

# GAS GAUGE

## JULY 2011

### Monthly Newsletter of Ye Olde Car Club

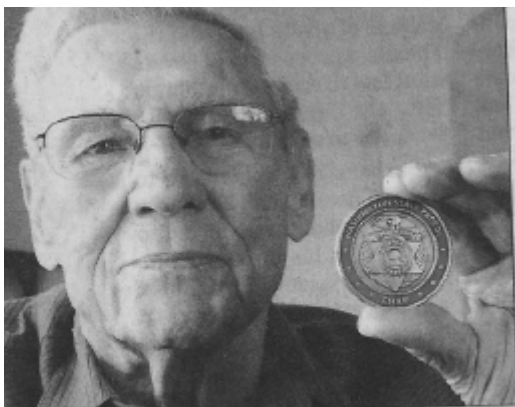
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## Bob Rupp honored again

### State patrol celebrates 90 years

### Rupp says state troopers are model for the nation

Bob Rupp of Kennewick was presented this medallion in May 2007 by Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste in honor of Rupp being the oldest living retired patrol trooper. Rupp spent 34 years with the state patrol.



OLYMPIA - Former Benton County Sheriff Bob Rupp may be 96, but that didn't stop him from sharing the podium Tuesday with Go. Chris Gregory. Together they helped celebrate the Washington State Patrol's 10th anniversary at a special ceremony at the capital.

Rupp, of Kennewick, is Washington's oldest living retired state trooper, having spent 34 years with the state patrol. He went on to serve three terms as Benton County sheriff.

Rupp said times have changed, but he still believes in the agency.

"I just love the state patrol," he said. "It's in my heart and it's never going to leave."

Rupp said he was happy to be surrounded by the familiar faces of fellow law enforcement officers, many of whom also are retired state troopers.

"What you do every day is a model for what every law enforcement officer ought to do throughout the nation," Gregory told active state troopers present for the event.

The patrol's official birthday is June 8, 1921. That's when the first six officers were issued motorcycles, armbands and guns, and told to enforce the state's traffic laws.

In 1933, the agency was renamed the Washington State Patrol and troopers were given full police powers, said a news release.

About 50 retirees attended Tuesday's ceremony. And

state patrol. Chief John Batiste asked for a moment of silence to honor the 26 employees who have died in the line of service. Trooper James Saunders, 31; of the Tri-Cities, was the last trooper killed, in October 1999.

Rupp said the current troopers in attendance that they "look as good as I do and I hope they live as long as I do." This wasn't the first time Rupp emerged from retirement to support a law enforcement cause. He spoke out last year in Kennewick about the dangers of drunken driving.

Though the rate of fatal vehicle accidents per mile is 33 percent lower than the national average, the state patrol plans to launch a new program called "Target Zero" in an effort to eliminate all road fatalities by 2030, said Gregory. It's an incredible goal," she said. "Some would say it's a stretch goal, but I know that with you it is one that we will obtain."

It's a goal that may have been impossible to imagine during the years Rupp served because technology was simpler: "Coming over today in the state patrol car," Rupp said, "I've never seen so many gadgets and buttons." He said he needed to operate just one button to use a police radio in his day.

· *Brier Gabriel: 360-754-4225*

**Bob Rupp has been a long time member of our club.**

## July Birthdays

5th John Trumbo  
9th Gill McGarity

23rd Judy Todd  
27th Dick Johanson

## Anniversaries

No known anniversaries in July

## Cool desert Nights

We Had a pretty showing, I think I counted 15 cars. There were I'm told 824 cars registered.

No trophy for me again, but Phil Prather didn't win one either for his 42 Ford. The irony of the hole thing is that the one person that complained the most about Cool Desert Nights is the one out of 824 cars that won top prize.

Congratulations Jack Yale



Best of the 30's

# July Prez Sez

It looks like summer is finally here and none too soon. Gardens are growing as well as the event list for the club.

Next month offers the following possibilities.

- |         |               |   |
|---------|---------------|---|
| 7/4     | Pasco         | 4 th of July Parade   |
| 7/4     | Richland Home | 4 th of July Picnic at Sterling's Home                              |
| 7/5     | Kennewick     | Life Care Center 7th & Olympia<br>11am-3pm Community Service        |
| 7/16    | Kennewick     | Canyon Lakes Manor Lunch<br>12 am Community Service                 |
| 7/30-31 | Brooks, Or    | Steam-Up 7AM - 6PM. \$10 entry<br>(\$8 seniors) \$20.00 RV Parking, |
| 7/30    | Priest River  | Timber Days. 6AM - 10PM.<br>Lawnmower Races                         |

Ye Olde Car Club is on a Roll now! Please try to participate if you have the chance.

Have a great month, Jim Ayers

# Minutes of June Meetings

On June 1st it was announced that club members received two trophies at the Benton City Reunion and Car Show. Jim Vetrano won for best of the 30's and Phil Prather for best of the 40's.

On June 1st it was reported that the school automotive class donation committee talked with the Richland High automotive teacher. The committee listed the things that the instructor thought would be helpful. Members of the committee thought a roll-around tool case would be the most appropriate, and our club's name could be placed on the back. BBC and Tri-Tec still need to be interviewed before the club makes a decision on donations to the automotive training programs.

On June 8th Jim Vetrano brought in an old club radiator emblem for members to look at. Enough interest was generated to have reproduction of more emblems for our newer members looked into. On June 29th Bob Gough reported that reproduction was cost prohibitive. On June 22nd Jim Ayers introduced a new member of our car club, Gordon Keys. A bulletin has been E-mailed so you can update your Club Rooster, phone book.

On June 22nd Ron Smith reported on the Covered Bridges Tour planned for August 11-13 in Salem, Oregon. We will drive to Salem on Thursday, Aug 11, with the intent to stay over the weekend. If we have 6 or more cars, a local person will give us a tour of 6 bridges on Aug. 12. On Aug. 13 we will join 200-300 cars in a tour of 4 more bridges, returning home on the 14th or attended an All-Ford picnic in Salem. Only Fords will park in the display area, and other cars will be parked in the parking lot. Please contact Ron at

628-9662 or ddeviljr@aol.com to let him know if you plan to attend so he can make arrangements for us.

On June 29th Jim Ayers stated that at least 15 cars from the club attended the Cool Desert Nights car show and shine on 6/25 in Richland. Two awards were won. Jack Yale won for best of the 30's and Ken Mooney came in second with his VW sand dune buggy.

On June 29th bids for manufacturing replacement magnetic signs with the club insignia were discussed. One business offered to make the signs for \$10.56 each and another offered \$8.00 a sign with a minimum of 50 units. The idea of using multiple colors on the signs was discussed. Roy Holmes said changing the colors would cause problems and made a motion to reject the idea. Russ Armstrong seconded the motion. The majority voted in favor of the motion. Dennis Jackson made a motion to have 50 signs manufactured in the original colors for \$8.00 each. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The majority voted in favor. Bob Gough was authorized to purchase the signs.

On this day in 1927 : an advertisement:

Wasted! \$271,600. There are 840 cars and trucks in Richland, Kennewick and vicinity, of which 53% are Fords. This leaves 389 of other makes costing \$700 more than a Ford. Had everyone bought a Ford, the savings would have been \$271,600.



## 1921 Leach

The Leach-Biltwell, Leach Six, and Leach Power-Plus Six were expensive, top-quality cars of 1920 to 1923, manufactured in Southern California with the Hollywood set in mind. Priced well above \$5,000, the Leach cars were available only as two-door or four-door hardtops! They had the look of a convertible, but featured open-sided stationary tops.

The new Leach had a solid, one-piece plate-glass sloping windshield with triangular side deflectors. Added ventilation was provided through a trap door at the top of cowl, though the massive windshield would open.

The steering wheel could be tilted and was also lockable. A Crosby directional signal box on the left rear fender was actuated by a control lever to the left of the steering column. The gas gauge on the dash was a feature found

on few 1921 cars, and the dual dash lights and cigar lighter could be moved a considerable distance from the leather-padded dash!

Individual illuminated step plates took the place of running boards. The radiator was an oversized 400 cubic inches and four inches thick, while the heavy chassis frame was eight inches in thickness.

Goodrich Silvertown Cord tires were standard. Wire wheels were available on early Leaches, but disc wheels (as shown) became standard.

Only about 500 Leach autos were built, and few have been seen at all in recent decades. With only two California distributorships, sales were limited to the West Coast. Yet, in the top quality materials used and in its advanced design, the Leach rivaled the legendary Duesenberg!