



Griffith Club of America

February 3, 1975

Griffith Lovers,

We're on the road again, now as a team we can get together and work together to make this Club a success as it was in the past and even improve it in the future.

In the past we have had great meets, tours and parties with happy Griffith owners exploding with interest in other members cars, seeing friends we met at other meets, getting ideas together and helping others in their car problems.

We have had Griffith Factory Representatives such as Mr. Jack Griffith, the president and manufacturer of the Griffith, talk to us for a complete day at our annual meet at Lime Rock, while the girls were together with lovely Mrs. Griffith for an informal fun filled time. It was so great to see everybody standing all around Jack Griffith shooting questions at him from all angles with a panorama of colorful Griffiths from all over just enjoying a beautiful sunny New England weekend at the Races.

Mr. Lou Shultz was the guest of honor at the last annual meet, now representative for T.V.R. Cars of America and former Griffith Factory Shop Manager . . He answered all our questions about the factory, our cars and etc. He was very informative and patient. Mr. Shultz stood with all the members in the beating sun and held 200 percent of our interest.

Mr. Shultz has offered us a Club discount with T.V.R. Cars of America. He thought he could get us a 25% discount on some parts. I did get a letter from him stating "T.V.R. will offer a 10% discount to members. Please ask them to advise our Parts Department when they phone in for a part." This discount does help us. Mr. Shultz personally presented a prize to the "most original" best looking Griffith and to the member coming the longest distance to the meet.

Among the other meets last year, George DeStefano put on a fantastic time at the beautiful DeStefano home at Barrington, R. I., near Cape Cod, which was a great success including newspaper coverage, fantastic food cooked by his father, former Senator from R. I. Fifty people or more attended this meet including George's brother who was once a wrench for King & Marshall, AA/Fuel Dragster. It was topped off by beautiful weather, pretty girls, beautiful cars and an unscheduled "Bonzi Run" which blew everyones mind.

We also had a great time at the home of Joe Kelly on the New Jersey shore. . good food and friendly people. We stayed inside most of the day because of the weather which made it very much like a party. The view of the Manhattan Island, N. Y., was nice. This is where we meet Francis Camorozzi who drove from Rome, N. Y. in his clean 200 and also met John and Mrs. Ferguson.

We had a beautiful meet at Dr. Bob Rapisarda's mountain top home in Wilbraham, Ma. the view was breathtaking and peaceful. Bob cooked cheeseburgers and hot dogs, had plenty of soda, beer and salads and most of all a real good time. Jack Anderson came with his clean red 400 with a reading of 90,000 miles, you wouldn't believe this car, but I see it almost everytime I go to Watkins Glen and that is quite a drive for Jack, maybe 7 hrs. one way. Jack carries all of his camping gear in this little Griffith, big tent, chairs . . .

What about the time at Gillette's Castle, Haddam, Ct., high over the Connecticut River? This was the last meet Randy and Marcia Hartigan came in their red 200, needing lots of T.L.C. Lt. Randall and family was there also. Dick bought his 200 new in Baltimore, Md. and has had it every since even though he has moved around some being in the service and all . . . thats devotion and we all know it isn't the family car. This was the meet also where we met Foster Crippens for the first time. He is one of our most active members and attends our annual meets faithfully even though he lives in Roseland, Fla. I hear Foster is going to host Dean Pallas for a stay in the Florida sunshine. Foster has a 400 Griffith with an awful rough idling engine . . . After checking it he found it had a roller cam, so the rough idle was put back! Foster's car has a chrome undercarriage. I can verify that the center chuck is chrome because I had it on my living room carpet, it was like a jewel.

We are happy to report Randy and Marcia's 200 has been completely disassembled, checked and replacements made when necessary. The rear axle ratio had been changed from salsbury 4:30 to 1, to 3:54 to 1 with new shocks and springs. Randy replaced one frame tube on nose that was dented. He took it off a wrecked T.V.R. and also installed the front stabilizer bar which was missing. He has had lots of glass work done to bring the "Original Griffith" back from it's modified appearance. Randy painted everything before reassembling - looks real nice. Now it is ready for paint and upholstery.

In John Iloff's garage we find John putting in a new hi-performance clutch and pressure plate, new shifter, new bellhousing and throwout bearing. John has super sanitized the complete engine compartment while he had engine out and replaced a lot of pieces with chrome ones. (You don't have to take engine out to replace clutch.) Recently, John installed a 271 hi-performance Cam and Kit, screwed in studs, cobra intake and duel feed holly and hi-performance duel point distributor . . . it makes a hell of a difference. John also had the wheel hubs machined to a Ford bolt pattern and installed Cragger Wheels. That little silver 200 looks good John.

Dr. Rapisarda is redoing his beautiful, plush 400 Griffith. Bob's car is the Ferrari of the Griffiths. It has diamond tufted upholstery done in saddle tan. He had a lot of polished stainless pieces made for the car. To explain this car would take hours. Doc is working on his Griffith when not studing. Bob went back to college to specialize in children's Dentistry, there must be a name for that . . .

Brent Jacobsen's 200 is about complete. Brent bought the car partly restored from the Boston area. The car was gutted but that doesn't stop a real car buff like Brent. He has a large collection of Automobiles some real early-like 1910 or so.

George DeStefano's white 400 has been pampered through a complete cleanup - this car is "concours."

Chuck Voboril is bringing his recently purchased 200 back. This car had a straight rear in it, 1957 Chevrolet or 1957 Pontiac, but he is installing a salsbury rear now.

I would like to have Griffith Owners call or send a card to keep me informed as to what is going on in their garage . . If you have anything to contribute to help others, any small tip or major information, please send it along.

I have been offered help from John Iloff and George DeStefano to put out the Griffith Club newsletter every two months. George will be able to help with Genuine Ford Parts. He is parts manager at DeStefano Ford and will work on the technical page of the newsletter. John will coordinate and help to answer letters through the newsletter so everyone will know what is going on.

I would like to see you people get together in your own districts for meets of your own. Lots of our members can not be at all the meets because not all of the members are in the New York, New Jersey, Connecticut areas. Many are in Ohio, Pa. and etc. Than as a unit, we can meet annually at Lime Rock, Labor Day weekend. If your area wants to host a meet, many of us will attend.

Brent Jacobsen is looking into rear windows for \$60 more or less - --he will report back . . .

Randy Hartigan is working on patches. We might have them by spring.

Does anyone have pictures of some early 200's. I have no. 006 and would like to see a back view, engine view, and interior view for reference. Did they just have "powered by Ford" on the back or Series 200 with it? Also, need ~~picture of~~ side vent.

We would like to hear about your happe nings, so write or phone either:

Bob Mariani
32 Blood St.
Lyme, Ct. 06371
203-434-8544

George Destefano
15 Pinetop Rd.
Barrington, R. I. 02806
401-246-0397

John Iloff
Old Pequot Trail
Pawcatuck, Ct. 02891
203-535-2811

*So Long for now,
Bob Mariani*

PARTS & ASSISTANCE

TVR CARS OF AMERICA, LTD.
29 New York Avenue
Huntington, N.Y. 11743
(516) 423-6333
Jerry Sagerman has many parts
in stock to fit your Griffith.

MIKE'S AUTO IMPORTS
3306 Bridge Avenue
Point Pleasant, N.J. 08742
(201) 295-9530

Mike DeLisa has experience,
advice and parts for your
Griffith. Available now
200 & 400 bonnets. Body
panels and Salisbury rear
end plates coming soon.
Mike also has many new and
used imported parts. Paint
and fiberglass repairing
available.

DAYTON WHEEL PRODUCTS, INC.
2326 E. River Road
Dayton, Ohio 45439
(513) 294-2606

Ed Williams will be happy to
help you with rebuilding and
restoring your wire wheels.
Dunlop and Dayton wires in
stock.

DeSTEFANO FORD SALES, INC.
231 County Road
Barrington, R.I. 02806
(401) 245-5600

George DeStefano will be happy
to help members with parts and
service.

INSURANCE

J.C. TAYLOR, INC.
8701 West Chester Pike
Upper Darby, Pa. 19082
Insurance for antique and
classic automobiles. (See
Hemmings Motor News for
application.)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

AUTOS

1965 Griffith Series 200, orange/black,
nice shape. Trade for Cobra, Pantera or
will sell outright.
George DeStefano, 15 Pinetop Road,
Barrington, R.I. (401) 246-0397.

PARTS

PARTS WANTED

The classified section is open to all
Griffith members. If you want to sell
or purchase any item, send your ad to
George DeStefano, 15 Pinetop Road,
Barrington, R.I. 02806

* ALL ADS DUE BY THE 15th
OF THE PRECEDING MONTH *

MEMBERS:

First let me introduce myself, my name is John Ihloff and on behalf of Bob Mariani, George DeStefano and through the best interest of the club we are going to be putting together a three part newsletter every two months. This is so we can keep the members informed of club activities, coming event member inquiries, and a technical section. This will include parts anyone might have for sale or need too.

The sole intention of the newsletter is to try and hold everyone's interest in Griffiths. We Also want to establish a stronger communication between our members. I would like to get the ball rolling about any Griffiths that might be for sale.

We will be getting a 20% discount on parts from TVR in New York. This was pulled together at our last meet in Lyme Rock thanks to Bob Mariani. In the near future each member will receive a membership card. This will be needed in order to obtain the discount from TVR because they will have a list of all members.

I have been checking about the possibility of getting headers made for cars. I have talked personally to the owner of Tubular Automotives in Massachusetts. He has done 25 header systems in the past years to fit Griffiths. He has agreed to help us out if the order consists of 15 sets or more at the cost of about \$165.00. This will include the complete system from head to rear, using my car as a template to make up the proper jigs. Anyone interested in a complete header system for their 200 or 400 Griffith please send me a money order for \$165.00 as soon as possible. As soon as I get the 15 orders I will bring my car to Tubular Automotives so they can proceed with the work. The work will take about two weeks to complete. We can be assured of quality workmanship because they are a very reputable company. Be sure to send your complete address with your money order. If there are any questions please contact me, John Ihloff, at Old Pequot Trail, Pawcatuck Connecticut, 02891 or call at (203) 535-2811.

So until the next newsletter in March lets get into high gear and keep our club active. After all "Whats a Griffith without a good club to keep them rolling?"

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51 OLD FARM RD.
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FT LAUDERDALE, FLA
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