

Unfazed by rain

By Nicole Christiansen

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GARDEN CITY — After the morning rainshower, Robert Larson of Cannon Falls carefully wiped off every square inch of his black 1966 Pontiac GTO. He even opened the hood to get rid of any rain droplets that might have slipped in.

Parked right next to his car was Susan Dalsgaard's powder blue 1956 Cadillac Series 62. She worried less about her wet car and more about telling people about it.

"I have a chamois," Dalsgaard said. "I can always clean it off. But right now, I think the raindrops on it look pretty nice."

At Sir Henry's Third Annual Car Show and Swap meet on Saturday, there seemed to be a lot of car fanatics in Garden City.

"Oh, there's quite a few," car show organizer Myra Jongbloedt said.

And Jongbloedt's one of them. She's a member of the Auto Restorers Car Club and brought one car - a 1965 Plymouth Barracuda - to the show, although she and her husband own seven flashy rides, including three Studebakers.

"We just have fun getting together with our old cars," Jongbloedt said.

Car lovers milled around a grassy lot to look at classic cars and trucks, including a bright yellow 1980 Triumph convertible, a 1953 Ford F-100 and a 1929 Ford Model A. Sounds of idling motors and the smell of gasoline filled the air. Men and women joked about a Ford car with a Chevy motor in it. They stuck their heads under the cars' hoods and asked owners about engines and how they drive.

Dalsgaard, of Springfield, said she gets a lot of looks whenever she takes her Cadillac out for a spin. She said no one ever passes her, even when

she slows down to let them by. She can't figure out why.

"Well, maybe they just like to see this Cadillac drive down the road," she said.

Kay Ashley's 1950 Chevy 3100 was barely wet, but even so, she took out a towel to wipe off any droplets of drizzle that may have fallen on it. Many of the car owners were extremely detail-oriented, even when it came to other people's cars.

"Now there's something I don't like," one man said as he bent down to straighten the metal logo on another car.

Roxie Brandts of Garden City said she enjoys cars, but that might have been an understatement. She and her husband own five classics. Two of their cars - a pink and white Crown Victoria and a red Impala - were at the car show, and the Brandts' son was driving another one Saturday for a wedding.

The show drew about 100 cars last year, Jongbloedt said, but with Saturday's rainy weather, it drew less than half of that number.

The car fanatics that were there, though, didn't seem to mind a few sprinkles.

"As long as I can get back home before it starts hailing, I'll be fine," Dalsgaard said.

