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# 3 Aug 2013 19:19:05 -0700 (PDT)

From: PETERS CARL L <clpeters2@sbcglobal.net>

To: Russell A Sage <russosago@mac.com>, Frederick Chase <fchase@gmail.com>

CC:

Subject: Pagoda Expedition

Received: Sat, 3 Aug 2013 19:19:05 -0700 (PDT)

I remember one snowy night entering the Speedway from the east and hiking to the old wood pagoda.  We climbed to the top floor and took a leak over the edge.  I don't remember who all went on that expedition.  Were you guys along?

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# 4 Aug 2013 05:22:50 -0700 (PDT)

From: "Frederick N. Chase" <fchase@gmail.com>

To: PETERS CARL L <clpeters2@sbcglobal.net>

CC: Russell A Sage <russosago@mac.com>

Subject: Pagoda Expedition

Received: …… Sun, 4 Aug 2013 05:22:50 -0700 (PDT)

Sounds to me like there are at least two stories here.

1. Speedway Pagoda ("The Pagoda Expedition") and

2. Speedway lap [the 'Speedway Lap Venture'].

The speedway lap one had Figel as the chief instigator. We were driving

around in his (parent's) car - a '51 Ford 4 door sedan I think.

Figel driving. Fred shotgun. And 2-3 guys in the rear seat. [Rusty.was one.] Figel came up

to the north entrance: just two very big gate/barn like doors that would

swing open. They had a padlock on a short chain loop through the vertical

handle on each door. I remember this pretty clearly since we sat there

with the headlights on this rig for 15-20 seconds and I was thinking I'd

get out and see if we could get them open.

But Figel popped it into Lo (there was only 2 forward gears, Lo and Dr, IIRC)

rolled up against the doors right in the middle, and -- \*gunned it\*!

The doors popped apart, swung open and by God, there on down a short gravel

road through the stands was the north straight of the famous oval!! There

was just \*nothing \*between us and it. And you know what we did!

I remember on maybe the southwest turn saying 'go faster' and Figel said

"I'm going about 90." With the banking, if you closed your eyes you had

no idea you were in a turn!

On Sat, Aug 3, 2013 at 10:19 PM, PETERS CARL L <clpeters2@sbcglobal.net>wrote:

> I remember one snowy night entering the Speedway from the east and hiking

> to the old wood pagoda. We climbed to the top floor and took a leak over

> the edge. I don't remember who all went on that expedition. Were you guys

> along?

>

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# 4 Aug 2013 07:22:54 -0700 (PDT)

From: Russell Sage <russosago@gmail.com>

To: "Frederick N. Chase" <fchase@gmail.com>

CC: PETERS CARL L <clpeters2@sbcglobal.net>

Subject: Pagoda Expedition

Received: Sun, 4 Aug 2013 07:22:54 -0700 (PDT)

Date: Sun, 04 Aug 2013 14:22:50 GMT

I had forgotten about taking a leak off the pagoda [The Pagoda Expedition]

but

[the 'Speedway Lap Venture' I was in the back seat when Figel popped the gate open and then proceeded to drive around the track. The amazing part is that nobody was there and we didn't get caught.

On Aug 4, 2013, at 5:22 AM, "Frederick N. Chase" <fchase@gmail.com> wrote:

> <Where we popped open the doors.kmz>

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# 4 Aug 2013 07:36:34 -0700 (PDT)

From: PETERS CARL L <clpeters2@sbcglobal.net>

To: Russell Sage <russosago@gmail.com>, "Frederick N. Chase" <fchase@gmail.com>

Subject: Pagoda Expedition

Received: Sun, 4 Aug 2013 07:36:34 -0700 (PDT)

Date: Sun, 04 Aug 2013 14:36:18 GMT

Unfortunately, I wasn't on that [the 'Speedway Lap Venture'] ride.

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From: Russell Sage <russosago@gmail.com>

To: Frederick N. Chase <fchase@gmail.com>

Cc: PETERS CARL L <clpeters2@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Sunday, August 4, 2013 10:22 AM

Subject: Re: Pagoda Expedition

I had forgotten about taking a leak off the pagoda but I was in the back seat when Figel popped the gate open and then proceeded to drive around the track.

The amazing part is that nobody was there and we didn't get caught.

On Aug 4, 2013, at 5:22 AM, "Frederick N. Chase" <fchase@gmail.com> wrote:

> <Where we popped open the doors.kmz>

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# 2 Sep 2013 14:08:45 -0700 (PDT)

From: "Frederick N. Chase" <fchase@gmail.com>

To: Carl Peters <clpeters2@sbcglobal.net>

CC: Rusty Sage <russosago@gmail.com>, tmtalbott@prodigy.net

Subject: Question for Carl

Received: -------- Mon, 2 Sep 2013 14:08:45 -0700 (PDT)

Date: Mon, 02 Sep 2013 21:08:45 GMT

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=utf-8

Attached.

Also, attached is the dialog on the Figel-led trip around the 500 track.

If anybody has more to say on that, I'll revise and resend.

-Fred

And I will write up the Pagoda Expedition (So far it's just a few sentences)

if Carl can figure out whether he was or wasn't there.

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# 3 Sep 2013 05:30:09 -0700 (PDT)

From: PETERS CARL L <clpeters2@sbcglobal.net>

To: "Frederick N. Chase" <fchase@gmail.com>

CC: Rusty Sage <russosago@gmail.com>, "tmtalbott@prodigy.net" <tmtalbott@prodigy.net>

Subject: Question for Carl

Received: --------Tue, 3 Sep 2013 05:30:09 -0700 (PDT)

Date: Tue, 03 Sep 2013 12:30:08 GMT

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=utf-8

I wasn't with you on the Figel ride [Says Carl to Fred. (The Pagoda Expedition)]

I don't know if you were on the Pagoda piss off. That did indeed occur on a very snowy night.

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From: Frederick N. Chase <fchase@gmail.com>

To: Carl Peters <clpeters2@sbcglobal.net>

Cc: Rusty Sage <russosago@gmail.com>; tmtalbott@prodigy.net

Sent: Monday, September 2, 2013 5:08 PM

Subject: Question for Carl

Attached.

Also, attached is the dialog on the Figel-led trip around the 500 track.

If anybody has more to say on that, I'll revise and resend.

   -Fred

And I will write up the Pagoda Expedition (So far it's just a few sentences) if Carl can figure out whether he was or wasn't there.

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# 3 Sep 2013 06:50:14 -0700 (PDT)

From: "Frederick N. Chase" <fchase@gmail.com>

To: PETERS CARL L <clpeters2@sbcglobal.net>

CC:

Subject: Pagoda Expedition

Received: ------ Tue, 3 Sep 2013 06:50:14 -0700 (PDT)

Date: Tue, 03 Sep 2013 13:50:14 GMT

"Unfortunately, I wasn't on that ride."

[I think I (Fred) was! I can't remember for sure. 2017 Nov 9. So it appears from everything that we all three were on The Pagoda Expedition. See Carl's description on the evening of Aug 3 2013.]

[It appears that Carl's "that" referred to Rusty's comment

and thus Figel’s 'Speedway Lap' ride [the 'Speedway Lap Venture'] around], instead of the subject of Fred's message [The Pagoda Expedition].

On Sun, Aug 4, 2013 at 10:36 AM, PETERS CARL L <clpeters2@sbcglobal.net>wrote:

> Unfortunately, I wasn't on that ride.

>

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> From:Russell Sage <russosago@gmail.com>

> \*To:\* Frederick N. Chase <fchase@gmail.com>

> \*Cc:\* PETERS CARL L <clpeters2@sbcglobal.net>

> \*Sent:\* Sunday, August 4, 2013 10:22 AM

> \*Subject:\* Re: Pagoda Expedition

>

> I had forgotten about taking a leak off the pagoda [The Pagoda Expedition] but I was in the back

> seat when Figel popped the gate open and then proceeded to drive around the

> track. The amazing part is that nobody was there and we didn't get caught.

>

>

> On Aug 4, 2013, at 5:22 AM, "Frederick N. Chase" <fchase@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> > <Where we popped open the doors.kmz>

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>

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# Feb 11, 2016 at 1:52 PM

from: Russell Sage <russosago@gmail.com>

to: Fred Chase <fchase@gmail.com>

cc: Carl Peters <clpeters2@sbcglobal.net>

date: Thu, Feb 11, 2016 at 1:52 PM

I [Rusty] was in the back seat and I remember that incident.  Slowly pulling up to the doors and then gassing it against the doors and they popped open.

I don’t remember that we had to drive very [far] from the road to get to those doors.   That was 60 yrs ago so I suspect things have changed a lot since then.

I’m still amazed that nobody was around and we didn’t get caught.

Figel was definitely a renegade.  Were we in a Ford car?  And whose was it?

On Feb 11, 2016, at 11:37 AM, Frederick N. Chase <[fchase@gmail.com](mailto:fchase@gmail.com)> wrote:

Speaking of such, if you save the attached  kmz file, and open it,

Google Earth should show an aerial view just above where Figel drove through big wooden doors

and did a lap around the 500 racetrack when we were in high school! [the 'Speedway Lap Venture'] I was riding shotgun.

I don't remember who else.

Each of the 2 big wooden doors had a handle. Each maybe 6 feet high and 10 or 20 feet wide.

Hinges on the outside.

Vertical handles were at the center. Each handle had two bolts holding it to the door.

A padlocked chain held the two doors shut, kinda.

We sat there for a while,  just pulled up till bumper touching the 2 doors ---

then he ***gassed it***!!

**POP!!**

And maybe 30 seconds later we turned west onto the track.

I can't even ***see***the doors now. I suppose they're replaced with layered steel doors and razor wire and automated alarms, now.

He was in one of the south turns but nothing was happening.  So I said go faster.  He said

I'm *already* doing 90.    I thought it was about 60.  Those turns felt pretty much like going straight, to us.

[Feb 2016 Footnote: We probably came from the East or West along a road which is now displaced to the north by perhaps the length of a football field so as to still be north of giant spectator stands installed *after* the mid 1950s. Alan Figel would then have turned south onto what is, in 2016, the south end of Hulman Blvd. He drove only, say, a couple hundred feet to the then North Wall of the speedway. The north straightaway of the speedway itself was, IIRC, only a few 10s of feet farther south!]