



TOW Line

FREE #7 Dec 2003

Published whenever
Marty Boehme – Editor
20232 S Jasan Drive
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-632-6563
teardrops@bctonline.com

Teardroppers of **O**regon and **W**ashington

Serving those who are or wannabe be teardroppers

LeMAY MUSEUM UNVEILS THEIR FUTURE

By **Katie Boehme**

What a razzle-dazzle, time-warp evening as the Harold E. LeMay Museum projected us into their future, revealing their EXCITING! design plans. On November 5th. Marty and I traveled to Tacoma for this *most surprising* evening. Dinosaur me was expecting to see the architect's "blueprints" projected by PowerPoint on a screen. Boy was I in for a surprise!

We arrived early. I was amazed as they first placed on easels six "real-life" photos of the building with live people (not drawings) in the photos. I asked the architect how they did this and he said, "You haven't seen anything yet, wait until you see our virtual video of the inside and outside of the building".

The unique, futuristic, fascinating architecture is going to be a hallmark of this museum, magnetically attracting people to see it. I expect the building will be famous, perhaps world wide, like Australia's opera house. The museum building is all glass with the roof in a modified dome of coated auto glass, reflecting the landscape like metal in the day and becoming translucent at night, lighted from within – spectacular and exquisitely beautiful. The floors are all cantilevered-out leaving a wide-open, mysteriously supported, expanses inside the building. The spiral "tower of automobile history" runs eight stories down the center (four above ground and four below). Movies can be projected around the rim of the building, setting the cars in live animation scenes. The museum concepts are as shattering as the architecture – taking you into the museum of the future. Erase your mind's concept of a museum and start thinking interactive, "Disney world" fun place -holograms (design a car on the computer and project it full size – WOW!), wind tunnel design testing, glass walled restaurants overlooking the displays, dragster rides where you speed from zero to 80 in six seconds. And, these are things for adults too!

"America's Car Museum", a gathering place for meeting friends, eating out, educational areas, auditorium seating to observe car restoration with video close-ups. This is going to be one FUN museum full of surprises around every curve of the road. And the size of the collection – why, LeMay has more Fords than the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn! Adjacent to the museum will be a plaza for car shows – this is a people museum – a relaxing, constantly changing place to visit again and again. It sits on nine acres of land donated by the city of Tacoma. Parking and retail space is included. It will have 750,000 square feet and cost \$60 to \$80 million to build. Groundbreaking to be sometime in 2005; completion two-years later.

This museum is going to be ALIVE, glowing and growing (no musty, dusty, moldy oldies here!). This will definitely be a destination museum. We can hardly wait for it to open!

IDAHO CITY, IDAHO GATHERING - September 19, 20, 21, 2003

Submitted by **Kelsey Farrell**

I arrived in Idaho City at about Noon or Noon-Thirty; stopped at a gas station and asked a customer who was filling his truck where I could find "Palm Services". He had no idea. I drove around trying to find someone who could tell me where "Palm Services" was located. Finally, a couple of school kids told me. They were the only persons in town that knew the name, other than the owners. I went back to the first place I stopped in town (where the customer was filling his truck) and that was the place.

I paid my money (lesson learned) for my spot for the weekend. The fellow walked out to show me and as I drove into the lot I thought "OH MY GOD!!" The place had about 10 RV spots and the ground looked as though it had been paved with crushed sandstone. It was full of boulders as big as my

head, and bigger!! I had to move stones to get the TD into a space. There were several barking dogs that belonged to a nearby permanent resident. The place was the PITS!! (Editor: It sounds like it was a real live rock pit)

Just as I was about to come apart and wondering what to do, **Jim and Sue Beckwith** appeared. All of us were shaking our heads. We talked for a bit. Luckily they had arrived earlier, left and had had lunch at the Calamity Jayne's Café where they had talked with the owner of Cowboy Campground. She had space for all of our trailers. Jim and Sue went there, set up their TD and came back for me. We discussed the fact that the **Rob Fisher family** and **Mike and Kristi Olson** were not gonna know where we are. I decided to make the half-mile drive back every half hour to see if anyone checked in. On the third trip Rob's family was just pulling in. That was great. It was one down and one to go. At about 9:30 PM I went back to the original place to wait for Mike and Kristi to show up. Mike had told everyone that they might be as late as midnight but I wanted to be there in the event they were early. At about 11:30 he rolled in and we went to set up in the new place.

Saturday, everyone went into town to tour the gold mining museum, antique shops and old buildings. Some ate lunch at Diamond Lil's while others ate at the Calamity Jayne's Café.

Saturday evening was Dutch oven potluck time. We ate LOTS. The owner of the campground and her husband came by and ate dinner with us. After dinner, the owner's husband entertained the kids with a "stupid cowboy trick". Later in the evening we had a very nice campfire and did the usual fun stuff you do around a campfire, the kids gorged on Smores and the adults told lies..er...ahh..ummm..campfire stories.

We had very nice weather for Teardropping. During the day the temperature was warm and sunny with just a very gentle breeze blowing through the many tall Pine trees. The temperature at night was such that any water left outside the teardrop had a pretty good crust of ice on it in the morning.

Those present, with the exception of me, were from Idaho. We have decided that this should be an annual gathering but we aren't sure we will come back to the Idaho City area. Not because we didn't like the place, but because there were several ideas of many places in Idaho that were tossed about. We'll come up with a plan a little later.

Once more, Teardropping has afforded me the opportunity to meet some very nice folks that are a joy to be with, love the outdoors and teardrops.

BAJA ADVENTURE

At the Sweetwater teardrop gathering, I ran into a couple from Truckee, California who told me the most interesting story about their travels in their original 1946 Kit teardrop.

Dick and Peggy liked to spend time in Baja watching whales giving birth in the shallow lagoons. Their trusty teardrop always went with them for they used it as camp headquarters. On one of their trips, they were taking another teardropper couple with them. Since the other TD owners had never driven the route before, Dick kept them in his rearview mirror during the last night of the trip. Suddenly, the following car's headlights stopped. So Dick stopped and got out of his rig. His trailer was not in sight! The washboard road had taken its toll, because all Dick was dragging was the tubular front part of the hitch. It had broken off at the trailer body.

They returned to the place where the main trailer and their friends were waiting. After leveling the trailer, they spent the night. They decided they would worry what to do the next day.

What luck, it turned out that they were camped right next to a lagoon with whales! But, on the other hand, they were in the middle of nowhere and miles from the nearest welder. So Dick got out his toolbox (never go to Baja without one) and started to disassemble the trailer to load the pieces into his Toyota Ranger van. Just after it was apart, the main cabin sitting beside the track (Dick thought it would make a good Mexican motel) they noticed off in the distance a large piece of heavy equipment approaching. It turned out to be a front-end loader going to a job site.

The loader stopped. With some sign language, Dick instructed the Mexican driver to pick up the cabin and load it on top of his pipe rack-equipped rig. They spent the next two weeks sleeping in the tear perched on top of their Toyota. Then, it was driven back to Truckee where Dick made repairs.

We saw it across from our campsite at Sweetwater and, according to Dick, in better shape than before. He tells me that the hitch-tongue on those early Kits were made of very thin tubing. After all those years of use, it had simply stressed out and broke.

All you early Kit teardrop owners might want to check for stress cracks.

THE GREAT CHAMPOEG CAMPOUT 2003

By Terry Engelstad

Well, the camping trip is over for another year and what fun was had!!! We arrived on Friday which happened to be **Gordie's** 65th birthday. We found a wonderful site and by the time we got the two canopies set up most of the other Washingtonians were arriving. All were very fatigued from the crawling traffic and the heat. The weather this year was amazing – sun shades were needed for the heat and not the rain. A soup pot dinner with garlic bread was served and everyone donated a can of something to make it really taste great!!!! Afterwards, **Trudy and Rod Glassett** had made up a poem to the tune of Old McDonald's farm for Gordie's birthday and sheets were handed out for everyone to sing to him. It was really funny. I brought three different kinds of cake and all enjoyed the merriment.

Saturday morning breakfast was pancakes and pigs. We'd had a really warm windy night all night and some people had to get up in the night and re-arrange their belongings. The day was spent with lots of fellowship and tall tales. The heat was a factor for sure. Everybody was carrying glasses with ice water. The Saturday night dinner had to be postponed several times because of the Dutch oven cooking. It was too hot to eat at 6 PM anyway. Long after dark, the dinner bell rang and the aromas from the food table were second to none. Boy, those teardroppers know how to cook. For the door prizes, **Bill Darland** and **Gary Wampold's daughter** led all the fun. What descriptions of the prizes!!!!!!!!!!!! You almost didn't want to admit you had the number that was called. They were a duo. I think everybody got a prize and then some. The donations from many people were really nice.

Sunday morning breakfast was French toast and pigs and left over ham - mmmmm!!!! - good cooks. Cheryl and Lonnie wore the aprons. Afterwards, it was clean up, tear down and last goodbyes. One of the exciting things of the weekend was getting to see the self-built trailer of **Jane Montgomery** from California. She did a great job and it was good to see her all the way up to Champogeg. It's always good to see our elder member, **Ed Colvin** once more. Bless his heart, he loves us all so much and he is so cute with his hat that he proudly wears each evening. It's a lighted hat of the great USA blinking. His eyes sparkle as much as his hat blinks. We love him so much. What a trooper he is. Gary and his two daughters put on such a good gathering this year and we missed Shannon. She wasn't able to make it. Gary was so good to have such great weather this year too. He said he ordered it just for us. Good job to all the workers who helped put this gathering on. Reservations for next year were taken and they are already full for next year. (Editor's Note: I hear that next year's event might feature a **roast pig** for supper. WOW!!)

SUNRISE ON LAKE MAYFIELD

On a recent family campout at Washington's Ike Kinswa State Park, I woke up just as it was getting light. We'd arrived the day before to the sites I had reserved nine months before. We had a great site, for just through the margin of trees next to our campsite was Mayfield Lake. Dressed in my pajamas, I put on a coat, picked up a folding chair and walked the few steps to the edge of the lake. I set the chair at the top of the big grassy expanse that sloped down to the lake. It ended up that I was looking due east across the lake to the mountains in the distance.

What a view! The lake was absolutely calm. The distance shore was mirrored on the water. You could see fish surfacing by watching the ring ripples expand on the water. A clutch of ducks was swimming near the shore. A few minutes later, I heard a flock of geese honking on my right. As their call got louder, I pictured them flying across my view. And, they did – about 60 feet above the water.

All you could hear were the sounds of nature. A creek could be heard tumbling down the opposite shore. More and more birds were waking and greeting the new day. The only disturbing sound was the raucous call of a couple of crows. I shut my eyes and listened more intently. It was then I heard the distance sound of a truck on the main road a few miles away. Oh well, we live in a modern world.

Early morning fog hung in the treetops across the lake. Fluffy, cotton-like clouds were above. I thought that when the sun rose, it would illuminate them with a pinkish hue, something I knew would be a beautiful sight. I felt guilty not sharing this with Katie, so I went back to camp and got her up. Returning, I realized that everything was waking up in our part of the world. A couple of fishermen walked by. They were caught in the moment too, for they softly said "Hello".

As it got lighter and lighter, a gentle breeze came up. The lake surface now had a shimmering ripple on it. The treetop fog started to dissipate. We tried to guess where the sun was going to peek over the mountains by looking at the pink-like colored clouds in the distance. But, after awhile, the sun did peek – and was it bright! Then it was back to the tear for more z's.

LeMAY 2003 – A GREAT WEEKEND

By Katie Boehme

Hats off to the comedy team of **Jack Jacobson** and his right-hand man, **Bob Book** who did a wonderful job managing this FUN teardrop gathering. They provided a warm welcome to all on arrival with directions and help as we parked our rigs.

A new feature this year was the Friday night potluck; we ate outdoors on a perfect summer evening. Many thanks go out to **Ed and Linda Kelson** for providing the yummy deep-fried turkey for all to enjoy. Then came "the meeting" - we could see it would be a "short one" as Jack pulled out the agenda (about 10 yards long). Moving things right along – Marty stood to speak and shortly thereafter a timer went off (amid much laughter) to keep things right on schedule.

Saturday morning is always a bit of a rush as we clean and "fancy" our tears for the show opening at nine. A welcome addition was the continental breakfast set out on the lawn for all to enjoy (an encore breakfast was provided Sunday with the leftovers).

Saturday night we "cozied" around our traditional campfire (plug it in and we're ready to roll). We enjoyed jokes, sharing the day and of course a few skits (did anyone notice there seemed to be a lot of "Martys" at the campfire- his face was everywhere). "Mums the word" on one skit – if you don't tell, we can repeat this hilarious skit with the rookies next year.

The weather this year was hot, but comfortable. We had 18 trailers in attendance from Oregon and Washington. A special guest was **John and Sharon Blewett** – teardroppers who drove all the way from Rhode Island in their RV to have a look at a northwest event. They were awarded a special long haul award. It was great to have them describe the goings-on in their part of the world and their view of teardropping in the New England states.

Teardroppers new to this event took the opportunity of touring the LeMay collection, reported to be the "world's largest private car collection". Us old-timers greeted spectators interested in viewing our trailers. It was fun hearing some folks reminisce about their early years of teardrop camping with their families. We also shared experiences and made connection with several do-it-yourselfers ready to build their own teardrops.

The LeMay organization was very appreciative on the volunteering that we provide in helping the public tour the "BIG GREEN" building. They never have to worry about staffing all the positions. Many, many thanks go out to those who volunteered (and thanks Jack & Bob for your system that assured we each received the right size volunteer T-shirt).

The LeMay teardrop was on display. It had a wonderful placard telling everyone about the trailer and the effort TOW affiliates spent in restoring it to vintage condition. We were told the trailer had not been used since restoration. However, it turns out this was incorrect. A person serving "Community Service Time" at the adjacent senior center during the day was also a homeless man. Eventually, he was caught spending nights in the trailer.

One more great idea of Jack and Bob is to put the annual "LeMay Memory Book" and pictures in CD format. We all say "Well done" – you both put a lot of thought into this event and have implemented some thoughtful and fun innovations! Hard copies of the annual book will be available the first of the year for \$10 (covers mailing and printing).

THE KOZY KAMP – A 1930'S TENT TRAILER

Chuck Harding brought his 1936 Kozy Kamp tent trailer to one of our Early Ford V-8 car club tours. Everyone gathered around the trailer as he set it up. Many thought they would see the canvas crack or come apart as he unfolded this unique trailer that was manufactured in Portland before WWII. The canvas proved strong; after all, it is "Army construction". And, it had a patented Vivatex finish. The sales brochure stated that it would take one minute, 50 seconds to set up. It took Chuck a bit longer.

Chuck's trailer is one of the best examples to survive – it's a real beaut! This trailer is all original, right down to the four ply, 6.00 X 16 tires. Only the "Aluminum-colored topping" has been changed. It now sports a new vinyl cover. The "painted" linoleum floor is a bit worn. All the interior woodwork is finished in "orange lacquer". The exterior is Kozy Kamp Green. For \$5.00 extra, other colors were available. All you had to do was to "Send for color chart". In addition, the sales literature states, "We can match your car if it is a standard color readily obtainable on the market. Extra charge: \$8.00 up. Make arrangements in plenty of time."

When completely unfolded, the inside could be made up into two double beds. One side makes up into an eating table with four metal frame and canvas seats provided. It had a "Fireplace", a metal shelf that folded out from the inside over the tongue on which you could set a camp stove. It was sort of "stand-inside – cook-outside". A five-gallon, galvanized water tank with faucet set on the tongue frame. A Ford Model-A radiator cap adorns the fill spout. Other Ford parts are used. Tail lights, for instance.

Sales literature features a title "Kozy Kamp – A Furnished Home Behind Your Car". It goes on to say, "The folded Kozy Kamp is a "Magic Box" containing a furnished home for four adults or a family group. The long, long trail with its endless miles, mountain grades, slippery pavement, rough detours, heavy traffic and buffeting 'head, angle, and side' winds are mere trifles when towing a Kozy Kamp". Any car could tow it, for it weighed an average of 1000 pounds when fully loaded.

Seth S. Strachan was president of the Kozy Kamp Trailer Company. He signed the Bill of Sale that was part of the paperwork that came with Chuck's trailer. The first owner bought it May 5, 1936. It was purchased for "one dollar and other valuable considerations". The trailer changed hands in 1948 and Chuck bought it from this owner in 1999. Knowledge of the "valuable considerations" did not come with the trailer.

This tent trailer was a feature of the TOW exhibit at the September 2003 RV show. In addition to Chuck's vintage trailer, four teardrops, the **Harmon's** Burro camp trailer and a very vintage Ultra Van motor coach owned by TOW affiliate **Doug Bell** were on display. The motor coach is powered with a Corvair rear drive train.

A LESSON LEARNED

By **Gretchen DeMoss**

We had a little adventure on one of the past weekends that I thought y'all might enjoy. We went camping at the Oregon coast on Friday in the pouring down rain (not unusual). We managed to get our canopy and privacy shelter up on Friday night and stayed pretty dry. On Saturday, we woke up to fairly clear skies and no wind. So, we happily set off for the local wine festival via shuttle bus.

We returned about six hours later to find our canopy, privacy shelter, chairs, table, etc. completely gone. Upon further inspection we found everything neatly tucked under the teardrop. A fellow camper came by and said he found everything a few campsites down and collapsed everything and stashed it for us. Apparently a squall had come up and blown everything away. So, we learned a big lesson - stake everything down and thank God for fellow campers. We would've done the same for someone else, so it was so nice that someone out there was looking out for us.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK ENCOUNTER

A story all teardroppers need to know about was told to us during LeMay 2003.

Bob and Tanya Book were visiting Glacier National Park in Northern Montana this last July. After setting up their teardrop in one of the park's campgrounds, they took off to sightsee. Upon returning, they were approached by a park ranger who told them they had left their cooler unattended and out in the open while they were gone.

Bob told them that it was a vintage cooler that hadn't had food in it for over 30 years. It was bolted to the front of their teardrop and was being used for a tool and storage box. "That doesn't make a difference" he was told. "The bears simply recognize it as a cooler and know that coolers have food in them. It's an attractive nuisance and has to be removed!" Bob was able to disguise it by putting a tarp over the front of the teardrop. This satisfied the ranger. Bottom line: Keep all coolers hidden when camping in our national parks where bears reside.

EASY DUTCH OVEN SWEET AND SOUR MEATBALLS

Submitted by **Mike Burton**.

To make 1-1/4" to 1-1/2" meatballs you need:

- 1 lb ground beef
- 1/2 cup seasoned breadcrumbs
- 1/4 cup milk (**or** 1/8 cup evaporated milk and 1/8 cup water)
- 2 Tsp chopped onion (**or** 2 Tsp freeze-dried onion)
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 egg

Mix all ingredients except the ground beef. Allow the liquid to be completely absorbed by the breadcrumbs. Now, add the ground beef and mix thoroughly. Then, make the meatballs.

To make the sauce you need:

- 16 oz can Contadina Sweet and Sour sauce
- 20 oz can pineapple chunks, drained
- 14.5 oz can diced tomatoes

Place the meatballs in the Dutch oven. Cook at 350 degrees until the meatballs are completely brown. Drain and add the tomatoes, pineapple chunks and sweet and sour sauce, in that order. Cook at 350 degrees until entire mixture is bubbling, about 30-35 minutes. Serve over rice or noodles.

Temperature note: For a 350-degree oven, use the following number of briquettes:

- 10" oven - 14 on top, 6 on bottom
- 12" oven - 16 on top, 8 on bottom
- 14" oven - 18 on top, 10 on bottom

THE TOW DISPLAY AT THE CAR COLLECTOR'S SHOW

This year's display of teardrop trailers at the 2003 Northwest Car Collectors Show and Swap Meet at Portland's Expo Center featured three tears. **Ed and Barb Ester** and their stunning black/silver and chrome accessorized trailer was in the display along with **Rod and Trudy Glassett's** Rhino Coat special and **Marty and Katie Boehme's** super-sized tear. An information table provided spectators a view of literature of teardrop trailer builders, hardware suppliers, homebuilt plans as well as albums of our gatherings. All enjoyed talking about the trailers and showing how they worked. **Dick and Pat Harmon** brought their stunning and very red Pontiac wagon and matching Burro camp trailer to display on the show floor. A TOW friend, **Robert Burke**, showed a great looking late model Corvette to help meet our quota of show cars.

The theme for this year's show was "An American Thanksgiving". Many member clubs had outstanding displays. The overwhelming winner was the display put up by the Early Ford V-8 Club. It showed a house with a picture window through which you could see the famous Norman Rockwell painting of mom putting the turkey on the table. Approaching the front door was a sailor on leave coming home to join the family celebration.

TOW had about 50 hours of duty to fulfill during the weekend show. Since some duty was "industrial-strength boring", we were able to split it up into two-hour shifts. Many thanks go **Steven and Debby Price; Bill Darland; Dick, Judy and Angela Gue; Jim, Sheila and Derin Abbott** for volunteering. TOW provided matching red tee shirts with the TOW logo on it for everyone. Gas money was paid to those traveling over 80 miles to help out. Sack lunches were provided for the two long days put in by everyone. We had enough entrance passes and parking permits to go around. At the end of Saturday's show, we all descended on Jim Dandys for supper. The Boehmes were able to host all out-of-state guests at their home for the weekend.

We've started to recruit for the 2004 show that will be held October 16th and 17th. It was announced during the show that the theme will be "Spring Fling". Dick Gue was heard to comment - "Does that mean we can string up all our lights?" The answer is a definite YES! And, we can also display all our "tacky" (as coined by **Bob Book**) theme decorations!!!

TIME FOR SNIPPETS

1. Look for an announcement for a possible mid-winter **teardrop potluck**.
2. Plan on an **International Teardrop Gathering** on June 23-25, 2005 (Minden, Nebraska).
3. Our invite to the State Chili Championship Festival featured the absolutely best live music!
4. **Jim Smith** has 80 pound Boat #1 for sale – comes with oars and cover – all for \$3000.