



# CORVETTE KALEIDOSCOPE

## -- EDITORIAL --

Our illustrious friend Jim Payton - of the Jaguar Associate Group - once made the comment that the editor of this poor-man's Post must get all keyed up to grind axes prior to typing each month's editorial. Perhaps, in a sense, he is correct. Because if ever the time was ripe, now is the time! The subject? A little item which could appropriately be entitled: "A LACK OF UNITY." Where? Among sports car drivers, of course. Take a look around....Listen to the derogatory comments made altogether to often by one driver to another about a third; by one Club about another, etc. Fortunately, the JAG and the NCCA have seen through this sullen waste of time and united on an annual affair which promises to continue well into the future, not to mention the many times members of both groups get together at races, auto-crosses, etc. to enjoy one another's company, a little bull-session, a few drinks, (case in point: Laguna Seca---Thank you, JAG) etc. Take waving for example. How much of this does one see any more? Bud Grosso, the Triumph dealer from San Carlos, (who is, incidentally, not the most ardent supporter of the Corvette, as proved by his microphone at Vaca Valley) even splurged and gave up a commercial once (ouche!) to send a message to all sport car drivers to wave at one another, since the fad was waning....Good intentions....Poor results. One could go on and on with this subject which, in all actuality, hardly rates space.(Are we the watchdogs of the sports car world?) This being the case, we won't delve any more into the whys and wherefores of this subject, as there is little sense in carrying on and on. But, let we, the NCCA, not take part in any action, regardless how small it appears, that can prove harmful to the sport. Its the small incidents that add up to the large result. Let our cousins from across the Atlantic say what they will...And let them have the blame for the lack of unity referred to above.....Turn the other cheek!.....

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Social Time! Bobbie and Fred Jetton rate top space, as they have really outdone themselves and are continuing on the way up hill with the next two.....First: Sunday, July 13th. (Here comes a lulu long to be remembered, The Place: Londonside...in the town of Glen Ellen not a few miles past Sonoma. Meet at 9:30 A.M. Sunday morning SHARP at the King Cotton Drive in San Rafael just as you come into S.R. from the Richmond Bridge. There will be swimming in the exceptionally large pool, parking, Bar-B-Que (giant size pit) dancing, dinner if you want to cook some more, and the most unusual bar this side of the Vatican. All this for only 50¢ per car. Drinks extra...Bring food..... Don't miss this one...You'll have the most unusual experience of a long while loaded with surprises...The only DON'T is: Please don't bring liquor. This place has to make a living and considering what we're getting for 50¢ per CAR, let's buy our drinks at the bar. Besides, they make darn good drinks and excellent hang-overs.

August Social: The weekend of August 16th & 17th. Lattin's Motel near Stateline. (All married persons must show marriage licenses) Here is

another great time lined up by the team of Jetton & Jetton. \$5.00 per person...As we recall the last weekend spent in that country, (They're still rebuilding Strawberry Lodge) we should all have a ball. You must reserve for this one IN ADVANCE. Contact Fred & Bobbie Jetton, 2735 Regent St. Berkeley...THornwall 5-8918. They must have the money in advance and also the name of each person going. ABSOLUTE DEADLINE: JULY 20th. More details later.....

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Congratulations to the Heplers...We hear they're expecting the pitter-patter of tiny feet in a few months. About this time, someone will ask: "Are they adopting a midget?"

Happy Birthday Jim Mannon..On July 8th, he celebrates his 29th Birthday (he says) which reminds me of Ray Altman, who also says he's 29...Shades of Jack Benney minus a mere ten years..

As always, there's always a sad note to go along with the happy ones. This time concerning one of the world's most upcoming young drivers....Luigi Russo...Russo died Sunday of injuries incurred when his Ferrari crashed

into the wall at the Grand Prix of Rheims... A great loss to the sport, as here was a young driver who won a seat with Scuderia Ferrari at the age of 25, and showed as much promise as any driver alive.....

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For those who may one day be looking for a little fibreglass repair work. Or, for that matter, for the information of any sport car owner, I have been informed by Mike Feilman of Sports Car World that Vann and Corky of Vann's Auto Body Shops (S.F. & Berkeley) have dissolved their partnership xx and Gordon Vann is now the sole owner. Furthermore, I understand their work is better than ever before and the prices reasonable. They also build roll bars which do the job when needed as Chick Leson will testify, special bodies, etc. Doug Lackey is now Vann's manager.

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Interested in a new car? A Ford maybe? No? How about a Chrysler? In case it may be of interest..and I wouldn't take any bets.... here's how they are selling as of June 30. Rambler is the only car ahead of last year's sales...Ford is off well over 100,000 cars. Chevrolet is off, but not too much. All the Chrysler products are in trouble, with Dodge sales especially bad..Down about 80%. The whole industry, all makes taken into account, is off almost exactly one-third, or 33-1/3%...Thunderbird is still back-ordered.

As for the new cars, they'll start appearing at the beginning of September. Buick will be first out, followed closely xx by some six or eight makes scheduled for Sept. introduction. Almost all the rest will be out in October, with a couple exceptions that won't appear until November. The big thinkers from Detroit, (quote: those little foreign cars are just a fad) seeing how poor sales are and knowing they aren't going to do too much better, are coming out early in order to stimulate new car sales the last three months of '58 in order to offset the deficit left during the second quarter. The Detroit brains, in an effort to hoodwink the public, predicted a 6 million car year for '58, but now will be more than happy to settle for four million. GM's complete line will be drastically restyled, with such innovation, as Olds with four headlights spaced all the way across the front, Cheve with new fins, more sculptured rear end....Buick with canted headlights (a la Lincoln) and so on. Not to be outdone, Ford is also 'going the route.' Over one billion dollars is being spent on redesign; scarcely a year after a pretty complete changeover.

Not to be outdone again, the European market is producing a few new models. Triumph is almost out with their new model which, I hear, resembles a Thunderbird from the side. Watch the next Sports Car World for pictures.(And, if you haven't already, send your subscription to this magazine and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ keep abreast of the happenings in our area. )

SPEAKING OF NEW CARS, and we have been if you are still awake, the first Jaguar XK-150-S is now in S.F. at BIC. Very reliable sources (!!!) say it will probably go to the Bay Area's top Jag driver, Andy Neilson. He has already tried it out, and is more than pleased with it. 'Lots of low-end torque.'

ODD ITEM: There exists, in the Bay Area, a machine which can be called a Jagvette, or, if you prefer, a Corvuar. It is a Jag with Corvette f.i. engine and 4-speed. Quite a bomb from what I've heard. The question is: Does he belong to the J.A.G. or the NCCA?????

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BE SURE TO READ THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF A NEW MAGAZINE, SPORTS CAR WHEEL - SEPT. 1958 ISSUE - PAGE 6 - TITLE:"TO THE VICTOR GOES THE INVOICE." Don't miss this!!!

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VACAVILLE: We finally got the opportunity of wearing in the new course. By far, not what can be considered a Corvette course, but still a very good run. The Corvettes did quite well for themselves this weekend, with Saturday's production race going to Hugh Harn, The Tiburon Terror, and third overall and second in class to your's truly. In Sunday's senior race, Porterfield took first, followed closely by a very fast Bob Nix, then by Harn and Bill Sturgis, and ex-Mercedes driver. Saturday's Marque race again went to Porterfield, with Nix again second and Bob Bent third. Mechanical defects and troubles again took their toll, with Vercelli the first out with a thrown vibration dampner, then Altman with what appears to be another blown piston, then Bent with the same trouble that retires Vercelli. This October, there will be a National race at the Vaca Valley Raceway with perhaps a bit cooler climate. November still another National at Laguna Seca. (make your reservations now)

The next race on tap is slated for Aug 2 & 3 at the Minden-Gardnerville airport about 40 miles south of Reno. If you plan on going, make your reservations at Carson City or Stateline, as they are closer than Reno. ---That's it for now....Send in your gossip for next month.....Salude!.....

*Sandy Street Plat*