



TOW Line

FREE #11 May 2005

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Teardroppers of **O**regon and **W**ashington
Serving those who are or wannabe teardroppers

THE CURTIS COLLECTION – A MOST AMAZING MUSEUM

By **Steven Price**

Since I have lived in Portland, twenty-two years now, I have driven by the Curtis Trailer sale's lot on Powell at least once a week and never knew that there was one of the most amazing museums in Oregon hidden on the back lot. I had heard rumors that Myron Curtis was a collector but you hear that about just anyone these days so it was with great interest that my wife and I went on the tour Saturday April 2. Being on the Curtis lot is like being in a candy store for a person who likes camping. There are travel trailers on the lot that cost more than my home and some are bigger! As we walked past all these delights I kept asking myself where is there room for a museum and how much could be in it. We had brought along some friends who where Portland Speedway regulars and they said they had heard rumors about the collection too.

A nice lady directed us up to a building on the hillside where we found the most amazing thing, a truly a world-class collection of vehicles. On entering through a small door your breath is taken away by the quantity of material in this building. First to catch my eye was a 1940 Cushman and next to it a mint World War II courier motorcycle. Behind that a steam powered popcorn popper. Of interest to many on the tour was the large collection of military vehicles and uniforms. A fully restored jeep and d.u.y.k. boat where the highlights of this section.

Before our eyes where literally hundreds of horse drawn vehicles with the odd gas powered vehicle mixed in. At this point we where all gathered together and introduced to Mr. Curtis's daughter, Cammy Pierson. She then proceeded to give us the most informative tour, explaining each piece and often giving a cute family story to go along with it. The collection began with one carriage. The premise was to acquire animal drawn vehicles but like all great collectors, the definition gradually expanded to include any vehicle that was of interest.

The Fire Engine section captivated my interest. In my estimation, the premier piece of the entire collection is a steam powered fire engine that has more chrome than I have ever seen on a vehicle. Next to that was a classic hook and ladder engine with the original wooden ladders and the giant manual crank to raise them.

Oddly enough the one item that I expected to see the most of was only represented by four examples; and that was travel trailers. There was what looked like the original pop-up tent trailer, a pre-Airstream and two odd-looking pull trailers. One was ten feet wide and had huge tires but there was an explanation as soon as one looked inside. The entire trailer was paneled in cherry wood with marble counters and cut glass lanterns. It looked more like one of the original Pullman cars than a travel trailer. When we inquired about the lack of trailers, we where informed that there is a big barn full of them somewhere else along with a lot of other vehicles still in the restoration shop. One can only imagine what the collection would look like if it were all together in a central location.

We knew it was a nice collection but that was only confirmed when our guide kept mentioning that the Smithsonian people come out almost every year to verify that they have done an original restoration by looking at one of these pieces. I would go back again and I heartily recommend that if you ever have the chance that you go and see this amazing collection.

Editor's comments: TOW was the sponsor of this joint museum tour with the Family Fun Rods and Customs car club. After the tour, we all gathered for pizza for food and visiting.

TIME TO SETTLE UP

TOW has shared the net proceeds of the Northwest Car Collectors Show and Swap Meet from 2004 to the tune of \$1000. Affiliates of TOW from all over the Pacific Northwest help build a teardrop trailer display, man it as well as pulled duty at various posts at the Portland Expo Center. At one time, we had 22 of us at the Expo Center - all dressed in our signature red tee shirts. See the last TOW Line #10 for more info as called up on our web site www.teardroptrailers.org.

As always, we need an account of where the proceeds go. No one-person profits from the monies earned by many. The records from the 2004 event will be available for review at both the Spring Fling and LeMay Open House. Next year, leftover money should be more, as big-ticket items purchased for display props will end. Below is an accounting of costs:

1. Display area background curtains (50 feet) including standards and fittings. . = \$167.09
2. Misc display prop supplies such as name badges and brochure handouts. . . = 60.17
3. Tee shirts for volunteers working the display and required duty at the show . = 94.50
4. Gas money for those traveling long distances to work the display and show. . = 110.00
5. Breakfasts/lunches/snacks for the weekend volunteers and 12 house guests = 116.68
6. Miscellaneous operating expenses such as mailings/copying/web site costs . = 69.57

Total 2004 Expenses = \$618.01

Monies to Distribute = \$382

This year, left-over dollars are budgeted to go Midwinter Potluck, Curtis Transportation Museum Tour, Spring Fling, LeMay 2005 and the Great Beaver State Teardrop Campout.

MIDWINTER POTLUCK – A GRAND SUCCESS

The third annual Midwinter Potluck was a held in Auburn, Washington at Gove Park. The multipurpose building that **Bob Book** “booked” for us was a great venue. We had about 30 in attendance. Another example of the **Ed and Linda Kelson** travel trailer collection showed up. We had a teardropper from Hillsboro, Oregon bring his homebuilt to the event.

All enjoyed lots of food – no one went away hungry. The calendar of upcoming gatherings was reviewed. We found there a lots of events are on the horizon this summer.

SPRING FLING #7

Think back to 1999 when **Rod and Trudy Glassett** hosted the very first Spring Fling on Mayfield Lake near Mossy Rock, Washington. A great tradition was started! Since then, we’ve enjoyed this teardrop gathering for five more years. It’s time to celebrate number seven!!

Even though we thought it would never stop raining last year, everyone stuck it out. Great camaraderie, potlucks, breakfasts, games, Dutch oven cooking and even a great 50th birthday celebration for three of our fellow teardroppers did not dampen the gathering’s spirit.

This year, it’s Memorial Day Weekend: May 27th – 30th. Our site is Cascade Peaks RV Park located 55 miles east of the I-5 exit 68 intersection with Washington’s Hwy 12. So, come and enjoy Northwest style teardrop hospitality with potlucks, Dutch oven cooking, games, prizes and the great NW outdoors. The highlight of the weekend is to visit the all-city swap meet in nearby Packwood.

There is a \$10 registration fee and a charge of \$19 per night for dry camping. Some electrical sites are available for an additional fee. All pets are to be on a leash and there is no cost to include your dog as part of your camping outfit. Our hosts will provide breakfasts on Sunday and Monday mornings. Be sure to bring fixings for your favorite potluck dish.

For more information, contact **Rod and Trudy Glassett**, 5501 Doon Way, Anacortes, WA 98221. Call **425-760-4964** or e-mail glassettgang@juno.com. They would like you to register by sending them the registration fee plus first-night camping fee. That would be \$29.

MORE THAN 120 REGISTERED FOR THE ITG MINDEN MEET

This International Teardrop Gathering (ITG) will have no equal. Excitement continues to grow ever since the announcement of this gathering was made last year. The web site we need to tune into for information is <http://www.itg.teardrops.net/>. The date and place: June 23-26, 2005 in Minden, Nebraska. Pioneer Village, with its collection of vintage Americana, has a campground that’s headquarters for us teardrop campers.

ITG pre-registration ends May 27th. We must first send \$10 to **Grant Whip** to get a registration number. Call up [Pre-ITG Registration Form \(pdf file\)](#) to get a registration form. For those with no computer, write to 12442 Maria Drive, Redding, CA 96003-9569. Then it’s up to us to reserve a camp

space with Pioneer Village headquarters via phone at **1-800-445-4447**. Full-space camping will cost \$10.00 or half space \$ 7.50 if you want to share the space with a buddy.

Collectable tee shirts can be put on order at \$18 apiece when registering with Grant. They'll be waiting for you when you show up at the gathering.

WELCOME TO THE 4TH ANNUAL CARNATION FOURTH OF JULY

Ken and Marty Masden have invited us to share their hospitality on their rural property near Carnation, Washington over the Fourth of July weekend. What a great time we're all looking forward to. Please get in touch with them by **June 17th** if you are planning to attend. Remember, all sorts of teardrop trailers as well as vintage camping trailers will be attending. Their phone number is **425-333-5219** if you have any questions about registering. They have a registration form that can be sent to you via e-mail. Contact 36fun@centurytel.net for driving directions.

For those who have never attended this stellar event, talk to someone who has or see the reports in past TOW Line newsletters. You can call up issue #9 at www.teardroptrailers.org.

We've just received the tentative schedule of what will be happening. So, here goes:

- **July 1st - (Friday) - Arrive** and get your campsite set up. We will have a few **pizzas (6:00 PM)** available for you to munch on as you get set up.
- **July 1st 9:00 PM – Kick-off meeting** - in Marty's Studio (the lower level of the house) where we will go over this information and finalize the coming activities.
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- **July 2nd 9:00 AM – (Saturday) – Pancake Breakfast** – provided in Marty's studio.
- **July 2nd 11:00 AM – Snoqualmie Falls trip** – Old car caravan to Snoqualmie Falls. We will have lunch there and then take a tour of the area stopping either at Snoqualmie or Carnation for Ice Cream. Eventually back to our place to play with the vehicles and get ready for the Dutch oven dinner. We'll be playing with our cars and **rumble/tractor rides**
- **July 2nd 6:00 PM – Dutch-oven dinner** - We will all get together and share whatever we come up with. If you don't have a Dutch oven, just make your favorite potluck dish.
- **July 2nd 8:00 PM - "Marty's Studio" Meeting** - We will have a few door prizes and will go over up-coming events. We can report on the recent Minden ITG event.
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- **July 3rd 9:00 AM – (Sunday) - Breakfast** – In Marty's studio - **Freezer bag omelets**.
- **July 3rd 11:00 AM – Snohomish trip** – Marty will be leading a trip to the Antique shops in Snohomish, WA. Others may want to stay around the place as we may have folks interested in building teardrops stopping by. More **rumble rides** with the vintage cars.
- **July 3rd 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM** - Everyone invited to go into Carnation to the Senior Center for the **Spaghetti Feed** (The Seniors charge a small fee, but the money goes to a very good cause – The Carnation Senior Center). Or attend a BBQ at a church in Carnation.
- **July 3rd 9:00 PM – Until we drop** - Some of us will be putting the finishing touches on the vehicles we will be putting in the show and parade on the 4th... Time for everyone to socialize and make new and rekindle old friendships.
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- **July 4th 7:30 AM – (Monday) - Head for Carnation** - Some of us will be registering our vehicles at the Hot Rods and Harley's Show. Everyone will want to go to the **Pancake Breakfast** at the Tolt Congregational Church (8:00 AM – 11:00 AM). Then get a good spot to watch the **parades** starting at **10:30 AM**.
- **July 4th Noon – On –** Stop by the Senior Center again for their fabulous fresh **Strawberry Shortcake!**
- **July 4th 2:00 PM** – All of our teardrop challenged friends will start arriving at our place. **Rumble seat and Model T rides** will get underway. Volley Ball and horseshoes.
- **July 4th 5:00 PM – Potluck dinner** - Marty and I will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs, soda and beer. Bring something we all can share.
- **July 4th Dusk** – Back to Carnation to view the **fireworks!!!**

- **July 5th 8:30 AM – (Tuesday) - Breakfast** – Again in Marty's studio. TBD.

- **July 5th 10:00 AM – whenever** – More **rumble/Model T rides...** Volley Ball, horseshoes and swing also available. Perhaps another caravan tour someplace for folks who don't have to leave early... (Late lunch at XXX in Issaquah perhaps???) Sad good-bys, vows to meet again soon!!!

AN INVITATION TO A NEW GATHERING IN GIG HARBOR

By **Sally Lodholm**

Howdy Folks - **Gary** and I are looking forward to hosting the **July 22, 23 and 24th** campout at our home here in Gig Harbor. We are located approximately 1/2 mile North from the head of Gig Harbor Bay at 10221 Crescent Valley Dr NW on the right side of the road. Look for signs after you leave I-5 at the Gig Harbor exit. You all will be dry camping in a large open field directly north of our property that our neighbors have so graciously offered for our use. Gatherings/Activities will be held for the most part on our property and hope that everyone will make themselves at home.

Teardrop trailers and vintage camp trailers are welcome. Also, children and well-behaved, leashed pets are welcome too. Here's the schedule:

Friday the 22nd: Arrive and set-up camp. We will be providing grilled burgers/dogs around 6pm.

Saturday the 23rd: "Continental" breakfast will be served starting around 8:00, just bring your coffee cup. You will then be on your own for the day. "Crusin' the Narrows" Classic Car Show starts at 9:00am. Then there's the Farmer's Market from 8:30 to 2:30. You can enjoy the local shops and restaurants or if you prefer, you are welcome to hang out at our place.

At 6:00 – Potluck and Dutch oven cooking. We will be providing Sweet/Sour Meatballs, Buffalo Wings along with "tableware/utensils".

Sunday the 24th: "Continental" breakfast from 8:00am on. There is no hurry for breaking camp and for those of you who would like to stay the night - please do!

By the way, Mapquest does not know where our address is, so if you would like more specific directions, please contact us.

We can be reached at **253-858-6455** or e-mail at dirdyknees@earthlink.net, please enter the word TOW's as the "subject" as we have "spamblocker" and unless your name is in our address book your message will be blocked and being the new "kids" on the block, your face maybe familiar to us but not your name. We also will have information "packets" available at the Spring Fling and at Masden's Fourth. We would appreciate a response ASAP, so as to have enough provisions on hand for everyone!

I REMEMBER ED COLVIN FROM WHEN I WAS A KID

By **Craig Wiland**

Editor's comments: Ed Colvin is more than 80 years old. He's a teardropper beloved by us all. On discovering that my son-in-law knew Ed as a kid, I asked that he write this article for the TOW Line. Here are Craig's words:

When I was a kid in the Sixties my family lived near the town Multnomah, Oregon, a place that didn't yet know the Fifties had come and gone. Sometimes my brothers and I would bike down to Ed Colvin's store, Ed's Camera Corner. As a kid interested in anything plane-train-car-boat it was **the** hobby shop to check out model kits for all of these. Funny, in my many visits I really never noticed if Ed actually had camera or photo stuff. I pretty much made a beeline for the hobby section. There were racks of spray paint and tiny bottles of paint in all colors. Special tiered boxes displayed the magical balsa wood, cut into thin planks and tiny beam cross sections, looking like a Home Depot for elves. Both world wars were still raging judging by depictions covering boxes of airplane and ship models. Imagination was the entrance fee to Ed's shop and as a 10 year old I was covered.

A visit to Ed's store was met with a stern storekeeper, ever watchful of his inventory of delicate plastic and wooden treasures. Each kit displayed a dreamy artist conception of the completed masterpiece on its box. Heck, some paint and model glue and a Saturday afternoon was the only thing standing between any masterpiece and me. Well, that and money, which my little brother and I had none. My older brother did though, earned from the lucrative lawn-mowing business he had established. At least we were there, to witness the buying experience and that was almost as good as buying it ourselves.

Ed seemed to spot the serious buyers from the window shoppers. Gazing up at the shelves supporting the '69 AMX, the '55 two tone Bel Air convertible or the bright red Fokker Tri Plane from the sub-four foot level was about as close as I was going to get. Requests to get a closer look had to be carefully chosen so as to not to annoy Ed and out-stay my welcome. I think I learned the term "look but

don't touch" here, reinforced by Ed. Now days, walk around a car show and see that kids and even some adults could use a few lessons from their own Ed.

As steady customers, my older brother and his friends developed a mutual respect with Ed. Their finished model creations painted in questionable combination of hues were displayed in Ed's storefront window. Soon they graduated from inanimate model car kits to HO scale slot cars, which they could race on a track towards the back of the store. But the real action was being "invited" by Ed to race with the big boys on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings on the mother of all slot car tracks in the mysterious downstairs, a place elusive to my age group. Of course, feeding the habits of all this good clean fun was good for Ed's hobby business. Before I knew it my brother's gang were buying and packing around plastic tackle boxes filled with battle-scarred slot car bodies, motorized chassis, zillions of foam and rubber tires and special oil to be used sparingly on moving parts. Actually, the oil ended up leaking all over the inside the box coating everything, making this week's tires too slippery for this weekend's race. "Just have to pick up a few new sets Saturday morning." I think old Ed knew all the angles.

Multnomah today is now trendy Multnomah Village and as such holds the requisite antique stores, used bookstores and coffee shops. Ed's Camera Corner is gone. I guess the town the Fifties is now gone too. Gone also are the kids riding their bikes to a place where they could indulge their hobbies. Hobbies, which as adults developed into "*still playing with cars*"!

A PERSONAL OBSERVATION

Recently, the editor of this newsletter broke his leg. It's not customary for an editor to be part of the news, but I'm going to make an exception here.

Being housebound, chair bound and everything-else bound gives one time to reflect on things not normally observed as a healthy and active adult.

First of all, I can never make up for the care, affection and love that Katie has given me during all these terrible painful weeks. As I told her dad recently, her care and helpfulness was what made her a great stewardess in her younger adult years.

Second, always being the driver when we go places and traveling the same roads these last 23 years, I'm amazed at what I've missed off to the side of the road. Having to be driven everywhere sure gives one time to really see things you never knew where there.

Thirdly, being pushed around in a wheelchair has given me time to reflect on what the permanently handicapped put up with. It's great to see how most people respond to your presence in a caring and helpful way.

And finally, with a live-in daughter with fibromyalgia, that mysterious ailment where a person hurts for no apparent reason, I have more of an insight to what she is feeling most days. Fortunately, she was home when it happened and drove me to the hospital.

How did this happen? I was running in my backyard from my teardrop storage shed to the house in the rain. I slipped on the mud, landed on my left foot and heard a CRACK.

P.S. I just got home from a three-day stay at the hospital. Had my "bad" gall bladder removed after having the most painful stomachache. The hooker – I checked in on my birthday!!

TOONMAN'S 1963 TRAILERBOAT

By Rob Butler

I have always been a fan of trick trailers. From custom-made pickup box trailers to the old Airstreams and everything in between. In the late 1980's, some friends came to stay with me the night before the Northwest's biggest truck show. They pulled up in their '58 Chevy Cameo pickup pulling an old teardrop trailer. I was so impressed! Trick truck, trick trailer!! I told myself then, I needed something like that.

Soon, a nineteen foot '59 Aljo Sportsman made its way into my driveway. It was a great trailer, but after pulling it a few times, I knew it was way too heavy for the old 235 six cylinder in my '56 panel. I sold it in '92.

Feeling the need to do a trailer, I ended up with a '56 Chevy truck box trailer. But it really wasn't what I needed, so it became my work trailer. The addition of flames and Cragar S/S wheel covers made it a little cooler to drag around, but it was still big and heavy.

In the late 90's, I ran across an article about a rare trailer made by GMC during the latter part of the depression, '37-'39, the "Trailabout." It was essentially a factory made pickup box trailer designed to be more affordable than buying the whole truck. This was it! I would build a Phantom Trailabout!! This would be perfect to haul my camping gear! I started with a small, light weight utility trailer frame, and

soon found a '48 Chevy truck box to go on it. I had the parts, now I just needed the time! It was then that Sasquatch Artworks really took off, and soon drawing Hot Rods became the priority!

On September 4th, 2004, my neighbor's dog, Gizmo, ran away. In the search for Giz, my wife Angie came home and said there was a small trailer for sale, like the ones I like, a mile up the street at a garage sale. That struck my curiosity, so I jumped in my pickup and cruised up to check it out. As soon as I pulled up, I knew what it was! A teardrop style trailer made by the Trailorboat Mfg. Company! It was missing the factory-installed rowboat on the roof, and in its place was a car top luggage carrier. Even with that, I knew I wanted it!! They were asking \$750.00. But before I left, the owner told me I could have it for \$600. I went home to break the news to Angie. She said I needed to get rid of some stuff first, and the money needed to come from art jobs. With that, I decided I shouldn't get it.

The next week, the trailer ate at me. I drove by it everyday on my way home from work. I started e-mailing everyone in the teardrop world that I could find, to learn as much as I could about Trailorboats. After the research, I found out that it is one of approximately 400 built between '61 & '63. And out of the 400, only 11 were still known to exist! I guess that makes this one number 12. Now it was really killing me!!

On September 11th, I stopped by when I saw the trailer's owners were having their sale again. I walked up to it and noticed that the price had gone up. It was now \$850.00. I knew I had to make my move! We talked and she said she would honor the price she had told me previously. Then we decided that I would give her \$100.00 down and pay it off by the end of the month. Now two things were on my mind. Can I make the money from art jobs in time, and how to tell Angie?

Angie's comments inspired one of my Chuck & Arbee cartoons, which is all I will say. The money however, worked out. Within two weeks, on the 25th, enough jobs had come in to pay off the trailer and bring it home. What a relief! It was home.

Two weeks after bringing it home, I was asked by **Marty Boehme**, from Teardroppers of Oregon & Washington, to put it in the Northwest Car Collector Show at the Portland Expo Center. He said it would be in their club display. Given its condition, good, but needing work, I didn't think it was show worthy. Marty came by to look at it, and after seeing it, he practically insisted that I put it in the show!

For the next week, I hustled to put together a display. I colored the cartoon about the trailer, had my friend Rod print up some photos of a restored Trailorboat, made a sign, prepped my Vulcan mannequin (a Halloween prop), and ran out to Marty's house to get a mattress to slide in it. The following Thursday, October 14, I hurried home from work, hooked it up, and battled rush hour traffic down I-5 to get it to Portland's Expo Center. When I arrived, I was in line behind 17 high-dollar show cars. It really felt weird to be there with my garage-sale trailer. Once I was inside, I felt much better. The TOW group, a great bunch of people, along with other people setting up their own cars, really enjoyed checking it out! Especially when they opened the door and saw the Vulcan lying there! That always received a startling reaction!

On the 16th when the show opened, it ended up that the Trailorboat could not fit in the TOW display; it got a space all on its own. I made it to the Expo on Sunday. Seeing the reaction from people passing by was great! They snapped photos, and asked questions. No one could believe it was found at a garage sale.

Now it's at home and I have some work ahead of me to restore this rare little trailer. I look forward to it though. This is the trailer I have always wanted, and now I have it! Not bad for the first month I've owned it!

On a perplexing note, I made enough money to get it, and haven't had a single art job since I paid the Trailorboat off. Hmm, meant to be????

TOW'S WEB SITE

Our webmaster Ron Cain has added more features to www.teardroptrailers.org site. Look for future features to technical tips (repacking bearings, round windows, modesty canopies for sleeping cabin doors, etc) as well as reports on trips taken with teardrop trailers.

TOW AND SHOW AT THE OREGON COAST AQUARIUM

For the last three years, the Oregon Coast Aquarium at Newport, Oregon has had a two-day car show over the Labor Day weekend. Last year there were about 60 cars on Saturday and another 100 Sunday. This year, there will be a "tow'n'show" group for vintage campers, trailers and teardrops. This is a first-time event. As an incentive, the show will wave registration fees and will provide two free admissions to the aquarium.

You can show up after 6 PM on Friday, set up your outfit for the entire weekend and be ready to receive visitors the next morning. The late word is that dry camping is available in the aquarium's parking

lot. Porta-potties will arrive on Friday also. There is a camp/RV store within walking distance at a nearby marina. If you would like to have full hook-ups, a space can be reserved at the marina. Labor Day plans would dictate that early reservations be made. Call 541-867-3321 or go on the web at www.portofnewport.com.

The show will end at 3 PM on Sunday. This is free camping for the busy weekend. Let all your friends with something to tow and show know about this first-time gathering. You can take part anytime during the weekend.

If you have any questions, Contact **Dick Miller** at 541-867-3474 ext 5640 or dickmil@aquarium.org

OPEN FORUM STILL EXISTS FOR TEARDROPPERS

Mike Schnider from Michigan would like his forum added to your favorite list. It makes up for a previous forum that's gone invitation only. All sorts of information and comments can be found on the site. You're welcome to participate. This site is at www.mikenshell.com/forum

SEVEN HARD-EARNED TIPS TO FOR YOUR NEXT LONG CAR TRIP

By **Wendy Hughes-Jelen**

Editor's comments: These tips were submitted with the story that Wendy wrote about their retracing most of Route 66 last summer. This was done towing a teardrop trailer with one of the new Mini-Coopers. See TOW Line #9 at the TOW website of www.teardroptrailers.org. What's written below was composed on the "Mother Road" somewhere in Kansas.

1. 700 miles a day is too much – and 600 is, too. 500 would be about right, and leave time for cooking and dishes. We had to eat out almost the entire trip.
2. Never leave home without your hat! For when the sun is going down and shining in your face when you're trying to drive and the sun visor can't block it. (We had hats...) You may want to fashion a sunroof cover from cardboard and tuck it between the mesh screen and the glass of your MINI sunroof before leaving home. Really cuts down on glare!
3. Don't take bikes on a long trip when you're driving hundreds of miles a day, you won't have time to ride them. And don't forget they're up there and drive into a seven story parking garage in downtown Chicago. They have a tendency to stick up too high and break off the gate arm thingy. (We're still waiting to see if we get a bill).
4. Every pair of pants must have two shirts to match. You can fit a third extra days outfit into the same piece of luggage. And yes, pack a sweater. (The higher elevations are really cold!)
5. Pre-print your postcard mailing labels so you don't have to handwrite everyone's address. You can send out four times as many postcards in the same amount of time with this one easy step. And invest in the roll of 100 23-cent stamps.
6. Eat as the pioneers did: beef jerky (Oh Boy Oberto is the best...), hard tack (Newman's Own protein pretzels) and dried fruit (whole wheat or regular fig newtons). Along with plenty of water, you can get by with only two real meals and snacking the rest of the day. Well, ok, some M&Ms were stashed in the glove box.
7. SIRIUS Satellite radio is a must-have. We had this installed Christmas 2003 and never has it paid off more than it did for two weeks in the car, getting to listen to the best commercial-free music, not even having to change stations if we didn't want to. We were also packing an iPod, but SIRIUS really made this trip enjoyable.

CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 27th – 30th - *Spring Fling, Our 7th Gathering – Packwood, WA*

This Memorial Day Weekend features the all-city swap meet in downtown Packwood. Contact **Rod and Trudy Glassett** at 425-760-4967 or glassettgang@juno.com See the story in this TOW Line issue.

JUNE 23rd – 26th – *International Teardrop Gathering - Nebraska.*

See the story in this issue. The website is <http://www.itg.teardrops.net/>.

JULY 1st – 5th – *Carnation Fourth Teardrop Fun – Carnation, WA*

See the story in this issue. Contact **Ken or Marty Masden** at 425-333-5219 or 36fun@centurytel.net for more information.

JULY 22nd – 24th – *Crusin' the Narrows Meet – Gig Harbor, WA*

See the story in this issue. The hosts are **Gary and Sally Lodholm**. You can contact them at 253-858-6455 or dirtyknees@earthlink.net.

AUGUST 12th – 14th – *Kelson Vintage Campout - Covington, WA*

Ed and Linda Kelson are the hosts at 253-630-3423 or raisinldy1@aol.com. Look for more information in the next issue of the TOW Line.

AUGUST 18th – 21th – *TCT Vintage Trailer Rally – Deming, WA*

Look for more information in the next issue of the TOW Line. Contact **Pat or Joanne Ewing** at 360-966-4253 or pre52@verizon.net for more.

AUGUST 26th & 27th - *LeMay Open House Campout – Tacoma, WA*

More later in the next issue of the TOW Line. Contact **Bob Book** at his phone number 253-939-6910 or bbflyfish@comcast.net

SEPTEMBER 3rd & 4th – *Oregon Coast Aquarium Car/Trailer Show*

See the article in this issue. The show includes teardrop and vintage camping trailers. Contact **Dick Miller** at 541-867-3474 ext 5640 or dickmil@aquarium.org

SEPTEMBER 9th – 11th – *Beaver State Campout – Lane County, OR*

More details later. This is the new location for previous Champoeg campouts.

SEPTEMBER 9th – 11th – *1st Canadian Teardrop Meet – Langley, BC*

This event is in conjunction with the Langley Car show - the largest in Canada. For more info contact **Ron Cain** at 250-743-4995 or classicsincanada@shaw.ca.

OCTOBER 14th – 16th *NWCCA Car Show TD Display – Portland, OR*

Contact **Marty Boehme** at 503-632-6563 or teardrops@bctonline.com. More information will be forthcoming.