

SWANKS NEWS

Swanks Car Club

Established 1956

Swanks Newsletter

November-December 2023

Jon Carley visits Deer Lodge Montana Auto Museum



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- Bench Rodding
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Issue Dates: Jan. 25th, March 25th, May 25th, July 25th, September 25th, November 25th

Going to a car show? Bring your camera and send in the photos for the next newsletter.

Got a project or a new car? Take a few photos and submit them to the newsletter.

Got something to sell? Put it into the newsletter—
rondahley@gmail.com



Montana Auto Museum Continued

photos: Jon Carley



The Montana Auto Museum is located in Deer Lodge Montana and is part of the Old Montana Prison and Auto Complex. Deer Lodge is a town of about 2900 residents situated in the Southwest part of Montana. Google maps reports that it is an 849-mile trip from Casselton ND. Deer Lodge is most known for the Montana State Prison. It is also an interesting historic area with its old copper and mineral mines, it was also an important railroad center. Deer Lodge features a historic ranch site along with several museums including the old historic prison and auto museum.

The Montana auto Museum is rated as a top 10 must see auto museum in the United States by USA Today. The museum features over 200 automobiles ranging from the 1890's to the 1980's. The museum is operated by the Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation, a local nonprofit organization.

Thank you Jon Carley for sharing your adventure with us. Next time take us along.

Fun Fact... The Swigart Automobile Museum is the oldest auto museum in the United States. The collection was started in 1920 by W. Emmert Swigart after his death in 1949 his son William E. Swigart Jr. continued to expand the collection. The Swigart Automobile Museum is located in Huntingdon, PA.

The Night Before Christmas

Car Junkies Version

'Twas the night before Christmas, my battery was dead,
My head gasket was blown, my tires had no tread,
The car parts were placed on the workbench with care,
In hopes the mechanic soon would be there.

The transmission was leaking, the oil-dry I spread,
With visions of dollar—signs danced through my head,
While surveying the problems, I started to weep,
Cause I knew in my heart it wouldn't be cheap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I threw up the garage door to see what was the matter,
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But the Snap-On man in a truck from Goodyear.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be Saint Nick.
With his band of mechanics, out of the truck they came,
And he whistled and called them by name.

Now, Bruce! Now, George! Now, Earl and Fred!
On Matt! On Bob! On Charles and Ed!
Let's get to work quickly on this poor old wreck,
Although getting it running may be too much to expect.

The screwdrivers they glistened! The wrenches they flew!
I was anticipating a car that looked almost new!
They put on new tires, they fixed all the leaks,
I thought, "maybe I'll make the Power Tour with the freaks!"

Santa said, "There's no hope for this thing!"
"Let's get a car in here that has some real bling!"
He opened the trailer, he backed the car out,
And all the mechanics, they started to shout!

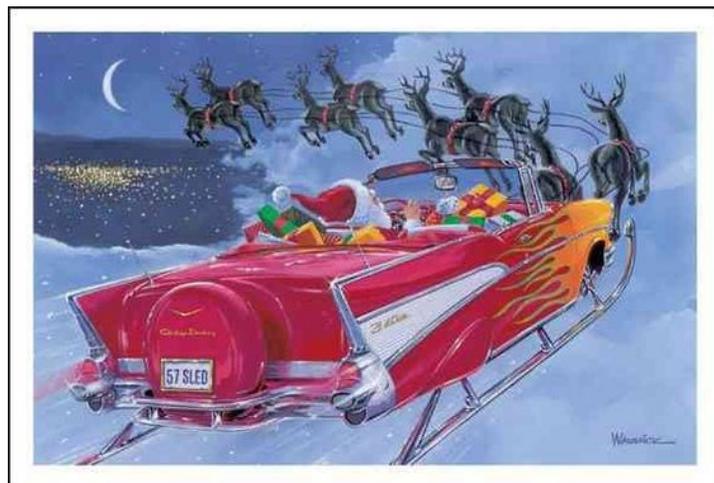
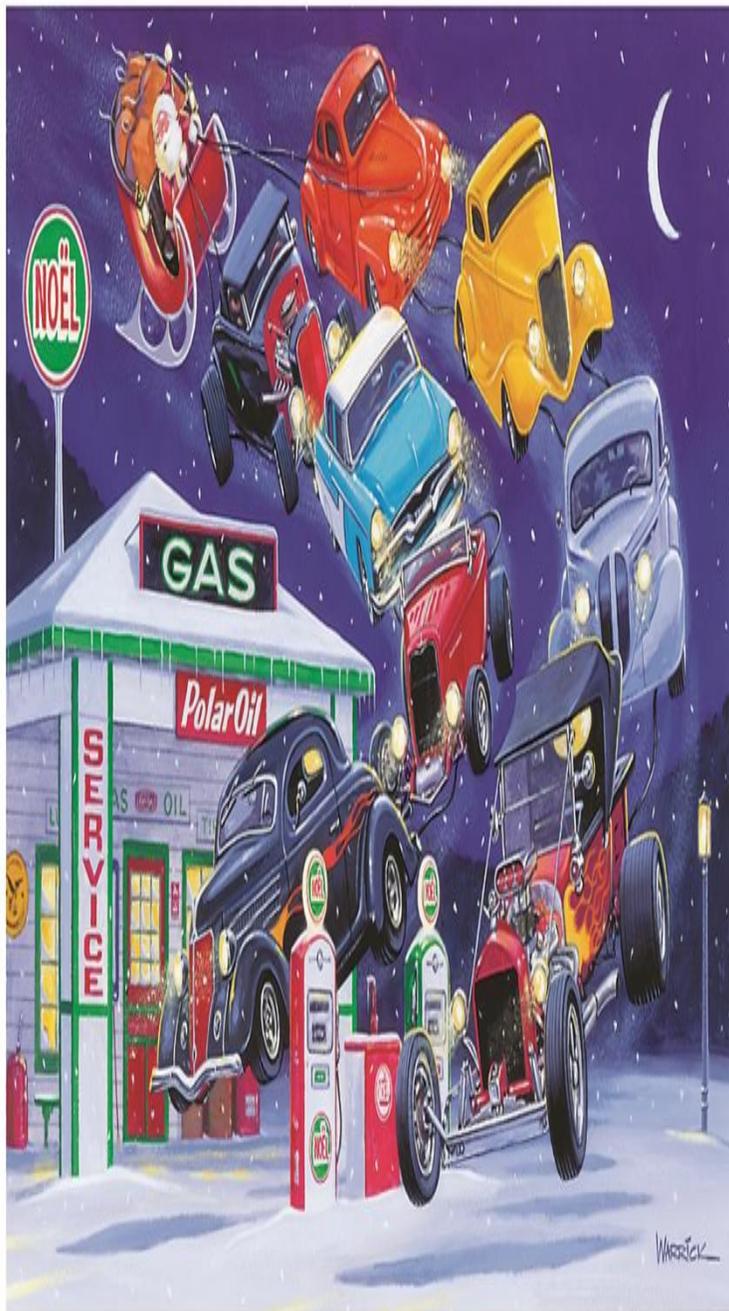
I could not believe it, I haven't digested it yet!
It was better than a midyear Sting Ray Corvette!
Down the driveway came something no one has yet seen,
A Camaro Convertible in Synergy Green!

He laughed when he saw me, in spite of himself,
Cause he was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf.
He said, "Consider this a gift from heaven,
Cause you're going on the Power Tour 2022 !

I don't know how to thank him, the mechanics they cheered,
I wouldn't be stuck at home like I feared
I hugged him and kissed him, my heart all a-quiver,
He said, "I must go, I have toys to deliver!"

He sprang to his truck, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew, like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight,

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!



Ted Talk with Ted Bryans

November is here and most of us have put away our cars for the winter. This might give us some time to make needed repairs or improvements to our cars if we have a heated shop. It also gives us some time to make plans for next year's car shows and cruises. It has just been announced that one of the first local car shows

Of 2024 has changed venues and extended the show to two days instead of the traditional Saturday only in the past.

The Jamestown Classic Car Club has joined up with the Bridge City Cruisers of Valley City to offer a two-day car show January 27 and 28, 2024. The Show, called the Hot Rod Junkies Car Show will be held in Valley City this year at the Event Center. They will feature Valve Cover Racing along with a spacious room for displays.

If you are interested in displaying a car, having a booth, or being a food vendor please contact the Jamestown Classic Car Club.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Swanks. Ted Bryans.



A Message from Jerry Quam

Jerry Quam is a Swanks Member who was active in the 60's before moving to California. Jerry is currently living in Arizona and still dabbles in classic car sales. Look at earlier issues of Swanks News for more information on this very interesting and accomplished Swanks member.

Ron; I was restoring one of five "Muntz Jets" some 25 or more years back; Was at the "Famosa" (Bakersfield) Drag strip during the Nostalgia events; looking for a 2X 4BBI O H CV early Lincoln V-8; find one in a trailer; in talking to the seller; he had been the mid-western rep for N H R A back in the late fifties; I mentioned the "Swanks" had joined the N H R A; he said we (Swanks) where the first to join in the mid-west! Passing it along; don't remember his name.

Jerry Quam

1962 GSTA Car Show

Tim Holt, a Swanks member who was also active in the early 60's shared this photo of the Swanks Car Club display at the Gopher State Timing Association's Car Show in 1962. Tim sent his good friend Gerry Quam the photo and Gerry passed it along to me. These guys were and are the real deal. Real car guys who have a lifetime of history working around cars. I hope both Gerry and Tim keep in touch with us and share some of their adventures with cars.

THANK YOU, GERRY QUAM AND TIM HOLT!



Through the Lens of Todd Schultz

Photos: Todd Schultz

Swanks member Todd Schultz attends a lot of car shows in the summer and he has been kind enough to share some of his experiences with us. You will find his pictures and reports in many of Swanks News editions throughout the year. Todd had one especially busy weekend and has recorded his weekend for us to review. Here are pictures of several car shows Todd attended one weekend.

St. Francis Car Show



Route 65 Classics



Right: Slow Night in Anoka



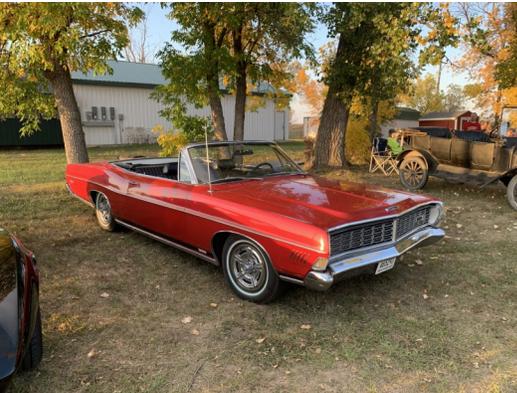
Through the Lens Continued...

Oak Grove Country Fest Car Show



Happy Trails Cruise Nights

Photos: Ted Bryans



Feature Car "The Candy Cart" George Jezek's 49 Chevy

From: Kustomrama

Jezek purchased the Chevrolet in August 1958, during his senior year of high school. He paid \$250.00 for the car on \$10.00 a week in installments. Reflecting on the early days of his project, Jezek told Sondre Kvipt of Kustomrama, "I immediately started customizing the car. Most of the work was accomplished in a gravel driveway under a shade tree next to my parents' house." With limited tools and resources, Jezek often relied on his high school shop class for heavier tasks, such as welding. [



Jezek's initial modifications to the Chevrolet were moderate.

He nosed and decked it, installed 1950 Pontiac taillights, and adorned the wheels with Olds Fiesta hubcaps. The car also received an enamel paint job. Jezek fondly recalled his early experiments, stating, "I soon discovered Bondo and was off and running." The interior was revamped with a budget black and white vinyl design, a Sun tach, Stewart-Warner gauges and an Ansen floor shift. Under the hood, the original engine was replaced with a bored 235 Chevy 6, enhanced with features like a milled head, dual carbs on an Offenhauser intake, split exhaust manifold, a Spalding cam, and a Mallory ignition. The car was lowered 4" in the front and 3" in the back to complete the look.

The Chevrolet's second transformation saw even more intricate changes. Jezek added frenched 1952 Ford headlights, twin spotlights, rounded hood corners, and a molded grille shell with thirteen 1953 Chevy teeth. "I had to trim the flanges of each one narrowing them to fit." The rear of the car was adorned with frenched-in 1959 Cadillac taillights. Inside, a solid white rolled and pleated interior was installed. The upholstery work was done by a guy by the name of Forrest from Cleburne, Texas. "His customer base was the Dallas, Ft. Worth area," George recalled. In addition to the interior, the package tray and the back of the front seats were also upholstered in rolls and pleats. "The carpet was black with white binding. Forrest made white brake, clutch, and accelerator pedal covers for show only." The exterior was painted in a striking Buick Seminole Red Lacquer. "I earned money for this hobby pinstriping cars and this one had some of my striping," Jezek noted. Additionally, long lakes pipes and Dodge Lancer hubcaps with bullets were added for a lower look and an extra touch of flair

Jezek's custom Chevrolet didn't go unnoticed. It was featured in three "little pages" magazines between 1960 and 1961. Jezek proudly mentioned, "Starting to get serious now and winning my class in several Autorama Car Shows." A photo developed in November of 1961 shows it running chromed wheels with Spider caps. The wheels were from a 1957 Chevrolet, and George had them chromed by a shop in Waco. In 1962, the car underwent its final major transformation. A warmed-over 283 Chevy V8 engine with a Duntov cam and four Stromberg carbs were installed along with loads of chromed parts and accessories, making it not just a showpiece but a powerful drive. "Along with pinstriping, I did sign painting and swapped signs for plating for the most part," George told Kustomrama. As times and trends were changing, the 1962 version only featured subtle white pinstriping around the front wheel well. By now, the dual spotlights and the long lakes pipes were also gone. In addition to this, George also removed the 1959 Cadillac taillights and replaced them with 1958 Ford lenses, "which fit the frenched housing perfectly." The undercarriage was painted red, and it ran one-piece bumpers.

By 1967, life had changed for Jezek. He made the difficult decision to sell the beloved Chevrolet as he and his wife began their family. George sold it at the Dallas Autorama. George's passion for cars remained undiminished. "I have built 18 cars since then.

Cars and Coffee at Top End Dragways

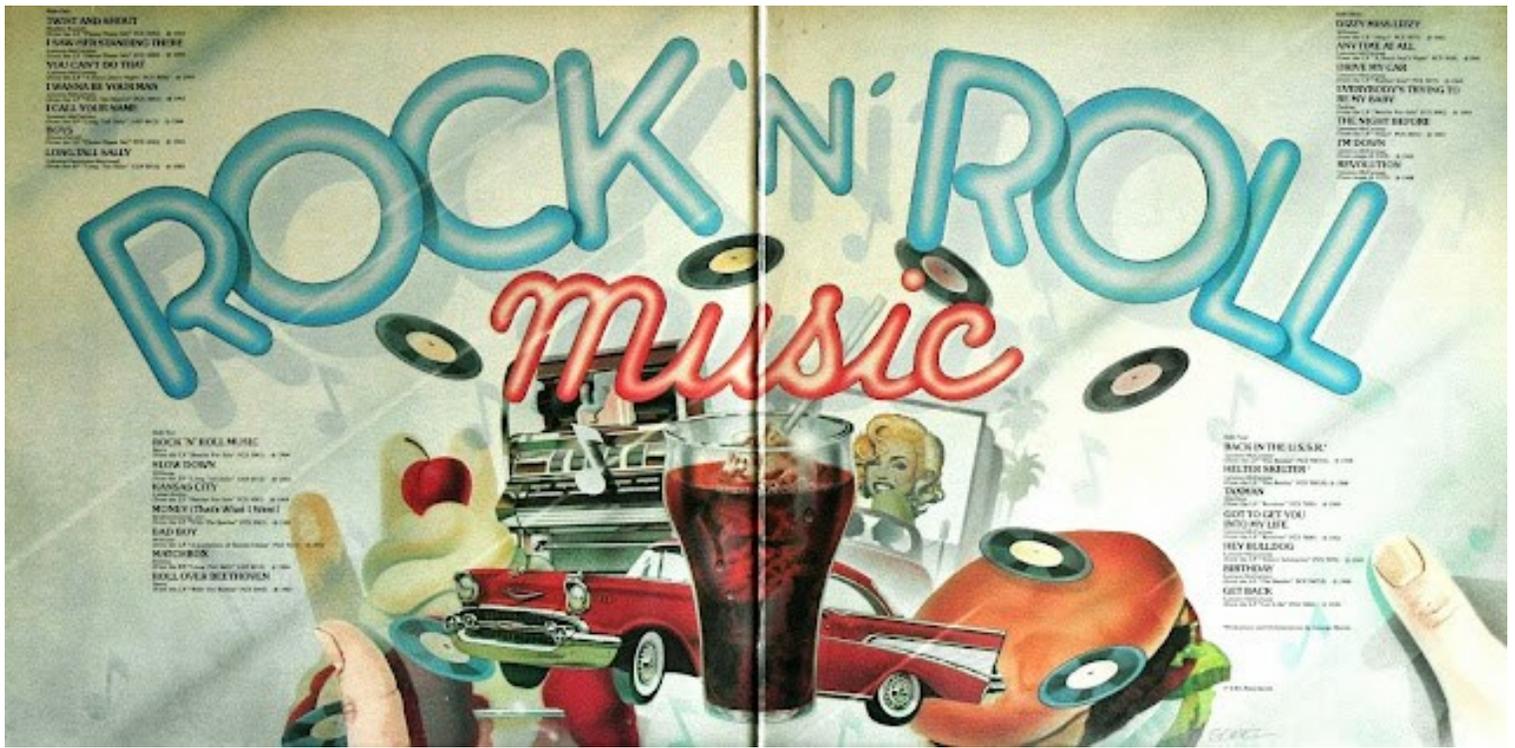
Photos: Johnny "Rocket" Nustad

When I hear Cars and Coffee, I imagine a quiet Saturday or Sunday morning with a cup of decaffeinated coffee, maybe a donut and some cool cars parked in a quiet parking lot. By checking out the pictures Johnny "Rocket" Nustad shared of Cars and Coffee at Top End Dragway's near Sabin MN my imagination is dead wrong. It looks like the coffee was strong and the atmosphere loud at this get to together.



West Fargo Cruise Night

Photos: Ted Bryans



The Beach Boys, “Little Saint Nick”.

Rolling Stone

Although the recording hit shelves right after JFK was assassinated, The Beach Boys original holiday song, “Little Saint Nick” still managed to be a hit. The track is basically “Little Deuce Coupe” with different lyrics, but “Little Saint Nick” has actually managed to have a longer life span than the original.

Swanks Cooking Corner

**BUT DAD, ALL THE OTHER KIDS LEAVE
COOKIES AND MILK FOR HIM.**



**TRUST ME ON THIS SON,
I KNOW WHAT SANTA WANTS.**



What's the Diff? 1958 and 59 Chevy

Mystarcarcollector/ Jim Sutherland

Last column we looked at the 58 and 59 Ford, very distinctively different styled cars. This column we continue that theme with the 58 and 59 Chevrolet.

The late 50s Chevys are another good example of a time when GM decided to give their most popular model a major sheet metal makeover for two consecutive years (1958-59). The 1958 Chevy was a complete departure from the famous 1955-57 Tri-Five Chevys.

The Tri-Fives were similar in style in many ways to each other, but the 1958 Chevy did not resemble any of its predecessors. The '58 Chevy had small, subtle fins that were more horizontal than vertical-unlike the large upright fins on the '57.

The tail lights were circular and owners were judged by the number of tail lights on the back end of the '58 Chevy.

Three tail lights meant owners liked to spend money on their up-scale Chevys, while one tail light meant they were likely station wagon owners in a different income bracket-or cheap tightwads with two tail lights.



The 1959 Chevy's body lines made the car look like it was ready for takeoff: a

The 1959 Chevy was a wild-looking car that shared virtually no body style with the '58 Chevy. Even the 1959 Chevy's more pronounced horizontal rear fins were unlike the more conservative fins on the '58 Chevy.



style that GM adopted because of the jet age and space race go-fast vibe of the Fifties.

The 1959 Chevy was not like the '58 Chevy. The '59 Chevy looked like a custom ride straight out of the factory. It was a car that would likely have chal-



lenged George Barris because the famous builder would be scratching his creative head about how to customize a '59 Chevy

When all was said and done, the 1958 Chevy was a good fit for George Barris because of its conventional 1950s style and would have allowed him to flex his creative muscles. The 1959 Chevy was a good fit for George Jetson because of its unconventional 1950s style.

There was one major point of similarity found in the 58 and 59 Ford and Chevy: **these rides were very cool-then and now.**

Fun Fact Chevrolet had planned for all new cars to hit the market in 1957 but production delays and other difficulties pushed these back. Ed Cole, design chief of Chevrolet at the time, dictated a number of changes to the existing platform and pushed the radical new designs forward a year to 1958.

Twisted Royalty Car Show at the Fargo Air Museum

Photos: Ted Bryans



Bench Rodding with the Paul Bunyan Antique Car Club or Possibly Hay Riding?

Words/Photos: Ron Dahley

This fall I went to a pumpkin patch with my oldest daughter's family and to my great surprise it looked like a car show! A wonderful group of car enthusiasts' had made a trip from Bemidji MN to the pumpkin patch near Detroit Lakes MN. I had a fun conversation with them as we enjoyed a hayride through this beautiful environment. They are called the Paul Bunyan Antique Car Club, and they do a lot of cruises with their automobiles. I was told that there are approximately 13 members in the club. I think it would be more accurate to say 13 families as the ladies appeared to be very much a part of the organization. It was a family affair with lots of friends as one could tell by the laughter and good-natured ribbing going on. They shared that they had one more cruise planned for the upcoming weekend and then it would be time to put the cars away for the winter. I asked if they ever put on a car show and they responded with we used to but it got to be a lot of work and as we are getting older we decided to leave the car shows to younger clubs. I wish Swank's members were with me to visit with this great group of car people I know you would have had as much fun as I did.



Another example of how nice car people are!

I did not get pictures of all their cars I remember a nice newer Mustang and a very nice older Buick among others.



Did I mention my granddaughters were there?

Vintage Ads

Photos: Pinterest/ Gail Bryans

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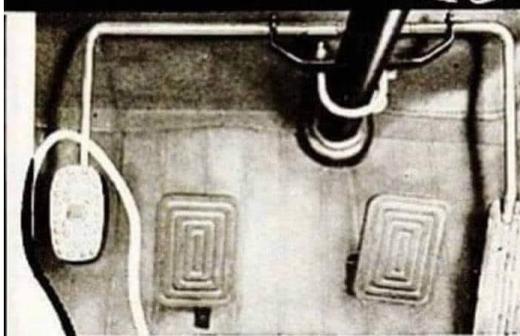
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1/4 lb. Jumbo All Beef Hamburger Topped with Old English Cheese on a Toasted Bun, Tomato Slice on Lettuce or Cole Slaw and French Fried Potatoes.
- FRANKFURTER DINNER** 50¢
Two Grilled Frankfurters, Heinz Baked Beans, Cole Slaw and Slice of Buttered Bread.
- GRILLED HAM & EGG PLATTER** 60¢
Ham with Scrambled Eggs and French Fried Potatoes, Slice of Buttered Bread.
- GRILLED HAM AND FRENCH FRIED POTATO PLATTER** 60¢
Two Slices of Ham with French Fried Potatoes and Tomato Slices on Lettuce, Slice of Buttered Bread.

HAMBURGER 40¢
1/4 lb. Jumbo All Beef Hamburger on a Toasted Bun with Relish or Onions.

FRANKFURTER 20¢
Hot Tasty Frankfurter on roll with Mustard or Relish.

THREE DECKER or CLUB SANDWICHES

Bacon & Tomato	45¢	Ham Salad & Egg Salad	45¢
Baked Ham & American Cheese	50¢	Tuna Fish Salad & Tomato	45¢
Baked Ham & Tomato	50¢		

GRILLED SANDWICHES

Grilled Jumbo Ham on Bun	45¢	Grilled Bacon & Tomato	45¢
Grilled Old English Cheese & Bacon	50¢	Grilled Old English Cheese Sandwich	35¢
Grilled Old English Cheese & Tomato	50¢	Grilled Ham & Old Eng. Cheese	50¢

SANDWICHES - PLAIN or TOASTED

Baked Ham	35¢	American Cheese	25¢
Ham Salad	25¢	Tuna Fish Salad	30¢
Egg Salad	25¢	Lettuce & Tomato	20¢

ENJOY A KING SIZE Coca-Cola 10¢

HEINZ HOT DINNERS 50¢
Beef Stew, Chicken with Noodles, Lamb Stew, Beef Goulash, Chicken Stew and Chops Sauté. Served with Slice of Buttered Bread.

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Swanks Drive Careful



Up Coming Events 2024

Please call to ensure the events have not been cancelled.

Dec. 6 Lunch Cruise Abercrombie ND 10-1

Dec. 7 Cruise to the Corner Lidgerwood ND 5-9

Dec. 20 Lunch Cruise Abercrombie ND 10-1

Jan 3,17 and 31 Lunch Cruise Abercrombie ND 10-1

Jan 4 Cruise to the Corner Lidgerwood ND 5-9

Jan. 27-28 Hot Rod Junkies Show Valley City ND

Mar. 8-10 World of Wheels Omaha NE

Mar 22-24 World of Wheels Winnipeg MB

April 6 &7 Toppers Car Show 2024 West Fargo ND

June 21-23 Back to the 50's St Paul MN

July 18-21 Lucas NHRA Nationals Brainerd MN

[July 25 Cruise to Casselton Swanks Car Show 5-9](#)

Ron's Helpful Hot Rod Tips

Engineering at it's finest.



Notice

Voting for Swanks Officers for 2024 will take place at the December meeting (12/12/23).

If you are interested in an office please let it be known and please attend the December meeting to vote. Swanks will elect the following officers:

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Newsletter Editor.

