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Monthly Newsletter  
December 2016

North Central MN Chapter #7  
PO Box 564  
Bemidji, MN 56619

Next Meeting:  
At Bemidji Eagles Club  
for our Christmas Party on  
Monday, December 19th at 5 PM  
-See Notice Below-

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## CHAPTER OFFICERS

COMMANDER:	Dave Sterr - (218) 556-4633
SENIOR VICE:	Mike Zimmerman - (218) 252-2061
JUNIOR VICE:	Don Strege
ADJUTANT:	Robert Saddoris - (218) 243-2663
SERVICE OFFICER:	Robert Saddoris - (218) 243-2663
TREASURER:	Jeri Harvey
CHAPLAIN:	Mike Gutz - (218) 308-3927
CHAPLAIN (ALT.):	Bruce Holden - (218) 467-3591
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	David Myers
SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Bruce Tiegen
OFFICER OF THE DAY:	Glenn Aagard
HISTORIAN:	David Myers
EXEC. COMMITTEE CHAIR:	Tom Annonson - (218) 251-3025, torgor@lightspeed.net
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Walter James
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Glenn Aagard

## DAV AND AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS PARTY!

**When:** Monday December 19th

**Where:** Bemidji Eagles Club, enter through East doors.

**Time:** 5PM, Social hour, 6PM Dinner

**Meal Choices:** Roast beef, Ranch chicken breast  
or Vegetarian Lasagna

**RSVP:** Ginger Edwards (368-8562)  
by 10 December with number in party.

*Come and enjoy fellowship with friends  
and comrades. There will be a short  
program and door prizes.*



# THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER # 7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON NOVEMBER 21 2016 AT 1902.

- Opening Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance

## A. Roll Call of Officers to determine if quorum is present

### OFFICERS

Commander: Dave Sterr ..... Present  
Senior Vice Commander: Mike Zimmerman ..... Present  
Junior Vice Commander: Don Strege ..... Excused  
Chaplain: Mike Gutz ..... Present  
Service Officer/Adjutant: Robert Saddoris ..... Present  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Bruce Tiegen ..... Present  
Hist./Judge Advocate/Co-Adjutant: David Myers ..... Present  
Treasurer: Jeri Harvey ..... Present  
Officer of the Day: Glen Aagard ..... Excused

## B. Members Present: (16) See attached report

## C. Introduction of guests or visitors, prospective new members, and transfers to Chapter # 7.

Guests/Visitors: Nine

Prospective new members: None

Transfers in: None

## D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of Oct 17 2016 were read.

Motion to approve: Ron Kaiser

Seconded: Walter James Carried.

## E. Financial Report for Oct 17-Nov 19:

Report given by Jeri Harvey (See enclosure).

Motion to approve: Steve Siats

Seconded: Walter James Carried.

## F. Sickness or distress: None reported

## G. New Member Obligation: None

## H. Communications: See Attached report

## I. Committee Reports:

1. **Membership Report:** 8 prospective new members (See attached report).
2. **Service Officer Report:** No report given.
3. **Legislative Report:** No report given.
4. **Hospital Chaplain Report:** Nothing to report
5. **Entertainment:** Discussed the Christmas Party, RSVP's needed.
6. **Fundraising committee:** Herberger's fundraiser raised \$2693.04. Air Corps Aviation Veteran's Day booth generated \$32.00 in donations.
7. **Newsletter Committee:** May fall short of advertising expectations

## J. Old Business:

1. Discussed the Christmas party: The date is Monday, December 19, at the Eagles Club. Social hour begins at 5, dinner at 6.
2. Temporary Garage partially assembled. Several parts were defective, waiting for them to arrive.

## K. New Business

1. Our yellow ford truck was found totaled, after being stolen. Waiting on insurance settlement before purchasing another (See executive board action item number 1 for an explanation).

## L. Executive Committee Action Items - See items 1-4 in the preceding section

1. Our yellow Ford Truck was stolen, and the White Dodge was broken into. Need to rekey everything. Insurance Company needs a list of stolen items, and a copy of the Police report.
  - a. Motion to rekey made by Jeri Harvey, 2nd by Bruce Tiegen. Motion carried.
2. During the period that our transportation volunteers will be using their own vehicles, Jeri Harvey proposes to reimburse with the \$25.00 per day rental money given by the insurance company. 2nd by Mike Zimmerman. Motion carried. Discussed various security options,
3. Mike Zimmerman proposed that we spend \$400.00 on modifications to our current donation bins. All new bins have raised wooden platforms. \$20 per unit will modify our current bins, extending their use, and making it easier to sort. Seconded by Walter James. Motion carried.
4. Members of our chapter residing at Middle river discovered a cemetery containing veterans that was not cared for. They cleaned it up, but ruined 2 Stihl chainsaws. They are requesting funds to replace them. This will cost \$329.00 per unit, time 2. Mike Zimmerman made the motion that we replace the chainsaws (at the price listed above). Glen Aagard 2nd. Motion carried. Jeri Harvey pointed out that we could use Forget-me-not funds for this project.
5. CDR Sterr requests that we amend previous resolution that we pay 150.00 per trip to drivers taking loads to Duluth and Fargo to paying drivers traveling to any location (per enclosure) .45 cents per mile with the gas being paid for by the chapter. Motion by Martin Schrage, 2nd by Bruce Tiegen. Carried.

## M. Good of the Order:

1. Ron Kaiser brought up PTSD awareness picnic. When details have been secured, will revisit this with an eye towards donating.
2. Les Johnson brought us the memorial Stone project.

## A Minute of silence was observed for our fallen comrades

## N. Motion to Adjourn:

Made by Walter James

Seconded: Steve Haushil Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2015 hours.

The next meeting will be held on 19 December 2016 at the Bemidji Eagles Club. Social Hour to begin at 5, dinner at 6.1900 at the DAV Center on 15th Street NW.

## COMMANDERS CORNER

2016 ends on a great note for our DAV chapter. I could not be more proud of everyone and what we have accomplished this year. We now have a "home" in the sense of a place to work and meet. Our number of volunteers has increased as has our membership. When we join hands and work for a common cause we can accomplish a lot—and we did! Plans are to continue to make improvements in the building during 2017.

What we can do now, as a chapter, is to put a focus on volunteer participation. Our fund raising is so important to helping our fellow veterans when they need a helping hand. The largest of our fundraising efforts is the clothing drive. Volunteers work on this process weekly by emptying the green donation bins twice a week, and on Tuesday of every week all the bin donations and donations from businesses and rummage sales are checked and bagged or boxed for shipment. It generates the largest amount of income for our "Veterans-In-Need Fund." The "Forget-Me-Not" campaign and the Herberger's coupon sales have specific times of the year when they run to raise funds for veterans. All three are performed by volunteers, both veterans and nonveterans.

If you have not done so yet, please consider offering volunteer time to these causes. You will be working with a great group of volunteers. One of our volunteer needs is drivers to get our clothing product to Fargo and Duluth. We are able now to offer monetary compensation for these deliveries. If you are interested, please give me a call so I can tell you more about it.

Dave Sterr

The DAV's main mission is to help veterans in need. If you or someone you know is in need, contact your County Veteran's Service Office. The officer will determine if the veteran qualifies for assistance and can then determine what funds or services are available to the veteran or a veteran's family member. Know also that we have a large supply of medical equipment items to offer our veterans (free of charge). Contact any of the DAV officers and they can help you connect with the person who can help you with securing an item you might need.





# VETERANS TAKING CARE OF VETERANS

Article by Barb Geer, reprinted from the Middle River "Honker" newspaper.

It all started at the breakfast table over early morning coffee at the café in Newfolden last May. The guys were talking about Memorial Day and the placement of flags on the graves of veterans in the eleven cemeteries that American Legion Post 427 takes care of.

Stuart Sethre, who is near 90 years old, asked about the cemetery behind Otto Anderson's place. "What cemetery?" was the chorus that rang around the table.

Taking a couple of American flags with them, David Myhrer and Jim Larson, two very active veterans, went out to what used to be the Anderson farm and got permission from the Munter family to access the cemetery. What met their eyes was a disaster of massive proportions! They could see about six graves, which were covered in weeds, brush, lilacs and popple trees. Headstones were tipped, footstones were sunken.

But they did find the graves of two veterans, one of whom is possibly the most highly decorated veteran in our area. Irvin J. Magnuson earned the Silver Star with the Oak Leaf Cluster, as well as the Bronze Star with Valor. He was a Tech Sergeant and Squad Leader who served World War II and was in the Battle of the Bulge. He died in 1980. His brother, Carl Magnuson, was a Private in the Army in World War I. He served with Co. B of the 42nd Machine Gun Bn. Carl died in 1961. David and Jim placed the flags on their graves.

After Memorial Day, another veteran, David Lokstad, went to the cemetery to pick up the flags. What he saw appalled him. He thought, "This can't be!" He promptly went out there with his tractor and chain saw and started the clean-up project.

After more coffee table talk, David Myhrer and Jim Larson joined in the work. "We've got to get this done!" That became their mantra.

Jerad Worb, current owner of the land, didn't want Lokstad's large tractor running across his CRP field, so Jim Larson brought his four-wheeler and trailer to haul the debris from the cemetery.

When they commenced their clean-up, the men found graves they didn't know were there. They cut the brush down into the dirt so that they could mow. They burned up two chainsaws getting the job done!

They hauled all the brush away, raked the cemetery, eliminated the weeds, lifted the stones that were tipped, raised the stones that had been sunken, and straightened those that needed leveling.

It was apparent that there were unmarked graves in the cemetery in addition to those that were marked by stones. The guys could tell from the shape of the landscape where graves had been placed. They determined that the cemetery hadn't been plotted the way most are since there is no uniform direction in which the graves have been placed. However, the approximate 40' X 120' cemetery is fenced in and sits on the river bank of the Middle River.

While it may be wrong to assume anything, it seems there has been no record keeping for the cemetery. There is no sexton, no association that anyone can find. Guessing that it was a community cemetery, there are many names listed on the stones.

There are 20 marked graves along with four, or perhaps five, unmarked graves in Brandstrom cemetery. Among the names at the cemetery are: Magnuson Irvin DOD (Date of Death) 1980, Magnuson Carl DOD 1961, Magnuson Victor DOD 1985, Magnuson Sophie DOD 1979, Magnuson Breta DOD 1937, Magnuson Alma DOD 1947, Magnuson John DOD 1963, Blomquist Peter DOD 1897, Blomquist Mary DOD 1927, Blomquist Frank DOD 1907, Blomquist Emil DOD 1939, Anderson Aron DOD 1933, Anderson M. DOD 1905, Anderson Gustav DOD 1894, Anderson Britta DOD 1913, Anderson Karl DOD 1936, Dueke Johan DOD 1903, Dueke William DOD 1918, Dueke Mother DOD 1913 (no first name listed, only the word Mother on the stone), and Myrtle Frances DOD 1903.

Kermit Magnuson was the last person to take care of the cemetery to the best of his ability. A Navy/Army veteran himself, he is now residing in a nursing home in the Twin Cities area. His niece, Julie Meyer, is excited that the old cemetery is being renewed and has joined the research team, volunteering to seek out records, if indeed such records do exist. So many questions.....so hard to find the answers!

No one even knew the name of the cemetery. Woodlawn was one of the first names tossed about. Someone else thought it might be Bergstrom. Is it in New Maine Township or Spruce Valley? Who is responsible for the upkeep? Could it be the county? The township?

While the Otto Anderson farm where Jerad Worb now lives is in Spruce Valley Township, the Middle River runs there, and the question remained whether the cemetery was beyond the line. Finally, after some digging...of the research variety...Jim Larson found the cemetery shown in a 1972 atlas of Marshall County, showing the name as Brandstrom Cemetery, and its location listed in Section 36 of New Maine Township.

Myhrer, Lokstad and Larson have checked with the owners of both Collins Funeral Homes and Johnson Funeral Homes, and though both knew about the location of the cemetery,



neither knew anything about the lack of registration of the cemetery with the county. Though the cemetery appears in the 1972 atlas, it has not been registered.

So now what? There is still more work to be done! The weeds and brush need to be controlled if there is any hope of keeping the cemetery in shape in the future. But whose responsibility is that?

David Myhrer has spoken to County Commissioner, Gary Kiesow, who is looking into whether the maintenance is the county's responsibility or the township's responsibility. One thing is certain, at least in these men's eyes, the graves must be tended to. Whether the graves belong to veterans, or the occupants of those graves are someone's family members, it is the responsibility of the living to respect the dead. As Myhrer said, "It's not anyone's fault, but it's our job to make sure that it doesn't happen again!" He also fears this may not be the only cemetery in Marshall County that's not being taken care of.

There is a Minnesota law that provides for this eventuality. Eric Johnson provided the information to this self-appointed committee regarding 306.243 MAINTAINING ABANDONED CEMETERIES.

Subdivision 1. Appropriation for improvement. A county board may appropriate the general revenue funds it determines necessary for the improvement and maintenance of the cemetery if there is in the county, whether within the corporate limits of a town or statutory city, either of the following:

- (1) A cemetery that has been abandoned or neglected and the association having had charge of the cemetery has disbanded or fails to act; or
- (2) An abandoned or neglected private cemetery containing the remains of pioneers or residents of this state, deceased before 1875 or civil war veterans or veterans of the armed services of the United States of any previous war.

The law goes on, in subsequent subdivisions, to describe the duties of the county board, the delegation of duties, the disbursement of funds, transfer, abandonment, and end of operation as a cemetery.

A separate statute provides for township involvement. 306.245. NEGLECTED CEMETERIES; DUTIES OF TOWN BOARD. The town board of supervisors may maintain in a proper manner, and keep free of weeds, a cemetery that has been neglected for at least ten years.

Both statutes were revised and copyrighted in 2016.

These three men...David Myhrer, Jim Larson, and David Lokstad, took it upon themselves to revive the Brandstrom Cemetery. Though it is not an American Legion project, all three are members of the American Legion Post 427 in Newfolden and belong to the North Central Minnesota Chapter 7 of the Disabled American Veterans, did this at their personal expense, with their own equipment.

Families who have loved ones in the Brandstrom Cemetery should be grateful to the spirit of patriotism that prompted Myhrer, Larson and Lokstad to spend their summer paying tribute to those who are buried there.

These men would like to thank the Munter family, especially Jerad Worb, who now resides on the farm, for their cooperation in allowing access to the cemetery through their yard. Without it, none of this would have been possible.

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## ADJUTANT CORNER



Certain hearing aid implants are now covered for all Tricare users under a policy update. Existing rules block hearing aid coverage for retirees, *Tricare* for Life and Tricare Reserve Select users. But *the policy change* reclassifies a certain type of implanted hearing aid -- Auditory Osseointegrated Implant (AOI) Devices -- as a "prosthetic," opening up coverage of the implant to all Tricare beneficiaries. The devices improve hearing through an implant inserted in the skull behind the ear. Combined with a microphone and hearing aid components, incoming sounds cause the implant to vibrate, which is then transmitted to the patient's inner ear via bone conduction. The implants are used to treat conductive and mixed hearing loss or singled-sided deafness. Cochlear implants, another implantable type of aid, are used to treat those with non-functioning cochlea or those who have bilateral severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss. Cochlear implants are currently covered by Tricare for all types of beneficiaries. The change for AOI devices impacts all Tricare and Tricare for Life users. While the changes are retroactively effective to June 30, 2016, Tricare's regional contractors won't be ready to answer questions or process claims for the implants until Dec. 7. The new policy does create parameters for what kind of hearing loss qualifies for coverage. "AOI devices are covered as a prosthetic device when necessary due to significant conditions resulting from trauma, congenital anomalies, or disease". That means that retirees whose hearing loss can be blamed on other causes that are not trauma, disease or a birth defect don't qualify for coverage. Non-implantable devices, such as the BAHF Softband, which gives hearing help to children who are too young for the AOI implant, are still excluded from coverage.

Here is the link to our website regarding the car donation program. <https://www.dav.org/vehicle-donation/> DAV no longer takes cars but this company does and then gives the DAV funds from donations.

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) Is Working with Wilder Research to Assess the Mental Health Needs of Veterans in Minnesota.

Please help us by sharing the Veterans Mental Health Survey <https://na2se.voxco.com/se/1145/MDVA/VETS/> with your members and newsletter lists. Responses are completely confidential and participants will receive a \$10 gift card in appreciation of their time.

The purpose of this assessment is to give MDVA a more complete picture of the mental and behavioral health needs of veterans in the state, including what is working well and what can be improved. To get a sense of these needs and barriers to services, MDVA and Wilder are asking veterans across the state of Minnesota to complete a survey related to their mental and behavioral health. Feedback from these surveys will help improve services for veterans across the state.

Wilder Research is conducting this voluntary assessment of the mental and behavioral health needs of Minnesota veterans for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and the Minnesota legislature. The goal is to collect honest thoughts and ideas, so there are no right or wrong answers. Individual feedback will be used to help improve services for veterans across the state. Participants can skip any question they do not want to answer. It should take no more than 15-20 minutes to complete this survey.

Wilder Research will combine participant's answers with the answers of other veterans across the state. Individual answers will never be shared or reported and will not affect any of the services participants are receiving or their relationships with the staff of any agency or another resource provider.

If you would like more information about the study or to complete the survey over the phone, please contact Nora Johnson at [nora.johnson@wilder.org](mailto:nora.johnson@wilder.org) or 651-280-2748.

May God Bless each of you and your families Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. I am honored to serve you.

Saddoris

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 1260, BEMIDJI,  
WILL BE HOSTING THEIR ANNUAL

### PEARL HARBOR DINNER

AT THE EAGLES CLUB ON  
SUNDAY, DEC. 4TH.

SOCIAL HOUR AT 4:00 PM, DINNER AT 5:00 PM.

THIS IS NOT ONLY FOR VFW MEMBERS;  
IT IS FOR ALL VETERANS AND THEIR GUESTS.  
THERE WILL BE SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

## Wreaths Across America

The Northland Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol in Bemidji will be placing wreaths on veterans' graves at Greenwood Cemetery in Bemidji on Dec. 17th. Please join us for a short ceremony at 11:00 am. followed by cadets placing wreaths on specific graves and then rendering a respectful salute. It is great to honor the veterans that have gone before us in service and sacrifice!

If you would like to order a wreath, go to [wreathscrossamerica.org](http://wreathscrossamerica.org). They are \$15, with \$5 going to our squadron. Or you can order a t-shirt for \$25 and get the t-shirt and a wreath. For more information, call Patti Schrader at 218-252-0682.



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## 2016 REVISED DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

September 2016 (Revised)

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October 2016 (Revised)

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November 2016 (Revised)

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December 2016 (Revised)

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## 2017 DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

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February 2017

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March 2017

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August 2017

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September 2017

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October 2017

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November 2017

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December 2017

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### Northwest Transportation MN DAV Chapter 7

#### Bemidji-Fargo Trips • Pick-up Points:

Bemidji National Guard Armory • Solway in front of bar • Shevlin in front of bar • Bagley Tesoro Station west end of town  
Fosston at LaPiere's on the east end of town • Mahnomen Cenex park south of propane tank • Ada Country Store

#### To Schedule Rides:

Call **1-855-277-9787** and follow voice prompts to leave a message.

If you have problems leaving a message call scheduler **Saddoris** at **218-243-2663** or **218-209-1863** (cell).

**Volunteer Drivers Needed! Call Saddoris for info.**

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### MANS NEED OF SALVATION

Any Christian understands what salvation is, or do they? Is it too, a word used lightly [Like the word Christian] without a full understanding of what that word implies to humanity? Well let's investigate this a little further. First of all, let's see if we can get a understanding of the meaning of the word. Here is what Webster says: 1." SALVAGE. -To save. Property saved from destruction in a calamity. Something extracted [As from rubbish] as valuable or useful". 2. " SALVATION- Deliverance from the power and effect of sin"; especially, deliverance from sin and eternal death through the atonement of Jesus Christ, [The second Death]. Salvation is the need of every human heart. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God". Romans 3:23. The book of Isaiah puts it this way, Isaiah 12:2,3. "Behold, God is my salvation: I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he is also become my salvation. Therefore, with joy shall you draw water out of the wells of salvation". So, then through whom is salvation possible? " be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole...Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved". Acts 4:10-12. You may also want to read Matthew 1:21. So now we need to ask some personal questions, what is man's condition? here is a short list [1]. He is born under sin. Ps. 51:5; 58:3 Isa. 48:8. [2]. His understanding is darkened. Eph. 4:18. [3]. His heart is full of evil. Jer. 17:9. [4]. He is spiritually dead. Eph. 2:1. Another question to ask, Is it possible for man himself to change his condition? well the bible is plain on what man can and cannot do. Look at this. " Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil". Jer. 13:23. Romans 6:23. " For the wages of sin is death: but eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord". And what is sin, of course, transgression of the law. Read Rom. 3:19,20. So then next we ask, what does man need in his quest for salvation? [1]. The Holy scriptures. 2Tim. 3:15. [2]. To look to God. Isa. 45:22. [3]. To believe in the Gospel of Christ. Rom. 1:16. [4]. To look for Christs return. Heb. 9:28. And another question to ask is. For whom is Christ the Author of salvation?" And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all that obey him". Heb. 5:9. You will notice the word obey, Obedience is very important, one act of disobedience, sent this entire world into a spiral of sin which will not be resolved until the return of Jesus. That great old hymn "Trust and Obey" still holds true today. Yet man has cast aside the law of God, the 10 commandments. ALL 10 are to be obeyed. so then here is truth, We can have salvation by faith in Christ. " Wherefore, he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him [Jesus]". Heb.7:25. And Jude 24 tells us, " Him that is able to keep you from falling..." Friends, SALVATION IS FREE! It is a blessing from God. " Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: Thy blessings are upon thy people". Ps. 3:8. I am now quoting from the book "The Desire of Ages" Pg. 556. " The obedience God required of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, He will see fulfilled in the remnant of His people". and last of all. " Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Rev. 14:12. My friends Jesus is coming soon, look up, for your Salvation draws near.

May Gods blessings be upon you all.

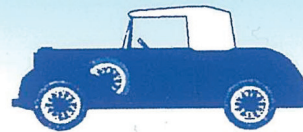
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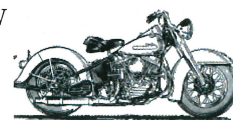
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