



Drivin' Songs

By Mel Harris

This story got its beginning somewhere around 1956 or a couple of years later. It's a summer Saturday morning in West Virginia and we're listening to the radio on our small front porch. Music was changing then, as Elvis and others awakened our generation to the new Rock n' Roll sound. While sitting there, not doing chores for some reason, a family cousin pulled up in front of the house. This man had a fondness for the Buick nameplate and this car spoke volumes about him, the brand and the times. It was a two door hardtop and was one of those that came from the factory painted in three different colors. Of course it had lots of chrome and was a car that definitely caught your eye. Plus, as he said, it would just float down the highway at higher speeds.

Our visitor walked up the sidewalk and onto the porch and heard what was on the radio. After a moment he said "now that's a drivin' song" and for the life of me, I can't remember what was playing. As he went on to explain, certain tunes just make you want to press the accelerator pedal a little farther toward the floor. I think he was saying they stir your soul and for an instant, hearing a particular song, while gradually increasing your speed is all that matters at the time. He mentioned traveling quite often, in his Buick, at speeds around 80 or 90 mph, which, in that part of the country was pretty risky. You see, the roads were two lane, which had been carved over, around and through the mountains, with a speed limit of 55 mph and that was if they were paved. Drive any faster than that and you were asking for trouble.

As the years passed and I began driving, his words stuck in my brain and still do even today. I'm not a music major but it's my belief it has something to do with the beat or an ever increasing tempo. Certain songs just get that right foot exerting more pressure and the car moving a little faster. Try some of these recorded in the 50's and 60's for yourself and feel free to add songs from the music you enjoy.

Hot Rod Lincoln = Recorded by Charlie Ryan in 1955 (released in 1957)
Thunder Road = Recorded by Robert Mitchum in 1958
Rebel Rouser = Recorded by Duane Eddy in 1958
Rt.66 Theme = Recorded by Nelson Riddle in 1960
Wipe Out = Recorded by the Surfari's in 1963
Maybelline = Recorded by Johnny Rivers in 1964
Little GTO = Recorded by Ronny and the Daytona's in 1964
We've Got to Get Out of This Place = Recorded by the Animals in 1965
Paint it Black = Recorded by the Rolling Stones in 1966
Reach Out & I'll Be There = Recorded by the Four Tops in 1966
Na Na Hey Hey = Recorded by Steam in 1969
In the Year 2525 = Recorded by Zager and Evans in 1969

So if it's a sunny day or moonlit night, on a long stretch of deserted highway, see what happens to your right foot if a favorite song is playing on the radio. I'll bet the heart beats a little faster, the white lines get smaller and scenery becomes a blur. Something tells me our resident retired law enforcement club member might not agree with the things I said in this article. Even those officers still working will probably frown upon such action. In fact, they may have a radar trap set up as you pass through their section of highway. Be forewarned, you may look up and see a policeman rapidly gaining on you, lights flashing, with his favorite song, listed below, blasting on the radio while giving chase to you.

1, 2, 3 Red Light = Recorded by the 1910 Fruitgum Company in 1968

Now crank up the volume, watch for the black and white units, drive safely and join us for the next meeting.

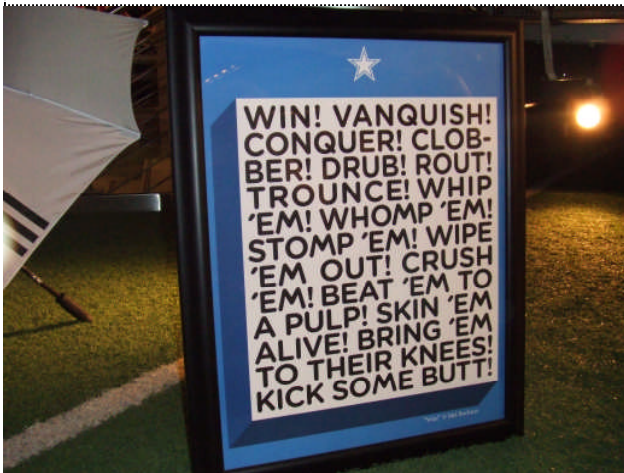
(This story by our past President, Mel Harris, is reprinted from our May 2009 edition of "The Dashboard" with permission from Rustyne Harris and family of Mel.)



**IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID
YOUR DUES,
THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE.
PLEASE SEND IN YOUR
DUES THIS MONTH!!**



I THINK THAT THESE TWO GUYS NEED LESSONS ON HOW TO TAKE PICTURES WITH A DIGITAL CAMERA.



**SIGN SEEN IN MAY,
2011 IN DALLAS
COWBOYS
STADIUM**

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1, 2 & 3, 2012 New car Auto Show, OKC State Fair Grounds. Call Rodney with questions. 324-2228

March 11, 2012 COCCC's monthly meeting Coit's, 50th & Portland, OKC at 3 pm

March 15, 16 & 17, 2012 Norman Swap Meet Cleveland County Fairgrounds, 615 E. Robinson, Norman

April 8, 2012 COCCC's monthly meeting Coit's, 50th & Portland, OKC at 3 pm

May 5, 2012 Cruise to the Park, Mel Harris Memorial Car Show. Hafer Park 9th & Bryant, Edmond. 8 am—3 pm

June 23, 2012 The Knights Auto Club 27th Annual Car Show. Woodland Veteran's Park, Shawnee, OK 8 am—3 pm

WWW.55-57chevys.com/coccc

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE OR OTHER SHOWS, PLEASE REFER TO YOUR COPY OF THE 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS PUBLISHED BY OK HOT ROD ASSOCIATION.



Happy Birthday in March to Tracy Bugg, Phil Daniel, Tom Linn, David Main, Cecilia Monroe, and Betty Rhoades. If your birthday was missed, it is because we don't have your birthday on record. To alleviate this in the future, please let someone know when your birthdays are.

Happy Anniversary to those of you married in March. Happy 49th anniversary to you, Larry!!



I pledge
allegiance to the flag of the United
States of America, and to the republic
for which it stands, one nation,
under God,
indivisible with liberty and justice for
all.



Central OK Classic Chevy Club
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