

Classic Chevy Car Club Archives

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NEWSLETTER



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NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

New Years Eve is traditionally a time for parties and festivities, and 1980 was no exception, especially in the vicinity of Chestnut Expressway and Glenstone at Jack's Car Clean-up Shop. About 200 people showed up for the Classic Chevy Club of Springfield's New Years Eve Party, and I think every one of them had a real good time.

7 Jack Rinker, owner of the clean-up shop, donated the use of his shop for the party, and early that afternoon found Jack, along with Gene Wright, Bud Janes, John Thomas, Dave Marek, Jack Rinker Jr, Betty Rinker, and a few members of the Sho-Me Van Club helping put all the clean-up equipment out of the way and decorating the building. They also iced down the beer kegs and sat up the tables and chairs.

Starting about eight p.m. people started showing up and by nine the music was going strong and the place was getting full. By ten everyone was dancing and visiting and generally having a good time. About eleven several members of the Van Club had a surprise for everyone, the "Miss Jack's Car Clean-up of 1981" beauty contest.

David Bogner, manager of the Chestnut Expressway Stinger's Auto Parts Store, Bill Barlow, owner and manager of the Pizza Planet, and Richard "Fuzzy" Wilkinson, salesman for Advance Plating, left the building for a few minutes and returned as "Debbie Doobie", "Vertical Valerie", and "Sugar Ray Kathy" respectively. They played the parts complete with wigs and make-up and some of the most outrageous dresses you have ever seen.

Jack Rinker Jr., acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the contest, complete with a current event question for each contestant. The audience then acted as judges and "Vertical Valerie", better known as Bill Barlow, will reign as the car clean-up queen of 1981.

The party was a huge success by all standards and those of you who missed it really missed a great time. If just a few more couples had shown up we would have even made some money. As it was, the entire party, including the disc jockey who played the music, only cost the club about \$22, a small price for such a good time.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Anyone who is planning to order any parts from the National Club in the near future please take note of this announcement from the CCCI and our local club president, Avery Bradley.

In a Christmas letter to all 100% participating local chapters, Mike Compton announced that the club was extending an additional 5% discount to these clubs, for a total of 10% discount to us on all club parts. The only stipulation is that it has to be paid for with one check and all be shipped to the same address.

Jack Rinker has allready agreed to have everything sent to his clean-up shop, so that solves that part of the problem.

To take care of the other part, anyone who has anything they want to order from the National Club can make out an order just like they were sending it directly to the club, then bring it to the local club meeting on January 25th, along with cash or a check to pay for it, including the freight (no discount on the freight) made out to the "Classic Chevy Club of Springfield". The money will be put in the club treasury and one check will be made out to pay for everything. Remember, if you have anything you want to order and want to take advantage of this discount, you must bring your order and your money to the club meeting because the offer expires on January 31st.

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NEW JUDGING SHEETS

As most of you know, the National Classic Chevy Club has made some changes in the judging rules in the last year. Not only have some of the classes been changed, but a lot of the judging criteria and the judging sheets have changed greatly. These rules were used for the first time at the National Convention in Cherry Hill, and since very few of us had the opportunity to attend, Avery Bradley has made his judging sheet available to us so that we can see some of these changes first hand. A copy of the sheet is shown on the facing page.

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CLASSIC CHEVY CLUB INTERNATIONAL JUDGING SHEET Name _____
Member Signature _____ Address _____
Member Number _____
Trailer Car Any Amount, To Or From: Yes ___ No ___
Unusual or special equipment or options _____

UNRESTORED, RESTORED, CONTEMPORARY Class _____ Year _____

BODY EXTERIOR

Metal Work.....40
Paint Shade.....10
Paint Finish.....60
Paint detail.....20
Body alignment.....20
Bright Stainless.....25
Chrome plating.....25
Bumper & alignment.....15
Weatherstrip & seals.....15
Glass condition.....15
Glass markings.....5
Lamps & lens.....10
Cleanliness.....40

INTERIOR (ALL CLASSES)

Seat material, condition & fit...35
Door panels, cond. & fit.....25
Carpets, comd. & fit.....20
Headliner, cond. & fit.....20
Package tray, kick panels &
glove box.....15
Dash Paint and trim.....15
Instruments.....10
Interior stainless & chrome.....10
Sill plates.....10
Handles, cranks, levers, cond.....10
Cleanliness.....30

ENGINE AND ENGINE COMPARTMENT

Block Stamping.....30
Head identification.....10
Intake, carb., & air cleaner.....10
Exhaust manifolds.....5
Water pump & fan (no plug).....5
Battery and Box (Delco).....5
Radiator, hoses, spring clamps...15
Eng paint, cond. & color.....25
Decals, tags.....5
Firewall paint & cond.....15
Inner fender & underhood
paint cond.....25
Wiring & cond., & routing.....5
Cadmium plating.....5
Cleanliness.....40

DRIVELINE & SUSPENSION

Transmission.....10
Rear axle assembly.....10
Front suspension.....15
Drive shaft.....5
Shocks.....5
Clean. & detail.....30

UNDERCARRIAGE

Frame paint.....15
Metal condition.....10
Primer floor pan w/red oxide.....15
Front fender wells - black.....5
Correct mufflers, hangers, pipes..5
Fuel and brake lines, routing &
cond.....5
Cleanliness & detail.....20

TRUNK OR CARGO AREA

Paint & metal cond.....10
Mat or linoleum.....15
Seat back panel.....4
Spare tire & wheel.....5
Jack & instructions.....6
Cleanliness & detail.....10

WHEELS AND TIRES

Wheels correct.....5
Tire size and script.....10
Tire W.W. width.....10
Wheel covers or caps,
correct & bright.....10
Cleanliness.....15

TOTAL 1000 _____

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WILMA WRIGHT'S PUNCH

There were several inquiries about the recipe for the fruit punch that Wilma Wright made for the Club Christmas Dinner, so we decided to put it in the newsletter so everyone could have a copy of it;

1 package unsweetened Kool-Aid (Wilma uses Strawberry)
1 cup sugar
1 two-liter bottle of 7up
1 can pineapple juice
1 can Hawaiian Punch
 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon Orange Sherbet

Mix the Kool-Aid, sugar, 7up, pineapple juice, and Hiwaiian Punch together in a large punch bowl. Then, just before time to serve the punch, you add the Orange Sherbet to the mixture, then add about the same amount of water as it calls for on the package of Kool-Aid and serve.

Anyone who tasted the punch at the Christmas Dinner will tell you that this recipe makes a very good punch.

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ST. JOSEPH FUN RUN

The dates for the annual Memorial Day Weekend Fun Run in St. Joseph, Mo., for 1981 are May 23d and 24th. The run will be held at the Durry Inn (not misspelled according to their letter), on Fredrick Blvd., which I think is a different motel than usual.

Shirley Close has the letter which she will bring to the club meeting, so anyone with questions can bring them up at the meeting.

* * * * *

FUN RUN COMMITTEE MEETING

The first meeting of the committee to organize the fun run scheduled for here on the 4th of July weekend

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was held on January 8th at Jan and Wendell Royster's house. After some shopping around we decided to hold the run at the Drury Lodge. They seemed the most anxious to have us and offered the best deal. They also have an excellent place for Show-and-shine and good facilities for protecting our cars.

Each member of the committee was given a part of the preparations to take care of. Other than that only basic problems were discussed. More details will be given at the monthly meeting.

Anyone with any ideas for the run or any questions can direct them to the committee chairman, Wendell Royster or to any of the committee members, including; Dave Marek, Jack Rinker, Dennis Martin, Gene Wright, Jerry Prier, Derald St. John, or Bud Janes. As time for the event gets closer, meetings with the entire club will be held similar to the ones held last spring for our convention.

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Our thoughts and good wishes go out to Debbie Wrinkle and the rest of the Wrinkle family in Aurora. Debbie had major surgery on Tuesday, January 6th, and the word from Kerry on the 7th was that she was doing very well, and that the surgery was not quite as extensive as planned, but still serious.

Plans were for her to come home on the 12th, and since no one has heard differently, we guess and hope that she is doing nicely. So we'll just say "take it easy and get well quick Debbie."

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COMING EVENTS

1. January 25th (Sunday afternoon) - Monthly club meeting, held at the Amvets Club, 1035 W. Nichols (just west of Gene Wright's garage). Starting time is 4:00 p.m.
2. March 21st and 22nd (Saturday and Sunday) - 10th Annual Creek Capitol Swap Meet, Okmulgee Fairgrounds, Okmulgee, Oklahoma. Just south of Tulsa.

February, 1981



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CLASSIC CHEVY CLUB OF SPRINGFIELD February Newsletter

Volume IV

Issue 10

OFFICERS:

President - Avery Bradley.....417 / 672-2563
Vice-President - Gene Wright.....417 / 862-9878
Secretary - Sue Melton.....417 / 883-3247
Treasurer - Karen Bradley.....417 / 672-2563
Sgt. At Arms - Bud Janes.....417 / 866-5756
Public Relations - Bill Huyett.....417 / 887-3254
Activities Chairman - Myrtle St. John.....417 / 725-3441
Newsletter Editor - Dave Marek.....417 / 881-5193
Newsletter Staff - Bobby Goss.....417 / 869-5208
 Jeannie Huyett...417 / 887-3254

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JANUARY MEETING WRAP-UP

For those of you who weren't able to attend the club meeting held on January 24th, here is a short summary of the business conducted:

1. Avery read thank you cards from the Missouri Division of Family Services for the Christmas basket we gave to the needy family, and from Debbie Wrinkle for the flowers we sent her in the Hospital.
2. The club received some catalogs from C and P Reproductions, and some more were requested.
3. A motion was made and carried to get our name on the calendar at the Boy's Club for December 12th 1981, for our Christmas Dinner. This was done to assure us that we will be able to have it on Saturday instead of Friday.
4. The Club also received thanks from the Nixa, Mo. Christmas parade committee.
5. Wendell Royster gave a short summary of the preparations for our fun run. (These preliminary preparations were also in last month's newsletter.)
6. Shirley Close reported that the club had placed third and fourth in the first two CCA turn-ins, for

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a total of \$50 so far.

7. A motion to have some new club caps was made, and there is a notice later in the newsletter concerning this matter.

8. The club voted to assist the Kansas City and St. Joseph clubs with their run if our assistance is needed.

9. The club voted to have a 50's party on April 12th. Gene Wright and Myrtle St. John are in charge of the party.

10. The club also voted to sponsor a trophy at the St. Joe Fun Run if we are asked again this year.

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NEW CLUB CAPS

A motion to have additional club caps made was discussed at the January club meeting, since we are now completely out of the original order. After this discussion it was decided to have anyone who wants a new cap (these will be identical to the old caps) should let Karen Bradley know at the February meeting. The club would then order as many caps as are wanted, or maybe a few additional caps, then when the new caps arrive, those who ordered them would then be liable to pay for them at that time.

We decided to do it this way so that a large part of the club treasury would not be tied up for any length of time, since we are going to need it for expenses in connection with our upcoming fun run.

So anyone who wants a new cap should let Karen Bradley know at the February 22nd meeting, or by some other means so that we can get them ordered. The cost will be between \$3.25 and \$3.50 each.

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CLUB TRAILER UPDATE

I know that many of you have been waiting breathlessly for this following bit of news. Well far be it from me to disappoint anyone or deprive a single person of the following bit of journalistic history.

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Contrary to popular belief, we sometimes do accomplish a bit of progress on the club trailer from time to time. (Through no fault of anyone present at Gene's garage on Wednesday nights.) For example, take Wednesday night, February 4th. Apparently Avery Bradley had recently acquired a skill saw and wanted to try it out, and as a result the club trailer now has 3 sides and a floor.

Despite the efforts of everyone concerned (and several trips to the Brown Derby) the trailer may be ready for the summer of '81 after all.

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GITTY GRINDER SANDWICH RECIPE

The following recipe comes from LeAnn Prier. These sandwiches are great for times like Saturday evening supper or for small parties or just for something a little bit different every once in a while.

1 loaf of French bread
Approximately 2 pounds of ground beef
Paprika (LeAnn says to use quite a bit)
Garlic (to taste)
Celery Salt (to taste)
Chili Powder (one to two teaspoons)
Salt and Pepper (to taste)
1 can of Pizza sauce
Cheese Whiz
Shredded Mozzarella Cheese
(One package of Chili or Taco seasoning can be substituted for the seasonings)

Brown the ground beef in a large skillet, adding the seasonings and pizza sauce to the beef and let it simmer for several minutes.

Slice the loaf of french bread lengthwise (like you were making a sub sandwich) and spread a layer of Cheese Whiz on the bottom half. Spoon the ground beef mixture on top of the cheese, then top that with a generous amount of the mozzarella cheese. Place the top half of the bread on top of the mozzarella and spread some butter on top of the sandwich and place it in a 350 degree oven until the cheese melts.

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Remove the sandwich from the oven and slice it into 4 to 6 individual sandwiches and serve.

LeAnn says she sometimes uses a mixture of ground beef and hot sausage instead of ground beef plain.

If you want an opinion as to how good these super sandwiches are, just ask Mike or Jerry Prier or Bud or Gene or yours truly how well they like them.

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KANSAS CITY WORLD OF WHEELS CAR SHOW

Several members of the Classic Chevy Club of Springfield, Mo. travelled to Kansas City, Mo. on Saturday January 24th to attend the annual World of Wheels Car show there.

Gene Wright, Bud Janes, Kenny Hurley, and Dave Marek all went up together, and Charlie and Helen Hurley went up in their car. Avery and Karen Bradley went up Friday evening to visit friends and view the car show. Bobby Goss went to Kansas City with a friend of his that had a car entered in the show. Collectively the Springfield Club had quite a contingent attending the show.

There were approximately 230 cars in the show, everything from new cars, Classic Chevies, Street Rods, early style custom cars, antiques, vans, to trucks and motorcycles. The Kansas City Classic Club had a very impressive club exhibit, complete with an appearance by Clint Hurdle of the Kansas City Royals baseball team.

Besides the array of beautiful cars there were other attractions, like appearances by James Best, better known as Sherriff Roscoe P. Coltrain, and "Bowser" of Sha Na Na fame, and a super 50's style rock and roll band called Wedsel's Edsels.

I think everyone who went enjoyed the show, and the chance to visit with the many friends from the Kansas City area who are involved in automobile related hobbies, including many who visited Springfield when we had our regional convention.

P.S.. I would like to add that Jerry Prier and Tony Miller also went with Bud, Gene, Kenny, and Dave. Sorry bout that guys, its getting kinda late in the evening and the old brain isn't working too well.

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SUMMERTIME ACTIVITIES

It's hard to imagine that spring will be here before long when the temperatures are down around zero, but it's true, and the time has come to start thinking about places to have our meetings during the summer.

If I'm not mistaken, we usually make our annual trip to the Red Barn Restaurant in March or April, so we will have to start making plans for these meetings at the February club meeting. There are lots of places we can go this summer, so let's see if we can come up with some good new ideas.

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CCA POINTS

At the last club meeting Shirley Close reported that we had finished fourth at the first CCA turn-in and placed third at the second turn-in for a total so far of \$50 for the club treasury. Since that meeting there has been one more turn-in and we again came in third, adding another \$30 to the treasury.

I'm sure we could do better than this if we just try a little harder. That extra \$10 or \$20 each time could add up over a period of time and make a lot of extra coins in the bank for the club.

So don't forget to bring your receipts and bottle caps and milk carton tops, etc. to the club meeting, and talk to your friends and neighbors and relatives and try to get them to save some of these things for you.

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REPRODUCTION PARKLITE AND TAILITE LENSES

For those of you who are putting the finishing touches on your cars and are not going strictly original, Bill Caldwell has a small quantity of brand new Glo-Brite parklite and tailite lenses for sale for considerably less than the national club price.

He has all three years in tailite lenses and 56 and 57 parklite lenses. His phone number is 831-0686.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

1. February 22nd (Sunday afternoon) -
Monthly club meeting, held at the Amvets Club,
1035 W. Nichols (just west of Gene Wright's
garage). Starting time is 4:00 p.m.
- 2.. February 20th thru 22nd (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) -
World of Wheels car show at Howard Johnson's
Exhibition Hall. This is an ISCA sponsored event
and should have some nice cars.
3. March 21st and 22nd (Saturday and Sunday) -
10th annual Creek Capitol Swap Meet, Okmulgee
Fairgrounds, Okmulgee, Oklahoma. Okmulgee is
about 30 miles south of Tulsa.
4. April 5th (Sunday) -
9th annual V.C.C.A. Midwest Region Swap Meet,
Crown Center Parking Garage, Kansas City, Missouri.
1/2 block east of Grand Avenue and Pershing Road.
Double car space, \$5.00. Gene Drake, 7809 N.E.
San Rafael Dr..Kansas City, Mo. 64119. Phone 816-
454-1256.
5. April 11th (Saturday Night) -
Classic Chevy Club of Springfield 50's Party.
More details on this will be forthcoming.

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CAR FOR SALE

A friend of several members of the club asked me to put the following item in the newsletter. He is not a member of the club, but I told him that if I had space I would put it in.

1940 Chevy 4-door sedan street rod for sale. It has a new 283 and new powerglide transmission, tilt steering wheel with shifter on the column, rack-and-pinion steering, late model rear end, all new shocks, Corvette Rallye Wheels and good tires. The car is driveable and complete. Needs paint, upholstery and some wiring to finish it. Asking around \$1,000. Call Larry Harbottle at 831-9112.

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March, 1981



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CLASSIC CHEVY CLUB OF SPRINGFIELD March Newsletter

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Jeannie Huyett....	417	/	887-3254

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FEBRUARY MEETING WRAP-UP

For those of you who weren't able to attend the club meeting held on February 22d, here is a short summary of the business conducted:

1. Due to the Boy's Club already being booked, the club voted to try and schedule it for the same time and date at the Westport Community Center.
2. Shirley Close reported that the club had received \$120 so far from the CCA points turnins.
3. Avery Bradley read thank-yous from Leesa Pendleton, and an announcement about return address labels being offered by a member of the national Classic Chevy Club.
4. The club discussed plans for the upcoming 50's party - the date has been changed to April 4th-. There will be a charge of \$3 per couple. The club also voted to invite the members of the Sho-Me Van Club of Springfield to both the 50's party and the Christmas Dinner.
5. The club voted to order 2 dozen more club caps of which several were spoken for during the meeting.
6. The March meeting will be held at the Red Barn Restaurant. More details later in the newsletter.

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MEET YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS

BY BOB GOSS

Our featured members of the month this time are Karl and Shirley Close.

Since joining the Springfield Classic Chevy Club way back in 1975 when it was first formed, Karl and Shirley have stayed with the club and are two of the few remaining original club members. Of all the club members who have come and gone the last six years, there are probably less than half-a-dozen left.

As for occupations, Karl is shop foreman at A-One Manufacturing Co. here in Springfield, and Shirley works part-time in the billing department at Foremost Dairy.

Karl and Shirley have a very pretty little girl named Keely, who will be four years old in April.

One of the hobbies these two share is showing their dogs at dog shows from time to time. When Karl isn't working on his classic or his house, he likes to hunt, and Shirley has many hobbies, among them ceramics and flower arranging.

Karl, as most everyone in the club knows, was Co-chairman, along with Larry Robertson, of our regional last summer, which I'm sure was quite a task.

Shirley has helped pull her weight in the club by being our secretary in years past and is now active in helping out on the CCA point drive for our club.

One of the soon-to-be-completed star attractions of the Close family is their '56 Nomad. Karl and Shirley obtained this car not long after joining our club. They found it in Kansas City and traded a '57 two-door hard-top for it, and have been completely rebuilding and restoring it since they bought it, with their goal being to drive it to Detroit this summer for the national convention.

Parts for the Nomad have been gathered for several years and from many places including many other states. The car will be all original with the exception of the 283 engine and Tru-spoke wire wheels Karl plans to use.

Just to give you an idea of the work that has been done or will be done on this car, some of the things are; the paint was stripped to bare metal, two new quarter panels put on, new floorboards put in, different engine,

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different transmission, complete rewiring job, new paint job using original nitrocellulose lacquer in the colors of Twilight Turquoise and India Ivory, new original interior from Larry Wallie, and newly rechromed bumpers. The car was painted by Rick Bartner at the Battlefield Body Shop.

This car has been in the building stages for a long time now but from the sound of things I think it's gonna be a real nice one.

Presently, Karl and Shirley are driving around in a '56 BelAir two-door sedan that's also a pretty nice little car, and they also own a '57 convertible that Karl would like to restore some day. But like I said earlier, the star attraction right now is the Nomad, and I hope Karl and Shirley can meet there goal of Detroit in '81, It's been a long wait.

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RED BARN TRIP AND CLUB MEETING

The March meeting of the Classic Chevy Club of Springfield will be held on March 29th, when we will journey to Greenfield, Mo. and the Red Barn Resteraunt for Dinner and our club meeting afterwards.

Everyone is to meet at the Wal-Mart parking lot at Kearney and Kansas shortly after noon. We will leave the parking lot at 12:30 sharp to caravan to the Red Barn.

This trip is our first of the year and is taking on the reputation of being the season opener for the Springfield club.

Don't forget, this is a club function and points will be awarded for driving your classics.

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CCA POINTS

Our club got another third place in the CCA points contest for the week of March 3d. This now gives us an additional \$30 for the treasury. So far we have finished 4th, 3rd, 3rd, 2nd, and 3rd in the respective turn-ins, for a total of \$130 so far this year, with only two more turn ins to go, one on March 17th and the final turn-in

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on March 31st. This final turn-in is real important and since our meeting is the Sunday before this turn-in, be sure to bring anything and everything you can get your hands on because it could mean a good deal of money for the club treasury that we won't have to go out and raise some other way.

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FIRECRACKER FUN RUN MEETING

There will be a committee meeting for the fun run our club is putting on in July on the 26th of March which is on Thursday evening. The meeting will be held at McDonalds on East Battlefield at 7 p.m. All committee members should be there and anyone else who is interested is welcome.

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CLASSICS IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL?

The following is a reprint of an article I found on the front page of the March 4th, 1981 Wall Street Journal that I thought you might find interesting.

CHEVYS FROM THE '50S ARE REVIVED FOR TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Bob Matheson decided to get rid of his 1980 Corvette. It looked good and ran fine, but frankly, it lacked panache. After all, he says, "anyone with enough money can own a Corvette".

So, the 41-year-old service manager for a Renton, Washington auto dealership drove some 1,100 miles to a plain, single story building in an industrial park in San Dimas, California where he traded his high-priced sports car in on something more dashing - a 24-year-old black Chevrolet BelAir hardtop with 60,000 miles on it. Now Mr. Matheson is riding high.

"This is a hell of a lot bigger ego trip than driving the Corvette. I get 10 times as much attention, people wave, toot their horns, and give me the thumbs-up. It's a kick," he says.

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It's also a kick for Bob Wingate, the man who sold Mr. Matheson the 1957 Chevy. Technically, Mr. Wingate is a used-car dealer, but to thousands of automobile cognoscenti around the world, he is the guru of the 1950's vintage Chevrolet. He sells as many gleaming, carefully refurbished 1955 through 1957 Chevys in a year as some small-town showrooms sell new cars.

And his prices would give any red-blooded auto dealership palm-itch - \$8,500 for a nice hardtop, up to \$16,000 for a loaded convertible. That's three to five times what they cost new (Mr. Matheson won't say what his car cost, but it isn't uncommon for Mr. Wingate to take a late model sports and luxury model as partial payment for one of his like-new beauties).

There is nothing unusual, of course, about people buying old cars. Tweedy antique buffs have long polished the brass on their tin lizzies, and well-healed investors have been impressing their board-room pals with quarter-million dollar Deussenburgs. But the growing craze for three specific years of middle-aged Chevrolets is different.

They aren't rare. General Motors built about five million of them and by some estimates there may be as many as a million left. They certainly aren't exotic. In the '50's even more than now, Chevrolets were everyman's car. Wheels for the moms, pops, and kids of America. But as is often the case in affairs of the heart, logic counts for naught. So it appears that the very ubiquity of the 1955-57 Chevrolets is providing good times for people like Mr. Matheson and a good living for people like Mr. Wingate.

"It's the desire to get back to the simple, happy days of the '50's," Mr. Wingate declares. Fords and Plymouths also were plentiful, but "Chevrolet put itself on the map" between 1955 and 1957 with a new, powerful V-8 engine in a lightweight car. "You were 16 and the family car would blow the doors off anything on the street. Now you're over 40 and remember the fun you had chasing down Fords, cruising the drive-in and dating your high-school sweetheart."

One might dismiss that as the pitch of a boyish 45-year-old car salesman who got his start in 1957 selling new 1957 Chevys and who still punctuates his animated conversations with dated terms like "nervous" (describing

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an especially attractive car) "heat and music" (heater and radio) and "three on the tree" (a steering column gearshift).

But Mr. Matheson is similarly enthusiastic. "Basically, it's nostalgia," he says. "The kids who had money when I was in high school had these. Now when I reach for the radio knob, I wouldn't be surprised to hear Chuck Berry come out."

Al Murrel, a 43-year-old serviceman for Columbia Gas Co. in Toledo, Ohio is another proud owner. "I've never stopped reliving my youth. As a teen-ager in 1957 I had a brand new one and haven't been without one since." At the moment he owns seven.

Doug Morehead of Orlando, Florida understands people like that. The 32-year-old former minister and bible teacher now works full-time as president of the Classic Chevrolet Club International, made up of 30,000 people who own - or wish they owned - '55-'57 Chevys. "The 50's was the last carefree era of the automobile," he says, "before worrying about pollution, safety and energy crisis descended on motorists and emasculated their machines."

"The Chevrolet was the common-man's car. That's who had them then and that's who wants them now," he says. The typical member of his flock, he says, is a middle-income, blue-collar worker. About half restore their car themselves, but some prefer to buy them after the work is done. "I saw one man buying a beautiful 1955 convertible lay \$17,000 in cash down on the hood," he says.

Mr. Wingate bills his company as "The worlds largest vintage Chevrolet dealership". He says he averages a sale a day, and 75% of his sales are 55-57 Chevrolets. His gross sales last year were 2.5 million dollars, but a cost increase cut his profit from a year earlier.

He includes a 25% mark-up on most prices, hoping to settle for a 15% profit after dickering. He will help with financing, and he offers a guarantee - from 12 months or 12,000 miles on a completely rebuilt car to "two minutes or two feet" on a rough one being wholesaled.

He claims there is little risk to him. "People drive these cars like they're the last cars on earth. They don't get over 55, they change the oil every other Tuesday and leave them home if it rains," he says.