

Jay Leno Show At Lyric Opera House Boffo!

By Bill Wurzell, Editor

When Jay Leno came out on stage, after announcing himself, backstage, it was a total laugh riot for the next hour and forty minutes or so.

Prior to his on stage monolog, eight members of Chesapeake Region and guest of Ruth Synodinos, Ann Boddiford, were treated to a 'meet & greet' with the comedian in The Mangione Family Dance Studio, near numerous dressing rooms, deep in the environs of the Lyric Opera House, about an hour before Jay went on stage.

There were other groups totaling about twenty people involved in the meet & greet. This is not counting the twelve beautiful young ladies from Baltimore's Friends School. The girls were high school age and members of an acappella group that opened the show for Jay. Members of the group, all on the cusp of womanhood were wearing 'little black dresses.' They sang five songs with accompaniment they created. They were fantastic! The young ladies were somewhat nervous in the studio before Jay entered the room. Then, Jay casually walked into the studio and said, "Hi everybody!" He embraced the singing group and made them feel welcome. He then turned his attention to other folks in the room that he seemed to know and they him.

Gary and Paula had already set up CR's 60th anniversary banner near a small lectern at which Jay was supposed to stand. In very short order our group was soon exchanging small talk with the star. He could not have been more accommodating. Paula presented him with a plaque that acknowledged his preservation of automotive history for future generations along with celebrating our 60th anniversary.

Ruth Synodinos had a photograph of her late husband, 'Jim' taken with Jay in California at a car show about eight years ago which Jay happily autographed.

Jay then said, "hey, what kind of cars do you guys have?" I replied, "54 DeSoto!" Jay said, "Oh, 241 c.i., I said, "no, 276, your 1954 Dodge station wagon has the 'Red Ram' 241 engine." Jay agreed!

Jay queried Dan Materazzi, "What about you sir, whadda you have?" Dan replied, "A '56 and '58 Corvette...I mentioned, the '58 is *FUEL INJECTED!*" Jay responded, "I have a '63 fuelie."

When Paula presented Jay with the plaque, he seemed genuinely



Above, L-R: Barb Diehl, Terry & Dan Matarazzi, Buzz Diehl, Paula Ruby, Jay Leno, Ruth Synodinos, Gary Ruby, Bill Wurzell. Missing from picture, Ruth's friend and guest, Ann Boddiford.

impressed, he said, "Oh, that's nice, thank you!" Jay 'mugged' it up quite a bit with Paula and other women in the room.

After our meeting with Jay, we all filtered into the main lobby until they opened the doors to the theater. Only couples had seats together and we were scattered throughout the theatre. There really isn't a bad seat, at the Lyric, even the cheap seats have an unobstructed view of the stage. Jay's monolog nearly had people rolling in the aisles!

Technical Chairman, Gary Ruby on: *Rubber Parts*

Hello All!

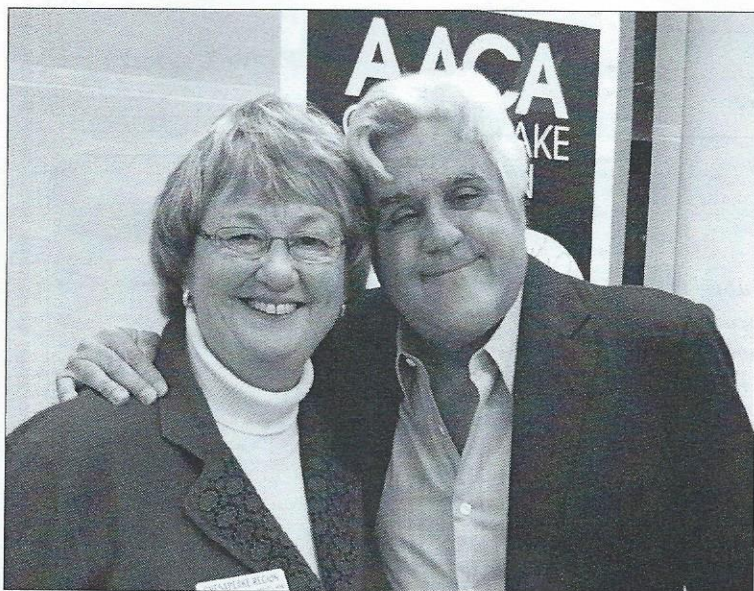
For February, I'd like to discuss some of the RUBBER ITEMS that should be checked on your vehicles. Most of us have cars that have been restored for a while and as you know rubber parts crumble, dry out, decompose, whatever you want to call it. First item of concern is your tires, take a look at the sidewall, do you see stress cracks? As tires age they will crack, especially if exposed to sunlight. The cracks are not real big so you have to look closely. The other place to look is in between the tread, which will have cracks running the same direction as the tread. You may have to look even a little closer at the tread as they blend in.

Another overlooked item is the valve stems. On tubeless tires, the valve stems may look great but the proper way to check them is to bend them from side to side. If they're old and going bad you'll see cracks in them while bending them, they may even begin leaking, that's okay, this is a good time for them to leak and not when you're on the road.

The last items are the two little pieces of RUBBER GAS LINE. One that goes from the tank to the metal gas line, YES, THEY DO GO BAD! Mine cracked on Ritchie Highway and left me stranded and I'm thinking my fuel pump failed. After a bunch of bad words, I found a small crack that was sucking air and not fuel. The other piece, the rubber line from the fuel pump to the steel line from the tank, check that puppy too.

Hope this was helpful. 'SEE YA!'

Gary



Paula and her friend, Jay Leno