

Model T Ride Drives Centenarian's Surprise

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Family members gather in front of a group of 100-year-old cars. From left: Michael (family friend), Bryan Bashin, centenarian Saul Bashin, Brendan Bashin-Sullivan, Lauren Bashin-Sullivan, Shari Bashin-Sullivan and Michelle Bashin. Photos Cathy Dausman

"We've been thinking about this [birthday celebration] for 100 years," joked Bryan Bashin, who contacted local members of the Bay Area Horseless Carriage Club to ask if they could supply Model T cars and surprise his father. BAHCC club members arrived in style. Don Azevedo showed up in a 1914 Model T Ford, Orinda's Rich Green in a 1914 Model T Ford, Bill Cassidy and Bill Austen drove 1915 Model T Fords, Jon Alff had a 1913 Buick and Norman Schwartz of Lafayette drove a 1925 Model T Speedster.

There was one Ford product holdout: Whitney and Diane

Haist, who came in costume, drove a 1926 Dodge Brothers. "We liked the idea, [of surprising Bashin]," said Haist. BAHCC plans to invite Bashin along on a club tour as well as to be their guest speaker at an upcoming meeting.

"We enjoy sharing our cars with people who know them," Haist said.

As for 100-year-old Saul Bashin, being around working cars that are as old as he is lit a certain spark in his eyes. "Of all the passions [my dad has had], the enduring one has been cars," Bryan Bashin said.



The button on Bashin's lapel, given to him by BAHCC, says: "I rode in a horseless carriage."

Smile. Police Body and Car Cameras Are Rolling

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Footage placed in this digital evidence room is admissible in court and can be difficult to dispute.

Police cars have an even simpler saving mechanism. When the cars park at the police department office in Desco Plaza, officers don't have to do anything; the data is automatically wirelessly transferred to the secure server. The car cameras also have the ability to go back in time. Car cameras are activated whenever the flashing lights are turned on, in the case of an accident, when the officer hits the brakes, and of course when the camera is manually activated. By constantly buffering, the camera records the prior 90 seconds before the video is turned on, capturing exactly what happened.

Recalling working at Great America as a young man, Christensen shared the advice he received with staff: "Remember that you are on stage." Initially there was a bit of hesitation about the cameras with some of the force, but by the end of training

everyone was on board.

"There is no expectation of privacy in public," the Chief explained. That extends to other people in cars at the time of an incident, or comments made in the back of a patrol car. Officers are not required to tell you they are filming; the cameras will simply be on during any police-public interaction. While police misconduct has not been an issue in Lafayette, officers are accountable for their actions, and the recordings are something the Chief sees as a way to "correct employee behavior."

There is no data so far showing the cameras have brought down the number of citizen complaints because they are so new, according to City Manager Steven Falk. "My bet is that the cameras will increase the civility of the interactions between officers and citizens, and reduce to zero the number of disputes. I am expecting the number of complaints will go down significantly," wrote Falk in "The Weekly Roundup."

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