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G'day eh:

Aug 14/91

This month's newsletter is coming to you a week later than usual due to holidays.

FIRST THE HEADLINES: OVLN makes its mark at the Atlantic British and Rovers North rallies, the first of the Wainwright Land Rovers arrive in Ottawa, details on the 1992 Trans-Canada Alaska Tour and the Picton rally wraps up summer.

Now the details: The annual get-together at Atlantic British Limited in Mechanicville, NY, saw a small but highly noticeable contingent from OVLN in mid-July. Al "Bates" Pilgrim and club secretary Harry Bligh with lady Lyne joined nearly a hundred other Land Rover lovers from Canada and the US. Harry and Lyne met the convoy from the Toronto Area Land Rovers at an upper New York State campground on the Friday night before the parade over the Adirondacs into Mechanicville the next day. The ever-carefree Bates however, shunning such soul-destroying conventions as motel reservations, went solo...and ended up spending a rainswept night huddled in his leaking 107 with the "Lovebunny" and offspring. Once at the rally, the boys again held the center of attention--Bates by blowing up his ignition system and Harry by talking for the entire two days without taking a breath.

Lucky for Bates, AB hosts Steve Springer and Dick Taylor were open for business and came to his rescue. Too bad they couldn't have come back home with him. They might have saved first and reverse gears which called it quits on the return trip. For his part, Harry took steps to expand his reputation as the "King of Tent Cities" with the purchase of a 36-square meter shelter. Harry says it's only a starter kit and has plans for something resembling the Skydome. The boys report all manner of Land Rovers attended the AB rally, including lightweights, a forward control, a rare 101 belonging to Paul Scholotiuic of Toronto, Range Rovers and early Series Ones.

Three weeks later it was back in the Land Rovers for the trek to Rovers North in the beautiful Green Mountains of Vermont. While our Toronto mates were absent this trip, the Ottawa club was up in strength: President Jason and Lenora, Bob Wood and Andrew Finlayson, Murray Jackson and Fried Joyce, Harry, Lyne and Editor McD, Jerry Dowell and Dale Desprey made OVLN the largest club in attendance.

OVLN had earlier been asked to run one of our famous games so, as competitors lined up for the off-road course, they were enticed into a test of skills rivalling the Camel Trophy...well almost. Depth perception while blindfolded, ability to negotiate rough terrain while balancing a load of inner tubes and a cup of water and the skills required to poke balloons with a pointed stick while careening through a field were all examined.

It provided a diversion for those awaiting a shot at the "bog monster" and a lotta laughs for onlookers. It was with only slight embarrassment that two of our own--Lenora of Jason fame and Nancy, the other half of Dave Davey and the Canadian Series One Club--took top honors. Third place went to Bernie Mowry, lady of Cross-Canada 92 tour organizer, Ron.

Rovers North hosts Mark and Andrea Letorney provided the prizes for our course and gave the club a "Volcano kettle", a super water heater for the much-needed "cuppa" during safaris. And our own Murray Jackson took home a brand new military fire extinguisher for his mint lightweight. Land Rover sage Clive MacDonald-Smith, a guest of RN for the rally, awarded prizes for the concourse competition.

Besides Lanney peddling the parts shop, Mark unveiled an auction of bits and pieces from the dark corners of the warehouse. Lots of stuff and some great deals. Greg Charron got a new canvas roof for the 88 at less than half price, Murray took home two parts manuals for \$30 and Fried Joyce carried off a \$400 bush bar for an Isuzu with a winning bid of \$15. Now if he can just find a buyer....

Embarrassments included Editor McD purchasing points, condenser and cap for a Ducellier distributor--then discovering he owns a Lucas. The faux pas would have gone unnoticed--and some say unreported since he's the editor-- had it not been for Dale who was lurking nearby. "Gotcha" said Dale. "Rats" said the editor.

However, the God of yellow journalism is never far away. Moments later, while shop foreman Charlie Haigh was pondering the cause of Dale's rough idle, he noticed a disconnected vacuum hose. "Howcum that hose isn't attached to the brake booster?" McD gleefully scrambled for his notepad. "Uhhhhh, I must have knocked it off when I was installing my speedo cable last night," whispered Dale. "No wonder my brakes don't work". "YES, oh YES" giggled the editor. Mechanical casualties included an earlier problem for McD involving a plugged fuel line in his 86 and a failed clutch master in Harry's 109. Charlie worked his magic for both. All returned safely in spite of a rainy Monday. Dale, who did the tour sans roof, won't have to wash for a week.

Ex-British military Land Rovers, lightweights and 109 regulars, could soon be living a new life in the Ottawa Valley. A recent vehicle auction at the Wainwright, Alta. British training base resulted in winning bids from several area Land Rover lovers. OVLK learned of the auction shortly after the spring newsletter went to press. The deadline for bids fell before publication of the summer edition. We'll have more details and a look at some of the vehicles next newsletter.

Speaking of things Land Rover, this month's edition of Land Rover Owner magazine features an article on Portuguese and Spanish variants on the military Series 111. In the continuing story on Land Rover history, readers learn how the little M1-two seater automobile almost spelled doom for the ubiquitous four-wheeler. There's also some good technical work on changing leaf springs and tour reports from France, India and Niger. Get your copy now or borrow the club's from editor McD. 224-8300.

Off Road Canada magazine, Canada's only publication dedicated solely to four-wheel-drive vehicles, has folded. In its place has emerged Truck and Trail magazine with a new format aimed at both four and two-wheel-drive interests.

Publisher Jim Martin said the switch was made to broaden the market. "We wanted the magazine to include two-wheel drive light truck buffs as well as hard core off-roaders." The new editor is Bob English, known for his automotive column in the Financial Post. Anyone with a subscription to Off-Road Canada will automatically receive the new production.

And speaking of new publications, OVL R has just mailed its editorial contribution to the next issue of Oileak Illustrated, Canada's only Land Rover magazine. Rhonda Wood, editor of the Vancouver-based quarterly, is looking for articles. We're committed to producing a seasonal wrap-up for each edition but members are encouraged to contribute stories of their own.

Details of the Cross Canada/Alaska Tour to run next July are slowly coming together. We spoke to organizer Ron Mowry at the Rovers North rally and have a rough schedule. While some things are likely to change before the Rovers roll, here's what we have to date:

The tour, made up of a maximum 50 vehicles, will assemble in Halifax, N.S. Participants will come from all over North America and overseas. They start out July 3 and expect to be in the Ottawa area July 10 and 11. They're looking for camping, eating and repair facilities and maybe a little tour. The number is expected to fluctuate a little as locals join and leave the group during its journey but organizers expect more than 100 people will visit the Ottawa stage. It'll wind up in Anchorage Aug. 3.

OVL R is used to running events for up to 60 people (birthday party, Maple Syrup rally) but the tour represents the biggest challenge we've ever faced. Before the executive makes a commitment to the organizers, it wants to be sure it has the support of the membership. OVL R's involvement will demand a lot of work and the exec will be looking to the membership for help in a big way.

OVL R is the largest, oldest, most active Land Rover club in Canada. It has a reputation as a dependable, well-organized operation that provides members--and anyone else who needs it--with genuine value in mechanical assistance, social events and outdoor fun. Through our newsletter we are known across Canada, the US and many places overseas where Land Rovers live. Our help and advice is sought by other clubs and at international rallies. Parts suppliers vie for our attention. It's a nice place to be but it came through hard work and the belief that service to the Land Rover community is what it's all about.

Members interested in discussing OVL R's commitment to the Tour are gathering at McD's for a little barbecue the evening of Monday, Sept 9. We need your help. (613) 224-8300

The Picton rally, our last thrash of summer shared with the gang from the Toronto Area Land Rovers, is scheduled for the weekend of Aug. 23-25. It's billed as a "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" weekend with no structure. Well, maybe a little lying around in the sun, doing a little sailing or perhaps a tour around some of Prince Edward County sun-soaked beaches.

Rumour has it Toronto Prez Tom Tollefson is scouting the area this weekend, probably plotting a diabolical off-road trip. It's bring your own everything as we're not planning a community meal. We will be the guests again this year of Richard Copple, owner of Long Run Imports. His spread offers lots of camping right on the edge of Lake Ontario. There are plenty of shops and fresh food spots nearby and who knows, maybe a corn roast might be in order.

The first caravan leaves at 2pm Friday, Aug 23, from the ESSO station parking lot at Highway 16 and Fisher Ave. A second group will depart the same location Saturday at 9am. We'll be back Sunday afternoon. If you're travelling alone, Richard's phone number is (613) 476-8074. See map attached.

GOSSIP...WANTED...LIES...TALL TALES...FOR SALE...RUMOURS...STUFF

*-Welcome new members: Bill Maloney of Wayne, N.J. Bill joined up at the RN Ralley and owns a 109 wagon and an 88. Geoffrey Turner, owner of a Series 111/88, was sent to us by Cliff Cochrane at ABP, Canada. Geoffrey, who lives in Kentville, N.S., is looking for a taillight. Ifya got one call him at (902) 678-5910. Also Ross Rowat of Athens, Ont., Ross has a 66/109, 12-seater.

*-Sec. Harry Bligh recently learned the aerodynamics of three-wheel flight when a front wheel parted company from his speeding 109. He managed to remount the errant wheel, find enough wheelnuts to hold it there, and set off for home. Then he ran out of gas.

*-Bates (remember him from the Mechanicville folly) and McD did a transmission exchange in Al's 107 last weekend. Bates picked up one of Stephane Bergeron's 2A gearboxes.

*-Treasurer Tom Mayor, who recently purchased another 109 wagon, has grabbed Stephane's bulkhead which had been rebuilt at McD's.

*-Speaking of Stephane, he still has several articles for sale including a 2-1/4 engine, a Series 2A gearbox, axles, custom rear crossmember with pintle and Reese hitches and some body parts. Call him at (819) 458-2857

*-Work on the kitchen trailer will resume in late August when McD and Robin finish up the welding.

*-Ancaster 4X4, an off-road equipment supplier, has presented our own Al "Bates" Pilgrim with a T-shirt and hat in honor of his continued destruction of things mechanical. They also supplied several HUGE parts catalogues containing lights, tires, suspension and other off-road goodies.

*-George Charron is looking for two good 16-inch rims. He's selling two 2-1/4 blocks and a Kodiak heater. (613) 692-0967

That's all folks
Editor McD (613) 224-8300

Prez Jason (613) 731-5098

Yves (613) 237-9719

Treas Tom (613) 256-5585

Sec Harry (613) 284-0228

ROBIN'S RIVETING ROVER RAMBLINGS

As some of you may know I now own a 88". As a result I have started to do some repairs. In DILLEAK Andre Maier talked about using a hammer and dolly to bring body panels back into line. This should be done with extreme caution as steel and aluminium do not go together very well. It is best to use a leather or plastic hammer. As I had neither and the split military style tailgate on my 88" was badly bent I decided to have a go as there was nothing to loose.

After having unbolted everything I then used a 3/16" drill bit to remove all the rivets. Now I was left with the spot welds along the edge and I used the same drill bit on these. Afterwards careful use of a slim chisel popped the panels apart.

Using the hammer and dolly slowly and gently I brought both sections back into line. I was careful to strike the aluminium at right angles all the time so as not to indent it. The tailgate was 4" out of line to start and for my first attempt I was more than pleased. Before I started I was curious to know if similar POP rivets were available to put the panels together. So I took a piece of the tailgate to ALLIED FASTENERS and spoke to MARTIN LECLERC who took alot of time and trouble to tell me all there is to know aluminium rivets.

In the end I bought a box of 500 aluminium rivets with an aluminium mandrel. This is the style used on the Land Rover. Although not exactly the same they are close. For those of you who want an exact copy I would give a call to any reputable Land Rover parts dealer. What I bought was POP Rivet # AD64ABS, 3/16" diameter with a grip range from 1/8" to 1/4". I paid just over \$30 for them with all the taxes. Although Allied also sells rivet guns I chose instead to buy one at Canadian Tire for about \$9. I'm on a budget ok?!!!!

ALLIED FASTENERS are at 2617 Edinburgh Place, Ottawa, their phone # is 745-1571. Please mention where you got their name from.

I would like to say how impressed I was to see Rhonda Wood putting out her first copy of DILLEAK. Congratulations to you luv! Keep up the good work. Remember that this is your magazine aswell and Rhonda is always looking for good material so write to her soon.

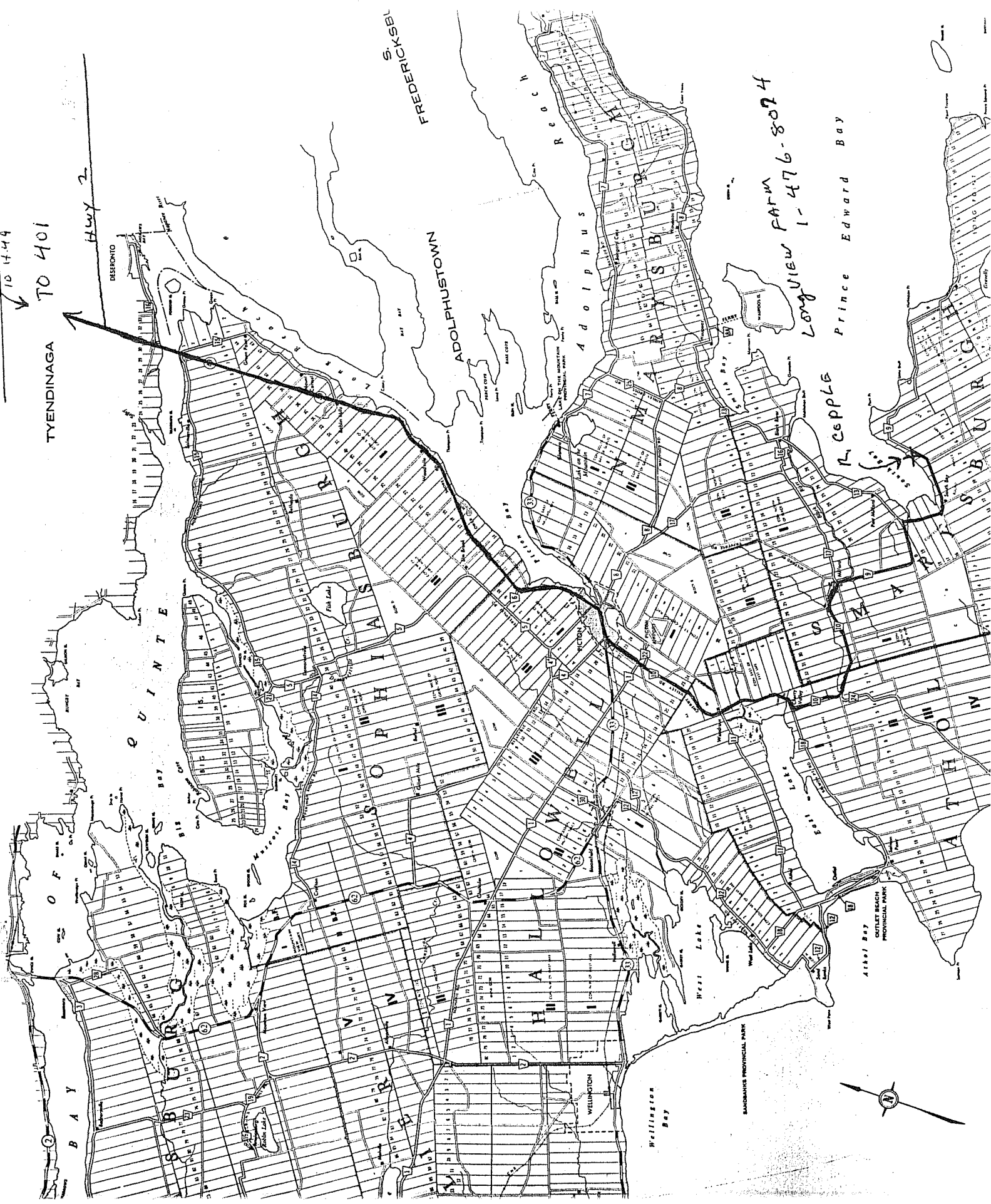
Mr Override Dale Desprey has now got a reasonable rear crossmember on his 88". Dale won a day's worth of welding and fitting from me at last years Christmas party. Although it took two goes at it it is now finished and should see him for another five years of Ottawa's road salt. It was during this work that Dale passed on to me a real gem of an idea, I was asking him where a certain part for his vehicle was to which he replied, "Well, if I don't have it I obviously don't need it!". By the way Dale runs a business which goes by the name of "The Academy Of Learning", I wonder what he teaches!

For those of you still wondering, yes my toy collection is still up for sale, I had one bite but she got away! So if you know someone who wants a good starter collection of about 175 toys call me. Your commission is guaranteed!

Next Month more on the rebuild of the 88"

I'm outa here.... Robin

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LONGVIEW FARM
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S. C. P. P. L. E.
PRINCE EDWARD BAY

