



Cruisin' News

February 2017

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Just Around the Bend

By Clay Seachris

President's message

Starting to look like spring is just around the bend. Winterfest of Wheels is behind us. Our annual Valentine's Day party is history. The summer cruise schedule is almost finalized. Many of the winter projects are wrapped up or in their final stages. All these things point to the bend in the road where cruising begins.

Every year Winterfest is a big memory maker and this year had many fond moments. Some of the member cars were: Miller's Boss Mustang, Aldrich's Studebaker, Olsen and Peterson's nostalgia drag setup and Paulson's Malibu Wagon. As always it was fun hanging out with friends during the show along with helping setup and teardown of the event. Dave and Karen Leisinger pulled off another great event.

I have to give out a big thank you to the annual Valentine's party planners. This year was another fun gathering. I definitely did not need that second helping roast beef and bacon mashed potatoes. I was so stuffed I second guessed eating the red velvet cake for dessert. Of course I ate it, and the misery of a stuffed belly for the mixer game was well worth the calories.

The details for the weekend Lincoln getaway to tour the Museum of American Speed on March 4 and enjoy the Rocky Manginelli Memorial Swap Meet on March 5 are basically the same as last year. Meet at Marlins about 6:30 or 6:45 a.m. (Tea Exit#73) and leave from there at 7:00 a.m. The Museum will be open from noon to 3:00 p.m. on March 4. The cost is \$15.00 each since it is a special event and not a normal touring day.

Save the date – April 29 for the Ladies Spring Brunch and white elephant gift game at Metro Station.



Ya'll are so much fun. Thank you.

Holding Disappearing Evolution

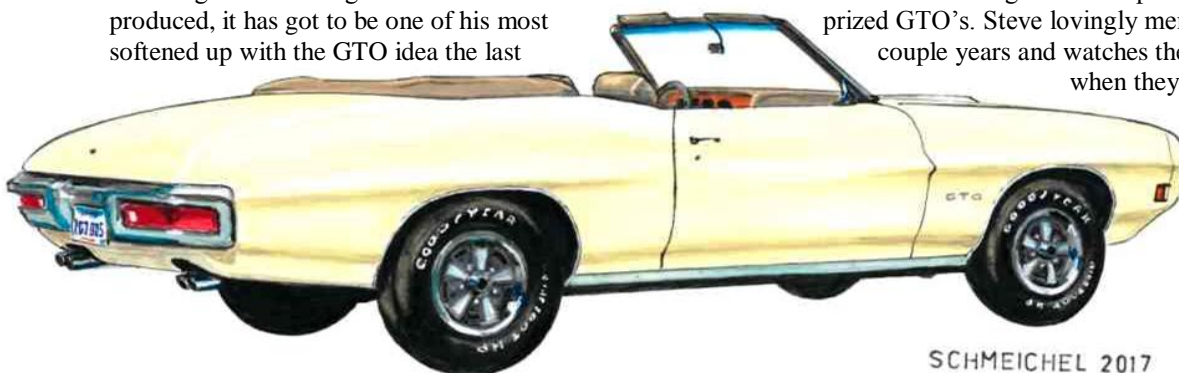
By Bob Schmeichel

I have to believe Steve Ollerich was heavily influenced by America's first muscle car, the Pontiac GTO's at a young age. He told me that he and his brother, while working on the family dairy farm near Garretson in the early 1970's, bought a 1966 GTO together for something to play around with. He said it was nothing to see 6 or 8 GTO's advertised in the Shopping News at one time back then. So they fixed it up with the funds they had together and enjoyed the car however they could until someone offered to buy it from them. It wasn't their intent to sell the car, but led them into buying more GTO's one at a time, doing what was necessary to improve the car, and selling them while not really making much of a profit for their time.

He said if they made \$150.00 to \$200.00 more than they actually had in the car that was good. After all it was more about the fun and gaining experience with these cars in their younger years than it was the money. As they got older, priorities changed with each getting married and starting families. After 25 years of raising kids and still working hard in the cattle field, Steve and his wife Rhonda soon were facing an empty nest syndrome. I am not exactly sure how the GTO thing got started again about 14 years ago when Steve started collecting, but he noted that Rhonda was not always been happy about him purchasing another old GTO when he did it without telling her. I think that got underlined pretty heavy the day Steve took his grandkids along to look at a tractor and came home with a red GTO convertible. I don't really think it was his intent as much as just being in the right place at the right time and recognizing the value.

Steve expressed to me that he has had a lot of friends over the years who said they were going to get their first car back, or do something with a car they had for a long time that they were passionate about, only to get ill or pass away before their ideas or dreams were realized. He said it has been really kind of sad to see that happen to so many people he knew, which I believe has been the driving force with Steve collecting GTO's. It was always an additional enjoyable time to him when he was younger, so why not capture some of that as we get older, so our kids and grand children can experience what made us happy when we were their age. Ask Steve about teaching his granddaughter to do a burn out. Steve told me he doesn't always buy if it is too expensive or if it needs more work than he wants to put into it, but it is more the thrill of the hunt that intrigues him. About 4 years ago Steve decided to build a building to house his growing collection so they weren't stored and spread out all over the area. It is kind of nice to have everything under one roof. So far Steve has collected one if not two of every year GTO from 1964 to 1974 along with a couple newer versions created in 2004 thru 2006. This time around he is collecting them to keep rather than selling. GTO's specifically have been collectable for quite a while, and since General Motors dropped the Pontiac brand, it has only made the GTO name more desirable and valuable.

This kind of leads up to the story of the last two GTO's Steve purchased. When he has any free time, he usually is scanning local publications for GTO's that might be for sale. While on a business trip in Minnesota 3 years ago, a flyer fell out of a Trader Magazine he had grabbed, that was good for a free ad. He thought what the heck and promptly posted a want ad looking for Pontiac GTO's with his phone number attached just to see what would happen. A few days later he got a number of calls of which really went nowhere when checked out, until he received one from a gentleman in Lake Benton Minnesota. Being interested in what the gentleman said he had for cars, Steve made the trip to Lake Benton a couple days later. To Steve's surprise, the gentleman has a really nice collection of everything automotive related in a huge climate controlled building. He reiterated to Steve about 3 cars he was thinking about selling. An orange 1969 GTO Judge hardtop, a light yellow 1970 GTO convertible, and a Hurst Olds. After seeing the cars, Steve told the owner he was really interested in the Judge but not so much the convertible even though it was really nice. The owner said he needed to thin his collection down a bit and made a gentleman's agreement with Steve to sell him both GTO's with the understanding that he couldn't take them home to resell. A hand shake agreement was made and the deal done. Steve went back a couple days later to retrieve both cars. Steve had a high school kid he knows come along and drive the pickup with a trailer hauling the Judge home while Steve drove the convertible behind. Steve said the kid driving the pickup was pretty nervous slowing to 50mph sometimes but did a good job all the way home at the same time. As far as Steve driving the convertible behind the trailer, he said he fell in love with the car that day on the way home because everything worked as it should making it his favorite car today out of all he has. It is a totally numbers matching car and being one of 174 Ram Air 111 convertibles with a 366HP 400" engine and 4-speed out of 3615 convertibles produced, it has got to be one of his most prized GTO's. Steve lovingly mentioned that Rhonda has softened up with the GTO idea the last couple years and watches the side roads and streets when they are out and about while pointing out old cars along the way making Steve smile.



SCHMEICHEL 2017



Behind the Wheel

By Karen Roe

Though Roger and Dianne Corkill were never classmates, they attended the same high school and shared the same “stompin’ grounds”. Dianne recalls, “I grew up in Freeman, S.D. as the 2nd youngest of nine children. I had 3 sisters and 5 brothers. All my brothers have passed away.” Roger, on the

other hand, hails from a much smaller family. “I was an only child. My dad owned the drugstore in Freeman. I’m five years older than Dianne but we’ve pretty much known each other all our lives. Dianne’s oldest sister used to babysit me when I was a little kid. Her next oldest sister was a classmate of mine.” Apparently, the Dub girls were quite appealing. “I used to date a couple of her sisters before we started going out.” Dianne quips, “I always say that he saved the best till last.” On that, Roger seems to be in total agreement. He commends his wife of 51 years, “She’s such a great lady, a great mother, and it’s a blessing to be married to her.”

Dianne continues, “I worked in the drugstore in Freeman, as a clerk and behind the soda fountain as a “soda jerk” until I graduated. After Dianne graduated from Freeman High, she and Roger married in 1965. Dianne held a number of jobs, mostly part-time, while they raised their family of 2 sons and a daughter.

“Allen is our oldest. He lives in Tea and works at the ethanol plant in Chancellor. They have a daughter, Kaileey, and a son, Kaiden. Our next oldest, Brian, lives in California and works for United Airlines. He has a daughter, Nicole who is studying for a Master’s in Sports Psychology. Cathy, our youngest, lives in Tea with her husband and 2 daughters, Maddy and Grace.” The girls have an exciting trip planned for the summer as they were both selected to tour Europe with their bands. “Maddy plays drums and was selected by the Lincoln band leader. Grace plays trumpet for Tea High School. They will travel to five countries and perform in band concerts. Their mom dad plan to join them for part of the tour.”

After graduating high school, Roger attended SDSU for a year, then returned to Freeman. “I worked for an electrician for 3 or 4 years, then for a plumber.” Unfortunately, a hip injury from high school led to a completely worn out hip. “I ended up going to Iowa City for the hip replacement because it was the only place where they could do that type of surgery at the time.” Dianne remembers, “He came home from the hospital in Iowa twelve hours after I gave birth to our son, Allen.”

Roger recounts the time after. “The hip surgery was a life-changer for me. I went out to California to attend a school for office equipment repair. After returning to S.F., I went to work for Jacobson Office Equipment. We served businesses in a 50 mile radius including S.D., Minnesota, and Iowa. We worked on typewriters, calculators, all the old hand-held adding machines before computers. I worked for Jacobson Office Equipment for 30 years then ended up owning it and running it for 12 years.”

Other than street-rodding, both Dianne and Roger are involved in their church. “I belong to LWML and serve on the funeral committee. For fun, I’m a red hatter. We wear red hats and purple clothes, meet once a month, and act silly,” Diane adds with a smile. “I also like to read and walk outside.”

“Serving as an elder in the church with other people is something I thoroughly enjoy,” Roger adds to their list of activities. “I used to like hunting a lot ---- pheasants, deer, antelope, but haven’t done so much of that in the last years. We belong to the Corvette club and usually go to the Corvette Classics in Spearfish every July. We always enjoyed the Automania when it was in S.F.”

In addition to car club activities, the Corkills attend many of their grandchildren’s local events. “Every Friday night we meet with a special group of friends for supper. We do that pretty regularly.” Periodically, they fly out to California for visits with their son and granddaughter.

In the future, Dianne wants to do more traveling. “We’ve been to Hawaii several times and Ireland but I wouldn’t mind seeing Alaska.” Roger adds, “Our son Allen and his wife want to go on a trip with us to celebrate our 50th anniversary, but we haven’t decided where yet. We’ve just always gotten along with them so well and are really looking forward to it.”

The Corkills are a couple always willing to serve. Early in their marriage, they faced adversity but always remained positive. Roger’s humble appreciation of others and for life is expressed often.

“I just really enjoy car club and enjoy the people.” All we have to say to Roger is “Right back at ya.”



Meet-n-Eat Schedule

Every October until May, Great Plains Street Rodders transition to a supper social club. Hotrods Optional.
Please join us. Many of these gatherings have special group rates. Guests are welcome.

Schedule is also posted on greatplainsstreetrodders.com
(2017 Schedule) **Schedule is subject to change to accommodate the group's fun.

Feb. 22 – VFW

3601 S. Minnesota Avenue, Special priced items

Mar. 1 – The Cracker Barrel

2409 S. Shirley Avenue, SF, Regular menu items

Mar. 8 – Buffalo Wild Wings - Louise

2601 S Louise Ave., SF, Regular menu items (mention club to hostess)

Mar. 15 – Brandon Steakhouse

1308 East Rushmore Drive, Brandon

Mar. 22 – HyVee Market Grill – (49th/Louise Ave.)

4101 S. Louise Avenue, SF

Mar. 29 – Crack'd Pot

1430 N. Minnesota Avenue, SF, Regular menu items

Apr. 5 – Monarch Steak House

47409 – 258th Street, Renner

Apr. 12 – Hartford Steak Co. Tavern

709 N. Mundt Avenue, Hartford

Apr. 19 – VFW

3601 S. Minnesota Avenue, Special priced items

Apr. 26 – Shenanigan's Pub (26th & Ellis Rd.)

3809 E. 10th Street, SF, Regular buffet items

2017 Summer Cruise Season Begins

May 3 – Harris Burgers

106 E. Willow St. Harrisburg, Regular menu items

May 10 – To Be Determined.

May 17 – Sonic / Northern Tool (tentative)

3910 West 34th Street, Sioux Falls

May 24 – Lower Sherman Park – Potluck (tentative)

805 S Kiwanis Ave, Sioux Falls, SD

May 31 – J&L Harley Davidson

2601 West 60th Street, Sioux Falls, SD

June 7 – Terry Koch Race Shop

26846 469th Ave, Sioux Falls, SD

