



# Cruisin' News

May 2016

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Newsletter Editor – Susan Seachris

## *Sunny Warm or Cloudy Cold*

By Clay Seachris

President's message

This month has had some crazy weather, which basically means it's been a typical Sioux Falls area spring. Last Wednesday we had a perfect evening for a cruise and Wendy's was packed with street rodders. Then the weekend comes and everyone who's planted flowers is covering them and hoping they don't freeze. A parent reminded me that last year at this time summer break would have begun already. However, our summer cruise has not changed and we're a couple weeks into our 22 weeks of cruise nights.

The season kicked off with a beautiful evening in Harrisburg at Harrisburgers and then, as mentioned, we were blessed with another perfect evening the next week. In between those dates, The Renner Garage hosted another successful NSRA Inspection Day, and we all got some cruising in here and there. The Brookings cruise was another one where we got a sunny, warm day and about 30 street rods made the trek up to Brookings. On the way back home the group stopped off for a photo opp at the vintage garage in Colton and then enjoyed touring I-29 Antiques in Hartford and an open house at Rick and Betsy Petersen's place.

All you potential cruise organizers keep in mind this group is large enough that if you have an idea for a cruise, you may just share it with me and I can "shotgun" an invite to all the other Great Plains Street Rodders and it's just about that easy to make for a memorable weekend cruise. We are fortunate to have "many hands making light work" putting together cruises and social gatherings. I know I-29 Antiques wants us back again. Rock Rapids is a great cruise destination. Many surrounding communities have nice parks and we can always wrangle up some grub for a picnic run. Our motto has always been will cruise for food. ☺

For a color copy of the newsletter or to see additional photos, go to our website [greatplainsstreetrodders.com](http://greatplainsstreetrodders.com).

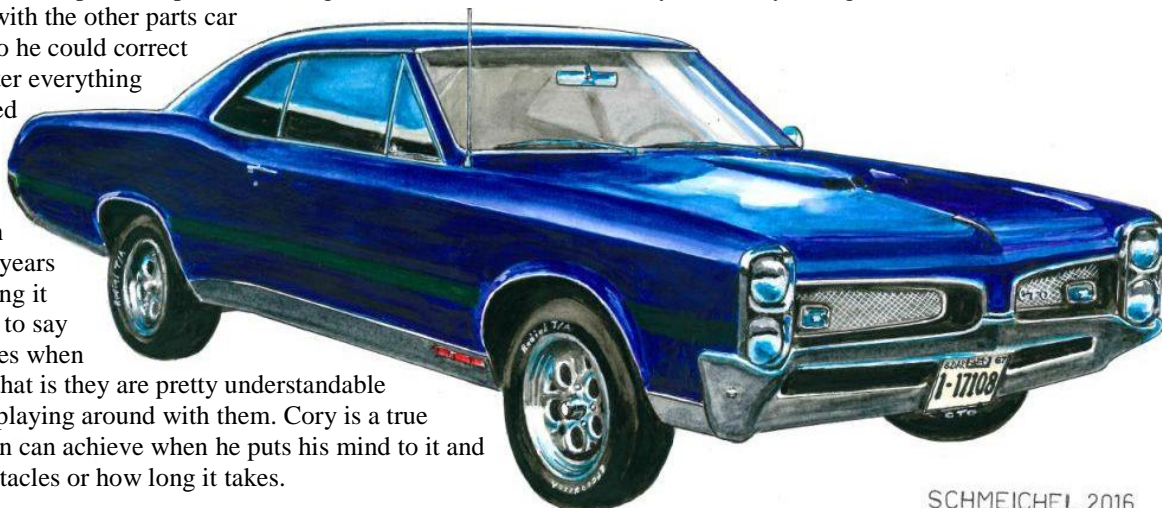


## First Claimed Muscle

By Bob Schmeichel

My father had one of the first GTOs in Sioux Falls in 1964. It was a black two-door sedan with a white interior, black wheels, dog dish hubcaps and Firestone redline "Tiger Paw" tires, as Pontiac called them. It was rather a plain, unsuspecting car until you opened the hood and saw the 348 HP 389 with three two-barrel carburetors hooked to a 4-speed trans behind it. Because I was so engrossed about cars at the age of 15 then, I always took the opportunity to open the hood and show others the engine with its chrome valve covers and air cleaners that it came with from the factory. Because it had 3.08 rear end gears, the car seemed to have unlimited power after 135mph even when you let off and stepped on it again as I witnessed one night while riding with my dad and my uncle, Roy, driving. Oh, and there is nothing like the sound of three two-barrel carburetors when they are all wide open sounding like someone gargling with mouth wash in their throat. I really liked that '64 GTO because it was a factory hot rod during that time frame and has always been claimed to have started the muscle car era as has been noted in Hot Rod Magazine for many years thereafter. Oldsmobile, Chevrolet, Buick, Ford, Dodge and Plymouth all followed with their own versions of muscle cars shortly after the GTO came out. The muscle car era grew stronger every year until 1970 when the government started imposing emissions regulations forcing horse power ratings down. It would take another thirty-some years before the public would see horsepower and speed come back mainly because of consumer demand. Factory cars are faster today than they have ever been, creating new excitement for anyone loving acceleration along with getting great gas mileage. Having both was always unheard of.

Cory Enderson's first car was a 1972 Pontiac Lemans. Because of that car, he developed a real love for Pontiacs, more specifically '66 and '67 GTOs. He said the thing that excited him more than anything else was his first impression of the car's body style looking like it was all muscle with its big back end and its powerful stance prevailing as it moved. A longtime friend of Cory's, knowing of Cory's fondness, found a listing of a 1967 GTO for sale on Craigslist in August of 2012 and mentioned it to tease him. As Cory dug into getting information about the car for sale, he found out it was originally a California car now located in Rapid City. The present owner was a retired police officer who already had one restored 1967 GTO and because of health issues, was selling two other GTOs he had intended on doing down the road, but now couldn't. After visiting a bit, Cory was the new owner of not one, but two '67 GTOs and a bunch of boxes of extra parts. With the engine and transmission work already done for one of the two cars he had bought, Cory enlisted a friend to do a few small patch panel repairs on the better body while getting the body work done and into the first stages of painting. After getting the body on the top side to an acceptable state of restoration along with painting the body bottom and frame, the complete drivetrain was then put in place. After that the car was then taken to another friend to do the finishing paint with applying color and clear. It turned out gorgeous!! A year and a half pasted during this beginning process, so next came the interior. Even though Cory had enough parts to do two complete interiors with all that he had bought, he ordered complete new interior kit and utilized the best parts of what he had to install the new seat covers on and anything else inside the car that needed refurbishing. The end result inside with all the little details yielded quite a clean and stunning appearance making the car have a better-than-new look. After adding his last pieces to finish the restoration and seeing the end, Cory knew he had to get some time on the engine by driving it to break it in since it was supposedly rebuilt and never run by the last owner. So finally with the last step of getting a new exhaust system on to keep it quiet, off he went and for the first time really enjoying this new '67 GTO. After a second day of driving the car with about 300 miles on it now, he noticed the engine was starting to get hot and knocking. Not knowing what was going on, he turned around and idled back home full of discouragement. Later a decision was made to pull the engine and take it apart to figure out what was going on. After getting it disassembled and getting everything to a machine shop, it was discovered that there was some fiberglass blasting media left inside the heads by whoever had done the previous engine work. This caused the engine to run hot, spin a couple rod bearings and ruin the crank shaft. Cory was lucky enough to have another complete engine that came with the other parts car that gave up its crankshaft so he could correct this part of his dilemma. After everything else about the engine checked out okay, Cory was relieved, allowing him to rebuild the engine with confidence and put it all back together again one last time. That was two years ago and Cory has been driving it ever since. One thing I have to say about the cars from the sixties when they are kept that way, and that is they are pretty understandable as people learn by doing or playing around with them. Cory is a true testament as to what a person can achieve when he puts his mind to it and sticks to it no matter the obstacles or how long it takes.





## *Betsy the Matchmaker*

By Karen Roe

Harry Anderson was one of those guys who leaves his Christmas lights up year around, adding a nativity scene in December for special effect. Though no spring chicken, he was always helping the elderly neighbors, like Mrs. Benton, mowing lawns or trimming hedges, accepting nothing in return but a batch of homemade cookies.

Good with his hands, Harry could fix anything – appliances, lawn mowers, leaky faucets, and his specialty, old cars. Once, Patsy Henley, his next door neighbor, asked him how he knew so much. He shrugged his shoulders, sharing his simple philosophy, “I jus' watch what people are doin' and listen to what they say. Sometimes I actually learn somethin'.”

Since Harry's wife had passed over a decade ago, the love of his life was an ebony 1940 Ford Sedan, he affectionately called “Betsy.” Now, he handed over the keys to Patsy.

“Are you sure you're willing to trust us with Betsy, Harry? My friends and I are looking forward to cruising in that pretty ‘old gal,’ but we'd understand if you've changed your mind.”

“Naw,” he assured her, “it's been awhile since Betsy's been out for a spin. She needs to have the cobs blowed out. Take her an' have fun. You can park her in yer drive and I'll come for her in the mornin'.”

“Oh, one more thing,” he added as a cautionary after-thought, “Betsy's kinda temperamental. If ya give her gas before she starts, you'll flood the engine.”

Moments later, Patsy was on her way. After she picked up Sue and Joann, they meandered through town. The balmy, April day drew residents outside and prompted Betsy's passengers to roll down the windows. They responded enthusiastically to the smiles and waves that Miss Betsy generated as she rumbled her way through the streets of Huntsville.

Before long, Patsy pulled into the high school parking lot, their “arduous” journey at an end. Locals defined the size of Huntsville by joking that if their star quarterback threw a pass from one end of town, it would be easily caught at the other end.

Patsy settled Betsy in the far corner of the parking lot and the girls headed for the gym where they were soon mingling with other classmates.

The Sadie Hawkins dance was an annual spring event. The girls were supposed to ask the boys to dance but the ratio of females to males was about three to one, which meant that their choice of partners was often slim pickins. The rules weren't too stringent, though, so boys often did the asking. Patsy had been on the floor for over an hour and was sitting one out when Joann came rushing over. She grabbed Patsy's hands in her typically melodramatic way. “Sue doesn't feel well so she called her brother and he's coming to get her,” she informed, all in one breath. She gushed on, “I know we were going to do more cruising tonight, Patsy, but Jerry's offered me a ride home. I think he wants to ask me to go steady again,” she squeezed her friend's hand. “Do you mind?” she gave Patsy her best pleading, puppy-dog look.

Patsy was tempted to roll her eyes. The fickle couple had already broken up three times. An ice cube in a sauna would last long than those two, Patsy thought, but she couldn't deny a friend. “I'm sure Harry will let us have Betsy another time. Go ahead. I'll see you in school on Monday.”

When the gym started to empty, Patsy headed for the sedan. Behind the wheel, she reached inside her bag for the key when she saw Sam Durham enter the parking lot. As usual, her heart did a series of flip-flops. Sam had been a year ahead of her, graduating last spring. She didn't know him well, but Sue claimed that he was the nicest of all the guys her brother hung out with. The best-looking, too, Patsy noted as he cruised over to a group of buddies he'd known from track.

Like Harry, Sam was fond of old cars. He still drove the same '34 Ford pick-up he had restored as a sophomore. Patsy recalled that in school, he had worked weekends and summers in his father's auto repair shop. Now, he worked there full time. Patsy continued ogling Sam, admitting to herself that she still harbored a secret crush. She knew that Sam didn't date much. Sue had joked once that his idea of romance was to hold hands with a ratchet wrench all day. If only I could find a way to get better acquainted, Patsy mused hopefully.

Suddenly, her mouth turned up in a devious grin. Patsy moved her foot purposefully to the accelerator. Seconds later, she turned the key in the ignition and felt a surge of satisfaction when Betsy gave out a pitiful whine. Two more unsuccessful attempts signaled that Betsy was not about to cooperate. In a very short time, Patsy's knight in shining armor pulled up alongside her.

“Looks like Betsy's got a different driver tonight,” he noted. “Maybe that's why she's being so temperamental,” he added with a teasing grin. “I think I know what the problem is, if you want me to give it a try.”

Careful not to overdue her helpless female act, Patsy simply smiled her appreciation. “Sure, be my guest.” She quickly slid out of the driver's seat.

Behind the wheel, Sam pressed the gas pedal down as far as he could. He held it to the floor while turning the key in the ignition. He waited patiently for Betsy to respond. At first, she sputtered in protest, but Sam persisted.

(Continued - *Betsy the Matchmaker*)

Finally, the engine fired and the old girl sprang to life. He listened to the steady rumble of her motor, then confident that it was no longer flooded, hopped out of the Ford sedan.

Standing offside, Patsy had been watching her rescuer work his magic on Betsy. As she stepped back to the sedan, Sam's frank gaze took in the curvy outline of the petite blonde. She looked good in the green dress, the same mossy color as her eyes.

"She should be all right now, but I could follow you home in case she acts up," he offered.

Patsy barely hesitated. "Thanks. That would be great if it won't be too much trouble."

Sam answered with a flirty grin, "How could escorting a pretty girl in a cool classic car be too much trouble?"

Patsy pulled up into her driveway while Sam parked by the curb. He joined her as she stood next to the sedan. Through the darkness, Sam peered over at her neighbor's house. "You've lived next door to Harry a long time, haven't you?" he asked, jump- starting a conversation.

"Since I was three, but how did you know?"

"Harry comes into the shop for lube jobs. He talks about your family a lot."

"Oh, yeah," Patsy quipped. "So are we the Cleavers or the Frankensteins?"

"Well...let's see..." Sam continued in the same light-hearted vein. "According to Harry, your mom is a terrific cook, your dad's hard working, and you and your little sister are paragons of virtue –except that time you let your pet rabbit loose in his garden and "Bugsy" toured the garden like it was a salad bar." He grinned when his final comment earned him a playful poke in the ribs.

Patsy's warm smile, revealed in the porch light, encouraged Sam to surge on. "It's a beautiful night. If it's not too late, we could go for a drive, take my truck and give Betsy a rest. Nothing's open but the pop machine at the shop is loaded. I could show you the 'beast' I'm working on," he added, hoping his last suggestion qualified as an enticement.

Patsy quickly nodded her assent. As they pulled into the street, she suppressed a small grin of self-satisfaction. She had followed Harry's philosophy and listened to his advice about Betsy only she had applied it in a slightly different way than Harry intended. She didn't think Harry would mind. As for Betsy, she might even be smiling right now.

Please join us for an old-fashioned

## CAR HOP

Burgers, Hot Dogs and Homemade Ice Cream



Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 5:00-7:00 pm

Don't miss the classic cars and raffle!

Cost: Free-will donation

Harrisburg United Methodist Church  
204 Grand Avenue • (605) 767-2253



## Ladies' May Day Brunch

A fun morning – thank you, Cheryl, Charlotta, Ellen and all who helped and attended!



## Spomer Classics Car Show 'n Shine

322 Oxford Street

Worthington, Minnesota

SATURDAY MAY 28, 2016

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Cruisin' Lake Okabena 2:00 pm



## Welcome New Car Guy

Congratulations Josh and Lisa Frock. They just added another new car guy to their family. Wesley Merritt Frock, 8lbs. 11oz. and 21 ½ inches long, was born at 11:53 p.m. on May 3. This also adds another grandson for David Frock. We wish them all the best.



## Great Plains Facebook

We just opened our own Facebook page. Thank you, Mark Bowers, for setting up the Great Plains Street Rodders page. Facebook is a quick and easy way for Clay Seachris and other members to share pictures, video, flyers and comments. We're still learning, but so far it's a hit so check it out. It's been nice to communicate with other car clubs. Our website is still active and updated periodically. Club group email remains our primary means of communication. Your dues pay for that along with our website. This is just an option and it's free.



**Join us on  
Facebook**

## Transparent Financials

The Great Plains Street Rodders club financials and business management is always operated with transparency to all fellow members. This transparency gives peace of mind to volunteer officers and to our members. When we were smaller, it was simple to pass around an annual balance sheet. As we've grown, so have the questions regarding income and expenses. So with this in mind, the officers openly share our Annual Income and Expenses here. Thank you to Jayne DeBoer for keeping such detailed finances. We are fortunate to have an accountant volunteer for this time consuming task. Same as prior years, for stability, we operate with a one-year surplus. Since dues are \$10 per person with approximately 330 members our fiscal year end can easily be estimated.

	2015	2014
Beginning Balance:	\$2,828.49	\$2,109.11
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Dues	\$2,365.00	\$2,160.00
Logo Wear	\$15.00	\$464.00
Valentine's Party	\$930.00	\$0.00
Christmas Party	\$1,320.00	\$1,080.00
Plaques	\$380.00	\$603.00
Labor Day Picnic	\$225.00	\$183.00
Photos	\$6.00	
Total Income:	\$5,241.00	\$4,490.00
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Newsletters & Printing	\$339.14	\$327.03
Appreciation	\$400.00	\$300.00
Plaques	\$465.00	\$555.00
Photos	\$150.00	\$130.75
Website	\$59.40	\$95.28
Funerals & Memorials	\$450.00	\$300.00
Logo Wear	\$0.00	\$480.25
Valentine's Party	\$966.90	\$146.41
Children's Home Society	\$184.09	\$185.78
Weinie Roast	\$214.33	\$91.71
Christmas Party	\$1,240.25	\$1,153.41
Labor Day Picnic	\$277.08	
Dues Refund		\$5.00
Total Expenses:	\$4,746.19	\$3,770.62
Ending Balance:	\$3,323.30	\$2,828.49

## May Birthdays

(2nd half)

Archie Dunham	18
Ron Heemstra	23
Bob Irvine	25
Audrey Jorgenson	27
Virgene Schrader	29
Candi Hanson	30
Darla Schmuck	30
Virginia Solheim	31

## June Birthdays

(1st half)

Fred Vegge	2
Ivan Buskol	5
Duane Rogers	6
Sarah Stokes	6
Deb DeBoer	9
Vern Jensen	9
Shirley Fick	10
Ann Larson	11
Jason Jellis	13
Carol Lee	13
Tina Irvine	15

## May Anniversaries

(2nd half)

Mike and Sheila Miller	17
Archie and Julie Dunham	17
Ben and Tami Ekrem	19
Ken and Barb Buchanan	27

## June Anniversaries

(1st half)

Mike and Lori Paulson	4
Bob and Tina Irvine	7
Steve and Rhonda Ollerich	7
Ron and Lynn Hammerschmidt	10
Clay and Susan Seachris	10
Gary and Audrey Jorgenson	11
Larry and Kris Golden	12
Jeff and Jean Knowlton	13

## Sympathy Offered

Our thoughts and prayers go out to fellow friend/member, Mike Miller and his family. Mike's brother, Steve Miller, passed away at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha on May 11. Please keep Mike and Sheila in your prayers as they go through this difficult time.



## Photographs and Memories

by Tom Olsen



I'm a car guy and veteran Great Plains Street Rodder from Sioux Falls who developed an interest in cars in the early 1960s, and that passion has been with me all these years. Each month I'll share a picture or two in the newsletter and will offer a short narrative on each for your enjoyment. While I'm primarily a Chevy guy, I'll do my best to mix things up a bit so everyone sees something they might enjoy.

## Rotonda's Speed Shop

While stationed in New Jersey in 1967 and again in 1969, I had the good fortune of watching Carmen Rotonda's '61 Corvette race at Englishtown, N.J.

This car was a top performer over a several-year period and won a variety of national events and held multiple national records. It always ran in the stock classes and, depending on engine configuration and year, was in classes from C/Stock down to G/Stock in the years I saw it. Most commonly it had the dual 4-barrel 283 engine (270hp), or the fuel injected 283 engine (283hp) and a 4-speed trans. However it was set-up, it was always a top contender.

Also, check out that cool color-matched hauler truck in the green photo. Carmen operated Rotonda's Speed Shop, nearby, and prepared many top east coast drag cars. I believe this car has now been fully restored to race trim.



TS Olsen photo  
1969



TS Olsen photo  
10-67



# Meet-n-Eat and Summer Cruise Schedule



- |                 |   |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| <b>5/25/16</b>  | <b>Lower Sherman Park</b><br>805 S. Kiwanis Ave., Sioux Falls                             | <b>07/06/16</b> | <b>Jack Fox Park - Lincoln County Cruisers</b><br>225 N. Broadway, Canton, SD                       |
| <b>6/01/16</b>  | <b>J&amp;L Harley Davidson</b><br>2601 W. 60 <sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls            | <b>07/13/16</b> | <b>Falls Overlook Café &amp; Hot Summer Nites</b><br>825 N. Weber, Sioux Falls, SD                  |
| <b>06/08/16</b> | <b>Terry Koch Race Shop</b><br>26846 469th Ave., Sioux Falls, SD                          | <b>07/20/16</b> | <b>Wall Lake - Sioux Empire Ford Club host</b><br>Wall Lake Township                                |
| <b>06/15/16</b> | <b>Handy-Man Cruise Night</b><br>910 E. 10th Street, Sioux Falls, SD                      | <b>07/27/16</b> | <b>Riverdale Park – Potluck</b><br>2000 East 24 <sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls, SD               |
| <b>06/22/16</b> | <b>Children's Home Society, Root Beer Social</b><br>801 N. Sycamore Ave., Sioux Falls, SD | <b>08/03/16</b> | <b>Poker Run - Great Plains Street Rodders</b><br>Start - Dan Dugan Park, 37 <sup>th</sup> & Duluth |
| <b>06/29/16</b> | <b>Cruise Night - Empire Pontiac host</b><br>Sherman Park, 805 S. Kiwanis Ave             | <b>08/10/16</b> | <b>Olsen's Garage</b><br>2409 W. 85th Street, Sioux Falls, SD                                       |

## Flyers Emailed to the Great Plains Street Rodders

# Spring Rally & Car Show

**2016**

**Saturday, May 21**  
**11am – 1:45pm**

**FREE inflatables for the kids!**

**Luverne Cruise at 1:45pm**

**\*\*\* NEW \*\*\* Cruise around Luverne added for 2016!**

Anyone interested in displaying their vehicle(s) is encouraged to pre-register in order to have vehicle signage ready. Registration forms are available at [www.facebook.com/papikmotors](http://www.facebook.com/papikmotors) and at Papik Motors. Or, call 507-283-9171 or 800-834-7701. Note: Registration is FREE.

**FREE burgers will be served by the Rock-Nobles Cattlemen's Assoc. from 11:30am until gone.**

**Street Rods - Classics - Collectibles - Race Cars**  
**Drivers - Refreshments - Burgers - Door Prizes**

THE FIFTH ANNUAL

# ANGELS WITH A DREAM

Car Show

BENEFITTING  
**MAKE-A-WISH**  
South Dakota

CAR SHOW | WINE TASTING | SILENT AUCTION | RAFFLES | FOOD | BAKE SALE

**Sunday, June 12, 2016 • Great Bear Recreation Park**  
Car Registration starts at 10 am • Silent Auction from 10 am - 3 pm  
Car Show from 11 am - 3:30 pm • Live Band • Rain or Shine!

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

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**REGISTER YOUR CAR OR MOTORCYCLE FOR THE SHOW NOW!**  
\$20 ENTRY FEE PER VEHICLE

To register, send an email to: [angelswithadream@gmail.com](mailto:angelswithadream@gmail.com) or to: [rbdlito@sio.midco.net](mailto:rbdlito@sio.midco.net)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO MAKE-A-WISH® SOUTH DAKOTA TO GRANT A CHILD'S WISH



**Classified Ads**  
(Free to All Members)



**FOR SALE – Old Universal Remote Oil Filter** with 3 spare filters make offer. Also old flat head parts cyl. heads oilpan, manifolds bunch of other flathead engine parts - Make offer and you may own all of it! Charlie Hollingshead 254-2692



**FOR SALE – 1947 Blue Ford Club Coupe Street Rod**, Ford 302 engine W/B&M Supercharger, Ford A.O.D. transmission, Ford 9" rear-end W/Richmond 3:55 gears, A.C. & Heat, P.S., Mustang II front-end, Louvered hood W/flames, removable A.M./F.M., C.D. radio, Custom dash and gauges, Battery kill switch, Custom designed rims, Great tires. No known rust. Over \$45,000 invested a real buy at \$24,900. You couldn't build this vehicle today for anywhere close to the price. Contact: Bill Kullander 605 366-1158

***Who Kept This Gift at the Ladies' Brunch?***



**FOR SALE – 1964 Galaxy 500 2dr Hardtop**, all new interior, recent paint and restoration updates. Asking price is \$25,000. Call Mel Holmbeck for more info or make an offer. 361-2740, "Dorothy and I enjoy this Ford. I'm just looking for something different." ☺



**CAR SHOW & SHINE**  
WORTHINGTON, MN  
Saturday, May 28, 2016  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Cruise Lake Okabena at 2:00

» TOUR MUSEUM OF AUTOMOBILE MEMORABILIA  
» FOOD STAND ON PREMISES

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