

The Dashboard

A Publication of Central Oklahoma Classic Chevy Club

July 2008

MARK HOUSER IS A BIG WINNER **OHRA State Run** **May 10, 2008**

The editor was in gross error when she wrote the article about the OHRA State Run. Mark Houser had three cars at the show and was a big winner with all of them. I'm sorry, Mark, I just forgot that you had won. Please forgive me.

Annette Myers, Editor

Rock Café in Stroud Destroyed by Fire



Photo of Rock Café in Stroud, OK before the devastating fire.
Photo courtesy of Larry & Jan Hinton

By Larry Hinton

Fire broke out after closing time of May 20, totally gutting the interior of The Rock Café located on Main Street of Stroud, OK, along historic Route 66. No one was inside the building at the time. Stroud firefighters brought the fire under control in about an hour, but the building was left with only the exterior rock walls remaining. 70 years of memorabilia were reduced to ashes.

Route 66 began in Chicago and terminated in Santa Monica, CA, some 2448 miles in length. Commissioned in 1926, the road originally had only 800 miles of pavement. The total length was not completely paved end-to-end until 1937.

In his famous book, Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck described the migration of Dust Bowl era Midwest farmers to California with hopes of jobs and prosperity. Of the road he said: "and they came to 66 from the tributary side roads, from the wagon tracks and the rutted country roads. 66 is the Mother Road, the road of flight."

Roy Rieves saw a need for a restaurant along this road and in 1936, began construction of Rock Café on some land he purchased on Stroud's main street. Paying five dollars for rock excavated from the roadbed of what would be the new Route 66 highway near Kellyville, he almost single handedly built the structure. The building was finished in 1939. It's first operator was Miss Thelma Holloway.

Miss Mamie Mayfield operated the café from 1959 until the early 80's when the café was temporarily closed after construction of the Turner Turnpike completely bypassed Stroud. Raising five children as a single mother, Mamie lived in a small house next door while keeping the café open 24 hours a day. She once said of her family, "We slept next door, but we *lived* in the café!" Her kids were often seen doing homework at a table or the little ones asleep in a blanket in a corner booth. Locals and truck drivers knew them all by name.

It is said that Mamie never turned anyone away hungry, often feeding down-on-their-luck travelers in exchange for a couple hours work washing dishes or other chores.

"The Rock" as it was called, quickly became an icon along the route, serving good hot meals to travelers, truckers and bus passengers. The Greyhound Bus Line stopped there, and ticket sales became another function of Rock Café. Many a young soldier boarded the bus there with tearful goodbyes from girlfriends and family and many of them were greeted by loved ones upon return from the war. The Café also had a back door and outside seating where Negro diners were served as was customary at the time.

The Rock Café has seen the excitement of growth of a new land, tears of war, the cruelty of segregation, the oil boom and the oil bust. It has withstood Oklahoma's devastating cyclones, stood strong during the Depression years and proud during the revival of Route 66, becoming part and parcel of the lore of the Mother Road.

In 2002, it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and received a total makeover, bringing it up to modern standards.

Dawn Welch, the present owner and operator has kept the tradition of The Rock alive, raising her children there while continuing to offer down home good food, a friendly atmosphere and a "y'all come back" attitude. I have personally sampled both the world class cheeseburger basket and the₂ chicken-fried steak platter and give high



Pictures from Stroud, OK and the Rock Café courtesy of Larry & Jan Hinton, members of COCCC. There are some before and after pictures. Thanks, Larry and Jan.



marks to both. The location has been a destination for numerous classic car and motorcycle clubs from across the nation.

After the fire, Dawn displayed her Oklahoma tenacity and was quoted as saying, "I will not go down with the fire." "The Rock Café will rise again from these ashes!"

LIBERTYFEST CAR SHOW

June 28, 2008 started out with rain, but that didn't deter members Mark Houser, Tracy & Irene Bugg, Larry & Annette Myers, David & Louise Main from bringing out their cars for the show. Winners at that show were Mark Houser with his Chevelle, Roadrunner & Mustang, Larry & Annette Myers with their 55 Bel Air Convertible & 57 Nomad, but Tracy & Irene

Bugg won **BEST OF SHOW** with their 57 Handyman wagon. Great job guys!!! Lots of lookers at the show!



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CLASSIC CHEVY CLUB
Minutes for June 8, 2008

President, Mel Harris called meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. at Coit's Drive In. Mel Harris led thirty-one club members in attendance, in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mel asked members if they read last month's minutes. He asked for a motion to pass the May minutes. Kay Welch made a motion to except the May Minutes. Gloria seconded and motion carried.

Peggy Buchanan gave a monthly treasurers report. Rustyne Harris made a motion to accept. John Dragoo seconded, motion carried.

Annette made a motion at last months meeting, that we drive down to visit with David and Mahala Jones after today's meeting. Rustyne called and Mahala said they would love our company and would have the lemonade ready to serve. The Jones was happy to see us and said that they really miss going to the meetings and outings with us. Those who visited were: Mel and Rustyne, Curtis and Kay, John and Kay Lynn, Rudy and Gloria, Rodney and Martha, Larry and Annette, True and Sherry. They can give you an update on David's health and our visit with them at our next meeting.

NO OLD BUSINESS TO REPORT

NEW BUSINESS:

* Dinner Cruise June 28,08. Meeting at Braum's in Edmond off I-35 and 15th at 2 p.m. Eating at 3 pm

* Pat Harrington talked to Mel about three weeks ago. He wants to know if our club would be interested in running a swap meet at the Lions Club Car Show. The club has tried to do this in past shows and we did not have much success. Do to past experience Gloria motioned not to do this. John seconded and motion carried.

* NEW OFFICERS...July is the month for us to nominate for 2008 - 2009 Officers.

* August is our annual potluck picnic. Mel suggested The Lions Club building (rent of \$10.) at Duffner Pk. If available would we be interested in having our picnic there. Rustyne made a motion to have our picnic there. Sherry seconded. Motion carried.

* Happy Birthday to: Robert Bogardus, David Jones and those who I don't have dates for. Happy Anniversary to those in June.

* Joe McIninch gave his tech tips this month. Thank you Joe

* Mel is looking for someone to give our July tech tip. Call Mel if you can do this.

* Annette has done a great job making our club name tags. She has many pictures of our cars from past car shows. If you have any questions to whether she does or does not have a picture of your car please call her or e-mail her a picture of your car. Otherwise your nametag could be made with your name only and no car picture.

* Annette mentioned that next month we have three club members all born on July 13. They are Kay Lynn Dragoo, Larry Myers and True Osborn. But as I looked through our membership list I found that on July 17, we have Linda Bahr and Ken Monroe born on the same date too. Maybe we'll have some cake!!

* Door Prize Winners: Don Bays and Annette Myers, Gifts donated by: Larry and Annette, Rodney and Martha donated Street Rod Mugs. Donated gifts were won by: Chris Grove and Brian Ferguson

* 50/50 Winner: Johnny Hewett who donated his winnings to the club.
50/50 Winner for the quarter is The Myers, who also donated their winnings to the club.

* Kay Welch mentioned to Mel and members that we will be hosting the Fall Foliage in 2009. We really need to think about where we want to have this event. Some suggestions were Robber's Cave, Hot Springs, Ark, Mena, Ark., Queen Wilhelmina, Ark. If you have any suggestions please bring it along with information on hotel accommodations and a tour plan.

* Street Rod Mugs are on sale for \$2.50. See Peggy Buchanan.

* Ken Buchanan is selling his 1939 Mercury for Thirty-five thousand. Please call Ken if you or anyone you know would be interested.

Rustyne motioned at 3:30 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. John seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Escalera
Secretary

DINNER CRUISE

Mike & Betty Rhoades led 9 COCCC member's and their cars on a wonderful dinner cruise on Saturday June 28, 2008. Our first stop was at a shop owned by Gary Spencer. He had several old cars in his shop and his red & white 55 Bel Air that Larry, Curtis, Rodney & Rudy all worked on. The next stop led us to the Route 66 Museum east of Arcadia. We all could reminisce about all the memorabilia that was inside. We left there and went to Habanero's for our meal. A good trip and good food and fellowship was had by all attending. Ken & Peggy Buchanan, Tracy & Irene Bugg, Rodney & Martha Duerksen, Rudy & Gloria Escalera, Chris & Susan Grove, Mel & Rustyne Harris, Larry & Annette Myers, True & Sherry Osborn, Mike & Betty Rhoades attended.

15th Annual Classic Chevy Fall Foliage Tour October 24-26, 2008

at Denison, Texas

Sponsored by Dallas Area Classic Chevys
Check our web site for event updates:
www.DallasClassicChevy.com

Lodging at:
Comfort Inn & Suites
801 Hwy 75 N
Denison, TX 75020
(903) 464-0340
Located on the NW quadrant of
US 75 & Pottsboro Rd. at exit 69

Event room rate: \$75.00 (King or Double)
Mention "Chevy Fall Cruise LCAN rate"
when reserving room for this rate. We were
unable to reserve a block of rooms, so make
your reservations early. For more information
call Bill or Diane Preston (972) 691-4968,
(405) 412-0502 or (405) 615-3856.

Tentative Schedule of events:

Friday:

Arrive early and tour Denison on your own:
Old downtown Denison Antique Shops (6),
Art Galleries (10) and Art Studios (7)
Pres. Eisenhower's Birthplace (state historic site)
Fishing and Boating on Lake Texoma
Cruise to evening meal at 7 pm
Social gathering at the motel afterwards.

Saturday:

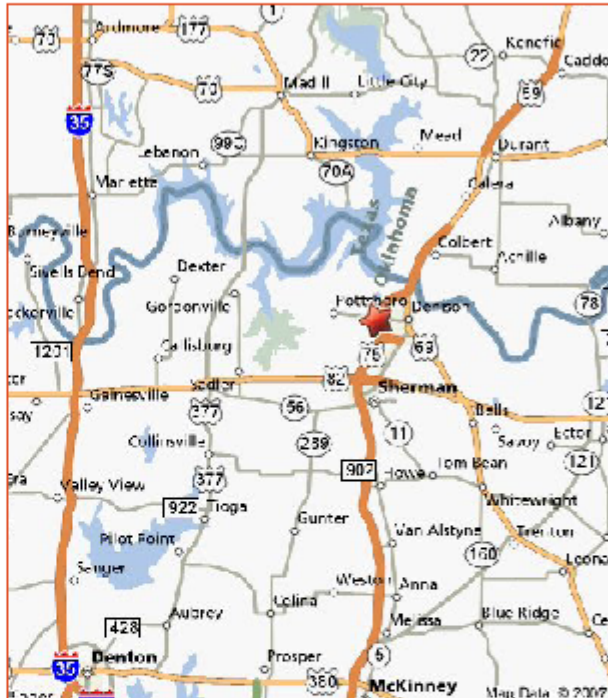
Cruise thru the Texas side of Lake Texoma
Lunch stop during cruise
Cruise to evening meal
Evening social gathering at the motel
(Bring your favorite game and a \$5 door prize per person)

Sunday

Head for home or tour Denison on your own

Car Show Bonus

Kustom Kemps of America (KKOA) 11th Annual "Blast with the Past" Car Show will also be held Oct 24-26 at nearby Loy Lake Park in Dennison. 80-100 cars of all types on display.



**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!! YOU CAN ALWAYS CANCEL IF YOU ARE
UNABLE TO ATTEND.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4, 2008 Bethany OK Freedom Fest Car show. Eldon Lyon Park

July 4, 2008 Yukon, OK 24th Annual 4th of July Car show, Yukon City park Registration 7 am. Mid-America Street Rods

July 20 – 24, 2008 20th Annual Chevrolet Nomad Association Convention at the Holiday Inn Charleston House, Charleston, West Virginia. Reservations: (304)-344-4092

August 16, 2008 Petty's Pit Stop 7th Annual Car show 12001 S. Douglas, Guthrie, OK 9 am—2pm Entry fee \$25 For more info 405-640-9469

September 13, 2008 The Village Lion's Club 3rd Annual Car Show. Duffner Park East of May on Hefner Rd. in the Village. Mark your calendars.

September 13, 2008 Poker Run 5:30 p.m. All Season Building Supply, Mustang, OK

October 4, 2008 Wal*Mart, I-35 in Edmond 2nd Annual Fall Classic Car/truck/bike & craft show. Register 8—10 am Show 10 am—2 pm Awards at 3 pm

October 24 – 26, 2008 Fall Foliage at Denison, Texas with the hosts being Dallas Area Classic Chevy Club. See flyer in this issue.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE OR OTHER SHOWS, PLEASE REFER TO YOUR COPY OF THE 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS PUBLISHED BY OKLAHOMA HOT ROD ASSOCIATION.



Photos from dinner cruise Saturday June 28. Members at the Route 66 museum east of Arcadia, OK. Don't we wish that we could still get gas for 31 cents per gallon?

The July meeting is on the 13th at Coit's and we will be nominating officers for the upcoming year. Please consider becoming an officer in our club. After all, most of you are retired and the only thing on your daily agenda is the "Honey Do" list. The date of our August meeting has changed and will now be held on Saturday, August 9th, 5 pm at the home of Tracy and Irene Bugg. They made an offer the club just can't refuse and we'll be having a good meal and also installing our new officers at that time. More details to follow at our meeting on July 13th.



Central OK Classic Chevy Club
P.O. Box 676
Wheatland, OK 73097