



1016 NORMANDY CRES., OTTAWA, ONT., K2C 0L4

G'day eh.

Aug 10/92

FIRST THE HEADLINES: T-Cat makes it to Alaska---well, most of them do anyway. The Rovers North Ralley sees a record number of OVL R members and friends. The British Invade Vermont in September and we have lotsa bits, pieces, parts and accessories for sale.

Now the details. Last report comes from Trans-Canada/Alaska Tour unofficial contact and Nova Scotian John Cranfield over a pint at the Rovers North rally. Initially planned as a 50-vehicle tour, the little expedition was whittled down to seven vehicles when it set out from Halifax July 1. John reported that five of the originals limped, squeaked, and "pockataqweeped" into Anchorage several days ago. Organizer Ron Mowry was unceremoniously dumped from the tour by another vehicle which "T-boned" the Range Rover in the Calgary area. Ron, his son and a young French lad along for the ride were injured but are recovering nicely. His daughter escaped any serious damage. The aging Rangy however, was swept into a Hefty Bag and tossed in the Dumpster. The five treckers dipped their wheels into the Pacific to signal an end to the odessey that began more than a month before in Halifax harbour.

Along the way OVL R got a chance to meet the 15 human participants when they spent the night in Ottawa July 10. The little caravan--three from overseas, three from the US and John Cranfield --pulled into the Lebreton Flats campground after dark to the applause of a dozen OVL R members. After a round of handshakes and celebratory cap-snapping, Dave Meadows chauffeured a US Range Rover driver to Ottawa airport to pick up a rented car for an overnight trip to Rovers North and a accelerator cable. (complicated, eh) While some shopped for groceries, others headed for bed and the rest set out with their new Ottawa friends in search of the perfect pizza before tucking in for the night.

Seven o'clock came early next morning as the club kitchen trailer pulled up to a huge tent outside the Navy Association Mess on Victoria Island. Within an hour, the first of 70 eggs, 10 pounds of sausages, piles of toast, fresh fruit, juice and coffee were being dished up. When it was over, Al "Greasy spoon" Bates and his happy crew had served an "all-you-can-eat breakfast" to 34 T-CATers, OVL R members and their friends.

After cleanup, Pres Jason, in charge of providing emergency repairs, headed out to his shop with a T-CAT 109 and a headache-inducing exhaust leak. While Jason and brother Jerry dealt with the crippled six-cylinder, another T-Cat member took the opportunity to replace a leaking nub seal with emergency OVLRL supplies made available for the event. While the mechanical repairs were underway, Al, in his topless 107 "Sally", toured several other T-CATers around Parliament Hill.

That afternoon, after handshakes and gift-giving, the group pulled out for Picton well fed, toured out and mechanically sound. A report from the Toronto Area Land Rover club said they arrived at Richard Copples' late that night, did a little off-roading the next day, then headed for Manitoulin Island where Cranfield waved goodbye. Maybe someday Ron Mowry will show us his diaries of the whole tour. Should be good reading.

A lot of work went into OVLRL's contribution to T-CAT. When contacted by Ron almost two years ago, the club offered to provide communications and emergency mechanical support and help with accommodations. During the past year as we got closer to the date, the details that needed attention multiplied tenfold. That was when VP Yves Fortin took over as co-ordinator for the event. Before spring melted winter's snow away, Yves was comparing rates from campsites and motels, negotiating with the Navy Mess, writing letters, contracting accommodation, sorting through tourist brochures, heating up the phone lines to Ron's home in Maine, a contact in Quebec City to help with campsites there, and all around Ottawa.

The day before they arrived, he was on the phone to Quebec city and Waterloo checking to see if they were on schedule. Later he put the finishing touches on the information kits to be handed out to the T-Caters. He was first at Lebreton Flats Friday afternoon to set up the welcome wagon. He was there when the tired tour arrived six hours late and he was still there when they bedded down around midnight.

He was on the breakfast crew at dawn Saturday--when he wasn't darting off for more bread or looking for T-CATers lost at the campground or delivering breakfast to others stalled at a nearby laundromat. He was there to provide a little history on The Hill and wave goodbye when it was finally over. Occasionally, he had help, but most of the work and all the responsibility fell to Yves alone.

Earlier this week at the monthly meeting, President Jason led the applause and thanked Yves for the superb effort that made our contribution to the cross Canada tour such a success. Jason's remarks echoed the sentiments of Ron Mowry and the T-CAT members. They were amazed at the organization, tickled with breakfast and the tourist treatment and extremely thankful for the mechanical help. OVLRL did what it was set up to do: Provide for the care and feeding of Land Rovers, lend a helping hand to their owners and have a good time while doing it. A big chunk of the credit for that goes to VP Yves Fortin.

We're sending copies of the group photo to T-CAT participants. And, just for your info, here they are: Jeffery Guyee from Pennsylvania, Walter Jamney of Vermont, Cheryl and Arthur Person out of Mississippi, and of course Ron Mowry of Maine and good 'ol John Cranfield from some obscure province on the east coast. Now for the hard ones: Rene van Boekel of Holland, Kaija-Liisa and Raimo Toivonen of Sweden and Helena and Jaakko Pohjantuli from Finland. Don't try to pronounce these. You'll hurt yourself. Apologies if we didn't get them right. They sure were nice people.



Some of the OVLR crew with T-CAT participants surround a bulging, safari-equipped 88 after stuffing away a major breakfast July 11.

And now, a short note from the VP nimsel:

Trans-Canada-Alaska-Tour

OVLR can be proud of its contribution to the odyssey! The organization and flexibility that we showed seemed to be much appreciated by each of the 15 participants. I would like to take these few inches of our newsletter to thank each of you who helped, particularly our editor McD who worked with me from the beginning, Al Pilgrim for the organization of the kitchen and his tour guide skills, Dave Meadows for communications, Robin Craig for his readiness, pres. Jason Dowell for the facilities and his help with the repairs (Kaija and Raimo are sure glad to do without the diesel fumes), Jerry Dowell, Kelsey and Margaret, Gordon Bernius, Dale (for buttering and eating the toasts) and Louise. Greatest thanks to all of you for time and efforts in attending the reception and breakfast!

Yves

The Rovers North rally at Westford, Vermont saw more OVLK members in attendance than ever before. Eighteen folk from the Ottawa area made the trek, most in two convoys that left Friday. The early shift was composed of Pres. Jason and Lenora, Fred Joyce, Bob Wood, McD, Ted Rose, Murray Jackson, Dave and Joyce Meadows and a few other friends. They made it in a little over five hours. That included the usual stops to tie things back on the Land Rover, check out the source of smoke and fix that incessant rattling that always seems to begin just when one manages to reach 80 kph.

The second convoy, Bates, Gerry Dowell and Dale Desprey, left in the afternoon and ran into a torrential downpour, taking eight hours to make it. Led by a very soggy Bates, the trio opted to dry out in a nearby motel and arrived at RN the next morning. In true Land Rover wisdom, Bates and Dale had decided the wettest summer on record had ended and made the trips sans doortops. Bates spent the next three nights in his motel room watching TV and munching Cheezies.

About 100 vehicles and 200 people attended the rally which, this year, included a "trials" course. The rain, which kept up most of Saturday and Sunday, cancelled the off-road course and made the trials competition fun to watch...and challenging to drive. Hamburgs and barbecued chicken served up by RN helped keep the chills away during the day and the traditional campfire --and plenty of gin--handled night duty.

Highlights for the Ottawa group included: Dale buying, painting and installing new door tops only to discover the window mechanism was faulty. RN STILL exchanged them. Ted Rose's successful bid of \$2 for an armload of lug wrenches that turned out to be \$2 EACH. Nancy--of Dave Davey and the Canadian Series One Club fame--hurtled around the trials course in a borrowed Range Rover and demonstrated why they really shouldn't go where Land Rovers belong. (What's an "off-road" vehicle doing with an air dam anyway). Dave and Nancy, who didn't come in a Land Rover last year, didn't come in a Land Rover again this year. Poofers. Nice T-shirts tho'.

Bates, getting stuck on the way into, and out of, the trails course...then not competing. Bates again for breaking--again--his side windows by throwing them into the back. McD had his clutch go away. (Last year it was carb problems.) Ted and Fred got great deals on used tires--then had to explain them at the border. Dale demonstrated how to put up a tent in the rain--in the dark--We have pix.

While some of the group headed back home Sunday afternoon, the rest of us converged on the mountain home of Pam and Charlie Haigh for burgs and beer. Then it was back to our sleeping bags to rest up for the return trek Monday. Aside from a barfing dog, many "wiz" stops and an hour's wait at the Cornwall border, the drive was routine---except a stop for a little oil into Bate's rust-caked distributor as it chewed its way through the cap.

Thanks to Pam and Charlie, Mark and Andrea Letorney and Lanny and the rest of the Rovers North gang. Hope next year is a little dryer---but we'd still rather be there in the rain than say, Pittsburg in the sun.

NEWS...VIEWS...FOR SALE...RUMOURS...FRESH FRUIT...WANTED...STUFF

*-Welcome potential new member Michel Bertrand who we met at the rally. Michel has four Land Rovers...some running, some not.

*-Treasurer Tom still being gay in Patee..or is it being in gay Patee?

*-Anyone interested in a "Realman" off road trip? It could happen Labor Day weekend. Call Bob Wood (613) 225-2100.

*-King Sol Outdoor Stores in Toronto has a sale on new US Jerry cans for \$20 each or four for \$70. European type is \$28. (416) 363-9944 (thx to Dave Davey)

*-The July 10-16 Truck and Equipment Trader mag has a hydraulic winch with all the fixin's for under \$400. (613) 258-2120. Also a just rebuilt diesel engine (613) 962-4904 and a '73 Land Rover. Asking \$4,000 (613) 567-8973. That's all we know. (Thx to Sec Harry)

*-"Cleanout time at McD's has good 15-in tires, some on rims, a couple of lug l6s, scrap steel. Free. Call before Aug. 20 (224-8300)

*-Ed Bennett of Newton, Ont., has a 73-109 diesel for sale. Says it's "very clean and has seen no winters." The front end was renewed about three years ago, still got its original paint and he's asking \$8,000 (519) 595-4841

*-The Prairie Rover, publication of the Land Rovers Association of Manitoba, is a newsey little newsletter members might like. Call Scott Sheppard (204) 367-2141

*-Bates is looking for a "cheapy" machine shop to build him a new drive shaft for his front PTO winch. Seems the splines parted company recently during a bumpy ride. Something about the wire wraps that have been holding his motor mounts together finally giving it up.

*- Keep in mind October is frame oiling-weather. We'll be at it again so now might be a good time to start scraping the muck away. More details later.

*-OVLR tools in the hands of Dale Desprey, George Charron and Treas. Tom this month. Busy, busy.

*-That's all from here.

Editor Mike "McD" (613) 224-8300

Pres. Jason 595-4593

VP Yves 237-9719

Treas. Tom 256-5585

Sec. Harry 234-0228

Well if you have not already heard it on the grapevine its official. LAND ROVER DEFENDERS are to be sold in CANADA this year. About 25 units of 110 station wagons are coming. they will be fitted with a number of luxury items as standard. The engine will a 3.9 litre engine, the biggest ever fitted as standard in any Land Rover. Also standard is a very fancy roof rack and roll bar system and a winch at the front. These are a far cry from the '74 88's that last came to this country. As for price, Land Rover Canada says they are trying to keep it under \$56,000!!!! I understand that Brian Adams (a famous Canadian musician for those of you over 40!) is to be given one as a good will gesture by Land Rover. I'll keep you posted as to developments.

It seems that every time the newsletter deadline comes around all the interesting things happen. For instance I had just handed my copy to McD when I was visited by John and Vanessa Ross. This British couple are travelling around the world in a Land Rover 127 crew cab. The vehicle once belonged to a hydro company in England and has been fitted with a Mazda 3.5 litre diesel engine especially for the trip.

Some other modifications are, the fitment of a tent trailer (minus axle and wheels) into the rear box, extra fuel tanks, water purification system, propane fridge, and a custom made roof rack. The vehicle is striking in its red and white respray colours. All loaded the vehicle weighs 3 tons. I was asked if I wanted to have a drive, well you couldn't have held me back if you had tried!!

The Mazda engine coupled with the standard Land Rover 5 speed transmission certainly gives alot of pulling power and is exceptionally smooth on the road. There was a slight body roll to the vehicle but it was to be sorted out by fitting by stiffer rear coil springs. My thanks to John and Vanessa for the ride.

In other news OVLR member Bob Morrison was seen posing around in John Craddocks Pink Panther the other weekend at the Billings Aquadrome in England. This was at the big Land Rover meet held over the "Bank Holiday" weekend. By the way Bob, John wants to know where you went to get the mud on the Pink Panther!

Did anyone spot Formula 1 race car driver Ricardo Patresse being towed off the Hockenheim race track into the pits by a Land Rover 90?

At the '92 National IPMS convention I was honoured to give my talk on our aluminium friend to a very receptive audience. A total of 138 slides in 46 minutes! A very big thank you to Bob Morrison for the loan of some of his slides. By the way I was very surprised to gain an "Honourable Mention" with a 1/87 scale Ser 3 109 sw in one of the categories.

Hope you all have a good summer, whats left of it, and we'll see you again in September.

Thats all..... Robin



SEPTEMBER 18th, 19th & 20th, 1992

The EVENTS:

* FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

- Starting at Noon -

- * British AutoJumble
- * Auto Restoration Services
- * British Classic Motor Car Parade
- * British Marketplace
- * British Pub & Food Service
- * Registrants Cocktail Party

* SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

-Daytime at the Stowe Polo Grounds-

- * CLASSIC BRITISH MOTOR CAR SHOW (Sponsored by ArmorAll Products)
(Over 30 Classes; People Choice Awards; Drawing for British Airways Tickets to London)
- * British Motorcar Auction Preview
- * Rolls-Royce Engine Display
- * British Pub & Food Service
- * Rugby (the Montreal Barbarians vs the Schnectady Reds)
- * Cricket Match ("the Mad River Cricket Club" vs. "the Bishop's College Old Boys")
- * British Colonial Troop Encampment (the Kings Rangers & the 29th Regiment of Foot)

-Saturday Evening-

* "AN EVENING IN CAMELOT"

(A Medieval Banquet & Dinner Theater)

(Costumed Guests eligible for Special Awards)

* SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

- at the Stowe Polo Grounds-

- * BRITISH MOTORCAR AUCTION (Presented by Paul McInnis, Inc.)
- * TAILGATE PICNIC COMPETITION (Sponsored by Barbour, Inc.)
- * POLO MATCH (British Airways vs. Ye Olde England Inne)
- * Auto Restoration Services
- * British Marketplace & AutoJumble
- * Colonial Troop Encampment
- * British Pub & Food Service

****MEET HEADQUARTERS****

Ye Olde England Inne & Mr. Pickwicks Polo Pub
the Mountain Road, Stowe, Vermont 05672
Chris Francis @ 802-253-2106 Fax: (802)253-8944

*** MEET REGISTRATION INFORMATION ***

Michael Gaetano (617)237-4950 Fax: (617)237-6811

24-Hour Registration Information Request Line (617)237-8117

*** BRITISH MOTORCAR AUCTION ***

PAUL MCINNIS, INC. (800)242-8354(U.S. Only);(603)778-8989 Fax: (603)772-7452

ACCOMMODATIONS: Call the Stowe Area Association (802)253-6617

