

N A T I O N A L



D A S H P L A Q U E

a publication from
National Headquarters of
the Four Cylinder Club
of America

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fcca member sam hanks wins the classic '500'

Our hearty congratulations to Sam Hanks, winner of the 1957 Indianapolis 500 mile race, were conveyed to him by wire seconds after his tremendous victory. It was a thrilling race from start to finish—even on the radio, as FCCA members everywhere listened with fingers crossed, hardly daring to hope that Sam would finally make the elusive winner's circle for which he had tried 12 times. Carrying the FCCA insignia, his fabulous four cylinder (what else?) Belond Special made history by breaking almost every record in the book for Indy, and ran faultlessly for the whole grueling race, averaging 135.601 mph for the 500 miles. Handsome, humorous, and popular Sam has been Honorary Member of FCCA for several years and frequently delights club meetings with anecdotes on his inspired career and movies of classic races.



Our congratulations and sincere thanks go to Jack Seiderman of Miami, Florida, who is organizing a group of National FCCA members in that fair city, into a Miami Chapter of FCCA.

A moment after this news broke at the last National Board meeting, there were suggestions of a "Ginormous Gaggle to Miami"; or a get-together at New Orleans for the Mardi Gras, and the obvious conclave at future Sebrings. All very ambitious, but if we work towards it there's no doubt some of the club members could make any one of these or all of them possible.

editorial

We've all heard of the "Sport of Kings", and now we have the "Sport of Cars", and by the looks of the Events Calender the months of May, June and July should cinch the title in our own fair State.

Of course, we could organize an "Alpine Rallye" and get on the international calender, and we might do just that—there's rumors around. Or we might stage a "Tour de Rallye" to join our most distant cousins in the Sunshine State of Florida. This could be real fun, maybe taking in the Mardi Gras in Louisiana. Want to start thinking about the latter, it sounds real "wizard" as John Foster would say. Anyway, whether it's a four-hour rally, a championship overnight, a gaggle to Phoenix or a local gymkhana, it's a communal event.

Regardless of what event we enter, it is WE the family, or WE the fellow and girl friend, or WE two buddies, who are entered. This is not a singular sport for the male, or the female, while the mate stays home. Perhaps for that "communal" reason, the sport is growing by the hundreds almost daily.

A few years ago we were in a definite minority, however, "definite" has been definitely pranged, and we're recognized now as a sport unit. Now that we have the Healey 100-6, the Triumph TR-3, the Mercedes 190, the new BMC and others that will accommodate two adults plus the children and are still true sport cars, the share of fun can be even greater than before. Actually, our cars are multipurpose machines, for we use them for work, for shopping and for fun. What other sport can the family, AS A UNIT, enjoy? Most sporting events call for special equipment (you don't need electric odometers nor stop watches to have fun, you know) such as golf clubs, tennis rackets, bowling shoes, or what-have-you, and when you finish with them, you put them away in a closet.

Next time some joker tends to wisecrack about our "little foreign cars" being a luxury, remind him of our use of the multipurpose sport car, the "work horse" of the family!

fcca in the sunshine state!

At a moment when this new club will need most help, we earnestly request that all chapter secretaries and editors forward all publications and brochures to Jack at 3434 N. West 27th Ave., Miami, Fla.

All of us join in wishing this new chapter great success and a wonderful association with all the chapters of this great club. I know all of us wish to help this new chapter in whatever way we can, and we urge its officers to tell us their needs. We'll do our best to bring our latest chapter up to the enjoyable and respected level of its fellow branches.



president's cornering

The eleventh successful running of the Palm Springs races just concluded reminded me of a fact of which I am quite proud. Ever since the first running of Palm Springs, Torrey Pines, Santa Barbara and Pomona, members of FCCA have been conspicuous, working as flagmen, scribes, communications, crowd control and in the pits. Much of the success of these tremendous undertakings is due to the voluntary efforts of these true enthusiasts, to whom I raise my hat and offer the club's sincere thanks.

A squib in the paper which read, "Some people drive as if they were rehearsing for an accident" brought to mind the old argument of speed and accidents. "Speed kills" is a very true axiom, widely used today, but not, as some like to believe, to the exclusion of other factors. A point many of us have tried to make is now supported by the findings in a recent study by Cornell University. In a survey of over 3,000 auto accidents they found 74.1% were traveling less than 60 MPH, and 60% were under 49 MPH. The National Safety Council claims that of 685,000 accidents studied, 87% were at 40 MPH or less! Discourtesy, poor judgment, and ignorance being responsible for the majority of road accidents. 6,000 Americans can't be wrong! It is estimated that imported car sales in the U. S. will reach 600,000 annually by 1960, and still Detroit insists that everyone should drive a 20-foot-long, 200 horsepower, automatically-operated air mattress!

Many FCCA members are eagerly awaiting the first showing of the B.M.C.'s new four cylinder "family sports car"; hints of which have already reached these shores. Said to feature clean Italian lines, be close to the 1,000 CC class, and have sparkling performance and phenomenal economy. Advanced rumors put it in the under \$2,000 price class. With advance rumors like this, I can only envisage an Alfa-like job. Sure hope we're not disappointed.

While on the subject of cars (what else?) I think you'll get a kick out of this daffynition: Today's D.I. cars are rubber-tired robots that shift gears, clean and filter the oil, raise and lower the windows, wash and wipe the windshield, air-condition the passengers, raise and lower the seats and top automatically, and even take the effort out of

4th annual frugality run

BY FRANK PIERCE

171 entrants turned out for the San Fernando Valley Chapter's "Mobilgas Economy Run". The Mobilgas Station on the corner of Laurel Canyon and Pendleton in North Hollywood was reserved for the event. The cars were carefully filled, sealed and inspected at the start. The inspection was to be sure that all cars carried complete factory accessories and were in full touring trim.

All cars were timed out to be sure that the 25 MPH minimum average was maintained. Standard rally instructions were issued and two check points were situated to check for average speeds and correct route. The route covered just less than 100 miles and travelled through Saugus, Bouquet Canyon and Spunky Canyon, then back through Elizabeth Lake Canyon to the starting point, where the cars were carefully topped up and the average consumption computed.

The following were Class winners:

Up to 1100 CC—72.65 MPG—Austin A-30—Herb Shutes.

1101 to 1300 CC—86.65 MPG—Alpha Romeo Coupe—Jim Brownlee.

1301 to 1600 CC—54.92 MPG—Volvo P444—Calvin Strong.

1601 to 2000 CC—61.80 MPG—Triumph TR-2—Charles Fawcett.

2001 to 3000 CC—51.00 MPG—Austin Healey 100—Harry Maltbie.

3001 and Up — 36.08 MPG — Jaguar XK120—R. Smith.

As a point of general interest, the trophies for second place MG and second place in the 1301 to 1600 CC Class were taken by a virtual newcomer to sports car, a chap by the name of John Foster!

steering and braking. In fact, the automobile of today needs a driver only because someone has to keep up the payments on the thing.

Dick Sherwin has come up with a wizard offer to all sports car club members; the West Coast Sports Car Journal is going big-time, national and on the bookstands. For a limited time, members are offered one year's subscription for \$2.00, two years for \$4.00.

In closing, just remember that fun is like insurance—the older you get, the more it costs—have your fun now!

T. T. F. N.

John E. Foster

compton fcca over the hill rally

"Perfect rally, absolutely no squawks!" These words were the first ones spoken by none other than Howard Frank, famed rallyist, critique and rallymaster, as he stepped from his car at the finish of last year's "Over the Hill Rally".

No higher praise could have been wished for by the hard working, enthusiastic rally committee. A completely ignored Protest Table proved this to be not just one man's opinion, and all the 160 contestants enjoyed the perfect rally route, exceptional timing (Naval Observatory and shortwave radio signals) and perfect control points.

Now Comes the Compton FCCA Second Annual Championship Event, Over the Hill Rally II. The date is Saturday, June 22, 1957; starting place same as last year, Compton College, 1111 East Artesia Street in Compton. You may choose your own approximate starting time. (1 to 2, 2 to 3, 3 to 4). Be sure to bring night navigational equipment, because about half of the Rally will be run after dark. In 10 hours or so, including rest and dinner stops, you will cover approximately 250 miles, with the same check point and timing procedure as was used in the "Over the Hill Rally" last year. Dash plaques will be given to all drivers and navigators. The Trophy Presentation will be held on Sunday, June 23rd, at Scully's Restaurant in Los Angeles, where cocktails and dinner are available. We are looking forward to a large turn out, so get your entry in as early as possible. See the secretary or Rally Chairman of your Chapter for entries, or contact Dick Kermode, CItirus 1-8817.

from "Time" magazine: "Miniaturization pays. In Santa Ana, Calif., Police Chief Edward Allen ruled that it is O.K., if they fit, to park two small foreign cars in a single metered space.

DASH PLAQUE

Published on the 10th of each month for the Four Cylinder Club of America.

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open letter to roz alexander

Editor of "THE RECAP"
Santa Barbara Chapter

Dear Roz:

In answer to your Open Letter to the Editor of Dash Plaque published in last month's RECAP, first we wish to thank you for your plaudits and encouragements re Dash Plaque.

Secondly, we extend our sincere apologies for misnaming your Chapter's fine publication.

RECAP it is—not RETREAD!

Sincerely yours,
BRUCE LANDERS, *Editor*

question!

From The Santa Barbara "RECAP"

Our membership roster is growing nicely, with one or two new members almost every month coming into the fold. This is good. Not only for the treasury (Amen!) but for the general health and well-being of the club as a group. However, we are also blessed with a considerable number of what we might call "perpetual guests", some of whom regularly attend many of the meetings and/or events and have been around so long that most of us have quite forgotten that somewhere along the line the technicality of applying for membership seems to have been overlooked. Since several of these potential members are loyal and active participants when they can neither win any awards nor have any voice in the administration, it would seem of considerable mutual benefit to them and to the club if a minor campaign were launched for the purpose of selling some of these valuable mavericks on the virtues and rewards of recognized membership.

(Editor's note: We think so, too.)

the mighty comma

Excerpt from June 1954 issue of "Rally": "Lindy Hansen and John Mac Phee both took part (in FCCA Economy Run); they drove, respectively, a Porsche and a VW, making 42,303 mpg and 48,889 mpg."

A Porsche out-galloned a VW by 42,255 miles per gallon?!!

Which reminds us of the misplaced comma in the wire sent by fond spouse to Mr. fond spouse, who went fishing: "NOT GETTING ANY, BETTER COME QUICKLY."

Now if you want us to tell you it should have been after the word "better"...

calendar of events

June 22

Compton FCCA Over The Hill Rally II. Info: Dick Kermode, Clitrus 1-8817*

June 29-30

Southwest SCC Open Rally*

June 30

Santa Monica FCCA Hill & Gully "Rullye". Info: Bruce Pollack, RYan 1-7752

July 6-7

Santa Barbara FCCA 6th Annual Semana Nautica Rally*

July 6-7

SCCA Race, San Diego*

July 13-14

Northrop Championship Rally*

July 21

ALL CHAPTER MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY BENEFIT RALLY*

Info: Santa Monica FCCA, Bruce Pollack, RYan 1-7752.

*Indicates SCCSCC sanctioned events.

NOTE: All chapters of FCCA can have their events publicized in DASH PLAQUE. Submit full information by 25th of the month preceding publication. Publication is mailed on the 10th of following month.

the bobbsey twins (alias the harrisons) in europe—part II

BY BETTY WARREN

Did you ever cut hard rolls and make sandwiches in a car at 90 mph? Well, Helen Harrison did in their 300 SL while touring through Spain. As she expressed it, "You can't do that in the rain in a Healey!"

As for the roads in Spain, they are the worst in the world, again quoting Helen. Burton said it would be better to get out and walk, altho a bit impractical. Making them wide does no good, as they only use the middle anyway. However, the local gendarmes do NOT ignore fast driving. As you go by, they grin and usually salute!

From Spain, Burton and Heien travelled to Rome to see the Mille Miglia, then on to Monte Carlo. And so we come to the end of Part II of "The Bobbsey Twins in Europe"—a necessarily short installment because the principal characters in this yarn are too busy having fun to write very many letters. Do you blame them?

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The complete letters from the Harrisons are published in "Road and Track".)

tappet sounds

Being a noisy column of people, places and things...

Glendale FCCA Las Vegas Economy Run: The Earl Woods got started on the rally twice. The directions read "Go West" and they went east. When they got to Pasadena they decided they had done wrong. So, back they came to "Top up" once again. I tell you, it's early when you can't tell which direction you're going. (Editor's note: Need a compass, Earl?)

Phoenix FCCA. Re Lockheed 24-Hour Rally V: All went over to Tip's Restaurant to exchange tales and listen to Phelps TerHeun's account of spin-outs viewed in that luckless Bouquet Canyon. When asked where navigator Lynne Wheat was, Phelps removed his cap, then my (Marty Drake) extra head-scarf and mutely pointed to a shapeless mound of sleeping bags in the right hand seat of the TR.

The crowning blow to Phoenix at 12:30 a.m. was to overhear a middleaged enthusiast say to his wife, "Let's go home, dear. We rally in the morning."

Long Beach FCCA. To Clayton Slagle, Rallymaster: What was the surprise at the end of the Free Loaders' Rally? And what's with a Box Social?—Let us in on these unique type events.

Sam Gabriel FCCA. Al Shedbourne's "Crazy Auto Rally" fulfilled the wish of fine navigation and interesting speed. (We might have an argument from Bob Hefley, (Carl) Nogle's navigator, whose complexion matched the color of the surrounding rolling hills). (Editor's Note: I have a wife who Dramamines the green out of her complexion under the above circumstances!)

Santa Barbara FCCA's Semi-Annual Gymkhana Conditions: We don't run these things according to the council code... in fact, we don't even run them according to our own code sometimes. And although we put these things on twice a year, they're never quite the same. Spices things up a bit, you know.

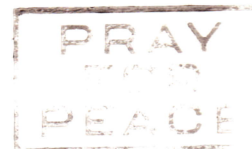
Whittier FCCA's "Fore Casts & Comments About": King of the Crosleys—Ed Schlesinger—is hard at work on the Special—But this two foot high car takes its toll. Ever Try working on something that low for hours??? It's like tying your shoestrings all day. Good luck, Ed! We'll come over and straighten you up every so often.

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DASH PLAQUE

2215 Floral Drive
Whittier, Calif.

Robert Piercy
5610 Edgemar Ave.
Los Angeles 43, Calif.



FIRST CLASS

rallye de oro III

OVER 100 TROPHIES TO BE AWARDED IN GIGANTIC RALLY!

"We drive that they may walk" . . . This slogan highlights a concerted effort by many Southern California sports car clubs to make Rallye De Oro III, scheduled for July 21, 1957, a memorable event.

Staged for the benefit of the Muscular Dystrophy Associations of America, Inc., De Oro will be sanctioned "open event" and will be run in strict accordance with the 1957 Council Rallye Code.

MANY CLUBS COOPERATING

As of this writing, over twenty clubs in this region have expressed their willingness to participate by making Rallye De Oro III their club event for July. Those clubs which have already planned events for that month are asked to notify their membership of De Oro and to extend an invitation to join in the event, as trophies will be awarded the best finishers from *all participating clubs*. Any club not yet contacted can receive full information concerning Rallye De Oro III by contacting Bob Piercy at AX 1-9373, or the Sports Car Information Center at EMpire 2-4157.

VITAL STATISTICS

Rallye De Oro III will start and end at the Rose Bowl parking lot in Pasadena. First car out—8:31 a.m. Total running time will be under six hours. Entry fee—\$5.00. No post entries will be accepted. Please see your club events chairman for entry forms . . . he will have them soon. If you are not affiliated with

an organized sports car club, please contact Bob Piercy or the Sports Car Information Center for your entry blank.

OVER 100 AWARDS!

Dash plaques for all participating cars. Trophies will be awarded the first twenty-five over-all finishers (both driver and navigator). There will be team awards, as well as best-of-make trophies for almost every popularly known sports car—(and some Detroit iron hardware, too). In addition, driver-navigator trophies will go to the best finishers from every sports car club represented by entrants in the rallye. Many special awards will be presented, too. All told, well over 100 trophies are up for grabs.

ABOUT MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

Muscular Dystrophy is a chronic disease of the muscles. It is manifested by a gradual weakening of the voluntary muscles, and always results in death. Funds are desperately needed to further research projects and bring the day closer when this dread disease can be brought under control.

YOUR RALLYE CONTRIBUTION

No money over and above the regular entry fee will be solicited. Generous trophy contributions will allow the entire proceeds from the rallye to be turned over to Muscular Dystrophy. You can do your part by showing up for what promises to be the largest single navigational sports car rallye ever held in this country.



"Allo dayre! Dis is Mister A, your intercontinental host . . ."

This familiar salutation of the intrepid entrepreneur of the daily "Motor Classics" broadcast is rapidly becoming a catch-phrase amongst both the sports car and show biz clans.

Frank Alten with his pioneering spirit, whimsical humor, incredible accent and tireless enthusiasm is rapidly endearing himself to the motor crowd, be they midget minded (no pun intended!) sprint, Indy, stocker or sports enthusiast.

Now broadcasting daily, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. direct, and very much "live" from our home-away-from-home, the Grand Prix Restaurant, "Motor Classics" has improved to a point where it is a must on every enthusiast's radio. Featuring news on forthcoming motor-

on the air

sports events and results and commentaries on things past, Frank relies largely on the material we can provide, and he has a standing offer to all FCCA members to drop by mike-side for a chat about your club and your event. You'll find so many of your friends and well known sports car personalities at the Grand Prix that every evening is like a coffee break at a club meeting. "Motor Classics", apart from keeping us up to the moment in sports car news, features music appropriate to the current topic, and Frank has received many letters and phone calls of appreciation for his hi-fi records of classical Italian music during the Mille Miglia week. We are looking forward to the anticipated increase to 50,000 watts of Station KBLA (1490) when all of our Southern California members will be able to catch this fine program.

tappet sounds

Continued from page 3

San Fernando Valley FCCA's "Idle Chatter": Frank Pierce was seen driving a Mercury Turnpike Cruiser, with twin bird impaling dohickies on top of windshield, power windows (including the rear one!), safety devices like a floor radio switch, dial power seats, tachometer (?!), and the smallest glove compartment in existence. It carries

8 people—6 inside and 2 in the trunk (dead). Frank says it corners flat, but it just keeps on going—sideways, that is! (Editor's Note: Frank only borrowed the thing—he normally drives a Healey.)

Santa Anita FCCA Secretary's Report: Incidentally, what is a "Slalom"? Is that a "slalom" run backwards? Entertainment for the even-

ing was a short Hare and Hound event which was won by Al Jacobsen. A comical light was thrown on this event—It seems as though the Sierra Madre police frown heavily on lime thrown on their streets, so the Hare was also chased by the gendarmes for littering the fair streets of said community.

Compton FCCA?