



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

## **TOW Line**

**FREE #17** Sept 2006

Published whenever  
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### **LeMAY OPEN HOUSE DISPLAY THE GREATEST EVER**

The LeMay Open House went off without a hitch. There were 30 teardrops and special interest trailers in attendance with a lot of new folks experiencing the oldest teardrop gathering in the Pacific Northwest (**next year will be the tenth!!**). Our mission has been to volunteer and staff the big Green Building on the Marymount Campus to keep spectators on the right track. We had so many volunteers, that some shifts were divided in two.

Our breakfasts were Continental for both days. Instead of parking all the modern iron tow vehicles in the "back forty" after the Saturday breakfast as we did last year, we were able to move them to the side next to our display area.

The trailers were all unique in their own way. There were quite a few original TD's. **Jordan Hanks** had an unusual seat with his removable teardrop fender that converted into a chair. **Ed Ester** had a nice representation of his work with four of his TD's there. **Jim Smith** attended with the *ultimate* woody teardrop. Everything else was in between.

The public got to see the wide range of personal decor the owners have. Add the Canned Ham and the Ranger popup trailers to round out a great display that we were able to put on. Everyone jumped in and did what was needed to help with the Open House and make the new folks that joined this year feel welcome.

As usual, spectators asked questions. We have a couple of teardroppers that so enjoy this part of displaying our trailers that they chose to stay in camp all day.

Our "campfire" in the evening was for reviewing the events of the day. We celebrated the first birthday for **Grace Abbott**. An interesting skit featured **Ed Ester** testing his accuracy with an axe. The big announcement was that there was registration money left over. It's targeted as a gift to the LeMay Museum from Teardroppers of Oregon and Washington.

A GREAT thank you goes out to **Jack Jacobson** and **Bob Book** for doing a fabulous job in organizing the event. Remember, latch after raising the tongue wheel.

### **OREGON COAST AQUARIUM SHOW**

By **Diana Lindsley**

The good folks from the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport hosted a two-day car show over Labor Day weekend and invited teardrops to attend and camp. Part of the show we took part in was called the "Tow and Show". We received a special reduced price to enter the show and there was no charge for camping. Along with our admission fee, we received free admission to the aquarium for each of us.

The show started on Saturday with a total entry of 68 cars, and one teardrop. **Leonard and Sharon Waugh** from Sandy, Oregon, were the lone teardroppers in attendance, along with their 54 Chevy Belair. The teardrop drew lots of inquiries from the public and car-show entrants.

On Saturday evening, **Terry** and I arrived to camp and attend the car show the next day. We had our teardrop with our 1933 Ford Vicky. So the two teardrops camped in the aquarium's parking lot. It was dry camping. There were porta-potties available, but no water nor electricity for hookups. Luckily, Terry had thought ahead and brought his little generator. After dinner, we turned the generator on and shared power with Leonard and Sharon so we each could enjoy a movie on our DVD players. It was 93 in the valley, but definitely MUCH cooler at the coast.

Sunday morning, Leonard & Sharon packed up while we set up for the car show. There were another 60-plus cars in attendance. A few of the same cars as the day before, but many new ones were there too. This time, there was another camper there – a 1956 travel trailer attached to a 1950 Buick. Both got a lot of attention at the show. The teardrop drew lots of the standard inquiries and comments: "Do you use it much?", "Do you really sleep in there?", "It's so small. Isn't it claustrophobic?" We enjoyed talking to everyone and seeing the nice cars.

Both days' very nice trophy plaques were awarded to a number of categories, including trailers. Leonard and Sharon won on Saturday and we won on Sunday. This was a nice show, lots of nice cars, and a definite way to cool off and get away from the heat in the valley. I would recommend more teardrops attend next year.

## **TEARDROPS AT THE PORT ORCHARD CRUISE-IN**

By **Irma Reed**

We had a great day at the car show at Christian Life Center in Port Orchard. Three of us caravanned from the LeMay Open House and got tons of honks and lookers!! That was pretty fun to do. We had 10 teardrop trailers there and were able to all park together. It was not on pavement, but it was our own area, even with our own out house!

We had three of us camp there over night. **Larry** and I live just a short mile from there, so showers and clean up at our house!! It was fun.

The car show was packed, with approximately 325 entries and tons of people there to browse. The Elvis Illusionist was awesome!

There were hot dogs, hamburgers, root beer floats, entertainment, door prizes, vendors, t-shirts, dash plaques, goodie bags, Krispie Kream donuts, pizza, lattes, kids toys to play on, NASCAR simulator and so much more. Of course tons of beautiful cars, trucks, bikes and trailers to look at.

It was a beautiful sunny day and people were sure interested in our little vintage trailers! Got some people who again, fell in love with them. It's always amazing to see people who remember a grandparent or parent that had one and how they used to take it out camping as a small child.

**Jim Smith**, the one who has the beautiful wood homebuilt beauty with the matching boat, won first place for the teardrop category. Not sure if he made it for the photo shoot or not.

We hope by next year to have some property paved and that will give us a ton of room and we won't be on gravel next year! Hope even more of you can join us next year!

## **CAMPING AT ANTIQUE POWERLAND**

By **Katie Boehme**

Wouldn't you know – the hottest days of the year were the dates for the Antique Powerland teardrop campout at Books, Oregon. But, there was not one camper that chickened out and stayed home. **Larry and Teri Snedden** did a stellar job as hosts. The goings-on were well organized and all had a great time. We even had a "first timer" join the group.

How 'bout them teardroppers - talk about die-hard campers – can you believe camping when it's 104??? All 12 of us survived the heat – peaked at 104 or 108 (depending on which "hot head" was reporting). **Jack Jacobson's** wading pool was put to good use. The grassy green and cushy campus lawn was great on bare feet and a good breeze gave some welcome relief.

Visitor Jerry Kwiatkowski, of Dallas, Oregon commented:

"I had the pleasure of visiting with several owners of some very unique and awesome teardrop trailers July 22<sup>nd</sup> at Antique Powerland during the Northwest Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum Swap Meet weekend. What a sight with a dozen or more teardrop trailers parked in two rows with canopies up and tables sitting in the middle of the row for lunch and gatherings.

"I enjoyed visiting with **Marty Boehme** who is the editor of the TOW newsletter which keeps folks informed of teardrop events. He was very helpful when I told him that I wanted to start a vintage trailer rally in conjunction with our annual Father's Day weekend Cruise-in.

"Soon other owner's took me aside and told me how many of the members had built their teardrop trailers from plans and customized them to fit their needs. What a great bunch of people! We hope to see you all next year, June 16, 2007 for our Annual Salem Cruise-In At Antique Powerland."

(Editor's note: Jerry and Linda Kwiatkowski with vintage 1964 KenCraft Fiberglass travel trailer, 1955 Chevy Nomad and 1971 Chevy C-10 can be reached at [jerryk20002000@yahoo.com](mailto:jerryk20002000@yahoo.com) or 503-831-4991.)

## **NEW VINTAGE RV MAGAZINE TO BE PUBLISHED**

A gal by the name of **Lisa Archer** toured the LeMay Open House Display of Teardrop Trailers to view our icons of the past. She is an enterprising lady who will be launching a new magazine entitled **American Vintage RV** due out next spring 2007.

**Doug Keister** is going to be working with her. She will be promoting a number of his books in the magazine. Her spin on the new Keister book, "Teardrops and Tiny Trailers" is that it will be awesome. We will see lots of TOW trailers in this new book.

Lisa not only toured the recent TCT Rally in Deming, Washington, but also has spent the last six months touring the West Coast visiting many annual gatherings. She has a firm grip on the upsurge of vintage trailer enthusiasts and the fun we have using our vintage camp trailers.

This magazine is specifically produced for the vintage trailer enthusiast and will cover a broad array of topics. From "acquisition to recreation" is the ongoing theme. It will initially be published bi-monthly and will cover all makes of vintage trailers, rally/event/gathering dates, DIY articles, old manufacturers and a whole lot more.

If anyone wants to share anything from old vintage photos of RVs to pictures of your own trailer, you can contact Lisa at her e-mail address of [lisaarcher76@aol.com](mailto:lisaarcher76@aol.com).

## **THE LeMAY MUSEUM PROJECT UPDATE**

At the recent LeMay Open House Display of Teardrop Trailers, the Volunteers' Handbook published the following news about building America's Car Museum.

1. The cost to build the entire museum campus – including the Pavilion, Collector Car Center, Administration and Education Center, Show Field and Retail Concourse is projected to be 90 million dollars.
2. The new LeMay Museum will ultimately house approximately 1,000 vehicles.
3. We are on track for a ground breaking in late 2007 and the new museum will open in 2009.
4. The five-acre show field will be a multipurpose, outdoor venue for car shows, auctions and swap meets, car club events, concerts and a concourse de'elegance.
5. We anticipate that more than 400,000 guests will visit the new museum each year.
6. There are over 1,500 charter members of America's Car Museum.
7. The current LeMay Museum at Marymount is open for tours Tuesday through Saturday from 10 to 5, with the last tour starting at 3 PM
8. The fabulous Fifties Sock Hop is November 18<sup>th</sup>, held in the gymnasium at Marymount. We sold out last year so get your tickets early

## **CANADIAN TEARDROP MEET A LOT OF FUN**

The second Annual Great Canadian Teardrop meet was held again at Langley, B.C. (near Vancouver). It was highlighted by our participation in the massive Langley Cruise In Car Show. This event is attended by over 100,000 people and includes approximately 1500 cars of all types.

On Saturday morning, we all hooked up our rigs and trailered them to downtown Langley where we had an area set aside for us to display our trailers. We had seven teardrops that spectators enjoyed commenting about. Heard were the familiar questions such as, "Do you really sleep in there?" or "I could never stay in one of those - you have to get dressed horizontally!"

We camped nearby at Fort Langley campground and enjoyed the great weather and wonderful friendship of all teardroppers. We had a truly delicious potluck dinner on Saturday evening complete with candles and flowers (fake - but still flowers).

On Sunday most of us went sightseeing and or shopping in Fort Langley.

Attending were:

Becky & Dave Rogers from Sidney, B.C.

Trudy & Rod Glassett from Anacortes, Washington

Mary and Roger Church from Lakewood, Washington

Bev and Brian Ireland from Langley, B.C.

Pat & Ingvar Svard from Vernon, B.C.

Ken Masden from Carnation, Washington (we missed you Marty - but Ken did behave himself).

And ourselves: Linda, Ron, & Michelle Cain from Victoria, B.C. and our student Camila Vicino from Brazil

P.S. It was really fun, and we hope to be able to go to future events! Hello to Steve & Peggy Birley and Jack & Sue Jacobson - you missed some fun Canadian jokes about American beer. Cheers eh!

**Linda and Ron Cain** and family (Casey had a blast! woof!)

## **GREAT CAMPING AT GOLDENDALE'S FESTIVAL OF WHEELS**

By **Hiram Stumpjumper**

The town of Goldendale, Washington put on the Festival of Wheels and Music Jubilee for the first time this year. Featured were a number of car events and performing music groups that played until 10 PM every night.

For me, it was the "Outlaw Lawnmower Dragsters" I wanted to see. These guys drove lawnmowers souped up with motorcycle engines burning high-octane gas. Two of them ran side-by-side in a 100-foot long chute. Announced were the speed and time. Two-seconds and 55 mph were normal!! (and that included a gearshift!).

The Festival of Wheels, the third weekend of September, was a special opportunity to camp together and display our teardrop trailers. The Goldendale, Washington coordinator wanted teardrops & vintage camp trailers on display during the Saturday cruise-in and the Sunday display of everything vintage – tractors, trucks, trailers, etc.

Preliminary arrangements were for us to dry camp with portapotties in the county courthouse parking lot. Some of us attending were concerned about the noise and lack of good camping. The Friday morning I was to leave, I thought to myself, "Wait a minute! Goldendale is the county seat. There must be fairgrounds in town. I wonder if we can camp there?"

Sure enough, when I got into town, I drove to the fairgrounds and found a GREAT camping place. There are about 80 full hookups with power and water at each site. Off to one side is a new restroom building that's heated, well lighted, very clean and with showers. The cost is only \$16 a night. As a "seasoned" citizen, I got charged \$14.

**Larry and Teri Snedden, Danny Fantoni, Marty Boehme** joined my virtual presence from out of town. In addition, a Goldendale teardropper, **Jim Taylor** joined our group. **Gary and Sally Lodholm** and **Steve Knebel** were out-or-towners who camped in their vintage trailers at the courthouse parking lot..

Goldendale is a small town located on the high plateau hills above the Columbia River Gorge about 100 miles from Portland. You see lots of old Victorian homes and small town shops and stores. There is a Big Boy hamburger cafe in town reminiscence of the 1950's. Cute!! This venue and event made for a fun camping weekend. Remember, latch after raising the tongue wheel!!!

## **CAMP LANE GATHERING GREAT THIS YEAR**

By **Al Butler**

It was 10:30 AM when **Pat** and I pulled into Camp Lane. There were two teardrops waiting to find a place to park. I dropped mine and they did too. As the day progressed, more and more people and tears kept showing up. By the end of the day there were 23 in all. They were scattered about everywhere.

The weather was hot – 90 degrees plus. But the nights were cooler, just right for stargazing. The first night I saw two shooting stars. The last night someone left the kitchen light on, which made stargazing a little harder.

On Friday, there was soup, bread and desert for dinner. Saturday – flapjacks, sausage, and juice for breakfast. Lunch was up to you, but dinner was a potluck. On Sunday morning, we had French toast, sausage and other goodies.

There was one more teardrop that showed up on Saturday evening for an even 24. Out of the 24 tears, one came from Washington, two from San Diego, California and the rest were from all over Oregon. Bonfires each night added to the fun as we all sat around visiting and telling tall tales..

After our Sunday breakfast, most of us said our goodbyes and broke camp. In all, it was a great gathering. Camp Lane, set in the woods with a nice lodge was very pleasant. The camping with other teardroppers was great too.

Camp host **Sheryl and Lonny Aaron** did a wonderful job. If you can make it next year, do so!! (Editor's note: Lonny has informed us that the dates are August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.)

## **FIRST TIME VISITOR TO LeMAY OPEN HOUSE COMMENTS**

By **Hiram Stumpjumper**

This year, I was able to take a first-time visitor to the LeMay Open House. He ended up with the experience of volunteering also. It was fun to share his experience. Some of his comments:

"I'd seen the Harrah Collection in Reno years ago. I saw a lot of cars, but it was in a sterile, warehouse-type setting. The LeMay collection has a much more appealing venue. I loved walking around and through the various buildings. They were all different and interesting."

"Wow!! Nancy LeMay is sure a great lady and I was glad to meet her. I can see that everyone really loves and cares for her."

"All of the LeMay staff are real friendly and sure appreciate all the volunteers. The complementary lunch and dinner were really great and showed how much the volunteers were valued."

"When I found out how much people paid for the auction cars I couldn't believe it! Why, I could have bought that '37 Ford for \$75 when I was in high school. Here, it sold for \$7700."

It was great to view the entire collection again and to show my friend around. Actually, his last comment has to be viewed from his current age of 71!!

## **"ROLLIN' OLDIES" TRAILERS**

This is the title for the start of a *newsletter* being published by **Jerry Kwiatkowski** of Dallas, Oregon. It looks like Oregon will see an upsurge of interest in vintage camp trailers. On the horizon is a rally akin to the one held by TCT in Washington. This is great news. The first issue starts out:

"My wife (**Linda**) and I would like to welcome you to the newest Vintage Rally coming up in June of 2007 in Oregon. Since we will need to keep everyone updated, I thought why not start a monthly newsletter dedicated to the "Rollin' Oldies" Vintage trailers. Whether you are a teardrop, Silver Streak,

Airstream or any other make of the 30's-40's-50's-60's or 70's trailers, we all share the common bond of preserving a part of the past. Original, unrestored, restored or basket case, we all are proud to be owners and love to share our experience's fixing them up, traveling and camping with other vintage owners."

Jerry goes on to comment on his and Linda's background.

"I formed a Classic Chevy club for 55-56-57 Chevy's 30 years ago and have loved meeting hundreds of fellow enthusiasts as well as attending many Classic Car Shows. As time went by and I got a lot OLDER, my interest in vintage trailers peaked when my wife and I found a couple that wanted to sell their 1964 Ken-Craft fiberglass 17' project TT (Travel Trailer). Did I say project? I meant "basket" case, well two years later and its 98% complete and restored to our specifications. We tried to keep the exterior original but updated the interior and added a few "frills" for the wife so making meals would be a little more enjoyable! Now I am hooked on vintage trailers and we decided it was time to get a Vintage Trailer event hosted in Oregon."

Jerry, thinking about a rally, states, "We have many owners in Oregon/Washington/Idaho/Montana/Northern California that would be interested in seeing our beautiful state, right? So when we moved our Annual Salem Cruise-In from the Salem Fairgrounds to Antique Powerland in Brooks, Oregon camping was available and the notion was born. Last year saw only seven (7) trailers, but we did not advertise having them included in our Cruise-In. This year, hold onto your hats, I have been compiling an email list of interested participants and its growing daily. I would like to encourage you to pass this e-mail letter on to someone you may know that would be interested in attending or just keeping up on what is going on. Our Classic Car web site will be updated in the near future to accommodate Vintage Trailers. Stay tuned!"

As Jerry finds out more details about other cruise-ins, he will be setting the date for the Vintage Trailer Rally. It will be a four-day gathering. So, indeed, stay tuned.

To get on the Vintage Trailer Rally e-mail mailing list, contact Jerry at 503-831-4991 or e-mail him at [Jerry20002000@yahoo.com](mailto:Jerry20002000@yahoo.com).

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**Linda and Ron Cain** and family (Casey had a blast! woof!)

## **NEW CHAT ROOM FOR TEARDROPPERS BEING LAUNCHED**

We've just received word that [www.teardrops.net](http://www.teardrops.net) is starting a new Discussion Forum called "Teardrop Talk". **Grant Whipp** is involved with its development and is working hard towards its introduction. So, look for it linked to the main web page.

## **A NOTE FROM STEVE BIRLEY**

"We spent last weekend in the TD at the lake. As we were packing up to leave a reporter from The Chronicle spotted us and wanted to know the age-old question, "Do you really sleep in that?" That

was yesterday and today the picture was in the paper. You can view the photo at:

**<http://www.chronline.com/main.asp?Top=1&SectionID=49>**

The caption under the picture reads,

“Steve Birley, Chehalis, 60, closes his reproduction Teardrop trailer as he prepares to leave his campsite in a 1928 Ford Model A alongside Lake Mayfield Monday. Birley has had the Model A since he was 16, and spent the weekend sleeping in the trailer with his wife, Peggy, on their lakeside property. The couple travels around the Northwest with a Teardrop club and a Model A club. “It’s been gorgeous, just gorgeous,” Peggy Birley said of the weather Monday.”

Gosh, Steve, we didn’t know you were that old! Also, what’s this about owning lakeside property on Lake Mayfield? And, is that Model A that you’ve had for 44 years ever been restored?

Seriously, the picture of the car and trailer was beautiful with it being outlined against a backdrop of trees. What a way to spend a relaxing weekend. We’re envious!

## **STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT EDITION**

Our next edition of the TOW Line will feature some of the travels of our teardroppers. **Sally Lodholm** writes the story about her and **Gary’s** fabulous trip with their vintage travel trailer on the East Coast.

It’s entitled “The Road that Built the Nation”. Her narrative tells of their travels as a caravan on America’s first federal highway. In all, there were 30 rigs. The description of “leapfrogging” through big cities with police escort was an awesome spectacle enjoyed by the observing public.

And, in addition, we have the travels of a California teardrop group that traveled the US Southwest last spring. Known as the “Five-wide Teardrop Club”, these people caravan many places together.

## **WINTER POTLUCK UP NEXT**

This is an event that everyone looks forward to. In the rainy Pacific Northwest with its many gray days, our get-together is a ray of sunshine where we can meet and fellowship together. **Bob Book** and **Jack Jacobson** with their spouses sure are appreciated for the extra effort they put forth every year.

It’s also the first look at our calendar of summer events

## **PRIVACY SHELTER DESIGN TO BE UNVEILED**

Look for the design of a “low tech” privacy shelter in the TOW web site soon. The site is [www.teardroptrailers.org](http://www.teardroptrailers.org). The design uses PVC fittings and pipe as well as a simple 8 X 10 tarp. This shelter solves the problem of having to dress horizontally. It’ll be there in January 2007..

## **SHOULD THERE BE A NEW LOOK FOR THE TOW LINE????**

By the Editor

I’ve been thinking that after 17 issues since June 2002 maybe we should be reading the TOW Line with a new look. It would be great if it could be published in color and with pictures included. As they say, “A picture is worth a thousand words”.

Pictures really would add to our read, but some of us are still on a slow feed from our e-mail provider. They take up so much cyber space, that downloading sometime takes more than an hour.

Then again, there’s a restriction I have at this end. For one thing, this is an e-mail newsletter that presently goes out to 330 people with no restrictions on text length.. But in addition, I have 25 receiving a hard copy by snail-mail. Postage costs as such that six pages are all I can mail.

So far, our expenses are covered via the share TOW gets from participating in the Northwest Car Collector’s Show/Swap meet. If we ever bow out of that event, things will have to change.

If you’ve taken in this entire issue and have comments on the format, content or appearance, please pass on any suggestions. Remember, latch **after** raising the tongue wheel!!!