

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club



No 65

June 2012

TRANSMISSION

If you find you need more information about this club or just can't wait to join ring Peet Menzies on 0417855222.

GPO Box 911 Darwin 0801
In Katherine call 89710605 .
Newsletter enquiries to Ted
propellers@bigpond.com

MISSOURI, USA



Meet Joe Preston. As you can see he is a happy bloke. You would be happy too if you had the wheels Joe has. Most of his cars were not quite as flash when he first laid his hands on them. But Joe doesn't get into this business half hearted. Body off the chassis is the norm and all his cars are as brand new. He has one serious problem though. Room, or lack of it. He is even consid-

ering selling one of his hotrods to create a bit of space that he can fill up with another car. I guess it is a bit easier to find American cars in America so to spice it up a bit Joe looks for models that are a bit out of the ordinary, or ones he was associated with in his youthful years. But basically Joe just loves playing with cars.

When do blokes catch the bug to play with old cars? Some caught it just as soon as they got their hands on their drivers licence, some took a while longer before the rot set in, but Joe Preston was lost to the cause way before that. He started as a young lad while fixing up his push bike and when he had done all he could to it, he started under the bonnet of his Dad's car, polishing the engine. Naturally he progressed to his own cars and buying, using and then selling, then buying another as folks normally do. But somewhere along the line Joe felt the need to own the cars again that he had previously owned. Naturally the specific cars may not have been available so another of the same model would suffice, and of course while looking out for that particular model He came across many other cars that caught his eye. And never one to turn down something worthwhile, Joe would also add

them to his collection. His Dad's vehicles also found their way into Joes care. Dad bought 3 new cars and 4 new tractors in his time. Joe has all 3 of those cars and 2 of the tractors. To keep the collection interesting, Joe would also look out for models that had had a short run or of a colour that was unusual. And although most of Joes cars are restored to original, he has no aversions in the hotrod department. There are two lovely examples, one he built himself and another he acquired. Both are stunning but Joe has the one he built himself up for sale. He needs to make room for more. And as with all good collections, as you run your eyes around the walls and hanging from the rafters is all kinds of motoring memorabilia and generally good stuff.

Space does not allow to show all of Joes treasures but take an abbreviated tour of his place....

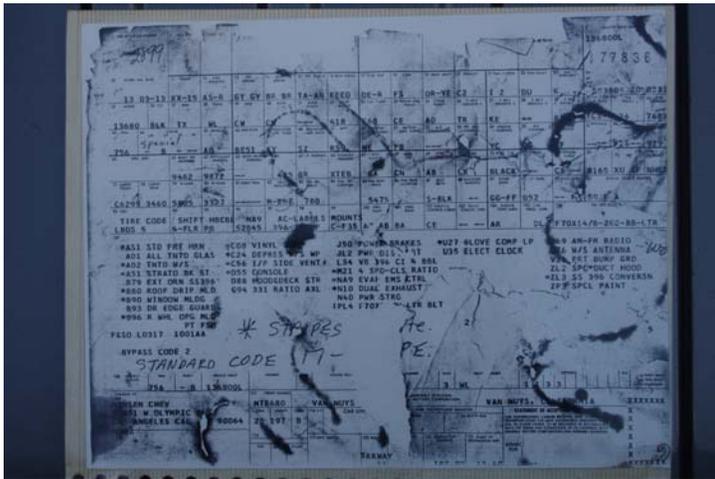


1957 Chev

Joe started it up to get it out of the shed for me. It was freezing cold but started first kick with the sweetest exhaust note. Joe bought this 25 yrs ago. It first reared its head where a local panelbeater bought it for \$200. He cut some rust out of the side and welded in his own fabricated panels, painted it and sold it for \$800. Joe bought it some time later. New panels were available by then so he replaced the panels that had been welded with new ones. While he was on the job he went the whole hog and pulled the body right off the chassis and rebuilt the car from the bottom up. That took him 1 ½ years but the result is severely stunning. It is as if it just came out of the showroom or maybe a little bit shinier. One thing that has been changed on all Joes cars is the aircleaner. Most of these cars when new, had a whopping big aircleaner that covers most of that beautiful big V8. He has replaced most of them with a smaller chrome job that lets you see the goodies below.



1970 El Camino Chev ute. (they call it a pickup in the US) but rest assured it's a high performance ute. Joe owned one back in 1970 and like most of us did with our cars back then, he sold it. It took him till 2000 to get a replacement. This one had obviously never been used as a work ute as there was not one dent in the tray. Never the less he pulled it completely to bits for the restoration. The amazing part of this job is, under the tray, on top of the fuel tank was the build sheet for the car when it was manufactured. So Joe was able to restore the car to exactly the same specs as new.



The build sheet was found on top of the fuel tank!



Joes Dad bought 3 new cars and 4 new tractors. Joe has all 3 of the cars and 2 of the tractors. This 62 Ford is one of the tractors. There is an 82 International as well.

302 powered Bronco peeks out from under the covers.



1970 Chev Impala. It Sounds like Utopia when there are so many neat cars around that Joe bought this lovely convertible in the colour of Crocus Cream with green interior, because they didn't make many that colour. Most of them were dark green. The interior is just as perfect as the rest.



1940 Ford hotrod. Chev motor. Built by Joe but he has it up for sale. Why? To make room for more cars, naturally.



Naturally there is all sorts of motoring stuff filling in the gaps



1953 Chev. Joes Dad bought it brand new. It was made during the Korean war and there was a shortage of nickel so none went in to the chrome with the result that it all went yellow. When Dad finished with it and bought a new car, it was parked in the shed for 10 years until he gave it to Joe. During all those years it had seatcovers. When they were removed the seats were still as good as new. Joe had all the chrome bits redone and repainted the car, but it had no rust and at 98000 miles the engine and transmission have not been touched, nor has the interior, it is still as new and has the original standard equipment heater and radio. The only non standard bit on this car is the hubcaps. Being the low cost model it had small hubcaps. Joe has replaced them with larger ones, but still from a Chev of that model.



1956 Chev 2 door sedan. Joe found the papers from the original owner in the car. One of those small air cleaners on this car

*1956 Ford Fairlane Victoria. Because he liked the look of it. Was rough when it first entered the shed. Its not rough anymore!
Would have been a Customline is Australia.*





Moving on from the main shed and its extensions we come to the triple garage associated with Joe's house. Its chock full of classic Chevrolet. Hiding in the corner is a 76 Chevy Nova with the 67 Chevelle powered by the big block 396. This is the same car as the El Camino ute but with a different body style.

The uppermost photos are of the 1955 Chev convertible. Chrome embellishment on grille gives it a similar appearance to a Buick, a more expensive vehicle. The extension at the back to carry the spare wheel gives it a certain glamour too!

If you reckoned the collection might end there you could be surprised there was another shed under the house. Almost a cellar, but you probably would store wine in a cellar, but you probably would store wine in a cellar. Storing Corvettes, plus the odd rod and bike is a much more practical use of the area.



Corvette department.

66 Corvette. Joe owned one new. It was \$4875. Silly feller sold it in 1971. Realising his error he tried to buy it back but was unsuccessful. He had to wait till 1978 until he found one the same colour. Nasau Blue.



Right: '87 Corvette. Above you can just see the front of the '67 Corvette with 28000 miles, side pipes connected to 427 Cubic inches with 3 carbys and 435 Hp. There isn't a whole lot of room between all these 'Vettes for photos.



1978 Pace Car. These cars were built to commemorate Corvette's 25th anniversary and were used as the pace car at Indianapolis that year. They made 6500 of them, one for each dealer in USA. This one has 6000 miles on the clock.



1934 Ford hotrod 327 Chev powered, Corvette rear end. Back in 1984 there was a newspaper article about this hotrod and the lady that owned it. Joe thought it such a neat car he contacted the lady to see if she would sell it. She was not interested. Obviously she kept Joes contact as 6 years later in 1990 she rang him to see if he was still interested in the purchase. Obviously he was, as it lives in his shed these days. The detail in this car is unreal!



Like most of us, Ben Green was once a young bloke. At the time he was in the employment of a gent who had various business interests, one of which was the local Ford dealership. Ben was a general hand about the farm as well as the car workshop. This was a small town farming area and the local doctor, Dr Duffy, liked to be known as the man with the fastest car in the district. That car at the time was a 421 Pontiac and he traded it for a 1964 Ford Mercury Marauder 427 complete with 2 x 4 barrel carbs. Good for 6 MPG. Back in those days the car dealers gave good personalized service, so when it came time to service the Mercury the young Ben was dispatched out to the good doctor's farm to bring the car in to town to the workshop. As any young bloke would do given the situation on the lonely country roads, Ben would give the car its head and 100 MPH and more became the norm when commuting the doc's car back and forth. Incidentally Doc holed three pistons in the Marauder from running aviation fuel in it. He replaced it with a Plymouth 426.



The Marauder

Photo: Ben

Anyhow those 100 MPH runs burned an indelible image in young Ben's brain and many years later he realised the need to own one of those 425 HP 427ci Mercury Marauders. The trouble was Ford didn't make a whole heap of them, only 108 over 3 years and after all those years down the track it turned out to be an extremely hard car to find. He searched for more than ten years with no luck. Then a friend who has a car restoration business in a different state heard of one in a body shop in a different state again. It was sitting around with the engine out of it but it was not for sale. Several more years passed by with this vehicle still sitting in the corner complete with a thick layer of dust and with the engine still on the floor nearby, until one day, it was offered for sale. The restorer friend was able to buy it, replace the engine and sell it to Ben. It seems the engine had been reconditioned while it was out of the vehicle and at some time in its life the car has been repainted, but in its original colour. In short, the car is beautiful but as Ben is a purist, he notes that the wheels are not the originals, yet. And Ben is the 3rd owner of this car from new.



Engine bay is original even to having Ford stamped on the radiator hoses

Back in the old days, right across America, there were particularly iconic service stations, as you cross the country some of them have been preserved as a sort of time capsule. Across the road from Ben's house there

was one of these unrestored and unloved buildings residing in a farmer's paddock. When the property changed hands, the new owner saw no value in leaving it there and was prepared to burn it, that being the easiest way to remove it. So Ben took on the task of relocating it. As a Lions club project he moved it right to the middle of the town of Chillicothe, on a railway reserve next to a family type restaurant. The Lions club are involved as they run the annual car show here where they regularly get around 400 entries. Around 50 locals, the rest come from further away and interstate. So you can see there is plenty of interest in old cars here.



But the Marauder isn't the only car to grace Ben's shed. There is a lovely red Corvette, a 1963 327 250hp split window coupe. They only made 10200 of this model, he has owned it about 8 years and it is basically as he bought it. During that time he has replaced a few bits like the starter, alternator and exhaust. And where did the attraction to this car come from? Once again during those early years, this time high school in 1963. But even after 40 years, its worth the wait.

Ben also still owns the Mustang he bought new in 1966 plus another 289 powered Shelby Mustang.

In '63 Ford produced a Lightweight model of the Galaxie. It was a 427 4 spd, came in one colour, white with red interior, and the seats were rather thin and hard rather than the lovely comfortable ones normally associated with these kind of cars. Also missing was the radio, heater, clock, spare tyre, rubber mats or dome light. Even the mastic seam sealer was left off and the bumpers and bumper brackets were made of aluminium and the boot lid was from fibreglass. Yet it was more expensive to buy new than the luxurious standard model. Why? It was a ready made drag car designed to be raced. Ford only produced 212 of them and every one was used as intended. Ben has one, it shows 12 miles on the clock. He assumes that is how far it went before it blew it's first gearbox. At ¼ mile a go that's 48 runs. Not too bad I suppose.

And we all know that any space in the shed needs to be taken up so Ben has as well:

'65 Chevelle Super Sport

'34 Ford Fordor sedan

'36 Packard 120

'88 Mustang Missouri Hwy Patrol car

'61 Ford Starliner

Sorry there are no pics but I never made it to that shed.

There is some interesting stuff on the net about the lightweight Galaxie. Check out <http://www.supercars.net/cars/1820.html> I also read somewhere you couldn't have any of that pussy stuff like aircon or power steering either. This was a race car afterall. *But* from an Aussie point of view. Have a look at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0F4MukHK8UU> its about one at Sandown and this video is sure to bring out some emotions!

*Not Ben's Galaxie but this is what they look like.
Note the fibreglass bonnet and aluminium bumper.*



The story of our trip to Missouri wouldn't be complete without mention of Phyllis Dible, the lady from whom I bought my Oldsmobile convertible, sight unseen, from the other side of the world. I just wanted to meet her and see my car's old home. That place was a town with a population of about 6000 called Trenton deep in the centre of the country. Phyllis still has a couple of neat classic cars in her shed but they belong to her daughter. She was bequeathed them along with a collection of vintage tractors. Interestingly, the tractors were a lot more saleable than the classic cars, this being due to the rural location. Aussies were never treated better than we were during our stay in Trenton and we got a grand tour of the surrounding districts as well as the local sights which included lots of flash cars. We even got to see their new museum before it was open to the public. Obviously there are people here interested in heritage stuff. One of the first things we spied as we drove into town was a Coca Cola mural on the side of a building. It had blotches of Render mingled in with it, and even with a closer inspection, we couldn't be sure if it was a new sign designed to look old or a really old sign. It turned out that the render was looking a bit sad on this building, so the owner was removing it to renovate the building, but removing the render revealed this magnificent mural. Now they are trying to figure out how to preserve it without restoring it.



Phyllis, our Host, guide and general lookerafter, with her daughter Kristin's smicko '75 Chevrolet Caprice convertible.

Kristin's '64 Chev Impala 409 powered Supersport. (Note: on the last week of our trip, due to a plane flight we had to change rental cars. Having had a Dodge Charger for 6 weeks (great) we tried another reborn classic, a Chev Impala. What a disappointment! Rest assured the model has devolved severely from this beautiful example)



Joe and Ben don't actually live in Trenton, but in Chillicothe, a slightly larger town about 20 miles away. And this is certainly not the extent of car enthusiasts in the area. But for us this was a short stop in a long trip across America.

And not everyone was into cars at all. Just next door to Trenton was the town of Jamesport where a fair percentage of the population are part of the Amish society. These people go one step further back than vintage

cars, they drive buggies pulled by a horse or two. And use horses to plough their paddocks and old kerosene powered stationary engines to generate electricity. Their life in general is in an old time manner. The motive is part of a religious ideal but the slowed down lifestyle sounds great and the sight of a bunch of covered in horse drawn buggies cruising down the road one after the other is a sight you wouldn't expect to see in 2012. Its pretty cool. No photos though, these people don't appreciate being photographed.

July seems to be the month that it is all about this year. So here is a bit of info on what it is all about....

Monster trucks and fireworks spectacular 29th June & 1st July

An alternative for Territory Day fireworks at the showgrounds. A private concern is hosting an event that not only has a whacko fireworks display, but also other entertainment including monster trucks and live bands. This company also sell fireworks and on the Friday they are having a demonstration night where they demonstrate the fireworks they sell and which the public can buy. Sunday evening is the big spectacular with the trucks and spectacular fireworks display.

They are after a bunch of cars to add to the ambience of the event. They will be displayed in an area that is outside the arena but open for the public to appreciate. What's in it for you? Show off your car to mobs of happy persons plus entrance for free for you and your partner. The event is from 7 till 9 Fri and or Sat night. You would need to be there 6 till 6.30, to get in position before the show gets under way.

Ring Peet 0417855222 to arrange your spot.

All the proceeds from this event go to the Make a Wish Foundation, a worthy cause for children.

The Gangsters Ball. 7th July.

Everyone gets dressed up as if you were in the 1920's, especially the time of prohibition in America. You will see Elliot Ness and Al Capone for sure, plus a lot of followers. You could be a cop or a crook, a high class lady or one of lesser repute. Guns can be concealed or flaunted. Flaunted seems to be more the norm for ladies. And this is one night when the ladies seem to take dressing up more serious than their partners who seem to reckon a



Tommy gun is the normal fashion accessory. This is the third time this event has been run and it gets more polished each time. Real good music, the band is perfect and if you fancy having a dance there is plenty of room on the dance floor. And if drinking too much bootleg liquor is a problem you can join the growing crowd that camp over. Plenty of room for a tent or a van or even a bus. But no camp fires.

And this is a car show too. These old cars are popular with the dance people that attend and they love to be photographed with their favorite cars. Very good exposure for your car. And if you bring your old car along the driver will get in for free. Plus there is a prize for the best gangster car. Naturally in keeping with the theme you could bribe the judge or use other more violent stand over tactics.

Just be there. Ring Ted 89886049 or propellers@bigpond.com for more info or to arrange bribes

The Gangsters Ball

The Godfather understands the hardships that punks are going through during these hard times. After all you can only steal money if the victim has some to steal. Plus there is the price of petrol... To make it easier for these hard done by criminal types there is a special deal. Any old school car that gets put on display at the Gangsters Ball gets the driver in for free.

So dress up, clean your gun, come along and have a ball!



July continued...

The MVEC vs Classic Holden Car Club cricket match. 15th July at Batchelor.

A beaut drive to a beaut setting whether you like playing cricket or not. The Batchelor oval is the most lovely relaxing setting you have ever been at. And if you fancy chucking a ball or swinging a bat at those Holden drivers all the better. Last year one old batter had a young grandson runner standing by to do the running for him. Its that serious! MVEC won the trophy for a couple of years in a row, but the Holden club learned to cheat better and have held onto the trophy for the last year or so. Catering is taken in turns between the two clubs and is normally quite a nice spread with salad and barbequed steaks and snags. Even a cup of tea is on the menu. Cricketer or not, this is an event where you can be a gung ho sportsman, gung ho Norm spectator where you can cheer MVEC or boo Holdens or just a socialite out there for a social afternoon. And naturally you can combine all of it with being a motor vehicle enthusiast. Come along and have a great day! Might as well ring Ted for this one too.

Or propellers@bigpond.com



Darwin to the Doo 22nd July.

It has been said this event is becoming bigger than Ben Hur. Word has leaked to the outside and the TV programme "Palmerston and Beyond" has asked permission to do a story on it.

So if you fancy being seeing yourself or your car on TV here is your big chance.

Meet at the hangar in time to leave at 9am for a show off cruise to Humpty Doo, in particular the Taminmin Library where they will have a vintage and classic car show in the car park at 10am.

Later we will adjourn to MVEC member Brian Smiths place nearby for a barbie lunch and to check out his fine collection of cars and general "stuff"

This event is not just for MVEC members and being a new event and at a new venue will attract a different bunch of vehicles and persons as well as a display of truck artwork by lady truck driver and artist Katie Howell.

Also a whole heap of motoring photos and the Darwin City Brass Band to keep you entertained while you browse. Snags on the barbie, morning tea... be a friend of the Taminmin Library and do yourself a favour, be there!

Same deal, call Ted, 89886049 but make sure you are there.



Royal Darwin Show 26—28th July

A parade of classic vehicles around the show oval. A great opportunity to parade your wheels to a large crowd. Details next month.

Shannons Club Day.

29th July. Put on by Shannons insurance. You go on a cruise around town to show off the cars ending up at Hidden Valley Raceway where you do a slow presentation lap. Then the norm is to line up in pit lane and organize yourself into groups of half a dozen similar cars. The group then gets let out onto the racetrack for a bunch of hot laps and you can make like Jack Brabham. Its not racing though. Just giving your car its head. You need to keep an eye on the rear vision mirror though. The driver behind you is not always competent.

And if that's not enough, they have a barbie and drinks, even beers afterwards.



DARWIN TO THE 'DOO'

COME TO
TAMINMIN
OR ELSE!



JOIN THE MOTOR VEHICLE ENTHUSIASTS CLUB AS IT LEAVES
THE HISTORIC QANTAS HANGAR AT PARAP ON A RUN TO
TAMINMIN COMMUNITY LIBRARY @ HUMPTY DOO

ON SUNDAY 22 JULY

LEAVING QANTAS HANGAR, PARAP AT 9:00 AM FOR THE RUN
ARRIVING AT TAMINMIN LIBRARY AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00AM



Classic and Vintage Car Show in the Library Car Park

Photo exhibition & Morning tea in the library

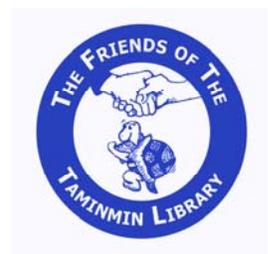
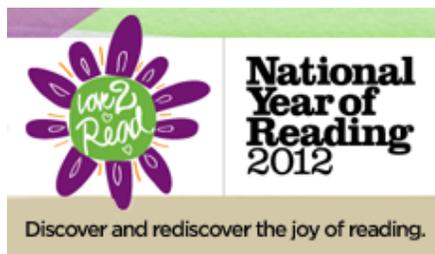
(RSVP 8988 1200 for catering)

Where: Taminmin Community Library

Situated in the grounds of Taminmin College

Challoner Circuit, Humpty Doo

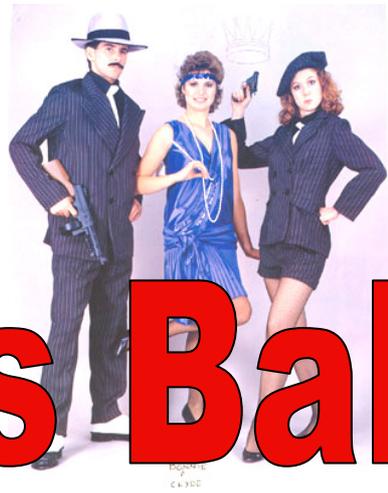
Phone 8988 1200 for further details





*The Motor Vehicle
Enthusiasts Club*

presents



The Gangsters Ball

Live music by **“The Mobstars”**

Featuring **Alan Campbell & Bill Roy**

Ballroom & Rock n Roll dancing

Sat 7 July 2012 at 7pm

**Berry Springs Recreation Reserve Hall
Cox Peninsular Rd , Berry Springs (Next door to the school)**

Due to prohibition era all alcohol is bootleg and you will have to smuggle in your own.

**Please bring a plate of supper.
Tea and coffee provided.**

Heaters, Rods and Tommy guns welcome please ensure safety is on.

**Dress: Formal as the 1920's prohibition era. Prizes for....
best gangster and moll couple
best gangster car**

Please note there are no drinks or food on sale

Bring your van or swag and stay the night. Alternatively accommodation available nearby at Lakes Resort. For accommodation book well in advance.



**Entry \$15 kids free Counterfeit notes not accepted
Contact Ted 89886049 or propellers@bigpond.com**

1978 Toyota Corolla
2 door with 3K motor, \$500 ono
Call Peter 0417613909



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Get your free ads in here.
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Email Ted at propellers@bigpond.com
or phone 89886049
Deadline...the end of the month

S Series Valiant Parts.
Free to a good home,

I have removed the parts I want, and anything else is free to a good home. Take the whole wreck if you like, otherwise it will become scrap.
John Price 0407 966 256.



Royal Enfield 350 Bullet 1984

\$2600 (not negotiable)
Arthur 89833588
Yvette 0429 833580



The Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club
extends it's thanks to
Shannons Insurance
For it's continued support for the club



Wanted

More Senior players for Bingo at Spillet House (Smith St opp Woolies)
Every Monday 10.30 AM
Phone Stan 89270117, for more info.

WOTS ON THIS YEAR

Heaps. Come along and enjoy!

On the 2nd Wed of every month there is a members meeting at the hangar 7.30 pm plus bbq beforehand. Also there is a working bee at the hangar the following Sunday.

- **29 June 1st July Fireworks spectacular.** See page 11
- **7 July 2012 The Gangsters Ball.** Berry Springs. Get dressed up. Dancing. Mayhem. Camping optional Ted 89886049.
- **15 July 2012 MVEC Cricket Match.** We need players!
- **22 July 2012 Taminmin Display,** Shed Show BBQ afterwards. Brian Smith. 0407 881 167
- **26- 28 July Royal Darwin Show parade.**
- **29 July 2012 Shannons Day at the Track.** John Palamountain. 0417 262 918
- **19 August 2012 Progressive Dinner.** Steve Hall. 0417 831 955
- **2 September 2012 Fathers Day Open Day.** Peet Menzies. 0417855222.
- **30 September 2012 Observation Run.** Steve Hall. 0417 831 955
- **21 October 2012 Shed Show Ford Brunch.** Neil Bromley. 0400 420 120
- **24 November 2012 AGM then Xmas Dinner** at Nightcliff Sport Club.

If undeliverable return to
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One day my mother was out and my dad was in charge of me.

I was maybe 2 1/2 years old. Someone had given me a little 'tea set' as a gift, and it was one of my favorite toys.

Daddy was in the living room engrossed in the evening news when I brought him a little cup of 'tea', which was just water. After several cups of tea and lots of praise for such yummy tea, my Mum came home.

My Dad made her wait in the living room to watch me bring him a cup of tea, because it was 'just the cutest thing!' Mum waited, and sure enough, here I came down the hall with a cup of tea for Daddy; and she watched him drink it up.

Then she said "Did it ever occur to you that the only place she can reach to get water, is the toilet?"