

PROVING GROUND

WHERE NEW IDEAS ARE TESTED

AN INDEPENDENT MULTI-CHAPTER REVIEW OF MVCC POLICIES AND EVENTS

Editors : Oliver Kenen & Harry Rimmer

Number 4 Feb. 1986
Supplement

FIELD OBSERVATIONS : Several things have occurred since press time for this issue of Proving Ground and the PG staff thought two of them important enough to present to the membership with this issue. The item which has caused the most concern is a letter from MVCC President Jack Tomlin (reproduced on the reverse of this page) which calls for the Board of Directors to arrive for the Winter Board meeting two days early so that informal discussions could be held regarding some of the MVCC business. This in itself is not an item of concern as open discussions of the current problems within the MVCC are needed. What is of concern is his specification that these discussions be open to only MVCC Officers and Board members. As we have discussed in this issue of Proving Ground, decisions within the MVCC need to be made in as open a forum as possible. The MVCC is a non-profit organization which is for the purpose of promoting the collection and restoration of military vehicles, and nothing in an organization of this type needs to be a secret not open to member review. The defense that Board members would feel more at ease discussing the current Club problems in a sheltered environment simply does not fit with the best long term interests of the Club. If Board members have ideas which they feel could not stand member scrutiny then these ideas should not be considered at all. It is the Board members responsibility to represent the views and interests of his constituents and the best interest of the Club as a whole. Ideas which are presented solely for the sake of the expediency or for an individuals personal gain or stature have no place in an organization like the MVCC. Secretary Treasurer Jim Herrick stated in the Financial Report in Army Motors #34 (Fall 1985) that "By and by, Board meetings are open to members in good standing....". Now, less than four months later we have the President of the MVCC calling for closed Board discussions! What could possibly be discussed that needs to be kept from the membership? The idea that a small clique of selected individuals is best qualified to run an organization like the MVCC was the major factor in the disintegration of the old National Military Vehicle Collectors Association. Despite all our efforts, and the efforts of others, the current leadership seems to be heading down the same ideological path. In addition, the President's statement that he wishes to "minimize the use of Robert's Rules of Order" is also not in the best interest of the Club. The one thing that Robert's Rules guarantees, other than an orderly meeting, is that all ideas can be heard in their entirety and be recorded in the meeting minutes, regardless of whether they meet with majority approval. Without Robert's Rules, a Board meeting could easily degenerate into chaos simply because emotional or unpopular issues needed to be discussed. An individual, presenting an unpopular issue, could easily be interrupted repeatedly during his presentation by individuals who took exception to what was being said. Robert's Rules guarantee all sides of an issue will be heard in an orderly manner, and recorded in the minutes. This open expression of opinion, and the recording of those opinions in the minutes which would be open to member inspection, is absolutely essential if the MVCC is to survive and prosper. There are those within the Board of Directors who feel that the membership is not interested in the way the Club is run, and that they vote their approval of the way the Club is being run every time they renew their dues. It is the opinion of the PG staff that the membership wants and needs to be informed of the way the MVCC is being run, and as voting members of a non-profit corporation we have that right, even if, from time to time, we choose not to exercise it.

MILITARY VEHICLE COLLECTORS CLUB

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Serving
the collectors
for 10 years



FEBRUARY 3rd, 1986

TO, ALL OFFICERS, AND BOARD MEMBERS,
SUBJECT, MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

MY APOLOGIES FOR THE DELAY IN WRITING EVERYONE ON THE FINAL DETAILS OF THE MID-YEAR CONFERENCE EVENTS. WE HAVE HAD SOME DISCUSSIONS ON THE FORMAT AND AMOUNT OF TIME TO SPEND ON THE CONFERENCE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM JIM HERRICK ON THE ACCOMMODATIONS THAT WE WILL BE USING.

HOLIDAY INN NORTHGLENN
1-25 AND 120th

PHONE # 1-800-HOLIDAY

WHAT SOME OF THE DISCUSSION HAS BEEN IS, SHOULD WE HAVE MORE INFORMAL TIME TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE MVCC BUSINESS. FOR THOSE THAT CAN ATTEND EARLY, WE WILL START INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 20th AT 9:00 AM. IT IS MY INTENTION THAT THIS TIME WILL BE FOR THE OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS ONLY. OUR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MEETING WILL BE OPEN FORMAT. IF POSSIBLE PLEASE ATTEND THE EARLY DISCUSSIONS. I WILL ARRIVE WEDNESDAY EVENING ABOUT 9:00.

PLEASE REFER TO THE OCTOBER 20th LETTER FROM ME. FILE ANY NEW BUSINESS WITH MY SELF OR THE SECRETARY BEFORE FEB. 27th. I WILL HAVE THE AGENDA PRINTED AND BACK IN YOU HANDS BY THE 6th OF MARCH. IF YOUR NEW BUSINESS IS NOT ON FILE WE WILL NOT BE OBLIGATED TO BRING UP YOUR NEW BUSINESS ISSUES.

I AM STILL PLANNING A OPEN FORMAT FOR OUR MEETING THIS YEAR. UNLESS ISSUES GET OUT OF HAND I HOPE TO MINIMIZE THE USE OF ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER.

SINCERELY YOURS,


JACK TOMLIN

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Proving Ground staff was advised in a letter from Secretary/Treasurer Jim Herrick dated January 28, 1986, that the newsletter exchange program was being continued. The individual currently responsible for the Newsletter Exchange is : Mike Keller, 11819 Marquardt, Whittier, CA 90605. The free exchange of information is essential to the growth of the MVCC. We urge all chapters to make use of the Newsletter Exchange, and we applaud Board member Mike Keller for his willingness to give additional time and effort to assist in the administration of the MVCC.

IS THERE A MUSEUM IN OUR FUTURE ?

There was a note in the June 1985 issue of Supply Line which suggested that the MVCC should adopt the goal of establishing its own military vehicle museum. There is no indication of how this was to be done. How serious are our National officers about moving ahead on this goal?

The idea of a club museum is not really new. Many other clubs support such institutions. For instance, the Confederate Air Force has collected one of each major type of aircraft that fought in WWII. Just because the dues charged by the CAF are well above the budget of the average family breadwinner, and just because only a small, elite corps of the CAF ever gets to fly these planes doesn't make the Confederate Air Force any less important. The CAF is a very popular and glamorous organization probably because of the fact that the average person can't join.

But was the MVCC, like the CAF, founded so that the many members could work (and spend) together to preserve a small number of high priced vehicles for the use of a select few? Perhaps instead of this approach we should consider the method used by another club. The Experimental Aircraft Association helps its members to build, fly, and restore all sorts of aircraft. Yes, there is a museum involved (the largest private aviation museum in the world), but this is controlled by a separate entity, the EAA Aviation Foundation. The foundation has its own set of officers and directors, and its finances are completely independent of the EAA and its dues.

This type of approach would at least make participation in a museum program voluntary, and would force the museum to financially stand on its own merits. But do we really even need such a museum? It's true that the oldest and most rare vehicles should be carefully preserved for all to see, and that's exactly what a museum is for. However, there is already a large number of military vehicle museums in existence. Most of these facilities are located at Army bases across the nation. A few are no more than a back room behind a surplus store. But all would welcome any support we could provide to them. Museum budgets are always tight, there's never enough room to properly display everything, and the talent, tools, and materials needed to accomplish quality preservation and restoration remain scarce. A generous donation from the MVCC to these existing museums would not only help them, but would also give us a network of places, open to the public, where our logo and information on our club could be prominently displayed. We would be giving much needed assistance to organizations actively preserving military vehicles, stimulating public interest, improving our reputation, and expanding our organization. The alternative seems to be putting ourselves out on a limb to create a single facility that probably few of the MVCC members would ever get to visit.

In the long run, lending our support to others would be much more beneficial than reducing the size of the Club by charging exorbitant dues to support a museum. We must keep in mind that although we should work to preserve military vehicles in a permanent, public display, it should be done in a way which will not detract from our first objective of supporting all military vehicle enthusiasts, whether they even own a vehicle or not. After all, in the final analysis, people are more important than machines.

- Ken Wiley #2522
First Carolinas Chapter



FIELD OBSERVATIONS : "What if" mind games are always popular. Probably the most popular "What if" game currently is "What if I won the million dollar lottery?". As we were putting together this issue of Proving Ground, however, a different "What if" game came to mind. Given the track record of the Club leadership to date, we considered the following scenario. We utilized the facts that :

- 1) The President or the Treasurer are currently allowed to enter into contracts on behalf of the Club.
- 2) The National is apparently pursuing a policy of amassing a large cash reserve.
- 3) Major items such as the Club computer, and the Membership Directory are often acted on with less than full Board participation.

We then asked the question "What if a desirable property, such as a former car dealership which had offices, and a showroom, and a service area were to suddenly become available in the Denver, Colorado area? Would we then have a permanent MVCC Office/Museum before the full Board were to meet?"

Granted this sounds implausible, the purchase of such an Office/Museum would be of such great effect on the entire membership for many years to come, and would surely require careful consideration by a fully assembled Board of Directors. But, "What If....."

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First Class