

GOLDEN WHEELS

FRATERNITY
Auto Racing Pathfinders



Issue #1 – 2023

President's Message: It is with heavy heart that I again begin a newsletter with sad news. This time, our loss is Silvia Day, wife of Hall of Fame member Jerry Day. My wife (Kay) wrote such a moving tribute to Silvia that I am including her message to the membership.

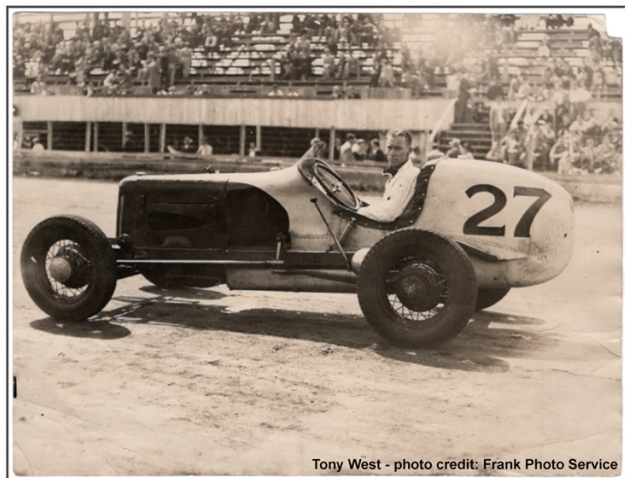
Kay's tribute) once again, it is with the greatest of sadness, to announce the passing of another of our dear friends, and "golden wheels" member, sylvia day (second from left in photo). i don't think i have ever met a sweeter, kinder person in my entire life. syl's husband, jerry, is a famous race car driver, well known throughout the racing community. syl had been there throughout jerry's career, a supportive partner in all things racing. the funny part was, syl had "been there, done that" for so many years, she would now send jerry out to do the car related things he wanted to do, and she would stay home and garden !!! her garden was her pride and joy and it was truly gorgeous and bountiful !!! syl was always upbeat and no matter how she was feeling, she never let it show, or complained about the pain she was in. her bubbly personality was infectious and she was such wonderful company, a joy to be around. she loved cats, dogs, and birds, especially her cockatoo, "fido". syl and jerry had been married 60+ years. racers are hard to live with on a good day, so there was good reason we referred to her as "saint sylvia" !!! will miss the dinners at the "golden peacock" with the gang and the "girl talk" in syl's kitchen (with "fido"). nita left frankie in our care, sylvia left jerry. what the hell were you guys thinking ?!!! we could NEVER do as good of a job as you did !!! syl, i hope you and nita are up there NOT "bench racing" !!!



It's "The RAM" line up.



Jerry, Syl, Nita, Frankie, Hal, Kay at Golden Peacock



Tony West - photo credit: Frank Photo Service

We lost another former member recently, Gary West. Gary had not been a member for several years, but some of you old timers might remember him, and if not, if you are a student of Northwest racing history like I am, you would surely remember his dad Tony West. A legendary figure in racing back to pre-war days. Kay and I attended Gary's memorial services a couple of weeks ago. I don't have a picture of Gary, but I have a great picture of Tony that I've include here. This photo was part of Gary's collection of racing photos from his dad's career, which were loaned to the Shoreline Historical Museum several years ago. With his passing, thanks to Gary's wife, the collection is now added to the Golden Wheels collection.

Speaking of our collections, the bulk of them are stored at the Shoreline Historical Museum thanks to its' director Kenneth Doult, with the rest at my home. I have long had a vision that the collection would remain at the museum for our membership, and those that follow us to be able to study and learn about the history of racing in the Northwest. So, in keeping with my vision, we've had our first work party at the museum with an intrepid crew of Jim Edwards, Dave & Teresa Craver, George Hespe, Kay and I, to see what needed to be retained, and to decide what to do with what we don't need to keep. Believe me when I tell you that this is a big job which entails scanning hundreds, if not thousands of photos and documents. A museum member who is much schooled in technology has agreed to help us set up a searchable database that will eventually allow someone to find an particular picture of a car, track, relative etc. We will be scheduling future scanning sessions at the museum and will need lots of help with this process, so if you would like to be a part of this task, please let me or a board member know; we can really use the help!!!

Our next scheduled event is the annual Warren Kindle Memorial, Shoreline Historical Museum, race car, street rod, rat rod, EV, and anything else anyone wants to show off on Saturday, June 17th. We need every able body, or foot that can depress a pedal for this event. I know that we are short of race cars at the moment, but we need every car we can get, as our shrinking number of cars could spell doom for this very long-standing tradition. Nough said. Maybe not Nough, as I can't emphasize enough how much this annual show means to the museum and Golden Wheels. Now, Nough said!!!! Hal

As Hal noted, there has not been very much activity since the first of the year. We did have a nice turn out for our Annual Golden Wheels dinner last March 5th. Some photos taken at the dinner were posted on the Golden Wheels Facebook page. For those that may not have seen them, I am including them here in the newsletter. Starting with the Golden Wheels Hall of Fame board, showing those in attendance and ending with Vicki Stiles receiving her Lifetime Member Card. Hope you enjoy them.

A few shots from the Shoreline Historical Museum show.





As mentioned by the Prez, the annual Warren Kindle Memorial, Shoreline Historical Museum show is on schedule for Saturday, June 17th. To help fill up space and maybe jog a few memory circuits, I went back a few years and picked out a few photos from a couple of years. The last 4 are B & W as I could not find colored ones.





Found this interesting piece of information on "The Chrome" in the archives. Do not know if it has been in a back issue or not but it just fits the space I needed to fill out this last page. Enjoy.....

One of the most beautiful open wheeled race cars in my opinion was the Atlas Chrome racer that was driven by Ted Horn in the 1930's. Anyone know what happened to this car and if it still exists today and where it might be? Anyone know the engine and chassis or other info about it? Thanks.

Al Isselhard
Wolcott, New York

Al,
I had the pleasure of watching the former Atlas Chrome big car race near my home in the mid 1930's, after the car was purchased by Neeley Burkitt of Portland Oregon. Neely owned a used car business, and towed the car to Seattle when they had a race at the Seattle Speedbowl 5/8 oiled dirt high banked speedway. The first driver in the car here was Frank Wearne, then Adolph Dans, and then Bill Gehlar. The car raced up and down the West coast, after Legion Ascot shuttered in 1936. It made an eventful appearance at the Oakland mile with Chick Barbo driving, when a right front tire blew out at speed, and Chick did a series of flips and rolls, nearly landing on a busy highway.

The car was powered with a DOHC Cragar, and I know not the cubic inches. The original chassis was built by Frank Kurtis, one of his first, and it is rumored to still be intact although in disrepair, in a storage shed on a Walnut farm in or near Stockton, Ca. The present owner has declined mail, interviews, or any contact with the racing world or historians. It is also rumored he lives in a small house that is surrounded by a multitude of shipping containers, each full to the limit with: every type race car, Offy engines, complete cars, and enough parts to build many. I had mentioned the Chrome in my book, Smoke, Sand, and Rubber, to the owner with a flyer of my book. I learned later that all correspondence goes into his "burn Barrel."

Mel Anthony
Shoreline, Wa.

Hi Mel:

The Atlas Chrome is in CA in a shed. I have seen the car. It's owner bought the car, I believe from a waitress who was the last owner. His name is Carl Schmid and he has had the car I would guess over fifty years or more. To me, Carl saved the car from what might have been a lot longer list of owners that may have destroyed the car over a period of time. It has had some modifications by previous owners, which Carl's ownership has this process stopped. There were no buyers for the car at the time, so Carl has saved the car in the as found condition.

I found Carl very approachable to talk old racing and I bet if you met him face to face, you two would get along great because you both like the same machine and the same period of racing history. I also believe he is the kind of person that you need to meet face to face and spend some time with to understand him. I go by to see him and think he is the big treasure in the whole place. He lives and breaths old racing. His place is a great stop and is an open air racing museum. He does have a lot of old hardware tucked away in buildings and sheds also. I believe there have been so many people trying to buy the "The Chrome" car that Carl has learned to turn away people. I have heard that there has been some large piles of dollars offered for the car, but it still hasn't moved. It is my feeling that the car will stay with Carl, it will be someone's some day and they will thank Carl for saving it. Carl, like the "Atlas Chrome," has become part of the legend and myth that surrounds this part of the Cragar history and lore.

Kem Robertson
Huntsville, AL

Frank Kurtis message on Chrome photo.....

My best wishes to the Golden Wheels Fraternity.
Sincerely,
Frank Kurtis

BIRTHDAYS!! –It's been a while since we posted Birthdays. Actually, it was last year. So far this year we have: William Blackwell, Hal Schlegel & Dave Craver with January birthdays. Barbara Nelson, Deanna Williams and Ralph Hunt celebrated in March. Kay Schlegel & John Wood, Jr. had April celebrations, and George Hespe was May's only birthday. Vicki Westberg, Naomi Cruikshank and Ramon Cruikshank are celebrating another year this month of June. July celebrants will be Teresa Craver, Roni McFadden, Donelle McMurtry, Jerry Day, John Gregg, Del McClure, Rick Leighty & Brian McMurtry. **Happy Birthday to All and Very Best Wishes for the coming year!**

Don't Forget Breakfast: Unfortunately, we had to cancel the May Saturday Morning Breakfast at Shay's in Shoreline. The June 10th meeting is on schedule and hope to see a lot of you there. As usual, the meeting starts at 9:00 am but you can come early and stay late if you so wish.

Summer is almost here, the weather is getting great and wherever you go the highways will probably be busy. You can most likely make that trip a bit more pleasant if you always remember to.....
.....**Keep Your Wheels Down!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

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ADS ARE FREE TO ALL MEMBERS – PLEASE NOTIFY EDITOR OF ANY CHANGES – ADS ARE SUBJECT TO REMOVAL AFTER THREE ISSUES IF SPACE IS NEEDED FOR NEWER ADS – THANK YOU

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Brief Profile (owner, driver,crew, fan, etc) or change from last year. _____

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*Incorporated
October 20, 1975
Memories of the Past
On the Track Today
Museum Pieces In Action*

Golden Wheels Fraternity

*Preserving The
Golden Age of Motorsports*

2023 Officers
Pres: Hal Schlegel
Vice-Pres: Brian McMurtry

Board Members
Frank Volz - Jerry Day
Dave Craver - Bob Scott
George Hesse - (President Appointment)

PO Box 33832, Seattle, WA 98133

The Object of Golden Wheels Fraternity
Encourage the preservation of vintage auto racing.
Promote and advance the interest of said Fraternity.
Honor those auto racers who are no longer with us.
Join in fellowship and camaraderie.
Collectively render such financial assistance as possible
to worthy distressed auto racers, ex-racers, their widows,
orphans and accepted humanitarian associations.

For information on Golden Wheels
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**In Memory
of
Jan Opperman
and
Silent Members
of Golden Wheels
Fraternity**

anonymous