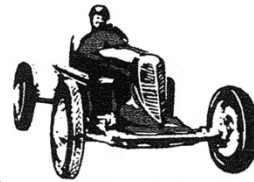


GOLDEN WHEELS

FRATERNITY
Auto Racing Pathfinders



Museum Pieces In Action

Issue #2 – 2010

Happy Spring to All! The weather is nice, racetracks are opening and the 2010 season is underway. Lawn mowing is back in style going and I just had a great idea. I think I'm going to add a bit of methanol to the old beater mower, and then see if anyone comes sniffing around. Could be some unknown race nuts in the neighborhood. We'll get this issue pushed off and running with.....

The President's Column: Well folks, it's not slow anymore!!!

The season for on track exhibitions, and static shows is just around the corner. It starts with our annual **Sandblasters, Inc. "Inspection/Auction/Benefit/Car Show" Sunday, April 25th, 2010.**

Details: Hours: 10am to 4pm/Auction @ Noon At: The Plant Farm, 16622 Twin Lakes Ave., Arlington, WA. (The Smokey Point exit off I-5).

Our host, Warren Kindle, goes overboard to make this show bigger each year through advertising, promotion, arm twisting and whatever else works. All auction proceeds go to local charities. Remember that if you plan to run a car in this year's on track exhibitions, your car must pass a GW safety inspection before you are allowed on track. And if that is not enough reason to dig that midget, sprinter, champ car, track roadster, TQ, motorcycle, project, boat----well you get the idea, out of the garage, we owe it to Warren to put on the best show possible. Enough of the soap box.

I said it's not slow anymore, and I meant it! Since the last newsletter, I've received a wonderful album from the family of Bert Blomgren. Bert's midget career was from 1937 to 1940. He was the 1938 NWRA midget champion, when the NWRA included both Washington and Oregon.

I have known about this wonderful gift for several years, and it would take me an entire newsletter column to tell the membership how this all came about. In fact, it's such a great story, I might do just that. For now, I'll just say that I went to school with two of the Blomgren children, and when this gift is completed, it will become one of the most important pieces of our history.

And that's just the beginning. A few weeks ago, Kay and I got a call from Vicki Stiles our partner at The Shoreline Historical Museum, in which Vicki said she had something to show us. Man, she wasn't kidding!

When we arrived at the museum, Vicki had set up a 16mm. film projector that the museum owns. Beside the projector, was a large film box. In the box were 8 large film canisters containing the personal collection of one Earl J. Heroux. That's right, THE Earl Heroux who was the promoter at Aurora Speedway. It turns out that this was a gift to the museum from Earl's daughters. Well, for the next three hours, we were awed by the historical record on film. Midgets, track roadsters, thrill shows, hardtops, entertainment, Aurora, Spokane, Portland, Sea-Tac---I could go on. Suffice to say, this is the mother load. In color!!!!

With the well documented issues the museum is going through, the idea was born that Golden Wheels partner with the museum to have this priceless film converted to DVD. A vote was held at last month's club breakfast approving the idea, and I have closed the last two breakfast meetings by showing the first two of these DVDs. Ask anybody that attended, what they think. In fact, with only one more meeting left before we take the summer off, maybe some of you that don't regularly come to the meetings might want to attend. What a wonderful way to celebrate Mother's Day by sharing this wonderful history with your wife or mother.

But there's more: A while ago, I was approached by my neighbor, Greg Brotherton, who produced the movie "Finding Playland" about an idea for his next project, which is of all things the history of Aurora Speedway. Before this incredible gift, I had the only live footage of Aurora known to exist--maybe 15 minutes of usable material of a couple cars practicing while the track was closed. Greg is already interviewing and filming GW members who were there for the film. To date, he has filmed Mel Anthony, Art Day and Art Waller, with more to come. If you have memories of Aurora that would be of interest to Greg, please make them known.

Moving on, progress is being made with the new WEB site. We have a current schedule up and running, along with a bit of club history, officers etc. Yet to come, a place to ask tech questions from our experts on

issues with your build, setup etc. An order form for club merchandise. An on line membership application. Pictures of all the cars and their owner/drivers that participate in club activities. And most important, our photo history, which I estimate with what we had, what I've mentioned here, and the collections I've been promised, over 1000 pictures.

Our first on track event this year is at Stateline, Idaho on May 7th. And 8th. A little later that our traditional start at Stateline to take advantage of what we hope will be better weather. See you there.

I'll close with a cute story. This past weekend was the semi-annual swap meet at Portland, Oregon. This being the largest swap meet in the west, several of our members attend each year. One who attended was Bob Scott. I started to get phone calls from Bob Friday morning. The first was to tell me he was thinking of buying 5 TQ midgets of various kinds, and the parts that went with them. Later that day, he called again, telling me that he had found another TQ he was thinking of buying. Still another phone call, asking my advice about a TQ which had been a national champion. To make a long story short, Bob is now the TQ King. If you've ever entertained the idea of owning a TQ, talk to Bob. Several of the cars appear to be interesting projects. I know that the current TQ owners in Golden Wheels were feeling a little lonely. If enough of these cars ever see the track, I can see an entire new class being born. *Hal Schlegel*

Following Hal's great Prez Column is information and a request for help from one of our newer members, Virginia Latta Curulla.

EARLY NORTHWEST RACING HISTORY PROJECT

Hello to fellow Golden Wheels members. I'm Virginia Latta Curulla. My father, Charles Webster Latta, and his younger brother, Chester Allen Latta, were involved in auto racing in the Pacific Northwest and along the West Coast from about 1913 to 1930. Their older brother, Clyde Virgil Latta, was a mechanic with Eddie Rickenbacker, for the Eastern and Midwest circuits at least in the years 1915 and 1916.

My father left quite a few photos, both professional and snapshots, of his racing days and those of his younger brother. I have been researching those photos and the early days of West Coast racing for the past several years.

I'm trying to contact descendants of racers who were active between 1912 to about 1930, or others who might have photos that show these early racers. The book that I'm writing will have brief biographies of the racing men and their families. So I'm asking for your help.

I have met some of you at the several Golden Wheels functions that I have attended during the past year. And I hope to meet more. One of the most elusive figures of these early days was EUGENE J. ROMANO. Romano, as he was known, designed and built successful racecars. He was instrumental in involving many of the prominent men of the day in auto racing. Both my father and his younger brother drove Romano racecars for some period of time, and remained involved with him until Romano's death in 1935.

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION, HANDED-DOWN RECOLLECTIONS, OR PHOTOS FROM THESE EARLY DAYS, I very much want to hear from you. Please call or email, **EXCEPT FROM APRIL 29TH THROUGH MAY 23RD**, when I will be out of town Thank you.

Virginia Latta Curulla - 425 643 0309 - latta4gen@comcast.net

It's always nice to see new interests in the history of Northwest racing. I hope someone can supply some information for Virginia or point her in the direction of possible leads.

An added note on the GW web site. While the old site address at <http://www.goldenwheelsfraternity.com> still works, and is supposed to in the future, I suggest we all bookmark the new Golden Wheels web site address at <http://www.goldenwheels.org> so there will be no problems in the future for anyone. We have changed site hosts and the old host will be gone soon.

It's **Birthdays, Birthdays, Birthdays!!!** time again.

Getting around with a Spring in their step as they 'March' around are: Marileen Moser, Ralph Hunt, Ed Williams, Richard Nelson, Ronald 'Bud' Melby, Don Menard and Donald Kane, Jr.

Those with a Spring in their step as they dodge 'April' showers are: Kay Schlegel, Sue Wood, Richard Aduddell, Tom Hanna and Joe McIntosh.

Best Wishes to ALL for many, many more. Happy Birthday!!

Quick Rerun - Page 5, last issue, Jim Chini photos. My statement - I believe it is the Langley, BC track. If I am wrong I am counting on the history buffs like Brian Pratt to set the record straight. And, he did, as it was the Langford, BC track. So, take last months issue (with photos) in hand for reference as we now bring you.....
”The Rest of the Story!”

Well, you guessed right that I might have a comment or two or three on the two photos on page five of the last newsletter.

They are from Langford Speedway, circa 1949. Langford is/was 8 miles north of Victoria, BC. Operated from 1936 to 1950 (excluding 1942 to 45).

The Number 81 car was owned by Stew Pringle (probably the guy standing wearing the hat) and driven by Roy Vincent (although others did drive it in 1949). Vincent took over the driving of the car in 1947 after Pike Green had driven it for Pringle in 1946 to a second place finish overall in the points standings.

There are a couple photos of Roy Vincent in 1947 crashing the car into a light pole. (Below)



The Vern Bruce car is also circa 1949. Second rear-engined big car built by Jack Smith (the guy in the dark coat/sweater wearing glasses). The first was the "flying saucer" campaigned by Howard Stanley from 1947 to 48.

Jack Smith's racing history goes way back to the 1920s in Alberta. Came to B.C. and by the 1930s formed, and was first president, the BC Automotive Sports Association. Also first presidents of the Victoria Midget Racing Association and the Vancouver Island Track Roadster Association.

Information on Jack Smith can be found in the Victoria Auto Racing Hall of Fame and Canadian Motorsport Hall of Fame. (Links to their internet sites below).

The car in the photo was featured in the February 1951 issue of Hot Rod.

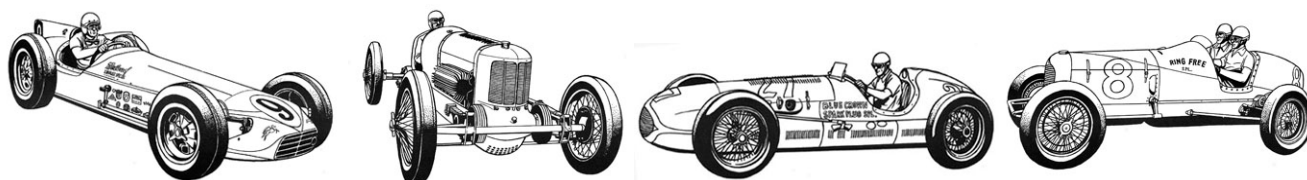
Jack Smith was a mentor to guys like Pike Green and Johnny Dalby. Interestingly enough Pike didn't get along with Vern Bruce. Not sure why, but Pike would bristle at the mention of Vern.

This rear-engined car even made it down to Portland for the 1950 opener, April 23rd. Bruce won his heat but crashed into the outside fence during the main.

I could go on and on. ;) Cheers, Brian

Internet Links: Langford photos: http://www.gforcemotorsports.ca/Langford_Speedway.html
 Victoria Auto Racing HoF: <http://www.victoriaautoracinghalloffame.com/jacksmith/jacksmith.html>
 Canadian Motorsport HoF: http://www.cmhf.ca/member_JACK_SMITH.html

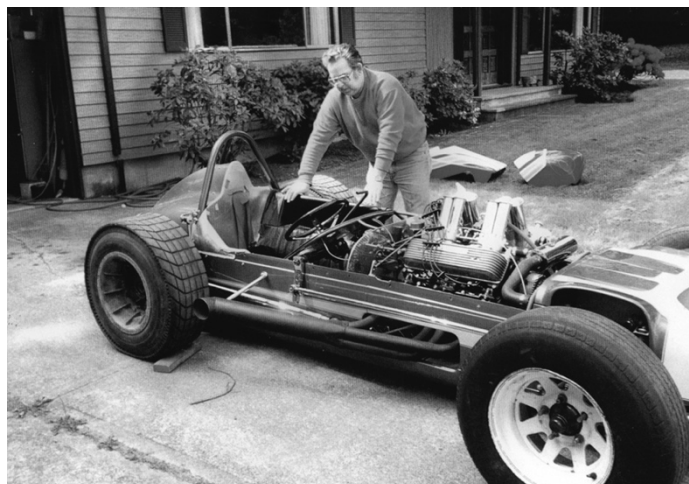
Many thanks to Brian for setting the record straight. At least I had the 'Lang' part right. Check out the internet links if you can. Great info and photos.



New Members – Butch & Nancy Dennison of Puyallup, WA recently joined Golden Wheels. A past crew member, and current car owner, Butch owns Dennison International, specializing in the restoration of race cars and Ferraris.

Welcome to Jim Calhoun of Brownsville, OR. Will post his car information as soon as it is forwarded to me.

Harry O. & Gail Whitman of Hayden, ID own the 1980 Edmunds ex-John Wood #97 midget. Harry is looking forward to getting it on the track this season after spending 4 years restoring it. Looks great, Harry! (Below It.)



Returning to Golden Wheels are Mike and Karen Morrissey of Kennewick, WA and his roadster. (Above rt.) Originally built in the late '60's by Mike and Jack Klingbeil, it was rebuilt in the late '80's. Original power was a 400 cu. in. Olds w/blower. It now uses a .60 over bored 324 cu. in. Olds as it's source of power.

A hearty **“Welcome”** to our new and returning members. We look forward to seeing you at our exhibitions and displays around the Northwest this coming 2010 season.



Another new car to the club is the Don & Dee Dalgarno 70's Reichenbach & Kruegar Midget. The blue & white race car was previously put together and raced with Don's twin brother Ron in the 1980' with WMRA.

It will be a nice addition to their beautiful little red #8 TQ midget they own.

Maybe Don in the Midget and Dee in the TQ?

**Ads from Racing Wheels
March. 31, 1976**

KURTIS MIDGET - New body, new upholstery. Good dirt car, ready for Chevy II engine. Includes indoor parts, extras. \$1,800 firm. Mickey Pinto, 42552 Roberts Ave., Fremont, CA 94538. (415) 656-6364. RWX-06-09

NANCE SPRINT CAR - All championship, Halibrand championship rear end, front & rear hubs, knockoffs, driveline, Airheart QC brakes, Schroeder steering, CAE in-out box, 292 cu. in. Chevy, all upholstered, chrome. Never wrecked or bent. Everything new this season. Trailer included. \$4,500 or best offer. Gordon Smith, 3160 NE Johnson St., Roseburg, OR 97470. (503) 672-6272 or 673-4434. RWO-06-08

QUARTER MIDGET - Racecraft with two stock engines, spare tires, wheels, etc. \$425. Professional built go-kart with MAC-049 engine, \$300. Larry Spoon, 608 Harriet W., Montesano, WA 98563. (206) 249-4309 eves, 532-3975 days. RWX-05-07

FOR SALE - Semi modified, race ready. 289 Chevy, quick change, disc brakes, CAE steering, extra parts. With trailer and wing, \$1,500. Standley, (503) 679-7088, Roseburg, OR. RWX-03-07



RAM SPRINTER #43 - 355 Chevy, Hilborne injection, Mallory mag, roller cam, rev-kit. CAE in/out box, championship rear end, Airheart brakes, 14 tires & wheels. Ten races on car. Like new, never bent. Tandem trailer. Best offer, all or parts. Phil Bly, 22232 - 88th W., Edmonds, WA 98020. (206) 774-6002. RWO-02-TF

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For Sale: 1935 Midget Race Car No. 4 Wee Stinker, complete. Owned and driven by Pike Green 1977 to 1985. Has approximately ten races on newly installed rebuilt Ford V8-60 engine. Some restoration still needed. \$3000 or make offer. Contact; **Dick Fredell** 360-629-2370 Email - rmf54@live.com

For Sale: Midget offset Bennett quick change housing w / side plate & rear covers. 4.44 to 1 Ford ring & pinion. Used Franklin 10 spline gear sets #7-8-9-23 special-35-41. **Also:** Midget Race Car - 1930's vintage. Looks like a Solar. Lots of LA Calif. history. No Engine or gear box. Contact: **Jack Corley** 360 NE 20th Dr., Gresham, OR 97030 Phone: 503-667-1725

For Sale: 1971 Bob Trostle midget. Very rare as only three (3) were built. Has new Chevy II engine, new tail & nose and chrome plating. Torsion rear, leaf spring front suspension. Car was in process of restoration. Death in family forces sale. \$11,000. Contact: **Sam** at 480-830-8883.

Wanted: Information on D.O. Hal engine recently purchased in Portland, OR area. We are told the engine came from up north 30 years ago. (Possibly Bremerton or Bellingham, WA) It originally came with a rocker arm Crager. Both on 'B' blocks and painted silver. The HAL is gold under the silver. A & W BRG 10/3/61 is stamped on the pan rail. Any information is appreciated. Contact: **Gordy** 360-694-7853 or **Mark** 360-798-2166.

For Sale: '74 Edmunds-Kane Midget. 6 sets gears, 12 wheels, Chevy II, Halibrand & spare parts. \$16,000 w / open trailer or \$20,000 w / 2008 14' enclosed trailer. Call: 360-387-4696

Smoke, Sand and Rubber - 'Methanol' Mel Anthony, Golden Wheels' in house story teller's long awaited Midget & Big Car History in the Northwest. Soft Cover, 288 pages, 7"x10", 250 B&W Photos. ISBN:0-9787721-0-5. Priced @ \$29.95 + \$4.00 domestic shipping. \$8.00 foreign. Order from: Sylvester Publishing #133, 18405 Aurora Ave. N. Suite H, Shoreline, WA 98133

Available Again - Harry Stryker Offy Engine Rebuild Manual. Price is \$85.00 Shipping included! - **Again Available** Mike Stryker, 15574 Space Murals Lane, Las Cruces, NM 88011 575-571-1390 Email - mstryker58@gmail.com.

For Sale? Wanted? Trade? Need Info? --- Put your ad here.
It worked for Eric Lieder and Jim Edwards! -- It could work for you!
Try it. You might Like it.

Golden Wheels - 2010 Membership or Renewal - Golden Wheels

Please Print

Name _____ Spouse/SO Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ ZIP _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Cell) _____ Birth Month(s) _____

Email / Web Address _____

Member-\$25 Spouse/Significant Other-\$10 Amount enclosed _____ (US\$)

Brief profile (owner, driver, crew, fan, etc) or changes from 09 _____

Mail to: Golden Wheels, P.O. Box 33487, Seattle, WA 98133