

"What's New in BIRD-LAND?"

Volume 2, Number 12

DECEMBER 1959

CELEBRATE

New Year's Eve

with the
BATOC!

Having such big turnouts to the social affairs put on by this Club leads me to believe that the upcoming New Year's Eve Party will be the biggest yet. We've been working on this one for some time now and it should come off without a hitch. It's being planned for all members, their close friends, as well as prospective members. Not primarily a money-making event, it is hoped we will do better than break even, however. So just bring the friends with whom you would normally be spending New Year's were the Club not having a wingding. Let's wind up 1959 in gala style.

The cost? Just \$3 per couple (\$1.50 for half-couples).

The matter of victuals for Birds has been a problem all year, but, take my word for it, the food will be strictly first class on New Year's Eve. A catering service will be installed, thus enabling our long-suffering womenfolk a full evening in which to live it up themselves for a change. No hidden costs, either, the price having been determined lo, these many weeks now. Your three bucks covers everything except potables. Beer and soft drinks will be available at the bar at nominal prices. And, for the first time at a BATOC affair, mixed drinks are being provided (about time, too - A.L.).

Liquor cannot be purchased on speculation, so we have had to estimate the consumable quotient of a Bird Club noted for having only one teetotaler in its membership. We have estimated high! Whatever is left over will be sold at cost; ergo bring a little extra moolah along in case you'd like to pick up a case of vodka, bourbon or scotch at wholesale.

Chairman Volpatti (he of Hallowe'en Party fame) hints at many surprises besides. You had better not skip this one.

Date: Thursday, December 31, 9 pm.

Place: Jenny Lind Hall, 2269 Telegraph Ave., Oakland (½ block north of Grand).

Attire: Informal (shirts and ties requested for men).

Dancing: Of course!

Music: Horsfall's Hi-Fi. If you have some good, danceable records, please bring 'em.

Whom: Members, prospects, friends.

Added Attraction: One free drink for each ticket you buy for the door prize.

Extra Added Attraction: For those loth to call it a night after 2 am, "breakfast" will be available at Bernett's New Lucky Restaurant across the street.

NOTE: The Tahoe Snow Tour has had to be postponed until later - probably March.
- Andy Larsen



TOPS for Thunderbird 55-60



SUPREME FABRIC
SIL. No. 6438A - \$33.98
BEST PLASTIC
SIL. No. 6438B - \$37.95

When you unfurled that soft top for the first time this fall did it look so ragged you had to wonder if it would hold up for one more rainy season? With the cost of recovering ranging from \$60 to over \$100, no one can be blamed for using the original top as long as it will do the job - even if it doesn't look as sharp as some of the others in the Club.

Did you ever consider buying a read-made top which you can install yourself?

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec. 31 - **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**, Jenny Lind Hall, 2269 Telegraph Ave., Oakland (8:00 pm).
- Jan. 5 - Membership Committee meets at Edwards' home, 3451 - 35th Avenue, Oakland (7:30 pm) Everyone interested is invited to attend.
- Jan. 12 - **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** at The Driftwood, 1313 Park Street, Alameda. Invite a T-Bird owner as your guest.
- Jan. 19 - Activities Committee meets at Horsfall home, 3917 Atlas Avenue, Oakland (7:30 pm). Everybody welcome.
- Jan. 24 - **HOUND & HARE RALLY** and **GALA CLUB BREAKFAST**. For social lovers and car fans. Get full details by attending the January 12th Business Meeting.
- Jan. ?? - **QUEEN OF HEARTS PARADE**. Parade people, have your Birds preened and await a call from your Parade Chairman.

COMING IN FEBRUARY . . . Second Annual Wedding of the Arts . . . Second Annual Happy Valley Rally. Details to be divulged at the January 12th Business Meeting.

Installation Dinner

Our Second Annual Installation Dinner and Christmas Party was held Saturday, December 5th, at the Lake Merritt Hotel, specifically the Cascade Terrace. The Terrace Room being a very popular place among the Wine, Dine and Low Neck Set, segregating some 57 BATOC members from the other revelers was a virtual impossibility. Even the most informal of meetings was out of the question.

The dinner was, as usual, fraught with the menu miseries. Seems as how 95% of our people suddenly got in the chips, or at least moderately well-to-do. In any case they weren't about to settle for the lower priced and more plentiful Catsup-Over-Ham entree. The maitre d' was obdurate, claiming a shortage of steak and his Sunday steer was still out to pasture. In short, it was "Take ham or nothing." Eventually, those with the will to argue long enough, won their point and were served steak dinners (for breakfast), after which all meandered off to the Zebra Room for the exchange of presents.

Zebra Room. It was large enough for one pair of zebras - and we had to get some 57 members into it. The 12 x 12 stall was so crowded you couldn't help bumping into bodies like Dottie, Fran, Lorraine, Donna . . . sometimes they were across the room but it was worth the trip.

In the briefest of ceremonies, Donald Brooks handed the gavel over to incoming President Art Horsfall, after which Skip Riggs was introduced and roundly applauded. Likewise, nice guy Ray De Costa, ex-President of the MG Club, who is up and about again after his near brush with the Grim Reaper at Monterey awhile back. But the surprise highlight of the entire evening - to these maudlin eyes, at least - was the presentation by Larry Farrell of a beautiful engraved Thunderbird trophy to outgoing prexy Don Brooks for his year of exceptional effort and achievement. A trophy Don will cherish always . . . and which left even garrulous Don temporarily speechless.

One couldn't help but recall how just one brief year ago Don and his Staff were the new officers. Then they were full of expectations and enthusiasm for the year 1959. Subsequent events proved most of us didn't match their spirit and gradually as the year wore on these forceful people got tired of dragging the rest of us along behind them.

Now we are blessed with new blood on the Board, members imbued with verve and resolution. Have we learned our lesson? Let us hope so. Back the members of the Board whole-heartedly in what they plan for you. Do whatever is asked of you personally, and for heaven's sake, attend the events that are scheduled - whether they be car events or socials - in that way you will encourage your officers to do better and better.



Getting back to the Installation Dinner, there was one unhappy note. Someone forgot to pay for a couple of dinners, and we all forgot about the "amusement" tax - there was live music, you know. The sum of \$188.50 had been collected before the Hotel presented its bill - for \$242.40! Poor Don Brooks. As President, he was our nominal host, and got dunned for the difference . . . \$53.90.

It would not only be unfair to Don to let him be stuck for this amount, it would be positively inconsiderate for us not to chip in a buck apiece for each dinner eaten that night. Please, please send your two dollars to MaraLee right away and enable the Brookses to begin the New Year on a happy note.

And, of course, the chap who owes for the two dinners should ante up his full share.

One of the nicer touches of the Installation Dinner was a congratulatory telegram from Past-President Skip Riggs which was circulated for all to read at table. Skip later showed up in person with his lovely wife, Mildred, and renewed old acquaintanceships.

It was nice seeing the gleaming faces of a few more members who have been noticeable by their absence lately. In addition to the Riggesses, we noted Margaret (Tracy) Romey and her ever-lovin' Len. Also Doris Growden, Bob and Gerry White - not to overlook (as if any man could!) strikingly beautiful Lucy Sanchez. Luscious Lucy was accompanied by her handsome boy friend, we also noted. Well, at least we are the same type - handsome but not conceited - so Lucy is to be commended on her good judgment.

Leonard Romey is another versatile chap worth knowing better. In addition to being a sometime house man at one of Reno's palaces of chance, his real love (after Margaret, of course) is writing. To date he has completed a couple of book-length novels and is all set to sharpen his pencil to begin a third after the starlight fades a bit. Why not a treatise on "How To Win At Reno", Len?

Looking ever more youthful and charming were Clara and Dwight Johnston who had just celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary at Las Vegas. They have found in California what Ponce de Leon failed to locate in Florida, the Fountain of Youth. What a glowing tribute to fidelity our longest-married couple presents. And yet Dwight can appraise the curvi-



linear aspects of a choice filly with the best of 'em. Perhaps that is what keeps him youthful.

Our thanks, so often forgotten, go to Owen Lewis for the many pictures gracing this article. While the rest of us were engaged in body bumping, Owen had to lug his heavy Poloroid and paraphernalia everywhere he went. We appreciate your efforts, Owen - and just to prove it, we are even printing your picture!

GIFTS FOR THE CAR

(Continued from first page)

The J. C. Whitney Co. of Chicago, for instance, offers two styles for Thunderbirds which even dunderheads can put on quite easily. Prices are far below what you would have to pay any auto top shop, too!

Their Supreme Vinyl top is similar to Ford factory material and sells for \$33.98 with a 30-month guarantee. The "Best Vinyl Plastic" top will cost you \$37.95



and carries a 42-month guarantee. Add \$1.30 for shipping and you've got it made.

Either material may be had in Black, White, Tan, Green or Blue. Unless you request it, there will be no zipper along the top of the flexible plastic rear window. Be sure to specify year of your car, color and quality desired when ordering.



MEMO FROM MEMBERSHIP

by MaraLee Houston

Our last membership meeting for 1959 was held on the 24th of November and was open for discussion only - no new members were taken in. We went over our minutes taken this past year and found everything discussed had been disposed of. The membership committee for 1959 inducted 18 new members, of whom all are still in the Club.

The meeting was turned over to incoming Vice-President Lew Edwards by outgoing Dick Staples. I'm happy to announce that Lew appointed most capable and hard-working Rosemarie Volpatti his Membership Chairman. I am taking this opportunity to thank her for the fine assistance she gave me during the past year.

The next Membership Meeting will be January 5th at Lew's apartment, 3451 - 35th Ave. in Oakland. Prospective members who have two events and one busi-

ness meeting on their guest cards should attend this meeting. Also, anyone interested in being on either the Membership or Technical Committees, please come. Lew and Rose will need all the assistance they can get for the coming year.

IT'S A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO -

1/19 Bill Houston 1/23 Grace Ficker
1/21 Doris Carroll 1/29 Margaret Romey

Thank you all for being so kind and sweet to me this past year - one I shall always remember. It's been fun being your Membership Chairman.

(Your Editor takes this opportunity to thank both MaraLee and Andy Larsen for their faithful contributions each month to "Birdland". Without their valuable help, our little paper could not have been the informative, useful news bulletin we like to think it has become.)

BAY AREA Thunderbird OWNERS CLUB	
ART HORSFALL	President
LEW EDWARDS	Vice-President
MARALEE HOUSTON	Treasurer
EDNA NEISS	Recording Secretary
ROGER NEISS	Corresponding Secretary Editor

Contributions should be submitted to the Editor, 45 Ecker Street, San Francisco

Civilization is a system under which a man pays fifty cents to park his car so he won't be fined five dollars while spending a dime for a nickel cup of coffee.

NEW MEETING NIGHT AND PLACE

Driftwood's Surf Room

JANUARY 12 IN ALAMEDA

The first General Business Meeting under 1960 "management" will be new in several aspects. The date is January 12, a TUESDAY! The place . . . The Driftwood's SURF ROOM, 1313 Park Street in Alameda, which is opposite the old Strand Theatre. Watch for the prominent marquee as you drive along Park Street. The meeting is set for 8 pm, but those who wish to continue dining prior to our meetings may do so by coming early, say 7. It won't be necessary to notify anyone either, should you decide at the last moment to eat at The Driftwood; however, the management wants it known that they will appreciate your patronage, large or small. No cocktail period is being reserved this year, but there again, a bar and all the usual features are available for your convenience.

The menu provided BATOC diners at The Driftwood is a two-entree affair:

CLUB STEAK - \$3.25*

CHICKEN - \$2.75*

*Includes tax and tip

During 1960 it is intended to hold all meetings on the second Tuesday of the month and at the time and place specified above.

Membership meetings will be con-

ducted by V-P Lew Edwards at his home, 3451 - 35th Avenue, on the third Tuesday of the month. The time: 7:30 pm. Dr. Frank Ficker has been appointed Technical Chairman and he plans a regular monthly feature for these pages covering tips on car care. Have you any questions you'd like to see answered here?

Activities meetings are going to be held at the Horsfall Hacienda, 3917 Atlas Avenue, on the first Tuesday at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to drop in on either or both these regular monthly get-togethers.

Speaking of Activities, this year they will be headed up by vigorous and volatile Volpatti, yclept Richard. And just pipe the All-Star lineup he's got working for him! Don Brooks and Dick Staples are going to be his lieutenants in charge of car events. Ken Keyser and Paul Tanzillo are heading up the social end of Thus, no one person will be taxed out of mind trying to keep everybody satisfied for 12 months running, a well-nigh impossible feat.

Some truly interesting events are being developed as we go to press, so keep that Bird in tiptop shape during these winter months. There'll be plenty of opportunity to use it.

How do we strike others? ? ? ? ?

At the close of our second year of existence it might be prudent to "take inventory of ourselves". Are we perhaps becoming a little too smug, secure in the belief that ours is the best automobile club ever thrown together . . . that T-Bird owners everywhere should be clamoring for admission to the "400 of Motor-dom"?

We wonder.

It may have appeared so earlier this year. It was quite normal then to welcome - if that is the word - four or five new members into our ranks in a month. But, following the "Big Squabble" over which size Thunderbirds should be eligible, applications for membership dwindled to the point where now it is unusual just to see one *prospective* member attend a BATOC function. We point no finger at this one possible cause. Rather it is a combination of circumstances that could be to blame. It has been proven by countless other clubs that growth at first is prodigious, then tapers off to a fairly stable membership, with new people replacing those who drop out at about a 50-50 ratio.

In our case we have been somewhat unique in that we have desisted seeking new blood, preferring instead that T-Bird owners seek us out in the theory that then "every new member will be a good member." Sounds logical, but has it been working out that way?

We wouldn't know. But we believe the following article by one of our newer 1959 members should lead to some soul-searching by all. Our contributor, a lady with a flair for expressing her thoughts in a clear and forthright manner, certainly has few bouquets to toss. Not many heads are apt to swell from reading what she has to say.

The following may or may not come as a surprise to you. But there seems to be a fairly common complaint from an amazing percentage of our membership that the group as a whole is not as friendly as it might be.

Ostensibly BATOC was formed because of our deep and abiding affection for and interest in our Birds. Basically, however, after talking to various members of our organization it seems that a lot of us were looking for a nice group of people with whom we could socialize and join in pleasurable activities.

The majority of members seem interested in acquiring new members; and yet when there are guests, prospective members, or new members present at our meetings or activities there is a noticeable lack of enthusiasm and friendliness on the part of the membership, with very few exceptions.

It seems to this writer that it would take very little effort and cost us absolutely nothing to be a little more friendly when there are newcomers among us, and

to help those who are already members feel comfortable and well-liked when they venture into "Birdland". Who knows, you might even find someone whose company you enjoy.

Regardless of our reasons for joining an organization, it seems logical that it is up to those who are firmly ensconced and secure to make others feel welcome. This is not to say that we should not be discriminating as to those who are among us, but what better way is there to judge than by becoming acquainted?

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY

Life provides certain pleasures which may vary with the individual. Some fellows like to hunt and fish. Others enjoy nothing better than a cold bottle of beer, an easy chair, and a Forty-Niner game on T-V. Women generally go for stage plays, new clothes, labor-saving devices, dining out, or - shocking as it may seem - squalling babies. Of course it goes without saying that both men and women, in this Club at least, love Thunderbirds.

As we have stated on many an occasion, our hedonistic proclivities tend toward philogyny (fondness for the ladies) and semantics (the science of word meanings). BATOC provides this dilettante ample opportunity to observe both avocations. Where could one hope to find more attractive women to gaze upon than we have right here in our own select little group? They're all spoken for, of course, but girl-watching, like bird-watching, is a harmless pastime not necessarily limited to the nubile.

As Editor of this insignificant publication, it is obvious that we must have more than a perfunctory knowledge of the words we use, as even the best-intentioned comment may result in offending some person. This "sword of Damocles" ever-present overhead is something of which we are in mortal terror. We love everybody in the Club and would never knowingly injure anyone.

Getting back to the subject, we plan no drive to enlist others in our girl-watching group. In fact, it hardly seems necessary. While we may have the temerity to write about our predilection, other males in the Club could give us a year's instruction on the subject and we'd still have to return for post-graduate work in order to get a passing grade. Regarding words, however, the shoe may perhaps be on the other foot, to coin a phrase.

We cannot hope to interest you, dear male reader of "Birdland", in anything so prosaic as "big words". But we would like you to play a little word game with us which will help illustrate some of the snares which beset anyone who has the effrontery to become an editor of a publication which numbers several school teachers among its readers. At the same time you will see that things are not al-



"NOTHING, THANK YOU. I NEITHER SMOKE NOR DRINK. . . WHERE'S YOUR WIFE?"

ways what they seem.

Even the most commonplace of words may have an additional or little known meaning which could offend. If you don't believe it, try the little word test below. All of the words are right out of the dictionary and include meanings in addition to those with which you are all familiar. That's where the rub lies. Select the correct definition (or definitions) in this list of common words and see.

ACADEMICIAN - a) lady of low repute; b) member of a society for promoting arts and sciences; c) native of Arcadia.

(a and b are correct)

BARGES - a) flat-bottomed boats; b) fashions; c) boots.

(a and b are correct)

BROADS - a) playing cards; b) counterfeit money; c) inland waterways; d) indelicate stories.

(a, b and c are correct)

CAR* - a) lefthanded; b) war chariot; c) crow of a raven; d) floating box for keeping fish alive.

(a, b and d are correct)

CHIPPY - a) a carpenter; b) to be sick after drinking; c) an impudent person; d) a sparrow.

All are correct.

GAM - a) courage; b) hammock; c) herd of whales; d) a kind of sport.

(a, b and c are correct)

JOHN - a) policeman; b) a Chinaman; c) penguin; d) dried fish.

All are correct.

NOISOME - a) loud; b) smelly; c) dirty; d) wicked; e) stupid.

Only b, thank goodness.

TIRES* - a) pinafores; b) sound of cannon being fired; c) gift-wrapped packages; d) furniture.

(a, b and d are correct)

Frightening, isn't it!

*Notice the subtlety with which we keep every article pertinent to automobiles!

CHIT CHAT

Cute, cuddly, and not quite so curvy, Dottie Farrell has dropped 25 whole lbs since you saw her last. She now has a waistline like a bumble bee. Larry and his elfin bundle celebrated their 3rd anniversary Dec. 27th, while the Neisses observed their 25th a day earlier. Not too much news to report this month.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYBODY!!!