

# THE BUZZ

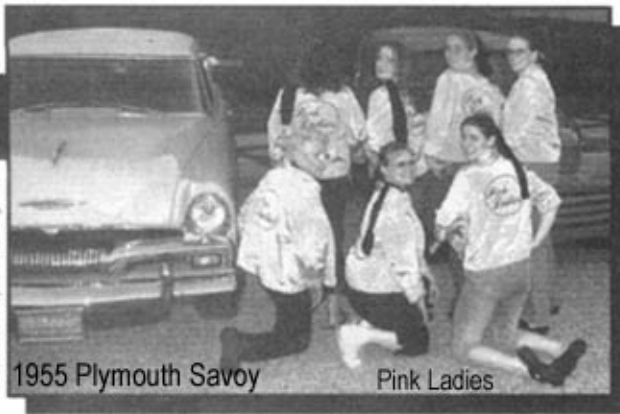


Photo courtesy of Al Jongbloedt

1955 Plymouth Savoy

Pink Ladies

## A Piece of History... Revived Drive-In Movies

Local Treasures, Angelyn Dedinsky

One of the women drives a 1960 Chevy Impala complete with red checked interior and red and white dice hanging from the rear view mirror while the other, wears her pink, car show memorabilia T-shirt with pride.

Yet, each tells about her memories of the old drive-in.

"I used to look outside my grandmother's window across the street at a screen on the side of a building," Jongbloedt said.

"It was always a battle with the mosquitoes," Brandts said. "I remember never being able to find a speaker to listen to the movie but it was always fun."

On August 31, 2003, outside a small café in Garden City, MN, these two women, along with many volunteers, will hang an old video screen to the side of the building, rope off the adjacent parking lot, light up tiki torches to help prevent the dreaded mosquito bites, and wait for the cars to come.

"It's history," Myra Jongbloedt said about their dedication to the drive-in. "We'd just like to bring a bit of the history back."

Brandts and Jongbloedt started-out as friends and neighbors but became "business" partners three years ago. They work together each summer to host 2-3 drive-in movies, bingo and dinner outside Brandts' café, Formerly Cranes. Each activity is free except for the dinner, which costs six dollars.

"I want it to be a community event," Brandts said.

And it definitely has become just that. According to Jongbloedt, last year there were more than 200 people who came to enjoy the fun-filled evening.

The ladies say they hope to continue the tradition by showing at least two shows a summer. One the Saturday of Fourth of July weekend and the other the Sunday of Labor Day weekend.

When asked why they don't have more movies playing throughout

the summer, Brandts said "It keeps it unique by only doing it a few times each summer."

Along with the movies, many people drive their old classic cars and reminiscing about the past.

"I like to look at what our forefathers did," Brandts said. She said she thinks it's interesting to compare the buildings and cars of the past with the new models of today.

Through the purchase of Formerly Cranes, originally Crane's Hardware store, Brandts has had the opportunity to rebuild the last old building in Garden City and give back to the people of her community.

The café is not only the local gathering place but also a small museum full of memories of Garden City as well as the place where the drive-in takes place.

Be sure to catch the next event on August 31 at Formerly Crane's. The hog roast will start at 6 p.m. followed by bingo and the movie, *Thunder Road*.

For more information about Formerly Cranes or their drive-in movies check out their website at [www.formerlycranes.com](http://www.formerlycranes.com) then drive on out there and enjoy the atmosphere yourself.

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