



TOW Line

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

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MIDWINTER LUNCHEON SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY

By **Danny Fantoni**

Jane and I have been elected to host the Midwinter Luncheon this year. For those of you that were at the 2007 potluck at The Frontier Fairgrounds in Graham this restaurant is about a mile north and on the opposite side of Meridian. It's a fairly new restaurant called the Flying Tomato Italian Grill. Jane and I have eaten there a few times and we like it. I spoke to Gary, the owner. He is offering one side of his restaurant about 1:00 PM Feb 16th, 2008. He knows we will have a few speakers during our meal.

I need reservations by the first of February. He's offering a \$12 individual plate of five choices or an all you can eat. Everyone should bring cash to pay for their meal and drinks (which would be extra) plus the normal 15-18% tip. He wants it all on one bill so I will collect to the nearest high dollar. I'm sure everyone will be pleased with the food. The service is excellent and the portions are quite adequate. The restaurant is located at 10224 198th St E., which borders Meridian and is behind Austin Chase Coffee sign.

Directions: From I-5 take Exit 127 East to Puyallup for 8.6 miles. Take the WA-161 Meridian exit to Eatonville/South Hill and travel South to Graham for approximately 6 miles. You'll pass the South Hill Mall and later the Fred Meyer store. After Fred Meyer continue to the second rise in the road. And 198th will be on the left, a block before the 200th signal. Turn left at 198th St. E (small sign). Look for Austin Chase Coffee.

For those who are attending please e-mail me ASAP by February 1st so I can give Gary a head count. That's towmidwinterluncheon@comcast.net. Thanks. (Editor's comment: Actually Danny, we thank you for finding a place for us to meet. It's a challenge to coordinate something like this).

JACK AND SUE'S 2007 VINTAGE VACATION/ROADTRIP

By Jack Jacobson

- Part 1 "To the Atlantic"

One fine summer day in 2006, Sue said that for her birthday I should take her on a date, out to dinner, for lobster. So after a little planning, a little travel time, I did, in Maine, are we there yet?

After a few days, well almost a year, of planning, prepping the '51 Chevrolet and teardrop trailer for a long roadtrip, figuring out what was and wasn't needed, making an itinerary and phone and address lists, we embarked on a trip that I hadn't taken in 40 years. That was the last of many cross-country trips, when I was young, that dad packed us kids in a truck and camper to drive to Vermont. Sue had never been further east than Wisconsin until we did a road trip there two years ago with the Chev and teardrop and she enjoyed the journey. And so we left Tacoma on June 9th for the five-week adventure-filled vacation/roadtrip to the East Coast.

In eastern Washington, we met up with **Kelsey Farrell** and **Gene Gallipeau** and their teardrop trailers to caravan to Minden, Nebraska for the Second International Teardrop Gathering. We made a few stops along the way to Minden, a couple of museums about the early pioneers on the Oregon Trail, Promontory Point where the Golden Spike was laid on the first transcontinental railroad and scenic vistas to look at the changing terrain. Reading about what the pioneers went through while crossing the continent, I was grateful to have a car to use even if it was 56 years old, with no A/C, slow on the hills, with vacuum wipers, slow acceleration, rattles, no cup holders, CD player or satellite radio.

We arrived at ITG-2 to see old friends, make new ones and see teardrop trailers that I had read about being built. A lot of fine craftsmanship and innovation was on display. The weather had been challenging earlier in the week but the event was sunny and warm. **Mike Burton** and I put on a Dutch oven seminar that was well received and I believe we were able to "hook" more folks into cast-iron cooking.

After three days of teardrop fun, we continued eastward taking the old roads prior to the interstates. We had taken the Lincoln Hwy, US-30, which was one of the first cross-country roads across Nebraska to Minden. We continued taking the secondary roads east and seeing the small towns that the freeways have bypassed. Some of the towns appeared to be "frozen" in time, no big box stores, just the "mom & pop" stores in a central business area.

We stopped in St. Louis and went to the St. Louis Arch, which has an outstanding museum, walked around town looking at many great old stonework buildings and walked across the Chain of the Rocks Bridge (which is part of old Rt 66). As I was looking at the worn concrete on the bridge, I couldn't help but wonder where people were going in all those vintage cars so many years ago. To work, vacations, or westbound to a new life. We drove east on Rt 66 for a while, then found some other roads to take.

In Illinois we found the Old National Road. This road was first started in Pennsylvania in 1811 and went west. The part we were on was originally completed in 1839. Again interesting to think about how modes of travel have changed since that road was first constructed. More side roads and distractions led us to Kentucky. I wish we would have had more time to explore Kentucky, but that will have to be another trip. I will say that Kentucky and Ohio were pretty in the areas we drove through.

We found some more of the Old National Road in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. We drove on the Pennsylvania Turnpike for a while until we saw that US-30/ Lincoln Hwy was close by and took that into Gettysburg. We spent some time there looking at the historical area. To see where the history you have read and heard about took place is better than any school history class. Seeing the same buildings and fields where the accidental meeting of the North and South took place helped with the appreciation of what happened there.

We made a stop at the Hershey Chocolate Museum, which is a candy lovers place. We saw more candy in one spot than ever before. Then continued northeast, where we stopped at

Lackawana St. Park in Pennsylvania. Not officially on the itinerary but gee whiz dear, there seems to be a few teardrop trailers at the campground. The Liberty Bell Chapter of the Tearjerkers group was having a gathering there so we joined them. Nice group of folks and even met up with Gage and Tanya Enoch from California, who we camped beside at Minden earlier. Small world isn't it?

We drove through Massachusetts to Hampton Beach, New Hampshire where we got a hotel room for the first time on the trip. It's an old hotel built in the 1800's that was across the street from the beach. Great view of the Atlantic Ocean. Hampton Beach is a tourist town and we played tourist. First item on the list was to put our feet in the Atlantic Ocean. Clean beach and the clear warm calm water was sure different than the cold waves of the Pacific Ocean. On a drive one afternoon we saw many old historic mansions overlooking the Atlantic. Tacoma has some neat old homes from the late 1800's but some of these estates date back into the 1600's. These were huge estates with landscaping right out of Home & Garden magazine.

We finally made it to Maine one afternoon and time for the lobster dinner. Now back in Washington, when you go out for lobster dinner, a person usually dresses up a little because it is a nicer restaurant. Sue being the thinking woman she is, said that she needs to get a nice blouse for dinner. Her train of thought was that if she left the nice clothes at home, she could buy new ones on the trip. Dang if that didn't work. It's very thoughtful of the people in Portsmouth to have quite a few quaint little shops for tourists to buy what they left at home. Sue found a pretty blouse, and then decided that she needed nice slacks too. She did look very nice when done shopping and myself already dressed well because I brought the clothes I needed, so we headed into Maine to find a lobster dinner. We found a restaurant overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. When we entered, the waitress asked if we wanted downstairs or upstairs. Looking at the downstairs and seeing picnic tables and benches, I said upstairs thinking it was the nice area. And nicer it was, they had individual chairs at the picnic tables instead of benches. Oh well, we're here after 3000-plus miles, so we ordered the lobster dinner which seemed very reasonably priced compared to back home. We got a 1 ½ lb lobster, french-fries and coleslaw on a Styrofoam tray with a plastic bib and fork. Well so much for a fancy lobster dinner but the price of \$12.95 was hard to beat. We dove in, cracking shells and greasing our fingers with butter. It was sweet and delicious. A lot better than any we have had back home. When we left, all the locals in jeans and t-shirts were staring at us dressed up out-of-town tourists. I didn't even need a camera around my neck for them to pick us out. We are definitely going back again someday.

- Part 2 "*Back Home to the Pacific*"

After three days of lobster, crab cakes and scallops and no roads further east, it was time to change direction for the first time in 2 ½ weeks. Westward to Putney, Vermont established in the 1700's, to visit relatives that I haven't seen in 37 years. My cousin told me when the trip was being planned that she would order nice weather while we were there. She did, sunny and warm, very warm, like 106 degrees one day. Looking around the small town where I used to visit my grandma years ago brought back memories of the family gatherings. We had a nice time with my cousin, she doing the driving in an air-conditioned car for a few days. Putney is a neat old small town with lots of historical houses and buildings. The small town atmosphere is addicting and it was hard to leave the New England hospitality behind when it was time to go.

After loading up the trunk with lots of real Vermont maple syrup, we headed west again to Niagara Falls. We played tourist there, going on tours including the Maid of the Mist boat. Even though some waterfalls in the Northwest are taller, these falls were wider and they were beautiful. Driving across Ontario into Michigan and seeing the Great Lakes was interesting. Lake Huron and Lake Michigan being as big as they were, it was hard to think that they were freshwater lakes. You could not see the far horizon across the lake. That much water should be a saltwater ocean.

We stopped in Rhinelander, Wisconsin to visit relatives, both Sue's and mine. A relaxing time was welcome as afternoons were spent at my cousin's cabin on a lake and taking leisurely boat

rides in the warm afternoon/evening sun. A small-town Fourth of July parade and family picnic topped off the stay. It was really hard to leave there too.

So it was westbound on US-2 through Minnesota into North Dakota. We had crossed the Mississippi at St Louis where it was a wide majestic river, but where we crossed it in Minnesota, it was nothing more than a creek. We drove through many small farming towns, which were easy to see in the distance. Just look for the grain elevators on the horizon. But many of these towns were just houses and the elevators, no services such as gas. This made for a couple of exciting tests to see how low the gas gauge could go before finding gas.

During a hard rain in North Dakota with no end in sight in the western sky, we headed southwest to escape it. We got out of the rain in the late afternoon in Miles City, Montana. After an overnight in a campground that we had almost all to ourselves, we went to Custer's Battlefield. Another historical site that needs to be seen to really appreciate what took place there. No history teacher in school can really explain it in a one-hour class lecture. A nice visitor's center with monuments to the soldiers and a monument to the Native Americans that were involved in trying to save what they could for their descendants.

Montana is called the big sky country and we could see why. For the amount of time it took us to cross the state, we would have crossed six or seven states in the New England area. We did cross the Idaho panhandle in about an hour though. Finally after five weeks, we were in our home state. 8000-plus miles on this trip, six hours from home and a car in front us on the freeway outside Spokane spun out of control and crashed. I was lucky to be able to stop in time, thank goodness. No one was hurt but that car would need some major work.

We had been to the Atlantic Ocean so we thought that to finish up this roadtrip, we should make it a real coast-to-coast trip. So we did, driving out to Ocean Shores, Washington and the Pacific Ocean. We actually drove through our hometown without stopping. When we got a call on the cell phone asking where we were, we said somewhere in Washington, not saying we were within 10 miles from home and not planning to stop. We did it, coast-to-coast in one long roadtrip.

That night we had a loud thunderstorm. You could actually feel the clap of thunder in the teardrop it was so close. Not much rain during the thunder and lightening. The morning came with marine overcast clouds but we still were on our last day of vacation so it was kind of fitting while we were sad to see the adventure end. That afternoon as we were leaving Ocean Shores to finally go home, the sun came out and proves that Washington is not always cloudy and rainy.

We drove out on the sandy beach and as we stood at the waters edge of the Pacific Ocean, pondering what we had done, we both agreed that it was great trip and we would go again. Only two nights in a hotel and three nights at a cousin's house, the rest were spent in the teardrop. But we would need a couple days rest at home first. The car and trailer did great with no big problems. No vapor locks or springs on the trailer breaking like two years ago. A lot of interest in the car and TD when stopped and at campgrounds as any teardrop-trailer owner knows. We met a lot of interesting people. Many bring their dogs while camping. We left ours at home. She is a bedhog and there wasn't enough room in the trailer for her and us. Saw some campers with cats and even one with some parrots while on vacation. But the best was the lady that had her two turtles with her. She couldn't find anyone to take care of them while she was gone, so she brought them along from Louisiana to Washington. Think about it; easier to care for than a dog, only a plastic tub and some water, no leash needed.

- Part 3 "Reflections on the Trip"

We saw many different things on the trip, many tourist attractions, and lots of the history of America. We saw small-town America that the Interstate freeways have bypassed, some with brick paved streets, town squares and white clapboard houses with stately old Elm or Oak trees with a rope swing. Mom and Pop diners that had great food and friendly service, but many diners we saw had closed up years ago, the same with many old wayside motels because of the lack of traffic.

And even a few true service stations that you did not have to prepay before pumping your gas. When was the last time you heard the bell ring at a service station when you pulled up to the pumps? I think the attendant at one of them thought I was crazy, as I went back and forth across the bell cord a few times just to hear it ring. The sound reminded me of my first job at a Richfield gas station. Who remembers those stations? There were abandoned farms and houses along with abandoned vintage cars behind buildings and in fields and we drove miles of two-lane roads with little traffic.

We saw many people that were courteous while driving and would wave to us while on the road, people that were friendly to talk to when we stopped for any reason, asking about the Chev, teardrop trailer and the trip, many relating to us the vacations they took years ago. What a beautiful country we live in. Changing scenery in every state, some scenery that looked the same as it did when the pioneers were in the same area, some that has changed as towns grew, and me trying to remember what I saw years ago when I was young when my folks drove across country on vacation. This was a great adventure for Sue and I and we were sad to see it end. But we are throwing darts at the map to see where the next roadtrip will take us.

- Part 4 "Follow us on the Web"

You can experience our trip to Maine and back on a day-by-day basis by tuning onto the teardroppers universal web site www.teardrops.net. Scan down the right list to *Teardrop Discussion Forums* and click on "Teardrop Talk". When that comes up, go down to the bottom of the list to "Teardrop Travelogues". On that list is *Jack and Sue's 2005 and 2007 Vintage Vacation & Road Trip*. I think you will be awarded with a great read

"TEARDROPS AND TINY TRAILERS" BOOK DUE OUT THIS YEAR

By Doug Keister

Just thought you'd like to know that my latest tome, "Teardrops and Tiny Trailers" is still on target for Fall 2008. I just finished editing the text and now it will go to design. Fall 2008 doesn't necessarily mean we'll have to wait until September. Sometime they come out earlier. I'm hoping for an official launch at the TCT rally next August. I'll endeavor to get special quantity pricing for people and clubs in the book (a nice fundraising item).

The publisher will be Gibbs Smith, who also published *Silver Palaces* and *Mobile Mansions*, two of my other vintage RV books. When I get the first proofs sometime early next year, I'll know who made the cut.

ROD GLASSETT - TEARDROP TRAILER BUILDER EXTRAORDINAIRE

While **Grant Whipp** is undeniable credited for the revival of the teardrop trailer in today's world, Rod has played a significant role in building TD's and promoting ownership, restoration and gatherings of our icons of the past. Rod tells us that he considers Grant to be far more knowledgeable about teardrops and the history behind them. However, this interview allows us to view Rod's spin on our love of teardrops and our "family of friends" we've met and camped with over the years.

TL - You're one of the first in the modern age to build a teardrop trailer. When was the year that you built your very first one?

RG - First of all, I know I wasn't the first one in the late eighties to build a teardrop trailer. I saw my first one back then at the Monroe, Washington auto swap meet. I fell in love with it and thought it would be really great fun to pull one with my '40 Chev and use it for camping. Even back then that trailer was \$3,500.

TL - What prompted you to build a TD and where did you get your plans?

RG - I took a few basic measurements of the teardrop and went home, thinking I could do "better for cheaper" on my own. I think it was 1990. I laid out a side profile of a 4 X 10 teardrop on a table in my shop. I wanted a more streamlined radius back and front to the trailer than those I'd seen. So I laid it out to scale with all the cabinets and things I wanted in it and made it work.

TL - You've built two teardrops. Any estimate on the man-hours to complete each?

RG - The first teardrop I built was strictly research and development out of my head, as I went along. I think it took around 400 hours because I didn't know what I was doing and was guessing a lot! The second teardrop I built about eleven years later. Trudy and I started seeing new teardrops being built that were five-feet wide instead of the traditional four-feet wide, so you get a larger kitchen and a queen sized bed. I also put two doors into the second TD. Also, I decided I didn't want to have fiberglass over the plywood exterior, so had the second one sprayed with Rhinoliner. This one took about 350 man-hours.

TL - There is some controversy about the style of suspension. Which one did you choose and for what reason?

RG - The type of suspension I used on both trailers is leaf spring. I guess the only reason is I've had no problems with it and didn't want to try something I wasn't familiar with. I've heard that people who have torsion-bar suspension haven't had problems either. I do know they are about the same cost.

TL - Any changes you would do if you built a third teardrop trailer?

RG - I would like to build one more teardrop-type trailer that would be a six-feet wide by ten-feet long. It would be a little different shape with a duck tail and trolley top, so you could walk into it-bent over a bit. It would have an enclosed potty room, so women should love it! As with my other trailers, it'll be one of a kind!

TL - What has been the longest trip you've taken with your teardrop and what future trips would you like to take?

RG -The longest trip my first wife and I took was in our second teardrop to the First International Teardrop Gathering in Minden, Nebraska. Some day, a trip I would like to make with a few other trailer nuts would be to travel down the West Coast and head east on Route 66, but certainly not in the middle of the summer!

TL - What's been the thing that really stands out about our teardrop gatherings?

RG - As most of you know, Trudy and I heard about teardrop rallies in California and Oregon. After the first teardrop display at the LeMay Open House, we thought we should have a meet in Washington. Spring Fling was the result in April 1999. This spring will be SF #10! What amazes me about all of our rallies are the people who come. It's a big "melting pot" of individual lifestyles, but we all get along and have a blast being together with our teardrop trailers.

TL - What's your spin on the growing popularity of owning teardrops these days?

RG - I think the growing popularity of teardrops and small trailers today is due to fuel costs. The big rigs cost too much to operate. People are downsizing, and realizing they don't need as much to accomplish the same goal. Dynamite comes in small packages! We are getting back more to the basics of open camping and socializing with other people. We enjoy showing those in big RVs that we have a great time, camping in our teardrop trailers.

TL - What are some of the craziest comments you've had regarding your teardrop trailer?

RG - If you own a teardrop, you've heard most of the same comments I've heard. Don't you get claustrophobic? Do you really sleep in there? Isn't that just like sleeping in a coffin? (Never tried it!) What kind of trailer is that? Is that full-size? (No, it's the prototype-the real one is at home) My all-time favorite is: Isn't that CUTE? I've heard that at least 10,000 times and don't care to hear it again! One more, heard at LeMay #9 - All your rear-ends look the same (as the lady looked at all the galleys facing the same direction)!

TL - We're on the eve of celebrating our tenth Spring Fling. Any plans for its future?

RG - At SF #9 Trudy and I put out a suggestion box, asking how we could celebrate #10. To sum it up, those that made comments seemed to think what we did last year was great and more of the same would be fine, so I guess we haven't decided about anything definite for #10 yet. Plans for the future - we've held SF at three different locations because we've outgrown the previous ones. As this event becomes more popular and well known, it gets bigger and bigger and it's a challenge to find a campground with a "gathering" building. We'll stay put at the Gust Backstrom Park in Morton,

Washington for now, but have some volunteers lined up to help with specific tasks. We hope to see more new faces and trailers this coming Memorial Day weekend. Look for the registration info in the next TOW Line

RAISE THE TONGUE WHEEL BEFORE TRIPPING THE LATCH

After hearing of a teardrop accident on a bridge across the Columbia River, we're reminded about the importance of securely latching your teardrop to your trailer hitch. In as few words as possible, it is this: ***Raise the tongue wheel BEFORE tripping the latch.***

Usually the tongue weight will drop the hitch onto the ball. Just to make sure, swing the tongue wheel down and crank it up. When the car rises, you know the trailer won't fall off.

THIRD ANNUAL CANADIAN TEARDROP MEET

By **Mary Church**

This fun event was held September 7th - 9th, 2007 in Langley, British Columbia. Six teardrops from the States met up with two from Canada and camped at nearby Fort Langley Campground for the weekend. Representing the U.S were **Rod and Trudy Glassett, Steve and Peggy Birley, Ken and Marty Masden, Roger, Mary and Gordon Church, Bruce Smith, and Paul Robinson and Sonja Foss.** Brian Ireland from Langley was our host and coordinator, and **Ingvar and Pat Svard** came over from Vernon, B.C. On Saturday most of the group "paraded" into Langley and did a "Show and Shine" at the car show. This is one of the largest car shows in North America, and takes up the entire Langley downtown. They literally close off all the streets from early in the morning until 6:00 PM. It seemed that the entire community, along with half of British Columbia came out to take in the fun. Every car imaginable was there, from concourse to new concept, classics, "project cars", hot rods, you name it. Lots of attention came our way, as many in Canada have never seen a teardrop. Brian, Ingvar and Pat are doing their best to get the word out! Our participation in the car show is great PR for teardropping.

Others in our group decided it was a good opportunity to relax in camp or do some shopping and sightseeing in Fort Langley, the birthplace of British Columbia. There is a wonderful interpretive center on the site of the old Hudson's Bay Company fort. They have at least one original building, and have recreated nearly all of the rest of the fort. Volunteers in period dress are on site to give you a picture of what life was like in the early days of the fur trade. In the township of Fort Langley there are a number of interesting little shops and antique stores.

At the end of the day on Saturday we all met back at the campground and had a potluck dinner. Good friends, good food, and good conversation made for a wonderful evening. Sunday morning we had breakfast at the Campfire Café at the campground, and enjoyed a relaxing time before heading back home. A few of our number went back into Langley for the swap meet.

For more information on the Cruise-In, go to this website: www.langleycruise-in.com and click on the word "ENTER" to view their home page with links to photos and lots of information regarding the car show. We hope that Brian will be our coordinator again this year. Mark your calendar for the second weekend in September! This is an event you won't want to miss!

TOW HAS JACKET PATCHES READY FOR PURCHASE

Herb and Elaine Kipp have designed a beautiful patch that can be sewn on the back of a jacket. The colorful patch is an eight-inch oval. It has the TOW cartoon-like logo in the middle with the word "TEARDROPPERS" arched over the logo top and "OF OREGON AND WASHINGTON" reversed-arched under the logo.

The background color is blue. The patch edge is stitched in yellow. Yellow outlines the logo with the words also stitched in yellow. Red fills in the "TOW" on the car. Call up the TOW website www.teardroptrailers.org to see the artwork.

Stitch count governs the cost of each patch. A large patch such as described above with miles of stitching cost \$12.50 each. They are made in Oregon City. Sales will start at the Midwinter Luncheon. There will be a limited number available.

The Kipps deserve a BIG thank you for spending time to design this artwork.

BIRLEY HOME FLOODED AND THEIR TEARDROP TRAILER DAMAGED

Most of us have heard about the disastrous flooding that happened in Oregon and Washington the first week of December. One member of our teardrop family of friends really got hit hard. Steve and Peggy Birley had left their Chehalis home for a San Diego trip on Sunday. By Monday one of their sons called to tell them to hurry back. The river was rising rapidly and was going to flood their home for the first time since it was built about 1915. It was early Wednesday morning when the Birleys surveyed the damage. About two feet of water had flooded their house.

The initial report included lots of damage to the house, loss of its contents (appliances, furniture, clothes and family keepsakes), equipment such as tractors and mowers in the barn, a flooded greenhouse, all cars (including Steve's 1928 Model A) in two garages (one of which stored their teardrop), fences pushed over by the powerful current after catching trash and much, much more. Two vintage travel trailers had their insides suffer water damage that included mud on all the floors.

One of the vintage trailers was the 40-foot Spartan that was undergoing a full restoration. It sat next to the barn. The floodwaters were about four feet deep at the barn with a current so strong that it moved the trailer. Fortunately, with the trailer sitting high off the ground, water only got a foot or two deep inside.

Even though the flood came and went in less than 24 hours, the worst part was the depth of pudding-like mud on the floors inside all rooms of the house as well as outside on the lawns and flowerbeds around the house. Call up the TOW website www.teardroptrailers.org to see photos of the initial damage. As restoration progresses, photos of the work will be posted

Volunteer friends got busy immediately with cleaning up the mess. All ruined furniture was hauled away, soggy carpets torn up and hauled outside and all water-damaged sheetrock and insulation removed from the walls. The house finally dried out. Organized teams of volunteers headed up by teardropper **Rod Glassett** are at work reconstructing things. It looks like the teardrop trailer is going to survive. It's being dried out in a teardropper's heated garage.

We are indeed a "family of friends" and in our grief have rallied around Steve and Peggy. We know that they would be first in line to help anyone of us in a similar situation.

THE 15TH DAM GATHERING OF TEARS ON FIRST WEEKEND OF MAY

The "Dam Gathering of the Tears" is the granddaddy of all teardrop gatherings. This has historically been the "kickoff" for all of the coming summer gatherings. As usual, it will be held on the banks of Lake Shasta in Northern California at Antlers RV Park and Campground. This year it's May 1st to 4th. Antlers Campground is just off I-5 at exit 702 about 95 miles south of the Oregon border and 25 miles north of Redding.

For great visiting and great food look forward to the Friday night Dutch Oven samplers, Saturday night Potluck, Chili Bean Feed and Dutch Oven extravaganza.

Many of the campsites have room for more than one trailer. Camping costs \$11 per night. The registration fee is \$11. For more information on the details, contact **Grant Whipp** at 530-275-6728 or e-mail info@teardrops.net.

ANNUAL SPRING FLING CELEBRATES #10!

By **Trudy Glassett**

Are you ready to help us celebrate 10 years of Spring Fling-ing? Our reservations are again made at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton, Washington for Memorial Day weekend (May 23-26th). We're planning a few new activities this year, along with the traditional favorites.

Look for registration information to be mailed at the end of February to last year's attendees. If you missed out, please e-mail us at glassettgang@juno.com or give us a call a **360-293-1108** and we'll send you the registration form. More detailed information will be included on the form. We hope to see you in Morton.

TEARDROPS AND WELSH SEAGULLS

By **Bob Jones**

In April we gained an increased appreciation for the common gull. In Llandidno (clan-did-new), Wales, we bought ice cream cones at a stand on the famous pier and started to walk toward the end. All of a sudden, a gull swooped down and hit my wife on the arm causing her to drop her ice cream, which was then pounced upon by several gulls. I tried to be smart by holding my cone much closer. The gull was smarter and hit me in the face with a wing. Grabbing for my glasses, I dropped the cone, which was rapidly scooped up in a flutter of wings. The pier had warnings about this and that, but nary a word about gull attacks. The ice cream vendor hadn't bothered to warn us either probably hoping we might have to come back to reload. Locals gobbling ice cream were huddled tight against buildings with an overhanging roof, leaving tourists to fend off the birds alone. Who needs to fears lions, and tigers, and bears when the gulls are about. By the way, we did not see a single teardrop trailer on this trip.

NEW TEARJERKERS CHAPTER

We are listing a new gathering on our calendar for this summer. It's the first rendezvous for a new Tearjerkers chapter. The chapter is called Jefferson State. Ken and Eunice Hill are heading up this new chapter.

It's one of the many chapters formed in the United States. There are three chapters in California. They are SoCal (Southern California), NorCal (Central Californai) and Jefferson State for Northern California. It's international with chapters in Australia and Canada. There is a European chapter too. For more information on the chapters in the United States you can call up the www.tearjerkers.net web

Jefferson State is the mythical 51st state in the USA. It will be formed when Northern California separates from California. It's been theorized for years with occasional signs seen along the I-5 freeway. A lot of folks seeing the signs regard it as a joke.

The new rally/rendezvous will be in the Medford, Oregon area. A more complete story will be in the April issue of the TOW Line. All teardroppers are welcome to join the chapter.

SNAIL MAIL TOW LINE SENT OUT ONLY IN JANUARY

Teardroppers of Oregon and Washington has lost its source of income. When we dropped out of the Northwest Car Collectors Association we no longer shared in the profits of the car show where we had displayed our trailers for eight years. Mailing costs and the problems of getting each issue to six pages have complicated things. However, issues can be called up on the TOW website www.teardroptrailers.org at your local library or at a friends

CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 16TH - *Midwinter Luncheon – Graham, WA*

This new function for all teardroppers being held at the Flying Tomato Italian Grill. Contact **Danny and Jane Fantoni** at towmidwinterluncheon@comcast.net

MAY 1ST – 4TH - *Lake Shasta Meet– Northern California*

15TH Dam Gathering of Tears in Antlers Campground at Lakehead, California. Contact **Grant and Lisa Whipp** for registration information at info@teardrops.net .

MAY 23RD – 26TH - *Spring Fling, Our 10th Gathering – Morton, WA*
Held at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton. Vintage Tiny Travel Trailers welcome too.
Contact Rod and Trudy Glassett at 360-293-1108 or glassettgang@juno.com

MAY 27TH – JUNE 1ST – *Fiddle Around the Stars - Goldendale, WA*
2nd gathering for all vintage trailers and teardrops. Stay at the county fairgrounds.
Contact Lorraine at 509-773-0567 or web site www.cityofgoldendale.com.

JUNE 12TH – 15TH - *Rogue Valley Rendezvous – Medford, OR*
Tearjerkers Jefferson State Chapter first gathering at Cantrail-Buckley County Park.
Contact Eunice Hill at 707-725-4674 or keneucicehill@sbcglobal.net

JULY 3RD – 6TH – *Carnation Fourth – Carnation, WA*
For all teardrops and small vintage-looking trailers. Fun on a four-day weekend. Contact
Ken or Marty Masden at 425-333-5219 or 36fun@centurytel.net

JULY 25TH – 27TH – *Great Oregon Campout – Lane County, OR*
At Camp Lane near Florence for teardrops only. This is the 11th annual gathering. Contact
Lonnie or Sheryl Aaron at 541-688-9545 or aaroncruiser@aol.com

JULY 25TH – 27TH – *Vintage Trailer Rally Number 2 – Sweethome, OR*
At the Sunnyside County Park put on by Rollin' Oldies Vintage Trailers of Oregon.
Contact Jerry Kwiatkowski at 503-831-4991 or jerryk20002000@yahoo.com.

AUGUST 2ND – *Teardrops on Display – Brooks, OR*
This new event includes admission to the annual Antique Powerland Steamup. Contact
Marty Boehme at 503-632-6563 or teardrops@bctonline.com

AUGUST 14TH – 17TH – *TCT Vintage Trailer Rally – Deming, WA*
This traditional vintage trailer rally also invites teardrop trailer owners to attend. Contact
Pat or Joanne Ewing at 360-966-4253 or pre47airstream@aol.com

AUGUST 29TH – 31ST - *LeMay Open House Campout – Tacoma, WA*
Our annual rally and volunteering for the LeMay Open House for the LeMay Museum.
Contact Pat and Jan Estes at opasgang@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER 19TH – 21ST – *Festival of Wheels – Goldendale, WA*
Third gathering for all vintage trailers and teardrops. Stay at the county fairgrounds.
Contact Lorraine at 509-773-0567 or web site www.cityofgoldendale.com.