



# Sidelights

The Official Newsletter of the  
Santa Rosa Horseless Carriage Club of America  
**September/October 2025**



**Next Meeting:** November 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm

Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at **Round Table Pizza, 2065 Occidental Rd, Santa Rosa**

## SRHCCA Monthly Meeting – September 11, 2025

### Attendees:

John & Linda Pearson  
Guy & Michelle Smith  
Bill Scales & Cinda Craven  
Linda Eggleston  
Wayne Simoni  
Pat Stoll



Call to Order by President Guy Smith @ 5:32pm

**Membership:** New member Pat Stoll was present. Welcome to the club Pat and Karen! The Stolls have a 1915 Ford Model T Runabout and a 1923 Buick Model 26 coupe (3 person).

**Treasurer's Report:** \$1633.07 is the current club account balance.

**Sunshine:** Linda Pearson is doing very well and was at the meeting! No reports of anyone ailing.

### Tours:

- **September 27<sup>th</sup>:** John Pearson to lead the tour. Meet at Washoe house between 9:30-10am. We'll be taking back roads to Valley Ford for lunch.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Linda Pearson made motion to make Vicky Porter an honorary member. Vicky has stayed active with the club for many years and has served as President three times. Linda Eggleston seconded, and the motion carried. Congratulations Vicky!

### General:

- Michelle's last day working for Macy's is September 12<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Michelle on a well-deserved retirement!

- Bratton's Antique Auto Parts is closing its retail operations. Use your gift certificates by the end of October.
- Bill reported he got his Model A radiator fixed at Merv's Radiator in Petaluma. Clint has taken over for his father Merv and did a great job with one-day turnaround. Bill will take his 1914 Buick radiator to him this winter for repair.
- Stan Romando's daughter is giving Guy a tow truck mechanism Guy has been wanting.
- Guy and Michelle's 11-year-old granddaughter competed in barrel racing at a Rodeo in Corning last weekend.

Call to Close by President Guy Smith @ 6:35pm

Respectfully Submitted: Cinda Craven for Kimberly Simoni, SRHCCA Secretary

## SRHCCA Monthly Meeting – October 9, 2025

### Attendees:

Guy and Michelle Smith  
John and Linda Pearson  
Linda Eggleston  
Don and Pam Johnson  
Bill Scales and Cinda Craven

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by  
President Guy Smith

**Sunshine:** Guy to get his permanent bottom teeth tomorrow. Linda Pearson is going to get a PET scan next week to monitor her treatment results. Michelle will have surgery on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasurer:** Linda Eggleston reported we have the same balance as last month (\$1,633.07).

**Tours:** Guy and Michelle to lead this month's tour to Geyserville on October 26<sup>th</sup>. We will drive to Geyserville for lunch and then to downtown Geyserville for the Fall Colors Car Show. Guy to provide details closer to the tour date. It was suggested that Laytonville would be a nice future tour destination.

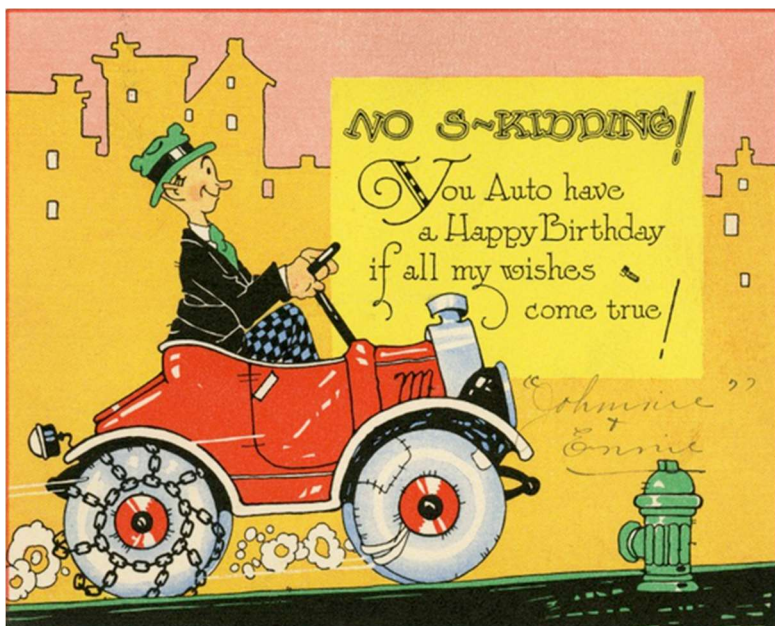
**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Need to decide on January Installation Dinner location and date. Do we want part of the dinner subsidized by the club? Will discuss next month when Simoni's are in attendance. Guy continues to help Stan Ramondo's family go through his car and car parts collections.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted: Cinda Craven for Kimberly Simoni, SRHCCA Secretary





### Dates to Remember 2025

#### **May 6-10: 2026 HCCA National Tour**

Friant, CA: John & Dianna Skillicorn 831-455-5150

## 2025 SANTA ROSA HCCA REGIONAL GROUP MEMBERSHIP

% 7505 Malone Rd, Forestville, CA 95436

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KEY	OFFICERS & POSITIONS	
(F) = Fax	<b>President:</b> Guy Smith	<b>Editor:</b> Cinda Craven
(W) = Work Phone	<b>Vice Pres:</b> Don Johnson	<b>Historian:</b> Vacant
(C) = Cell Phone	<b>Secretary:</b> Kim Simoni	<b>Membership:</b> Vacant
(NDNP) National Dues Not Paid	<b>Treasurer:</b> Linda Eggleston	<b>Sunshine:</b> Linda Pearson
<b>(LDNP) Local Dues Not Paid</b>	<b>Directors:</b> Bill Scales	<b>Tour Chair:</b> John Pearson
		<b>Webmaster:</b> Wayne Simoni

## Valley Ford Tour – Saturday, September 27, 2025

*Cinda Craven*

The tour was led by John and Linda Pearson. Since the Johnsons decided to bring a modern, the starting point was changed from Washoe House in Petaluma to downtown Forestville. Linda made her famous pumpkin chocolate chip muffins, so the tour started out on a high note. Thank you, Linda!



On the tour were Guy and Michelle, John and Linda, Don and Pam, Bill and Cinda, and Wayne. We headed down River Road, then turned and went over the temporary bridge and through the Odd Fellows Park and onto Pocket Canyon. From there we took Neeley Road and made our way across the summer bridge at Vacation Beach and back onto River Road. At Monte Rio, we took Moscow Road all the way into Duncan's Mills. No shopping or bathroom breaks this time! Once all our "ducks" were in a row, it was a direct route out to the coast and then south along Hwy 1 and into Valley Ford.



We dined outside at the Estero Café, and then each of us found our way back home. John and Linda, and Bill and Cinda, stopped in Occidental and had ice cream at the Altamont General Store. It was a lovely tour. Thank you, John and Linda!

## Geyserville Fall Colors Tour – Sunday, October 26, 2025

*Cinda Craven*

Well, what does our club do when it rains? We drive our moderns and eat anyway! Guy (with a broken wrist and sporting a splint – you’ll have to ask him!) and Michelle Smith, John Pearson, Linda Eggleston, and Bill and I met for “brunch” at 11:00am at the Geyserville Inn. About an hour later, and about that much time driving to find the restaurant (sound familiar Don and Pam?), Wayne arrived and joined us for an iced tea.

Since there really isn’t anything to write about (the Fall Colors Car Show was cancelled the Friday before due to expected rains), I decided to look online and find a little bit of history about automobiles in Geyserville. Here is an article written over 35 years ago by local historian and journalist Gaye LeBaron and published in The Press Democrat.

GEYSERVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & GEYSERVILLE KIWANIS CLUB PRESENTS:

**Fall COLORS Festival**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH

**CANCELED DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS**

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- Live music
- Family-friendly games
- Arts & crafts
- Baking competitions
- Food vendors
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Bring the whole family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy this festive day!

Sponsored by Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

# Lampsons story; Wheelbarrows to motor cars

*Gaye LeBaron's Notebook, The Press Democrat 1988*

There's a certain stability to life in the town of Geyserville. It hasn't changed a whole lot through the years. It's true that the bank closed a couple of years ago, but the old bank building is still there, housing a gift shop. At the Rex, one of the best Italian restaurants in the county, the Catelli family has been dishing ravioli for 52 years. Across the street, in the general store called Bosworth & Son, it's grandson Harry Bosworth who runs the business his grandfather, George, started in 1911 and his father, Obed, continued.



*Geyserville's main street, 1920. Cook's Market at the far right is now The Rex*

That's why it was big news in Geyserville when Dave Lampson sold the Ford dealership at the first of the year. There had been a Lampson selling cars in Geyserville for at least 70 years.

Dave Lampson's grandfather, Augustus Lampson, came from Mokelumne Hill in the Mother Lode and opened a blacksmith shop on the main street in 1905. The automobile was a big deal in 1905. While still an object of curiosity in the horsedrawn world of Sonoma County, it had been proven to have some practical uses. The first car in Sonoma County, a genuine Schelling,

built by cycle shop owner George Schelling and his machinist brother, Alex, in 1899, had served Santa Rosa's beloved Dr. James Jesse well, getting him to house calls ahead of the horse and buggy.

By the time Lampson's blacksmith business was established, at least two Santa Rosa cyclery shops, Schelling's and Wiseman's, were listed, officially, in the Sonoma County Business Directory as "automobile agents".

While there's no record of exactly when the first new car was sold from the Lampson establishment, as the agent for Studebaker wheelbarrows in northern Sonoma County, Augustus undoubtedly had an opportunity to sell the gasoline-powered cars Studebaker was shipping west by 1910. The Lampson family photograph album shows some Studebaker cars of very early vintage. And the addition of that newfangled business called a "garage" was a logical extension of the blacksmith trade.

Another logical extension was the bus service Evertt Lampson and his brother, Warren, outfitted with a Studebaker omnibus for the twice-a-day run from the Geyserville train depot to the Skaggs Springs Hotel, a popular resort which is now under the waters of Lake Sonoma, behind Warms Springs Dam. The Skaggs Springs stage carried passengers and the U.S. Mail

Russell "Pat" Patteson drove the Lampson stage in the summers of 1919 and 1920. At 87, Pat lives in Healdsburg and remembers those trips well. "The roads were good. Not paved, but good." He recalls. "They let me out of high school three weeks early those summers, because my grades were good, so I could go to work driving."

Driving an opened-sided bus with a surrey top, "you know, with that fringe on it." Pat hauled 12 or 15 passengers on most trips. "The hotel was a busy place, had a big swimming pool. I met the mayor of San Francisco, some of the supervisors." He'd meet the "up" train at 11 am, make the trip to the hotel, return and meet the 7pm train for new arrivals. He'd spend the night at the resort – a treat for a high school boy – and drive out in the morning in time to make the "down" train.

Pat Patteson, who later drove the transport trucks for Standard Oil, honed his driving skills working for the Lampsons. He remembers such experiences as being chosen to drive Emilio Buffi, the Healdsburg restaurant owner, and his family to Ukiah in "a big red six-cylinder Studebaker he rented for the day from Lampsons. I don't think I would have been old enough to drive today," recalls Pat. "I don't remember that I had a driver's license. I don't think you needed one."

Nine of Augustus Lampson's 12 children were sons and most of them joined in the family trade. Everett was the one who found automobiles the most interesting prospect. And he learned to read the trends. Automotive industry estimates show that one-half of the automobiles sold in the United States between 1917 and 1927 were built by the man who brought the world the Model T, Henry Ford. In 1922, Everett bought the garage business from his father and his brothers, including the Studebaker agency, and applied for a franchise to sell Fords.

He continued to sell Studebakers and, in 1929, obtained a franchise for Chevrolets as well. He was doing a substantial business in Fordson tractors, not surprising in a town surrounded by some of the finest prune orchards, vineyards and hopyards in the



*A rail car load of Fordson tractors arrive at the Geyserville depot*

state. He also continued the stage line. In 1938 and '39 it was his son, Everett Jr., known as Dave, who drove the seven-passenger '29 Studebaker (most of the hotel patrons had their own cars now) from the depot to the resort. Dave remembers delivering mail on the way, having lunch in the employees dining room and taking a swim in the pool before starting back to town, picking up the out-going mail on his way to the Geyserville post office.



In 1942 fire destroyed the original Lampson garage, including the family hardware store and blacksmith shop. They were open for business the next day in a building across the highway and south. When the automobile agency rebuilt in 1948, after the World War II building moratorium was lifted, the Lampson Tractor Company remained in the eastside building, which, in fact, remains

the site of Lampson Tractors, still owned by Dave's younger brother, Keith.

Dave served in the South Pacific in WWII, finished work for his degree at UC. Berkeley in '47 and was home to go to work in the new agency when it opened. He assumed management of the business in 1954 when his father was elected supervisor from the Fourth District. Everett held that office for two terms, until 1962.

Everett Lampson died in 1976. His wife, Ora, who had run the hardware store, expanding it into a little "department store" in the 1940's, died last year. Dave Lampson and his wife, Claire, sold the automobile business in January – to Scott Zumwalt, another good name in automobiles. Scott is the son of Dave Zumwalt, a St. Helena auto dealer, and the grandson of Santa Rosa's Ed Zumwalt.

The Lampsons have retired to the family ranch on Independence Lane, chuckling at the people who ask them where they plan to live. Their living room window frames both Geyser Peak and Mount St. Helena and overlooks Alexander Valley. "Where would we want to go?" they ask.

**HORSELESS CARRIAGE CLUB OF AMERICA**



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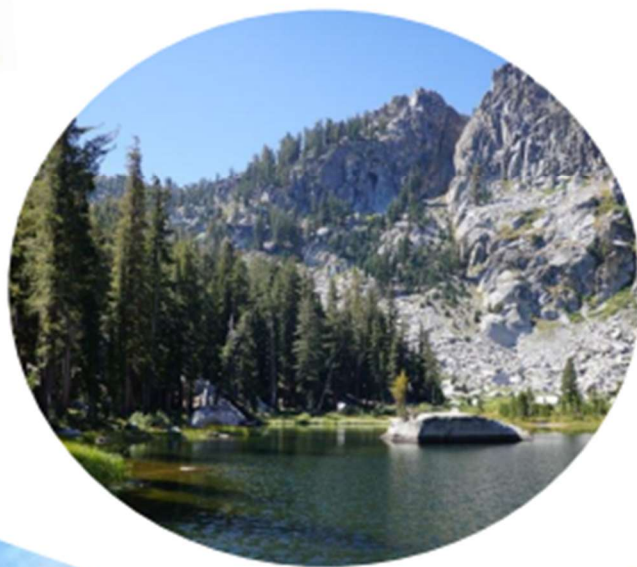
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