelson	October 14
Myrtle Nesbitt	October 2	Hoid Pankey	October 26
DaJuan Recknagle	October 11	Sharon Wells	October 28
Carole White	October 16	Frances Wyland	October 31



### Anniversaries

Jerry & Rena Allen	October 9	Philip & Karen Crutchfield	October 26
Robbin & Carolyn Johanson	October 3	Victor & Carolyn Nelson	October 2
Steve & Cindy Protsman	October 15	Terry & Edris Shegrud	October 16
Ken & Carolyn Shreve	October 24		

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