



## VLNAAC OFFICER ELECTIONS

Officers for the coming year were elected at the November meeting. Sealed ballots and double counting teams were utilized in assuring the integrity of the election. One race resulted in a tie. Don Oines and Ruth Hill were tied at 49 votes each for the treasurer position. The winner of that race was determined with a coin toss. Following is the new slate of officers who assume their duties in January:

President:	Ray McLeod
Vice President:	Sherry Camarata
Secretary:	Marion Benham
Treasurer:	Don Oines
Director:	Bill Wright
Director:	Gary Nash
Director	Willy Vinton

Thank you to the newly elected officers for volunteering their time and effort in the coming year, and thank you to the outgoing officers for their past dedicated service.

## IMPORTANT CHRISTMAS PARTY INFORMATION

If you are a VLNAAC member, if you plan to attend the Christmas Party and if you have not made your dinner reservation, **you need to do so IMMEDIATELY**. Everyone needs a reservation so that Westmark will know how many of each entrée to prepare. Follow the

directions on the DINNER & DUES form you received in the mail or call Laurel at 452-5234.

## PAUL CAMARATA MEMORIAL by Sherry Camarata

Some friends in our car club along with Camarata family members came up with a great idea to honor Paul's memory and his love of old cars. They are supporting the AACA Museum project with two commemorative bricks in Paul's name listing his cars! The museum was started in 1993 as a collection oriented museum to complement the AACA's research center and library. The bricks will be placed in the entrance way of the museum. What a great way to remember Paul and his perfect 20/20 cars. The display for Paul will appear as below:

**Paul Camarata  
North Pole AK  
Perfect Cars  
20 ft @ 20 mph**

**1935 Dodge  
1965 Falcon  
1965 Mustang  
1966 Pontiac**

## MISPLACED OR LOST

A video of many car club events put together by Bill Chace was loaned to the club for use at the first Car Show three years ago. The Chaces were out of town during clean-up after the show,

and Wilma recalls giving the video to someone to return it to them. Unfortunately it has been misplaced or lost. It took many hours to transfer the car club events from the original tapes to the video. If you find it or know where it is, please return it to the Chaces or call 488-3805.

## **DOMKE'S 1930 WILLYS-KNIGHT MODEL 66B**

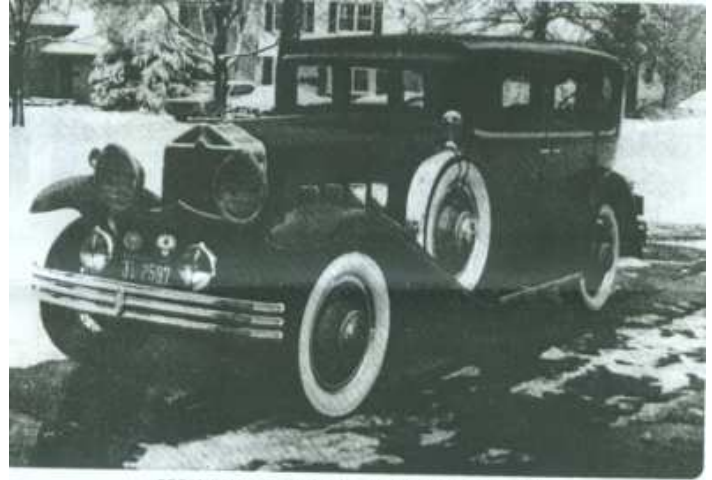
Most of us have seen Rudy and Ruth Ann's beautiful Willys-Knight Model 66B that they drive to club events on special occasions, but many of us have not heard about its history. The Domkes purchased the Model 66B from club members Bernie and Judy Saupe in 1996. Bernie and Judy had purchased the car from club member Bob Meritt around 1987. "The Starter" is a national magazine produced by the Willys Overland Knight Registry, which the Domkes have been members of since 1970. The editor of "The Starter" interviewed Bob Meritt and wrote an article about the car. The article's date and editor's name were not printed on the copy presented to me. The article tells the story about the car from the time it was originally purchased in 1930 to the time Bob Meritt purchased it and brought it to Alaska.

### **Bob Meritt's 1930 Willys-Knight Model 66B**

We've all heard of those cold Alaskan nights, but your Editor believes the tale spun for the Registry by member Bob Merritt of Fairbanks, Alaska is the first about a cold Alaskan Knight. The story can best be told to you as Bob told it to me.

The car was originally purchased in Miami, Florida. The Depression hit, so the owner leased it to a Miami Beach resort to haul tourists along the beach until he could again afford the payments. To members who are not aware, this was the large deluxe sedan, made by Willy Overland at a reduced price of \$1,795 in 1930, so it must have fit right in as transportation for rich tourists.

The owner then moved to Kansas and the car was accidentally left out one night in 1934. The water in the engine froze and cracked the block. This accident proved to save the car, because



BOB MERITT'S 1930 WILLYS-KNIGHT MODEL 66B

due to the accident, the car was slid sideways into a storage space in a barn and remained there kept by the owner and then his widow for 34 years. She turned down many offers for the car because she wanted to save it for someone who would truly appreciate their Willys-Knight.

Members Arlie Regier and M. M. Bailey discovered the car in 1965, and Arlie convinced the lady that he was just the person to bring it back to its former state of beauty and elegance. "Sleeve-valve" Bailey, as M. M. Bailey was affectionately dubbed was a Willys-Knight expert, having worked for Willys-Overland for many years. He set about replacing and restoring the engine and other mechanical parts that were worn. Arlie Regier, a metal sculptor by trade, spent five years between his other commissions, working miracles with the body work and paint. Some chrome work was completed, mainly the bumpers and retaining rings on the wheels. Arlie purchased four new Lester whitewall tires.

In 1970 Arlie decided to sell the car to me. I had written him twice about the car and he felt that he was too busy with his other work and could use the funds for his son's education. So we made a deal. The car was delivered to Seattle, Washington from Kansas by Passport Transport. At the time, the Longshoremen's strike had the West Coast ports tied up, so I contracted with an upholsterer to restore the interior.

Choosing the materials was difficult. The closest I could find from the samples was

Mohair seats with side panels and headliner trimmed with 100% English Wool Broadcloth. The material and work was very expensive, but the results were worth it. The interior hardware was dark-bronze plated like the original.

The President ordered the Longshoremen back to work, but the car was in the upholsterer's shop about half finished. So when Bob's Auto Shop was finished, the strike was back on. I contracted with a plating shop in Seattle to remove all the parts to be chromed and do the work of either casting or chrome plating. This was in February, and I had purchased the car in July. At this point had never seen the car except in the pictures Arlie had sent me. Then a pilot friend called me from Seattle and said he had an empty Hercules plane (the type they fly equipment in to the North Slope Oil Fields) leaving for Fairbanks in two hours. I called the upholstery shop and they rushed the car, with half the parts missing (left at the platers) to the airport for loading. Five hours later it was safe in my garage in Fairbanks, not even dusty from its 2,000 mile trip.

When this model 66B is completed it will be a real beauty, and I hope it is worthy of the award "Best in Automotive Styling" that its cousin, the Plaid-side Roadster took at the New York World's Fair in 1930. The reason the car had to be a 1930 W-K model 66B was that this was the same model my grandfather had for 18 years until it was destroyed in 1948.

*Ron Allen comment: The 66B has been done many years now, and indeed it is a real beauty.*



## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

05 Ron Dane  
 06 John McDonald  
 17 Shawn Rogers  
 20 Klinton Chace  
 23 Furman Dotson  
 30 Laurel McLaughlin  
 30 Elizabeth Molloy

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

01 Kirk & Kathy Larson  
 03 Gene & Tena Yurkovich  
 04 Bill & Samornrat Wright  
 13 Kevin & Tanna Yarnell  
 15 Willy & Wilma Vinton  
 18 George & Nila Lyle  
 19 Terry & Sharon Whitledge  
 22 Don & Angie Oines  
 26 Ken & Wendy Uzzell



## CLASSIFIED ADS

**Four Studded Snow Tires**, 215/65/R15 in good condition. \$25 each obo. Sherry Camarata. 488-4293

**Heated and Safe Winter Storage** \$10 per linear foot per month in the Jurgen's hangar at North Pole. Available Sept-May. Discounts available to club members. Call Charlie or Carrie Jurgens (VLNAACF members) C & C Enterprises 590-2716

**Model "A" Repairs.** Bill Wright, an active VLNAACF club member, does re-babbitt work on A's, B's, and T's. Call him at 479-8506 or his cell phone 388-2118.

**Fairbanks Self Storage:** New unheated storage units in various sizes near Hamilton Acres large enough for autos. Special rates may be available for club members, i.e. \$90/mo lease for 10x20. Call Don Woodke at 590-9624

**OFFICERS**

President	Willy Vinton	<a href="mailto:Willy@ntc.fairbanks.ak.us">Willy@ntc.fairbanks.ak.us</a>	907-474-0939 day 907-456-2261 evenings
Vice President	Ray McLeod	<a href="mailto:rmcleod@alaska.net">rmcleod@alaska.net</a>	907-347-4070
Secretary	Laurel McLaughlin	<a href="mailto:mcbug@gci.net">mcbug@gci.net</a>	907-452-5234
Treasurer	Ruth Hill		907-452-4510
Director	Don Oines	<a href="mailto:doines1@gci.net">doines1@gci.net</a>	907-452-4601
Director	Greg Shoemaker		907-479-6193
Director	Bill Wright	<a href="mailto:tong@mosquionet.com">tong@mosquionet.com</a>	907-479-8505
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Events Coordinator	Sherry Camarata	<a href="mailto:pscamarata@acsalaska.net">pscamarata@acsalaska.net</a>	907-488-4293
Roster/Membership	Marion Benham	<a href="mailto:Mvbenham1@yahoo.com">Mvbenham1@yahoo.com</a>	907-474-4966

**NEXT MEETING – Christmas Party**

Sunday December 10 at the Westmark. See our reminder note above about necessary reservations. Come at 4:30 PM for social hour. Dinner starts at 5:00 PM. You are welcome to participate in the gift exchange. Gift limit is around \$20. Please mark for male or female.

**Newsletter Deadline**

All materials for the newsletter should be in by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to be considered for the next newsletter. Email [ronandnancy@gci.net](mailto:ronandnancy@gci.net) or call 907-488-3965. Items can be mailed to Ron at his home address; 1288 Rangeview Dr, North Pole, AK 99705.

*Have a story about how you got your car? A favorite trip? A real repair hassle? Send it in!*

Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club  
P.O. Box 71253  
Fairbanks, AK 99707

