

## Psycho – The Movie & Also the 3 of Us

The year was 1960. The movie “Psycho” by Alfred Hitchcock had just come out and was playing in Twin Falls. It starred Anthony Perkins and Janet Leigh. So one evening the three of us decided to go over to Twin and see it. My family had just purchased a used car, a Chrysler I think, it was one of those monster 4-door sedans with the huge truck and tail fins that were a classic of the time. It came with all the new bells and whistles.

I drove, Wally Williams sat in the middle (front bench seat), and Terry Smail was the front passenger. When we entered the theater, which was sparsely attended, we choose seats in the middle section and sat in three adjacent seats in that same order.

As this very memorable movie preceded, it got scarier and scarier. As the tension built we were all reacting. Terry and I would straighten up and go stiff, while Wally would shrink further down into his seat. When the infamous shower scene developed we were all totally freaked out and at maximum extension and shrinkage.

When it was over, we left the theater without saying a word, total silence. I remember thinking, “that could really happen”. To this day, this was the scariest movie I have ever seen. We got in the car to return to Jerome, still stunned and totally silent, all contemplating what we had just witnessed. The only sound was the radio and the car engine.

In the car we sat in the same order. To add to the drama it was a totally dark night with no moon, pitch black. There was essentially no other traffic. We were all alone in the middle of the blackness. ***As we got to the middle of the bridge over the canyon on US-93, the radio changed stations.*** No one had touched the dial. We were all still frozen in place contemplating the movie. It was totally spooky. I changed it back to the station we were listening to after we all looked at each other and realized that no one had touched the radio dial. After a few move miles, when we were in the middle of the region where there was nothing but lava rock and darkness, the radio changed again, all by itself! This freaked all of us out and we did the “straighten up on the outsides and shrink in the middle maneuver”. Again we looked at each other with total disbelief and serious alarm.

It never happened again. The next day I decided to try to figure out this supernatural phenomena that we had encountered. After looking everywhere I discovered that this fancy, had everything, car had some stuff that I did not know about. The radio had a “scan” button that when

pressed would seek the next radio station. But nobody had touched that button on the middle console, or even come close to it. Then I looked on the floor. In this era it was customary to have a button on the left side of the brake pedal that the driver would hit with his left foot to dim the headlights. Much to my surprise and amazement there was a second foot button to the left of the dimmer switch. Who knew, this car had a foot activated radio station change button. I guess the designers were looking for another way to add a new innovation. So, I then recalled that on the two occasions when the radio mysteriously changed stations that there had been an oncoming car and I had to dim my headlights. I was covering both buttons with my left foot. Mystery solved, we weren't all psycho, just naive. Very soon thereafter, my family sold that car, it was too long for the garage.

by Ron Woolley