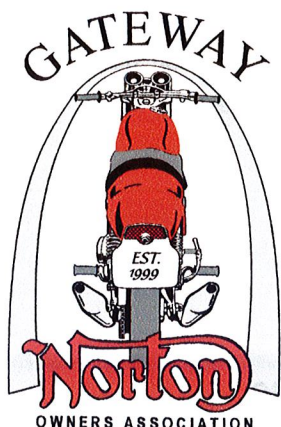


Gateway Norton Owners News #44



"To Promote the Use and Pride of Norton Motorcycle Ownership"

Compiled by Marty and Peggy Dupree

July 2010



KING'S KOLUMN

What It's Like

Most of what I am about to say is either lies or stolen words by people that really know what they're talking about. Just got back from the McNair Park Car/Motorcycle Show where I met some of the best friends a person could have. Chad Stretz rode all the way in from Columbia, MO to enter the show, when he met me, he dropped to one knee and said, "Greetings, King." (Some of you could take a little tip from this loyal subject.) I will some day "knight" this great member of the round table. He built a real nice '75 Commando, too. The show was a good-un. The rain held off, Steve Hurst, John Wuebbeling (non-Norton), Bill Henkel, George Croissant (non-Norton), and your King all won trophies. Uhhhhh. . . . back to What It's Like

Years ago when I rode my 600 Supersport Ducati to work, a friend asked, "What's it like?" I answered him promptly, "It's like spanking a super model." (Taken from *Everybody Loves Raymond*). Last week I rode my Commando to work and someone asked the same question. "What's it like?" "It's like spanking Ann Margret . . ." I hope everyone knows who I am referring to, if not, rent the movie "Grumpy Old Men." She still has it, a nice Commando definitely still has it, but what is it, you say? It's small, powerful, nimble, beautiful and makes one of the most wonderful noises ever. Agreed? If I may, in the words of Peter Egan, Cycle World April 2010:

"Commandos when they go down the road, don't feel like anything else. They're light, yet they have a dampened solidness to them, as if everything might be tightly packed with cotton. It's a strange thing to say, but when I have a Norton in my garage I actually feel more relaxed and content with the world, as if some part of my soul is fully at rest." Whoa! No wonder he gets paid to write this stuff! He's good!

Gary Creech gave me a little paragraph written by a guy way back in 1972, his name: Dave Swift. "I like the Norton because it offers more pure motorcycling than any other bike that I have ever ridden, sure the owner will have to hassle with keeping it in tune, cleaning off oil, watching three different lube levels, and funning with the electrics, but unlike Jap bikes, these were designed by folks who ride spooky roads every day and dig it! It's a machine for a guy who gets heavily involved with his motorcycle. It is not hermetically sealed, nor sanitized for his protection, but to enjoy it and its limitations." Another gifted writer!

Dues are DUE!!!

Look at your envelope RIGHT NOW!!! The yellow highlighted numbers are when your dues expire. If it says (7-10) you need to renew THIS VERY MINUTE! Stop reading and write a check to Steve Hurst NOW!!! His address is on the bottom of page 3.
Now back to your regularly scheduled newsletter.

MINUTES FROM THE SPRING KICK-OFF MEETING

The following is reported to be true to the best of my recollection. What follows is the latest minutes of the meeting of the Gateway Norton Owners Association on April 24, 2010 by Steve Hurst.

After a rain-delay, the meeting was called to order by president Mike French. Thanks were given to Kurt Baue for hosting the meeting and providing eats and beverages. Motion made and seconded to skip the reading of the last minutes. Next called was for the Treasurer's Report from me, again motion made and seconded to skip reading. But before closing motion made and seconded to pay Marty for expenses in putting out such a fine newsletter with recognition to him and his lovely wife Peggy, too.

Old Business: more club shirts are still on order, ten large, two X-large. We still have more coasters for sale.

New Business: Highway 79 cleanup was talked about, dates to be announced. Events: Springfield Mile on May 30; Mid-Ohio July 9-10-11; fall Campout to be held in September, date to be announced.

Motion made for nominations of new officers for election. No nominations made. Current officers retained.

Newsletter: always looking for articles on bike trips taken, or "I worked on my Norton and...", "I used to have this old Norton and it did this...", Well, I think you get the idea.

Since some of you have been having some writer's block, a new article has been proposed. I believe it is going to be called "Ask a Member's Mom." This will be a chance for all members to get some real answers to your questions about your problems or what's on your mind. Any tech Norton questions? Advice on just about anything? Or other questions will be answered by none other than my mom. That's right. Now you might ask, and some of you did, why my mom? Well, for one thing, she is the only mom with two sons in the Club, and she "gets" it. So the challenge is out to you all, unless you are afraid of the truth, to Ask a Member's Mom. *[See page 4 for the first installment.]*

Bill Reuckert is looking for people to go shoot at the Busch Wildlife Gun Range. I will go if he picks a time. Let us know, Bill. Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 3:05 p.m.

There were 19 members, one possum with 5 babies present. 50/50 drawing was held with \$40 taken in, \$20 won by Bill Henkel who gave \$5 back to the Club. \$6 in coaster sales.

Well, I had a good time and it was good to see all you guys who showed up. I hope to see more of you in the summer and all of you at the Fall Campout. Nortons Forever. Steve

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 20-24: INOA Club Rally, Lumby, B.C.
- Sept. 4-5: K.C. All British Car and Bike Show, K.C. Airport Marriott. Google for details.
- Sept. 11: St. Louis All British Car and Bike Show, Creve Coeur Lake. Google for details.
- Oct. 8-10: Barber Vintage Festival, Birmingham, AL. Google for details.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

[Mike's previous Kings Kolumn entitled "Oily Rag Restoration" elicited this letter.]

I don't usually write letters, but I feel I must write a short note about how I enjoy reading the Gateway Norton Owners newsletter. It is mostly lies, a few facts, of course, but interesting to hear the trauma of owning a Norton, you guys have to be special.

When I read the article on "Oily Rags," I knew I must buy one as it could be the most used item I could ever own. Please let me know if they can be purchased singularly, or can I get them by the 6-pack, or do I have to purchase a case of them? If I have to buy a case of them, I am sure some of my girlfriends would enjoy them also, as it would be perfect for dusting and all types of cleaning. If I buy and use one, and it would be as valuable as you say, I would be glad to write a testimonial on the product.

Keep having all that fun, but be careful out there.

Jane Hurst, aka Biker Mom Jane

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: 2004 Honda RC51 (Nicky Hayden Special Edition). 1000cc, 13000 miles, excellent condition. Bone stock, except for a Power Commander III, USB, a clear tank protector, and it is safety wired for the track (but has never been on the track). It has a new battery and passenger seat that goes with it. Selling because of lower back issues. Martin Blanchard 636-939-9848.

Contact Information:

Mike French, King/President:	636-940-9365	mfrench9365@charter.net
Steve Hurst, Membership:	636-928-3391	shurst01@att.net
Marty Dupree, Newsletter:	636-398-4049	madx2@att.net

Dues are \$5 per year running July thru June. They are non-prorated to keep bookkeeping simple. Make check payable to "Steve Hurst" or send cash to Steve at: 966 Weybridge Ct. W. St. Charles, MO 63304.

[I saw this posted on the RealClassics website and it made me laugh.]

I took my little grandson out to Banbury today and lost him in the crowd. But as he has been taught, he went to an official looking person/steward and said, "I can't find my granddad."

"What's he like?" said the steward.

"Beer, motorbikes, and women with big tits."

He's a good lad.

ASK A MEMBER'S MOM

Dear Biker Mom Jane:

Lately my wife has learned to start my Norton. Sometimes when I come home from work early she is sitting on it, holding it at a fast idle. I asked her what the hell she was doing, and she replied, "Just warming it up so you can change the oil." Wow! Jane, I just changed the oil the last time she started it up. She also said it has a real severe vibration at 2750 rpms. I agreed, I told her I was thinking about replacing my rear isolastic frame mount, but she advised me not to do it yet. Whenever we ride, she always tells me to "slow down," "speed up," or shift to keep it in the 2750 rpm range. She says it is so she can help me diagnose the vibration problem. This always seems to make her tired and sleepy, too. Usually, just after a few minutes, she wants to stop and smoke a cigarette. She doesn't smoke! My question to you, Biker Mom, is: Do you think I should adjust my isolastic mounts a little looser to help with this annoying vibration? Or take my wife's advice and just let 'er shake? Could I be changing the oil way too often?

Puzzled in St. Charles

Dear Puzzled:

Yes, you do have a definite problem, possibly multiple problems. As an owner of a Norton, I am sure you are used to problems. One with your motorcycle, and possibly one with your wife and your ability to satisfy her longing for vibration.

Now you could possibly get her a Norton so she could also become a Nortonite, but that may be a bad solution, as then she could join the Club and you definitely would have another kind of problem with your buddies on weekends. They might not take too kindly of a female in the Club. With the "Right to Join Anything You Want to Join" laws, she could petition and destroy the private Club you now have, so forget that one.

I am sure you could find her a just-any-old-kind-of-bike that would produce 2750 rpm and then she could jump on it and vibrate as long as she wants to satisfy her desire. She could be watching a sexy movie while you are out with the Nortonites and she could be home having a great time. This could also possibly keep you out of the "doghouse" when you get home late. Just a suggestion, have you checked the batteries in her vibrator or possibly yours?

No need to change the oil, that is the wrong direction in your thinking. But, checking the isolastic mounts could bring up another problem that could be discussed later. As you know, mounts and mounting is important.

Biker Mom Jane

[In other words . . . you're "boy toy" has become a "girl toy." Marty]

TREASURER'S REPORT

Prepared by Treasurer Steve Hurst

Money in Treasury from 2009:	\$353.00
Dues collected in 2009:	280.00
50/50 drawing at The Corner Bar meeting:	14.00
Total money in Treasury as of 4/23/10:	\$647.00
Dues collected 4/24/10:	30.00
50/50 drawing at Spring Kickoff Meeting 4/24/10:	20.00
Coaster sales 4/24/10:	6.00
Total money in Treasury as of 4/24/10:	\$703.00
Money paid to Marty for newsletter expenses:	-245.00
Total money in Treasury as of 4/24/10:	\$458.00

DAYTONA 2010

Monty Parson

My first time to Daytona Bike Week got me hooked, that was about eleven years ago. Since then I've dreamed of spending more time there and learn more about the area, especially the racing history. After all, this is the birthplace of racing. After a lot of pre-planning, Kristy and I had a condo rented for January thru March, which would take us through the Daytona 500, the Rolex 24, Bike Week and a lot of other pre- and post-events related to racing. It was decided that the 50cc Piaggio would work for a beach buggy, which worked out great. This was not the loudest or fastest, but it was the only thing Kristy would ride on, so it was perfect.

Trying to think of the most noteworthy thing to mention is touch because it was all great. One day near the Motorcycle Wall of Fame I bumped into Dick Klamfoth, an AMA Hall of Famer who rode a Norton "on the sand," as they say, in 1949 as a beginner and

won! He went on to tell us about his very interesting career. It was certainly a high point in my stay there.

One of the newsworthy events which I thought was rather funny is this motorcycle gang called "The Outlaws" who decided to make the club headquarters about two blocks from downtown Destination Daytona Motorcycle dealership. The local police parked a mobile police RV and set up a sub-station directly across the street from them. This was quite a sight to see first hand.

One of my favorite things to do was the "loop" ride. Not a long ride, but well . . . nice. *[To see a video of the loop ride, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQgEcsbShYI>. I will send this link and a link to Monty's pictures three days after I mail the newsletter. Be sure to check out the picture of the Club's brick at the Daytona Motorcycle Wall of Fame. Marty]*

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A SHORT RIDE I TOOK

Jack Geers

[Disturbing mental image at the end of first paragraph. You were warned! Marty]

Three weeks ago my son-in-law and I took a short ride from Durham, NC to Cherokee, NC. John was riding his 1200 Harley Sportster and yours truly was on my 1100 V-Star Yamaha. I-40 was covered with the worst rainstorm you can imagine and we skirted north with the great help of John's I-pod using it as our GPS through the back roads, all the time avoiding the rain. When we got to our motel in Cherokee at 9pm, my 74 year old ass was smoking. *[I warned you!]*

The next morning after a breakfast at Pete's Pancake House, we rode over to Maggie Valley and went to the Wheels of Time Motorcycle Museum. What a collection and the owner was there. He hopped on a 1922 Henderson and started it right up, he has a Crocker that he does burnouts inside the building. This is a "must stop" for anyone with the slightest interest in motorcycles.

After that great experience, we got on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Maggie Valley and rode to Boone, NC about 300 miles . . . all along the way on the Parkway I was wishing that I had my Atlas to ride. Shoving that big bike around all the curves was a real job . . . another sore ass. But that was the best of the rides.

The next day we rode back to Durham, and dodged some more rain. A short 800 mile ride. I am now looking at joining the Cannonball Run in September. They start at Kitty Hawk on the island and spend the first night in Greenville, 20 miles from my home. Think I'll go out about 100 miles and join them on my Atlas. There is going to be 99 pre-1916 bikes and riders on the run. It should be a real blast. Check it out on the Cannonball Run webpage . . . another letter on that ride later.

2010 EURO AUTO AND BIKE SHOW

Steve Hurst

This event was held on Sunday, June 13 at Plaza Frontenac. I registered my Norton Commando early and saved \$10 by doing so. I hoped it would allow me to be better prepared for the day. Alas, I forgot what a great procrastinator I am. The night before, Mike French called me and asked if I had heard from any other members who might be wanting to attend. I said I hadn't and neither had he, so we made plans to ride over in the morning together. I told him I wanted to wash my bike before I left, but he was in a hurry to go and said I could borrow a rag and just wipe it off when we got there. I knew he had washed his 1951 AJS several times in the past few days in preparation for the show, and I shouldn't have listened to him. But I did, and rode to the show with a dirty bike. Well, it

was a hot day that Sunday, and I was not going to stand in the sun and wipe my bike off after arriving at the show. Natch, all the people looked at Mike's bike with that big shiny chrome gas tank, and not so much at my dirty Norton. I, by the way, had the only Norton entry. We did see a few other Club members at the show, but Mike and I were the only ones with a bike entered. Well, before the end of the show we did get some rain for about 15 minutes, and that did help to cool things off. Most importantly, it made everybody's bike look more like mine . . . all spotty. In the end, Mike was called to the podium and was awarded the trophy. Way to go, Mike! After pictures with his trophy and two of the kids from the Shriner's Hospital, we left for home.

PICKING UP TRASH ON HIGHWAY 79

Jeff Hurst

It was a nice day to take a ride and after talking to my Bro, he mentioned about going out and picking up the trash along Highway 79. This our one mile stretch that the Norton Club has adopted. He pointed out that it would be a good thing to do for the environment and I could keep all the neat things I find along the way which, I might say, intrigued me. I was thinking of all the things I have lost in the past going down the highway of my lifetime, or possibly finding a winning lottery ticket, or cash stuck in an old cigarette pack, to say the least.

We met on the side of the highway, on a little access road to the fields right past our "Gateway Norton Club" sign. It gave us plenty of room to turn around and park well off the roadway.

We said we would walk an hour up and an hour back and with my handy picker upper and bags in hand my journey began. Well, I start finding all kinds of good stuff to put in my bag. There were a lot of things you would expect, like cans, paper cups, etc. But then there was the things that made you go hmmm,

like a baby crib: how do you lose a baby crib? and red panties and one sock? Well, to say the least, I did find some money, not much, and a bolt that I need for my bike. Probably fell off a Harley, ha ha.

After 2 hours and my six bags of trash I was getting mighty thirsty and we had almost made the whole mile. As it turned out, I got to wear an orange vest, wave at all kinds of people going by, and it gave me a little exercise that didn't hurt me. Plus a chance to see the scenery a little more. At least I know I feel better knowing I made a difference in the way the roadway looks and it is a nice feeling.

In closing, if any of you guys think you would want to have that feeling too, we will have to do it again later on. You can get the times from my bro, Steve Hurst.

P. S. You never know what you're going to find. I might find the other sock or maybe a tailgate off one of those Harleys.

[Maybe next time you'll find a bra to go with your panties. Ha! Ha! Marty]



SCOTT DOWLER'S RIDE REPORT

Bob Yancey

Unfortunately, the majority of the Club missed a really nice ride. Scott's place is probably easier to find, if you don't do like I did, and omit one of the numbers of his address when you Mapquest it. Scott's charming wife Patty served us hot cinnamon rolls and coffee. You really do meet the nicest people when you belong to a Norton club. There are people in Canada who are offering to let INOA members whom they don't even know stay in their homes while at the INOA Rally in Lumby, B.C. I'm sure Pa Norton couldn't have had any idea of what he was starting when he began building his motorcycles.

There were only 5 of us in attendance. Scott Dowler, Mike French, myself, along with Steve and Jeff Hurst. We waited till 10:30 or so before we left, hoping a few more people would arrive. Scott took us down some great roads. Rather rapidly I might add. Sightseeing was shortened to quick glimpses, which was fine with me. My wife came from the Ozarks and I've been on many a canoe trip, so I'm no stranger to Missouri's winding roads. I was very surprised that the roads

Scott took us on were as tight as any farther south. They were great! It was a pure joy to watch and listen to Scott's Combat. That bike flat moves out! He nailed it a couple of times and I was amazed how fast the visual image I had of him turned into a little dot.

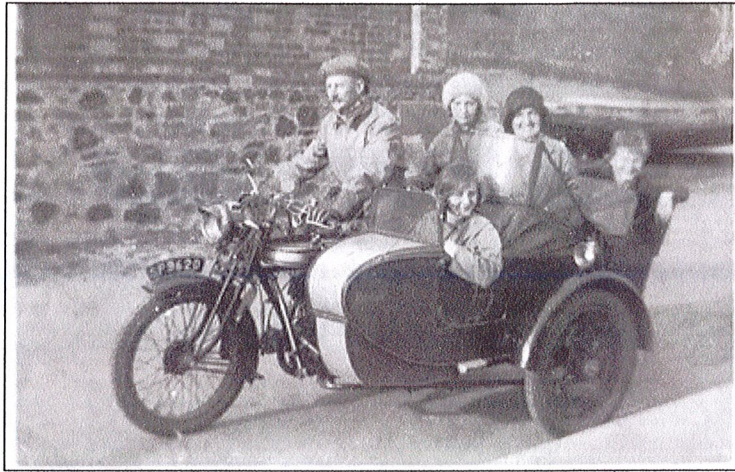
We rode through Augusta, Marthasville, and I think Dutzow. Lunch was at a bar/restaurant on the Katy Trail and Highway 94. At the restaurant a small group of people gathered around our bikes to pay homage. A tastelessly tattooed Harley maiden asked me what a Norton was, and quickly exclaimed she hds never heard of one. Not surprisingly, I believe there's a lot of things she's never heard about. I think we rode about 65 miles. The sky was a bit threatening, but it only sprinkled on us a couple of times for just a minute. Scott shortened the ride because it did look like it was going to pour down rain any second. If Scott ever hosts another ride I will make every effort to attend. *[Bob trailered 180 miles round trip to attend - what a trooper! Marty]*



Forward Ho!!

Posting from the *rapidhare.blogspot.com* from Wednesday, 14 April 2010

[I e-mailed this picture to John De Kruif and the following and the following are the responses he received. You really should check out his blogsite to see large format pictures that he has posted.]



Another great photo from Martin in the USA, where does he get them!?

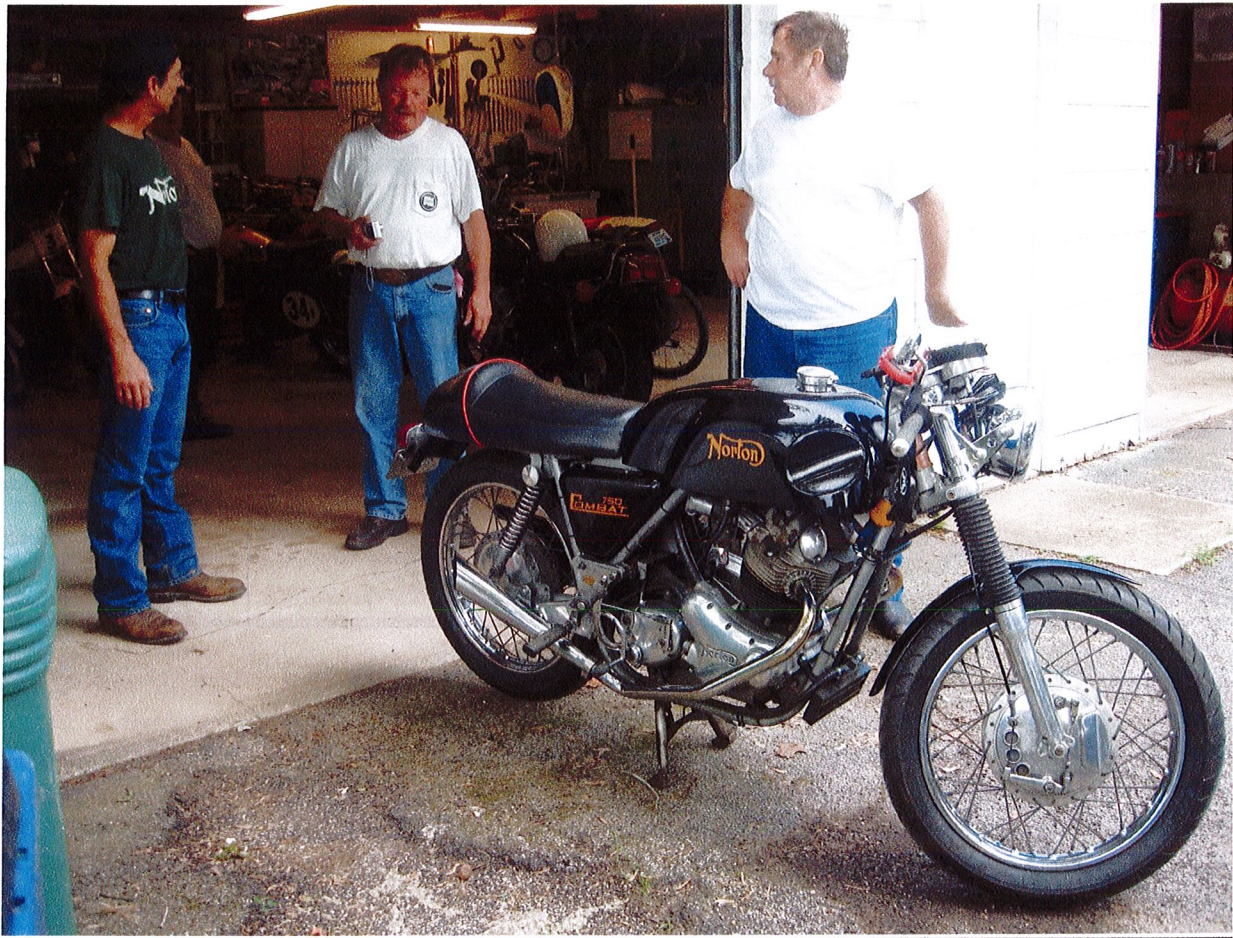
Martin: *"Since you have been posting sidecars I thought you might like this one. Not a very good pic of the Norton but I feel there is enough information to make an identification. The Rudge sidecar looks special. What should we call this? A "fore and aft"? I love the man's jacket and gauntlets! The back of this unused card only says, "the family" handwritten in pencil. It sure looks like a happy Norton family"*

The shape of the tank identifies the machine as a Big Four model and by the look of the handlebars and the size of the front break drum I would suggest it was made in 1924.

Roger: *"1924 could be quite right as the Fife registration is from late 1924. The tax disc is visible and isn't banded but this probably means that it was a quarterly one as only the annual ones were banded. The sidecar looks as though it has grown with the family and that may be why they needed to step up from a Rudge to a Big Four."*

Martin S.: *"The SP registration number was issued in Fife, Scotland and the last such number (SP9999) was issued in April 1925, so the Norton is probably a 1924 model. As a long standing Rudge owner as well as Norton owner, I checked and scanned (below) the relevant page from an original 1922 sales catalogue which shows a tubular chassis and body very similar to the one shown in the photo, even down to the Rudge logo on the side of the nose!! The flat steel strip chassis was introduced from approximately 1925, whereas this one would of course be earlier than 1924 as it probably is on its second motorcycle! The extra seat in the nose is definitely a modification, with extra footwell as well... Cosy!!"*

...and Howard: *"This Big 4 outfit has P&H lamps fitted including a pair of P&H side wings to the headlamp. I can also see the top of a Cowey horn bolted to the top tube of the frame. Both of these accessories are fairly rare and very expensive nowadays."*



Scott Dowler, King Frenchy and Bob Yancey talking about the
"Bride of Frankenstein."

GOLF BALL CAUSES CLASSIC CRASH

A golfer sliced a ball off the 1st tee and watched it disappear through an open window of a nearby house. Figuring that's the end of it, he gets another ball out and plays on.

On the 8th hole, a police officer walks up to him and says, "Did you hit a ball through a window back there?" He replies, "Yes, I did."

"Well," says the officer, "it knocked a lamp over, scaring the dog, which raced out of the house onto the highway, a motorcyclist ran into a brick wall to avoid the dog and is in the hospital, and his \$20,000 1938 Manx Norton is a write off."

"Oh my goodness!" says the golfer. "Is there anything I can do?" "Yes there is," says the officer. "Try keeping your head down a bit more and close up your stance."