



# The Motor Mouth

## A Capitol Idea

*PSEBers flock to Olympia for food, fun, facts*



*A back roads tour to Olympia brought out this happy band of Birders who basked in the sun and fun of a southbound road trip.*

What a capitol idea Mike and Sandi Talbot had for the May PSEB event: Get the Bird people from the north to fly south to Olympia, tour the State Capitol building and the famous Farmers' Market, and at the same time, manage to pass on the imaginary, but nonetheless almost mythical, monthly "long-distance" award to someone from the north. But then, if you live in Olympia, almost everything is north. Well, except Centralia and maybe Mexico.

The Talbots prepared a perfect day, starting with a caravan from a nearby casino to their lovely home on the edge of a bluff in an arboretum-like setting of rolling lawns, trees, flowers and flowering shrubs, and with a sweeping view of Budd Inlet.

We were told we would have a "little something" to eat before pressing on with our touring. The "lit-

tle something" turned out to be a magnificent brunch of fresh fruit, including those precious little

red jewels, raspberries, two kinds of quiche, a baked eggs-and-sausage scramble, a variety of bakery items, fresh juice, and two kinds of coffee, with view seating inside and out.

In addition to the Talbots, those doing their best to make a dent in this bountiful feast were Ray and Margaret Vingo, Les and Jo White, Duane and Nancy Niemi, Judy and Der Roupe, and Gordon and Judy Thorne.

***That Dam Tour!***  
**It's not too late to sign up for what promises to be a grand tour of a grand dam -- Coulee, that is!**  
**June 13-15**  
**See page 8 for details.**

***Sights and Smells Planned for July***  
**We'll visit Brown Maloney's exceptional vehicle collection, then beat feet for the Sequim Lavender Festival. It's all on July 18!**



*(continued on page 3)*



## A Dam Fine Tour

On June 13, Gordon and Judy Thorne will be leading a small band of PSEBers across the sound to join up with members of the Olympic Club to begin a weekend trip across the state to the Grand Coulee Dam. Think positive thoughts about them, especially when it comes to things mechanical!

Closer to home, we have another event on Saturday, June 20, the Clearbrook Inn Father's Day Car Show and barbecue in Silverdale. They put on a great show with live music and great food . . . and it's free. It's also an opportunity to visit with one of our founding members, Les Parizek. It starts at 11 a.m. Please send your RSVP to Marsha Pfeiffer, 360-692-1278.

On May 9, we had great weather for our junket to Olympia. We met up with Mike Talbot at the Little



Creek Casino and caravanned to his Olympia home. Awaiting us there was Sandi Talbot who had prepared a lovely gourmet brunch. Then off to the Olympia Farmers' Market, followed by a tour of the state capitol. Our thanks to Mike and Sandi for planning this great outing.

### Kudos

Once again our newsletter has been nationally recognized. The Motor Mouth received the top award from Old Cars Weekly magazine in the "Regional Compacts" category of their newsletter competition. We are very fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated editor producing our newsletter. Thank you, Judy, and your sidekick, Gordon, for the great work you do.

-- Ray Vingo, President

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### THE MOTOR MOUTH

Vol. 16, No. 6-- June 2009

Gold Medallion-winning publication of the Puget Sound Early Birds, chapter 81 of Classic Thunderbird Club International.

**Members are encouraged to submit articles written by themselves or others. All submissions are subject to editing and space available.**

**Deadline:** 20th of the preceding month

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**Our Mission:** To encourage and promote the preservation, admiration, ownership, enjoyment and restoration of the 1955, 1956 and 1957 Ford Thunderbirds.

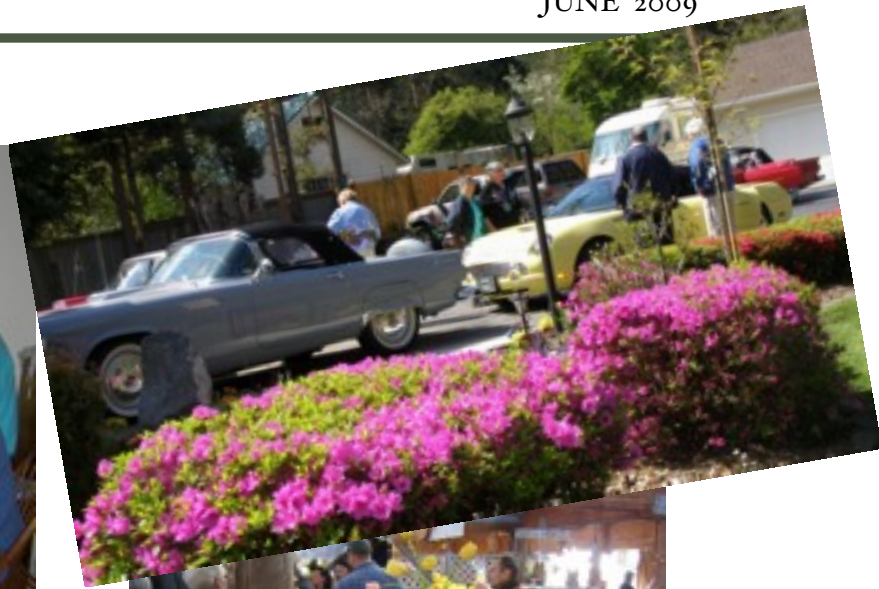
**Web site:**

[www.pugetsoundearlybirds.org](http://www.pugetsoundearlybirds.org)





*(Continued from page 1)*



Thus fortified, the intrepid band had strength to caravan to the Olympia Farmers' Market for a stroll-through before taking a free shuttle to the Capitol for the tour of this unique structure. It was just us starting the tour, but it grew in size at every stop as our well-informed docent regaled us with facts and figures. How many knew that the building has more than 173 million pounds of stone, brick, concrete and steel, weighing just slightly less than a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier? We found out that the total cost for building the capitol building in 1928 was \$7.3 million, and that today, the cost would be in excess of \$1 billion, 135 times more. Who could have guessed that it is the highest masonry dome in the United States and the fourth tallest in the world, surpassed only by St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome, St. Paul's Cathedral in London, and St. Isaac's Cathedral in St. Petersburg? Saints and sinners alike on the tour agreed that's some pretty righteous company!

The PSEB members gaped when our guide pointed to the huge chandeliers hanging in the main rotunda area and noted that they were so large in length and diameter, that (we are not making this up) a Volkswagen could fit inside each chandelier! After that bit of trivia, we adjourned to the house chamber, and then on to the more ornate and sedate senate chamber, before saying adieu and taking the shuttle back to the funky and fun Olympia Farmers' Market.

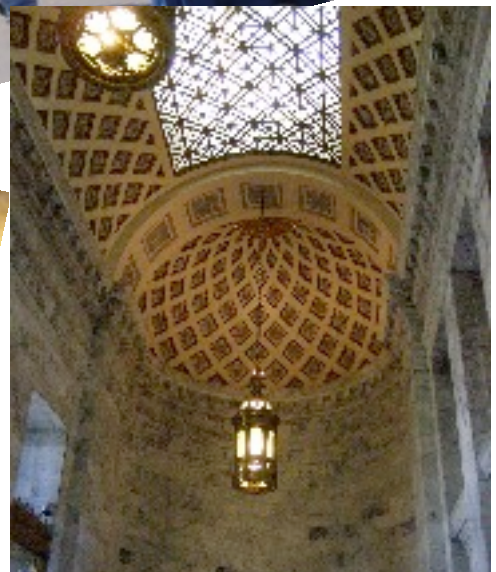
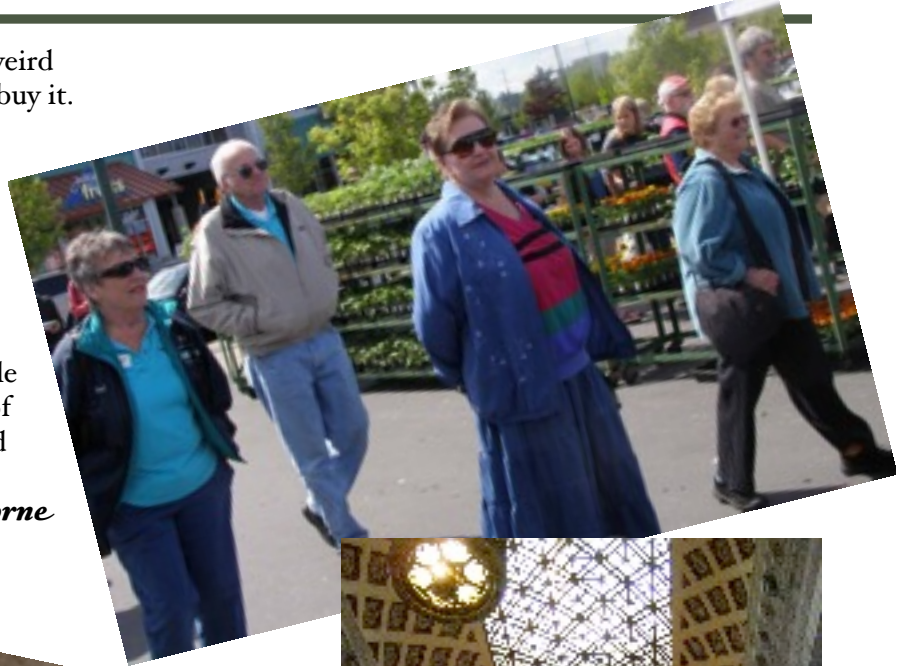
The market is open Thursday through Sundays

during the spring and summer, and offers all the usual flowers, vegetables, fruits, meats, seafood, poultry and



bakery items. But if you need some really weird stuff, such as worm tea, this is the place to buy it. Never had worm tea? It probably tastes ghastly, but it's great for getting rid of aphids! We tip-toed through the tulips and daffodils and rhodys, tasted samples of far-out jams and jellies and people-watched – lots of really out there body art! Although there was a variety of ethnic restaurants bordering the market, Sandi's "little something" carried us through to the end of this lovely May day and food, fact-filled and fun tour.

*-- Gordon Thorne*



*Thank you , Mike and Sandi , for a great day in Olympia -- the weather, the food, the fun, and of course, the company, couldn't have been better!*





**O, Canada!** Gordon and Judy Thorne represented PSEB at the 17th annual Okanagan T-Bird Club meet in Kelowna. **At left**, they are holding the PSEB banner -- please note that only those who are pure of mind, body and spirit can see it. **Below**, their lipstick red Bird hangs out with the seaspray green '57 that belongs to Cathy Stubbs, CTCI region 3 director and member of Olympic Classic T-Bird Club; her car was voted the No. 1 1957 at the Show & Shine. Thanks to Ken and Marian Carr, consummate hosts from the Okanagan club, for an exceptional event and post-tour into this spectacularly beautiful section of British Columbia.

## PSEBers Shop & Shine for the Cure

It was all for a great cause -- finding a cure for breast cancer -- and it was all about having a good time with great friends.

Thirteen PSEB members enjoyed a day in the sun May 30 with more than 300 classic and specialty cars at a show benefiting the Susan G. Komen Foundation at Gig Harbor's tony new shopping experience, Uptown Gig Harbor. While the guys wandered amongst cars, the gals had the opportunity to shop at such shops as Chico's, Coldwater Creek and Elander Gallery. Add to that a tasty repast from Panera Bread and it was, as Martha Stewart would say, "a good thing." Club members in Little Birds were Duane Niemi (Nancy was busy in Indianola), Stan and Gretchen Liebenberg. Mike and Sandi Talbot, Judy and Gordon Thorne, and Archie and Barbara Matthew. Attending in "other" vehicles as part of



an Early Irons official gathering were Der and Judy Roupe in their gorgeous 1950 Olds, and Thom and Joni Bayler in one of their classic vehicles that Joni says "loves a sunny day."



# The Road Ahead 2009



<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Host</i>
<i>June 13-15</i>	<i>Grand Coulee Dam overnight with Olympic Classic T-Bird Club; back roads tour; optional second night</i>	<i>Thorne/Dilores-OCTC</i>
<i>July 18</i>	<i>Brown Maloney auto/motorcycle collection and Sequim Lavender Festival</i>	<i>Maloney/Vingo</i>
<i>August 8</i>	<i>NOTE DATE CHANGE Paul Allen Heritage Aviation Museum and barbecue at Hummels' beach house</i>	<i>Hummel</i>
<i>September TBD</i>	<i>Overnight tour to Hobucks Beach, Neah Bay</i>	<i>Weiler</i>
<i>October 3</i>	<i>Fall colors tour</i>	<i>Gilchrist</i>
<i>November 15</i>	<i>Great Chefs of the Northwest</i>	<i>Roupe</i>
<i>December 13</i>	<i>Christmas Party and Gift Exchange</i>	<i>Open</i>

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## **Non-PSEB Events of Interest**

<i>June 20</i>	<i>Father's Day Car Show and Barbecue Silverdale; 360.692.1228.</i>	<i>Clearbrook Inn</i>
<i>August 18-21</i>	<i>CTCI Region 3 Convention in Vancouver, B.C. Information in February Motor Mout</i>	<i>Totem T-Bird Club</i>





### Color magazine ad for 1956 T-Bird



Hard top, soft top or open—the Thunderbird is the star in any setting!

And now: the latest version  
of America's most exciting car:

### Ford THUNDERBIRD for '56

Ready to give you a new lease on driving fun, this newest version of America's favorite dream car is more stunning in style . . . more thrilling in power . . . more luxurious in comfort.

Here poised for flight, you see what many people hardly dreamed possible: a more beautiful, more powerful, more distinctive Thunderbird.

The graceful contours of its long, low lines . . . the unique flair of its new spare-tire mounting . . . the dazzling sheen of its new two-tone colors are but a hint of its newness.

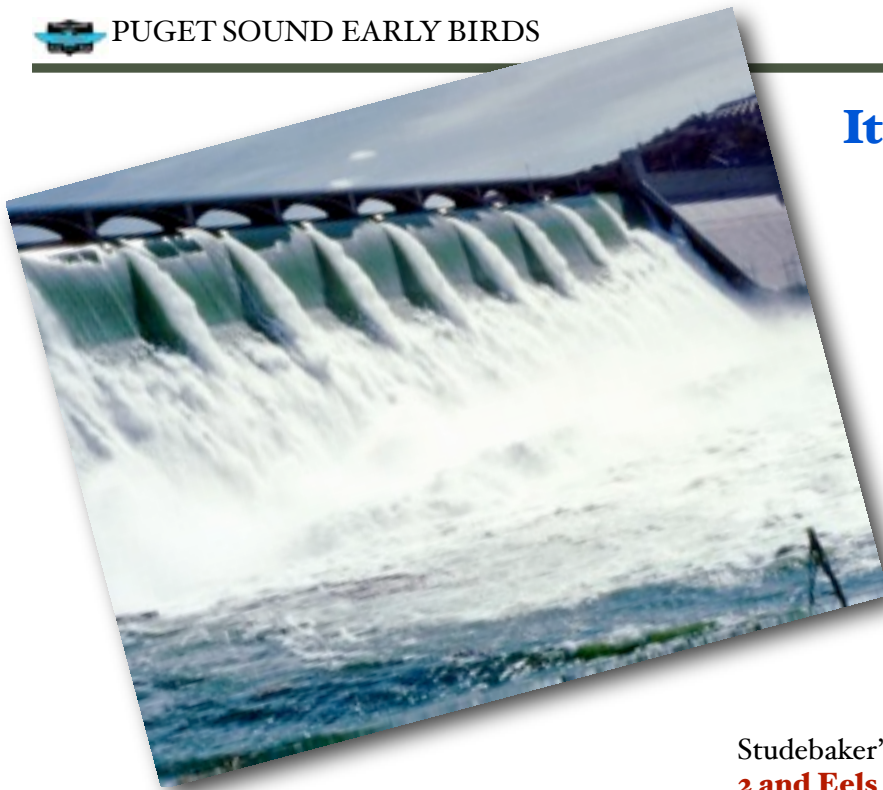
It is when you put the selector in

drive position and nudge the gas pedal of a Fordomatic model that the Thunderbird will really take you by the heart. Beneath the hood is a new 225-h.p. Thunderbird Y-8, to revise your ideas of how a car should respond.

Now, you may choose hard top, soft top or both. There's a glass-fibre hard top and a foldaway fabric top. Now, the interiors are richer—more beautiful than ever. Now, you get the added protection of Ford's exclusive Life-guard design. And, as always, you may have optional power steering, brakes, windows and seat. Ask your Ford Dealer just how soon you can start enjoying the better things of driving.



The Thunderbird's brand-new, rear spare-tire mounting folds back handily as quick as a wink. It adds as greatly to your luggage space as it does to the over-all beauty of the car.



It's not too late to . . .

## *Dam It!*

with your PSEB  
Buddies

June 13-15

Grand Coulee Dam  
overnight with  
OCTC

**With 30 people already signed up, it looks like there's still room for more to join Puget Sound Early Birds and hosts Olympic Classic Thunderbird Club on their June overnight outing to Grand Coulee Dam -- it promises to be a dam fine time for all!**

If you want to join us, please make your hotel reservations, then let Gordon Thorne know if you're doing the one night in Grand Coulee or adding the second night in Leavenworth. Also: Let Gordon know if you plan to eat with the group, and he will confirm with the OCTC hosts, Tony and Eve Dilores. **See new information below in red:**

### **SATURDAY, JUNE 13**

**Meet:** 10 a.m. at Sawdust Coffee Company, 461 S. Fork Ave. SW, North Bend (in the outlet mall). Take I-90 East to Exit 31 for Hwy. 202 toward North Bend. Turn left on North Bend Blvd./Bendigo Blvd. S./ Hwy. 202. Turn right at Fork Ave. SW. **Bring a CB radio if you wish.**

**Depart:** 10:30 a.m. **SHARP!** A T-Bird caravan continues on I-90 to Blewett Pass and then to

Studebaker's Diner, 200 Apple Annie Ave., **(Hwy. 2 and Eels Rd.)** Cashmere 98815 to meet others and have lunch. **Arrival time is between 12:30-1 p.m. We'll depart at 2 p.m. and caravan to Coulee Dam. We will arrive at Coulee between 4 and 4:45 p.m., then meet for the dam tour, which begins at 5 p.m. (If time permits, check into the hotel; otherwise, check in after the tour. The tour lasts 45 minutes and this is the last tour of the day.)**

**Hotel for Saturday, June 13:** Coulee House Motel, 110 Roosevelt Ave., Coulee Dam, WA 99116; 800.715.7767, for our overnight. There is a casino next door and a restaurant and lounge at the motel. **Dinner is planned for 7 p.m. at the Melody Restaurant, 612 River Dr., next to Coulee House. RSVP re dinner to Gordon.**

**Laser-Light Show: Approximately 10 p.m.** Saturday night across the entire width of the dam. Visible from the motel and also the park across the street from the motel.

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 14**

**8:15 a.m. breakfast at Melody Diner. RSVP to Gordon re breakfast. Depart 9:30 a.m. with the Diloreses, who will lead the way back to Seattle for those doing just one night.**

**Optional Leavenworth overnight: Depart 10**





**a.m.** and follow hosts Frank and Cathy Stubbs on the scenic route through Brewster with a **stop at the Fort Okanogan State Park and Interpretive Center, dedicated to the history of an early 19th-century fur-trading post; it was founded by John Jacob Astor in 1811 and is considered to be the state's first settlement. Then to Chelan for a lunch stop -- maybe the Lakeview Drive-in for burgers and shakes, with departure at 1 p.m. for a tour of Ohme Gardens (admission \$7) and then to Leavenworth.**

**Motel for Sunday:** Der Ritterhof Motor Inn, 190 U.S. Hwy. 2, Leavenworth; 800.255.5845 or

509.548-5845. **Although the T-Bird room block has been released, ask for the T-Bird rate of \$92/one queen; \$100/two queens and they may honor it.**

**Activities:** Time to shop Leavenworth, **then late-afternoon no-host beverages and snacks of your choice or to share on the lawn in front of our hotel rooms.** Dinner on your own.

**MONDAY, JUNE 15: On your own for breakfast, shopping or the trip home. You can take Blewett/Snoqualmie or Stevens Pass -- check with others to caravan.**

## Father's Day Car Show

Clearbrook Inn, the Silverdale retirement facility that is home to PSEB founder and honorary member Les Parizek, is holding its annual **Father's Day Car Show and Barbecue, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, June 20**, at 12295 Schold Place NW, Silverdale. Those who've attended in the past know that it's a fun, low-key car show for all classic or brand-new wheels. There is no admission charge, and the barbecue of burgers, dogs, salads and desserts is free. And, there's live entertainment. **To RSVP, contact Marsha Pfeiffer at 360.692.1228.**

## Swap Meets and Car shows

*Always call before you go*

**June 5-7 -- Port Orchard Tractor Pull and Engine Show;** Port Orchard Airport; 9-5 Sat; 9-4 Sun; Olympic Peninsula Antique Tractor & Engine Association; 253.857.5203.

**June 7 -- Chehalis Sunday Drivers' Tour;** 9-3; Centralia-Chehalis Vintage Auto Club. 360.273.6961.

**June 13 -- Maple Valley Days Classic Car & Hot Rod Show** on the grass at Lake Wilderness; 22500 SE 248th St., Maple Valley. 8-3; Maple Valley Street Rats; 425.271.7837.

**June 13 -- Whidbey Island Greenbank Car Show,** Greenbank Farm; 7

a.m.-6:30 p.m. Benefits Alzheimer's Society of Washington; 360.929.1609.

**June 13 -- Arlington Old Town Show & Shine,** Olympic Ave., 8-4; Downtown Merchants; 360.435.5287.

**June 19-21 -- Port Angeles North Olympic Auto Parts Exchange and Swap Meet,** 8-8; Clallam County Fairgrounds; 360.681.2432.

**June 19-21 -- Fort Worden Military Vehicle Display,** Port Townsend, 10 a.m.; Puget Sound Military Vehicle Collectors; 253.670.1046.

**June 20 -- Seaside Muscle Beach Cruz,** Seaside, Ore.; 9-6, downtown Seaside; 503.717.8539.

**June 21 -- Everett Father's Day Car and Bike Show,** Northshore Christian Church; 9-2. Northshore Christian Church Car Ministry, 425.353.1354.

**June 21 -- Burien Father's Day Car Show;** 10-4, Discover Burien, 206.941.7199.

**June 21 -- Issaquah Old Rides Car Club Show,** 98 East Gilman Blvd., 8 a.m. 206.948.0789.

**June 27 -- Bellevue Classic Auto Show/Strawberry Festival;** Crossroads International Park; 11-5; Eastside Heritage Center 425.455.1529.

**June 27 -- Seattle Greenwood Car Show,** 8-4 Greenwood Avenue North; 425.455.1629.

**June 28 -- Shelton Downtown Classic, Rod & Antique Car/Motorcycle Show,** Railroad Ave., 9-3; Mason County Historical Society and Yesteryear Car Club; 369.426.4422.



### Change your calendar

The date for our August tour to Paul Allen's Flying Heritage Museum and beach picnic at the Hummel's home in Tualip has been changed to Saturday, Aug. 8.

### Let's Celebrate in June

#### Birthdays

- 2 Charline Austin
- 3 Archie Matthew
- 5 Thom Bayler
- 12 Pat Howard
- 15 Les White
- 18 Forest Stoner
- 26 Gordon Thorne

#### Anniversaries

- I Bob & Judy Lowe
- II Ted & Charline Austin

### Are your tires for the birds?

*Editor's Note:* After watching a tire disintegrate on the T-Bird in front of us on the way to Kelowna, this information seems particularly important.



Tires do have expiration dates, but they can be hard to find. Here's how to determine the age of your tires.

- The manufacture date is indicated by the *last group of digits* in the DOT manufacture code on the sidewall. The number is often stamped in a recessed rectangle. The DOT code tells the manufacturer, where it was made and when.
- Before 2000, the date code had three digits; now it has four. The first two are the week of the year (01=the first week of January). The third digit (for tires made before 2000) is the year (1=1991). After 2000, the third and fourth digits are the year (04=2004).
- Example: If the date code is 8PY806, the 8PY is the manufacturing shift code; the 806 means it was made in the 8th week of 2006.

The date of manufacture is essential information for car owners and tire buyers because tires deteriorate even if they are not used.

-- Okanagan Classic Thunderbird Club "Valley Thunder," May 2009



Shredded T-Bird Tire