



Cruisin' News

December 2005

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Santa Knows Me

(more ramblings from the editor)

I got a letter from Santa Claus recently. Reading it kind of shed a new light on Santa's personality.

I thought I'd share some of what the letter said, so all of you could get to know Santa a little better and read about what he thought of my desires for Christmas.

"Are you crazy!?" Santa wrote at the beginning of his letter. "Year after year you send me a letter asking for the same thing. At first I thought you were joking, but as more letters came, I began to realize you have not retained all of your faculties."

I thought I was just showing a lot of faith in Santa's abilities.

"You've seen my ride," Santa continued. "Some depictions are very small, but I will admit I have the largest sleigh in the world. It will hold a lot of toys.

"Some may see 'romance' in an open top vehicle, but I must say it gets pretty darn cold in an open sleigh flying at 10,000 feet in the middle of winter. That's why I give so many children stuffed animals for Christmas, because they make great insulation piled around me. Why couldn't you ask for a stuffed animal?

"Do you really expect me to bring you a full sized, genuine antique automobile in that sleigh? It's not that big! One year it's a 1958 Rolls Royce, the next year it's a 1936 Cord, another year it's a 1956 Ford Victoria and this year it's a 1956 Ford T-Bird. I'll grant you that they do get to be smaller vehicles each year, but even a 1956 T-Bird is NOT going to fit in my sleigh! And speaking of sleigh, are you trying to slay my reindeer, expecting them to pull that kind of load?"

At this point I'm thinking a 1960 Triumph TR-3 is a really small car, and I like them a lot. Perhaps I wasn't quite getting the point, but I continued to read the letter.

"If you do not stop asking for these ridiculous presents, I will be forced to bring you nothing but a stocking full of coal. Or I might even take my lead elf's suggestion and bring you salt, but instead of filling it in your stocking, I'll dump it inside the 1961 T-Bird you already have and have each reindeer leave his sent along with it! In other words, you're this close to making the naughty list!"

OK, I got the point.

So I won't be writing Santa anymore. I've gotten too old for that anyway.

I took up praying instead. Prayers are delivered a lot faster than letters to Santa, anyway.

Then last night I suddenly saw a host of angels in the sky, just like in the story of the Christ child's birth. I stood there, breathless, waiting for that Hallelujah chorus.

"Are you crazy?" one of them suddenly hollered. "Do you really think God's going to send you a car? Don't you think God has more important things in life for you than a 1937 Packard?"

I was in trouble. It's one thing to make Santa mad at you, but it's definitely not good to have God unhappy with you.

"But it's Christmas," I stammered. What a dumb thing to say, but a person tends to be a little flabbergasted when in the presence of a host of angels.

"That's right," the angel said! "And since you know that much, I have this message for you. Christmas is about Jesus, not about obtaining additional antique cars. Be grateful for the blessings God has given you and look for ways to bless Him back instead of asking for more worldly blessings!"

Oh, that hurt -- grouping antique cars and hotrods with worldliness. I always thought they were a little more significant than material wealth. You know, because of the history, and stuff.

But I learned my lesson. I'm not writing to Santa for antique cars anymore. And I'm not asking God to give me more old cars for Christmas, either.

I'm writing to you!

But I won't ask you to give me a 1950 Studebaker for Christmas. Rather, I want to wish God's blessings on you, and have a very merry Christmas!

He Really DOES Have a Convertible

It's true. Bones and Candy Hanson really do have a 1963 Oldsmobile 98 convertible. Bones even drove it one day last month, although it was only to pull it out of the garage and then back in, never leaving the driveway.

"I don't want to get it dirty," Bones said.

He bought the car in the fall of 2004 from someone in Omaha. His sister's boss had acquired it through a Catholic charity auction, Bones relates. It was in pretty good shape then, and when that previous owner decided to sell it, Bones' sister put him in touch with Bones.

"He sent me a picture over the Internet and I bought it immediately," Bones said.

Although the car wasn't in bad shape, Bones decided it needed some sprucing up. One thing led to another until almost the entire car had been gone over.

While the car was not taken off the frame, it was torn apart as much as it could be without removing it from the frame. Everything up front was taken apart until there was nothing forward of the firewall. The motor was completely rebuilt and the entire engine bay is well detailed. The upholstery and convertible top are also new. The frame received fresh undercoating protection.

"Everything's brand new on it," Bones said. "Everything's been redone just the way it ought to be."

He had a lot of the work done at Wayne's Auto Body in Luverne, MN, and confessed that he did drive it to the shop.

"I got it driven over there and back, and that's about it," he said.

He also acquired the original spinner-style wheel covers for it, which were quite costly, he noted.

The car features a 374 c.i. engine with 4 barrel carburetor. It runs premium grade gasoline, although Bones said he has been told it can run on regular. It also has power windows, power brakes, power steering and automatic transmission.

The only thing left to do, Bones said, is to finish detailing the trunk, which he often uses for his excuse not to show the car. Having already done so much to it, he wants it perfect.

And yet, even before he finishes the car's restoration, he is making plans to sell it. He wasn't planning to sell it when he bought it, but with winter here, he has decided he cannot justify filling his garage with old cars to where there's no room for the other cars to avoid frost and snow.

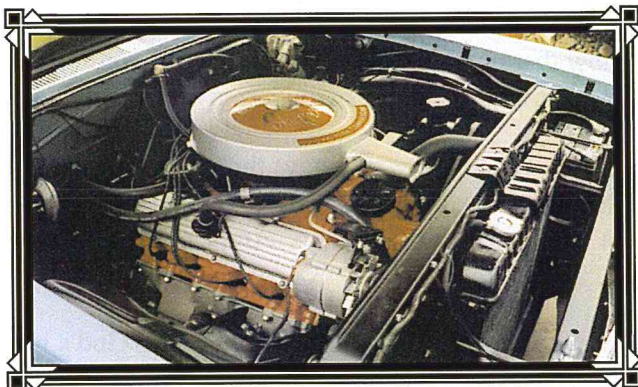
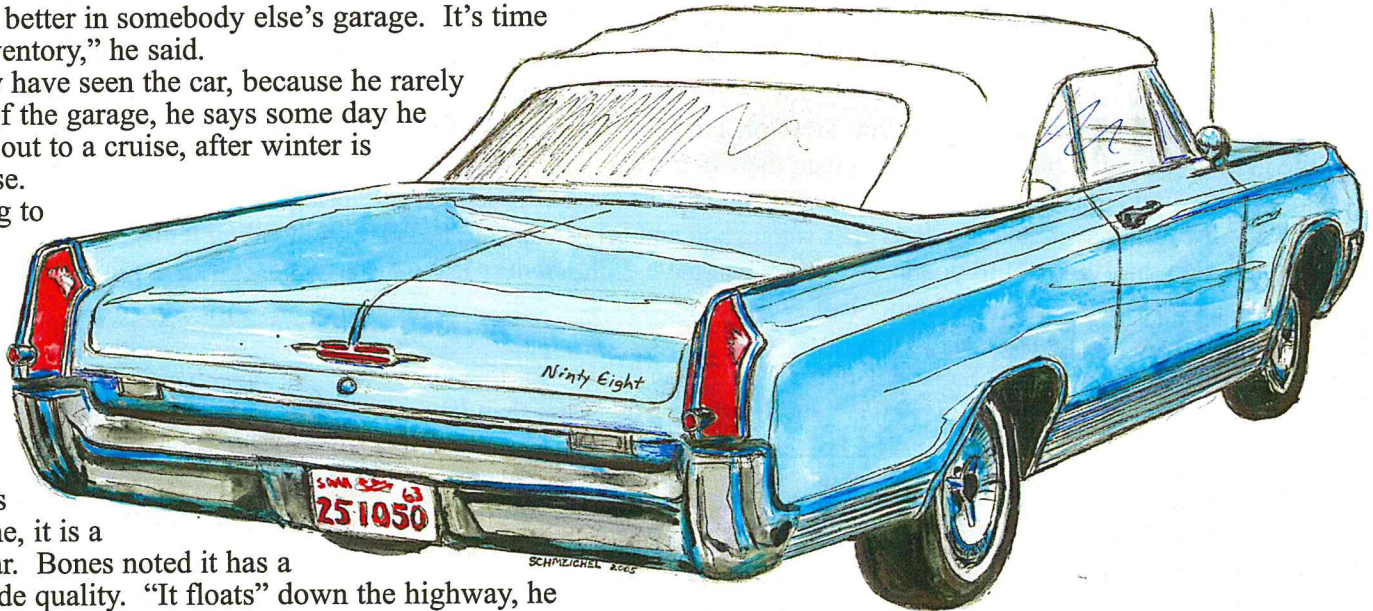
"It'll look better in somebody else's garage. It's time to reduce inventory," he said.

While few have seen the car, because he rarely takes it out of the garage, he says some day he may bring it out to a cruise, after winter is over of course.

"I'm going to drive it once before I sell it," he said.

The car was made for cruising. The 98 being Oldsmobile's top of the line, it is a very large car. Bones noted it has a wonderful ride quality. "It floats" down the highway, he said.

If he does start driving it, he may change his mind about selling it. Maybe that's the real reason he doesn't drive it.



December Birthdays

Connie Fiferlick-12/01
Ron Hammerschmidt-12/02
Marlo Jones-12/07
Gary Ebright-12/11
Cathy Walker-12/13
Barb Schriever-12/17
LeAnne Phillips-12/20
Helen Jensen-12/21
Nancy McGregor-12/24
Henry Buus-12/24
Chris Johnson-12/31

December Anniversaries

Glenn & Cathy Walker-12/19
Jim & Mary Jo Christensen-12/30
Gary & Judy Ebright-12/31
Fred & Nancy Snyder-12/31

January Birthdays

Ike Wiese-1/5
Bob Schriever-1/8
Jean Tlustos-1/10
Michelle Lee-1/14
Randy Ludwig-1/16
Doreen -1/21
Marilyn Haper-1/24
Mary Thoen-1/27

January Anniversaries

Allen & Shirley Alby-1-20
Bob & Mary Thoen-1/23

Upcoming Cruises & Events

Dec. 14 China Express
Dec. 21 Uncle Angelo's
Dec. 28 Marlin's
Jan 4 Ruby Tuesdays (E 10th St.)
Jan 11 Roll'n Pin
Jan. 15 Hobo stew party at the Shrine Center
Jan 18 Shenanigan's
Jan 21 Christmas party at the Renner Legion Hall.
Jan 25 Cracker Barrel
Feb 1 Coyote Canyon
Feb 8 Champs
Feb 15 Valentino's
Feb 22 Ming Wah

Fill The Scrapbook

Photos of events involving the Great Plains Streetrodders are being sought.

Club president Doug Walker has the club scrapbook, which holds pictures of some past events, but mostly from previous years. He asks that if anyone has a photo for the scrapbook, please give it to him so he can include it, thereby updating the scrapbook.

We Have Winners

There were plenty of winners at the first cruise of the month in December.

Because attendance was so low due to a severe snow storm Nov. 30, the winter poker run was extended one week. Those with the winning poker hands were Jules Haper, Bones Hansen, Candy Hansen and Mike Paulson.

The poker run prizes were a decorated trash can, an artistic rendering of a road runner, a model of a Chevy Nomad and a motorcycle M&Ms candy dispenser.

The winning raffle ticket numbers were also drawn. Three of the winners were Ken Buchanan, Brad Goebel and Don Jensen. Two winning tickets are yet to be presented. The numbers of the as-yet unclaimed winning tickets are 408944 and 408969. Anyone still holding those tickets who were not present Dec. 7 to claim their prize should contact Doug Walker to get their prize.

The prizes for the raffle were gift certificates for area restaurants.

Submissions For The Newsletter

If you have anything to submit for the Great Plains Streetrodders newsletter, the deadline is the second Wednesday of each month. Anything will be considered for addition to the newsletter.

To submit something, contact Brian Lee at 605-498-0178, email bg4given@gmail.com or look for him around his 1961 Ford Thunderbird or 1951 Chevy sedan delivery.

Classified Ads

WANTED – 1960-1974 Volkswagen Bug (standard Beetle). Need not be running, don't want a convertible nor Super Beetle, nor automatic transmission. Call Jules at 361-1127.

WANTED – Chevy engine, 305 or 350 c.i. in running condition. Call Kenny Buchanan at 334-6668 or 376-7264

FOR SALE - 1970 Monte Carlo, ivory white, mechanically excellent, interior and body needs restoration. 350/350 automatic. May sell the street and strip engine with dart heads separate since it was originally built to go in another rod. Total package \$3,600. Call Eugene (712) 338-9036.

FOR SALE – 1942 Packard parts, including a grill, trim pieces, windows and more. Call Gary Ebright at 339-4571.

FOR SALE – 14-inch beauty rings and baby moons to fit Ford rims. This is a complete set of four, but one of the baby moon hub caps is banged up. The whole set will go for \$20. Call Brian at 498-0178.

WANTED – Classified ads for the Great Plains Streetrodders newsletter. If you are a member of the club, it'll cost you nothing. But it can help you sell something, or find something. The very first time that classified ads were included in the newsletter, they worked. Brian Lee sold a Johnny Lightening diecast car. To place your ad, call Brian at 498-0178 or email him at bg4given@gmail.com



Come To The Party

Once again, the Great Plains Streetrodders will be celebrating Christmas as a club a little late, but with no less joy.

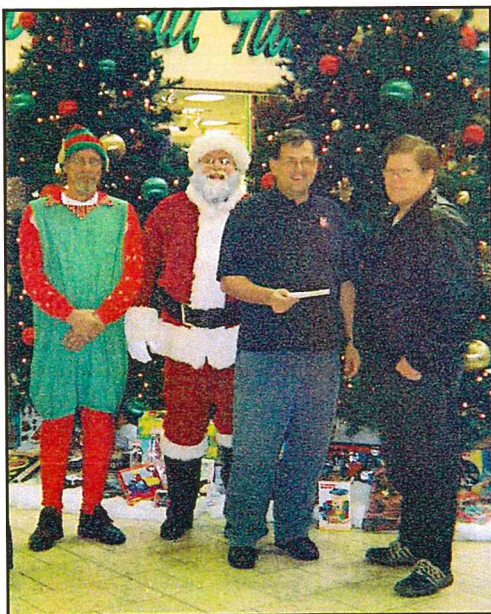
The Christmas party will be held Jan 21 at Legion Hall in Renner at 6 p.m.

Those attending are asked to bring a gift valued at about \$10, preferably specific to their gender, for a gift exchange. Couples should bring one gift for a male recipient and a second gift for a female recipient, each valued at around \$10.

Dinner will be served, consisting of whatever you bring. It will be a "pot-luck" dinner, so each one attending is asked to bring a dish of something delicious to eat.

Donations Were Made

The Great Plains Streetrodders took part in Christmas giving Dec. 10 as they brought gifts to area charities along with the Siouxland Car Council. President Doug Walker relates how things went:



Many of the Great Plains members gathered at Driveline Service that morning where Lori Paulson had rolls and drinks for everyone. We left there around 9:45 a.m. for the mall, and Santa and his elf, Corky, also were present. We gave a check to the commander of the Salvation Army for The Angel Tree program. The Great Plains Streetrodders had also collected food items that were donated to the Children's Inn. A tour was then given for the Children's Inn. Then we were off to the Banquet where we gave a check to Carolynn Downs.

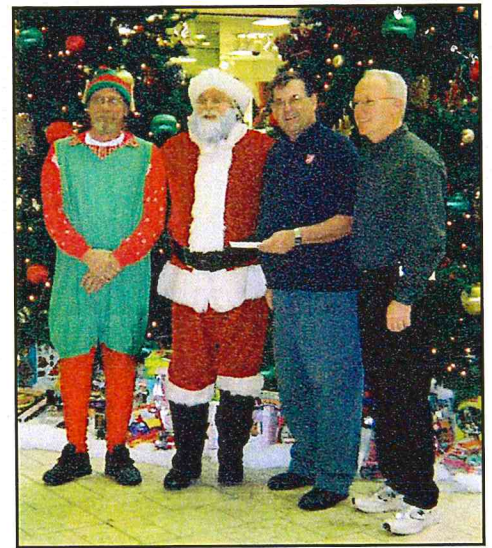
We want to make a special thank you to Mike and Lori Paulson for letting us meet there and for Lori's rolls. We also thank Santa and Corky for their participation. Santa was played by Gary Bowman from Hills, MN., and Corky Schriever was the elf.

The raffle ticket sales raised \$40 and the poker run made \$195. It was decided to use \$60 from the poker run and the \$40 from the raffle to present a check for \$100 to The Angel Tree. The rest of the money was placed in the bank to save for a possible picnic next year during the summer.

We hope everyone in the Great Plains Streetrodders has a merry Christmas!

When a Holiday is Odd

Christmas traditions can be really weird. What other time of year do you sit in your living room in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?



Siouxland Car Council Donations Were Made

Representatives from area clubs that are members of the Siouxland Car Council gathered at Driveline Service to begin their annual donation cruise through out the city. The donations raised from the Councils 2005 Cruise season were distributed December 10th. The Salvation Army received a check along with the Banquet. The Children's Inn received approximately one months supply of food. The Shrine Transportation Fund received a check earlier last fall.

Brad Goebel, President of the Siouxland Car Council would like to thank all of the participants from this years cruise season for a very successful year. Also, a special thank you to Santa (Gary Bowman), and his elf (Corky) and to Mike and Lori Paulson for making the day so enjoyable.





