

Seminar features classic cars and master metal workers

STEVE NIELSEN
News Editor

Clackamas Auto Body's Metal Straightening Seminar, held Monday night in the auto body shop at the college, gave local hot rod enthusiasts and metal workers an opportunity to see classic cars and some master car builders working their magic.

About 150 people, many of them wearing jackets from local hot rod clubs, filled the garage at the end of Barlow between two rows of classic cars, including a '61 Corvette, a '57 Chevy and a '48 Ford, all of them in mint condition.

Wayne Austen got the seminar started by talking about the street rod class that the Auto Body department wants to offer this spring. After that, he introduced speakers Mike Cooper and Ron Covell.

Mike Cooper started out as a sculptor and a teacher at a community col-

lege in Cupertino, Calif. Cooper met Ron Covell in 1975, around the same time that they were both competing in an Artists Soapbox Derby.

The 75 vehicles that competed in the derby were all made by artists and were designed for a coasting contest.

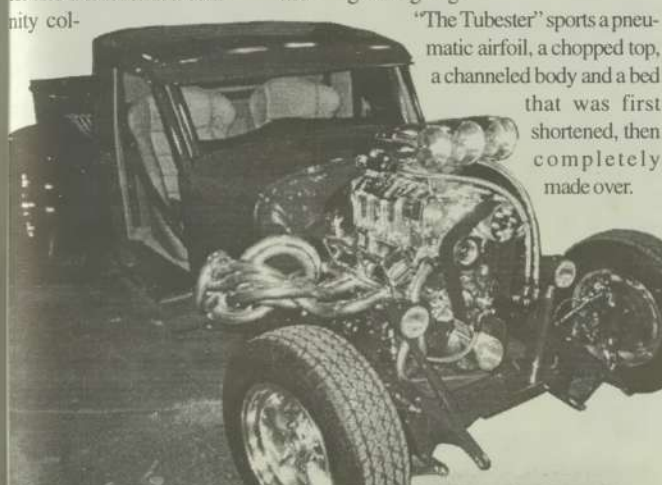
Among many interesting entries were a Popsicle car that split into two and a Polaroid camera car that actually took pictures of the track as it coasted down it. Though they were excellent pieces of art they were sometimes mechanically flawed.

"If you have artists racing each other, someone's going to get killed," said Cooper.

Cooper's latest and most exciting project is "The Tubester," a '33 Ford pickup truck he bought with a blown engine and built into a fully functional metal sculpture.

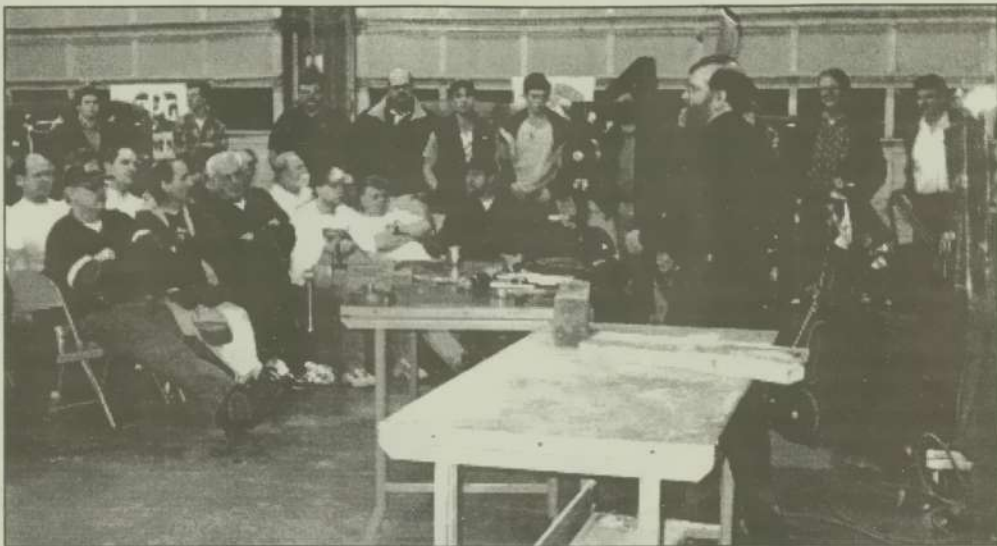
"I love hot rods," said Cooper. "It was designing the headers that really got me going."

"The Tubester" sports a pneumatic airfoil, a chopped top, a channeled body and a bed that was first shortened, then completely made over.



STEVE NIELSEN / Clackamas Print

"The Tubester," featured in seventeen Street Rodder articles, took \$100,000 and 8,000 man-hours for Mike Cooper to build.



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Audience members watch as metal crafter Ron Covell quickly shapes a hood scoop from a flat piece of aluminum.

Cooper put \$100,000 and 8,000 man-hours into the truck. Half of that money was spent on the paint, motor and upholstery. Seventeen articles about "The Tubester" have appeared in Street Rodder magazine since 1976.

Before "The Tubester," Cooper's art consisted almost entirely of wood, even some life-sized replicas of motorcycles with wooden moving parts.

Several of his sculptures appeared in a show at the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco. The theme of the exhibition was the absurdity of guns and Cooper's sculptures included a tricycle made out of a gun, a swiss army gun, and a gun with genitalia sprouting from the barrel.

Ron Covell, also known as "Professor Hammer," of Street Rodder magazine, spoke next. Covell showed slides

of a car he crafted for Don Varner, his shopmate and an industrial designer who designed the car. Varner wanted to build a car for The Grand National Roadster Show in Oakland, Calif. Covell crafted Varner's car, the "California Star," from scratch.

"Back when I built this car, I didn't have any sophisticated metal shaping equipment at all," said Covell. "Every part of the body on this car was done the hard way, with a mallet and sandbag, a hammer and dolly and a file."

The "California Star" won the award for most beautiful roadster at the show in 1984 and Varner sold it two years later to a private individual who still owns it.

"If it wasn't for that car, I don't think I'd be here today," said Covell. "That car got my career off to a start."

Covell also gave a demonstration

of metal shaping as he skillfully crafted a hood scoop out of a flat piece of aluminum in about 40 minutes.

Today, Covell has his own line of tools, books and videos, in addition to the workshops on metalworking that he offers nationwide.

Besides the ones inside the auto body shop, several other classic cars were parked outside and in other rooms adjoining the garage. Buffet style food was served before and during the seminar. Several door prizes, like posters signed by Mike Cooper and Ron Covell T-shirts, were also given away to people whose winning ticket numbers were drawn from a paint can. The Auto Body department plans to hold the Metal Straightening Seminar again next year and plans to invite Covell back again.

Meyers road: Planning Commission objects to Glen Oak option

Continued from page 1

which would be very expensive.

"My argument has been that they ought to just widen Glen Oak and put up a traffic signal," Keyser said. "They have arguments that I don't buy into quite yet, so we're in protest."

In his letter to the Planning Commission, Keyser proposed a solution.

"The widening of Glen Oaks seems to us to be the most logical means of improving access between Beaver Creek and Highway 213," he said. "It would be significantly less costly... It seems, though, that it would protect the valuable block of land between the College and Glen Oaks, which has wetlands and green belt uniqueness."

The Planning Commission has objected to the college's plan so far because they do not think that the Oregon Department of Transportation will approve putting another stop light on Glen Oaks and is concerned with putting a major highway through the residential area. They have also had to deal with keeping the roads built inside of the urban growth boundaries.

"I think it (the plan) has some real problems. When they turn it over to traffic engineers and transportation planners, I think they look at a map of the whole area and try to bring some symmetry to it," Keyser explained. "They may make decisions that aren't the best decisions for everybody."

Although Keyser objects to the road being built, he acknowledges that it may be necessary in the future.

"In trying to think of any advantages to the college," Keyser said. "I suppose that, as the area grows more

and more, there are just going to have to be more connecting roads to allow people to move easily from Beaver Creek to 213. This will alleviate some of the stress that develops when everybody wants to use the one intersection."

The road proposal will be finalized after the city Planning Commission has come to an agreement and sent their plans to the city council for approval.

"If they use Glen Oak," summed up Keyser. "I think it would work."

Roger Cone

for
Oregon City School Board

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Speech team competes in Coeur d'Alene

Thirteen members of the speech team will head to Idaho this week to compete in the Western States Forensics Tournament in Coeur d'Alene Feb. 23-25.

entire team will go. Last year, there were seven states represented at the tournament and 42 schools competing.

Read next week's *The Clackamas Print* for an update.

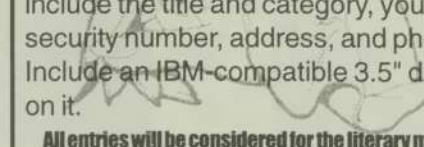
Writers' Club Contest

Deadline: Friday, March 2

You may submit up to 3 poems, 1 essay, 1 piece of fiction, and 1 one-act play. Submit 4 copies of each entry. Include 1 cover page for each set of entries.

On each entry, include the title and your social security number. The cover page for each entry should include the title and category, your name, social security number, address, and phone number. Include an IBM-compatible 3.5" disk with your work on it.

All entries will be considered for the literary magazine *Synesthesia*.



Don't forget—your ballots are due in by Tuesday, March 13!

Authorized by the Committee To Elect Roger Cone
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