

# ARCTIC TRACKS

November 1971

Fairbanks, Alaska

Number 1

Fairbanks Regional Group - Horseless Carriage Club of America  
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To our members,

Hardly seems possible that the first year of club activities has or will shortly, become history.

It pleased me greatly when Ralph Brannan came to me and asked if I could find time to write an article for the new bulletin that he was going to print out and call "Arctic Tracks". Just another example of the willingness to help, desire to see the club achieve another first for ourselves, and last but not least, the constant cooperation that all members have demonstrated.

The past year has been a very rewarding one for me, certainly hope it was for every member. There have been exciting activities for our group to participate in, those planned by our own committees and those that fell into the "Good-Will, Community Activities" or other clubs functions.

Our membership has grown from the initial seven, to forty five, in just this one year. That must be some record by any new clubs standards.

We have cars that many clubs in much larger cities than ours, would envy.

This is my chance to "Thank" every member, each chairman and his committee members, and certainly all of the club officers for a truly memorable year.

I know we are all going to be on deck to offer a helping hand to our new officers, and make the next year even better.

"Happy Motoring"  
Howard Mackey-President

### Restoring Of A 1926 Model T Touring

In the winter of 1966 and 1967 I was in Spokane, Wash. and found a 1926 motor for a 1926 T. I bought it and my brother-in-law moved it for me to a place called the Antique Ranch that makes a business of old car parts and working on motors. They gave it a complete overhaul and it is a good thing that they are slow, because it didn't arrive up here before the flood. When it got here, I told everyone, there is my Model T Touring car.

Next, I bought a basket case from Colin McDonald to get me some parts, I had a good frame, 2 fenders, a front end and a radiator to fix. The wheels I made 4 good ones out of 6 and needed 2 more rims. I started to order little peices from ads I found in Hemmings News. I could find almost everything but a body and windshield frame and posts. My brother-in-law in Spokane found one in North Dakota and made a trip over and picked it up for me, but what a rusty mess and full of rust holes. One post was broken but they looked good to me anyhow. In the meantime I wrote letters for a whole winter and found two more touring bodys. One in Denver, Colorado, and one in Nebraska. They were in the same price range, but the one in Colorado said he would take the rust off and prime it for me for a price. So I sent him the money and he said it would be ready in the spring and then I worried all winter how to get it here, it ended up I had a pickup delivered in Denver and flew down, got the pickup then drove over and picked it up, plus 2 back fenders in good shape and my top bows that are hard to come by. There was no trouble on the trip that took me a week. Up to this time three years had passed, all the peices were cleaned and primed and I only needed a hood. My son and I got busy and put the peices together and had the motor running after soldering the gas tank up twice and finding out where all the wires went for sure. I had the top and upholstery ready made, and ordered from Indiana, when it arrived, Clem from Clems Upholstery Shop helped me put it together. We then drove it over and had it painted. I found a hood that was full of holes from target shooters and a hinge gone, but it was OK.

We were in the parade in 1970.

There could be a lot of improvement in our car but we like it.

Vernon Nash



## ANTIQUE-AUTO COLLECTORS

Antique-auto collectors are a breed apart from everyday guys and gals. They have to be part goofy even to begin with. They also have to be part voodooists and actually bush-league wizzards at the same time.

It's a costly hobby. Often the wifie prefers to have a sack of flour in the kitchen or a few beans in the pantry. But first things first. Perhaps the hubby has located a 1917 carburator in Hackensack, New Jersey. He has to send for it. The flour and the beans can wait.

Psychiatrists (familiarily known as head-shrinkers) have claimed that the true antique-auto collector and/or restorer has a sub-conscious if not un-conscious desire to return to the womb. Or something. When he is playing with his fifty-year-old vehicles he can fondly and securely re-live the Old Days back on the farm a half-century ago--and to hell with the perplexing, complicated, modern world!

Yet antique-auto collectors, restoring and driving their ancient puff-puffers, are history buffs too. They are fanatics for authenticity even if such a pursuit costs them far more money than slip-shoddy restorations which are not genuine. They form antique-auto clubs and they dress in the old-timey costumes relative to their restored vehicles. They glow inwardly when, on a tour with their fellow-fanatics, they acknowledge happily the waves and the smiles from excited passers-by.

Antique-auto language is historical too.

"Retard the spark!" hollers the Model T crankster about to twist his venerable machine into life, "or the damned thing will kick a lung out of me!" His wifie dutifully obeys, not particularly wanting the Old Man's arm to be in a sling for the next month.

"Get a horse!" is the familiar refrain when one of the old puffers temporarily stops because of a clogged fuel line or a loose battery connection. All in fun, of course.

The only times a car collector ever becomes homicidal is when some unprintable idiot rubs his fingers over the polished perfection of the car's metal. Similar to this boob is the hood-opener or the door-slammer who self-appointedly takes over when the venerable autos are parked some where on display. This offensive nut is often a tire-kicker too, for no sane reason under the sun except that he is an impulsive slob and really doesn't know any better.

There is no more beautiful sight than a fleet of ancient, restored automobiles gliding serenely down the highway. There is no more beautiful sound than that of long-forgotten, long-stroked motors, puffing (yes and wheezing) in an antique-auto parade, wailing their old-time "aw-ooo-ga" horns and occasional freight whistles to curious observers on the sidewalks.

Things sometimes become a bit sentimental too.

ANTIQUE-AUTO COLLECTORS continued:

At the early October tour of this year, when the Alaska Sourdoughs were given antique-auto rides from the Nordale out to their convention site at Alaskaland, one elderly lady passenger gave yours truly the following emotional remark:

"God, they're beautiful!" she exclaimed. "They remind me of a different day and a different world and a different time. Come on, now, son; help me in," she directed. "I'm afraid I just might want to cry."

"Don't do that, honey," we admonished her affectionately as we assisted this wonderful pioneer onto the seat. "You see, the water would ruin the upholstery!"

Bert Stimple

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CLUB ROSTER

1971

Ralph and Merle Brannan - Box 8 Steele Creek Road - Fairbanks  
1917 Buick Touring - 1963 Studebaker Avanti

Ben D. Carpenter -  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile Old Richardson Hwy. - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1915 Ford Model T Touring

Ed. H. Carroway - 966 Riverview Drive - Fairbanks, Alaska

Wally Cathcart - Box 1164 - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1934 Ford PU

Don Chandler - Box 534 - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1922 Packard Roadster - 1937 Chevrolet PU

George Clayton - Box 2269 - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1915 Ford Model T Truck

Donald Creamer - Box 1333 - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1908 Chalmers Detroiter

Edward and Eileen Dean - Box 336 - College, Alaska  
1910 Little Giant Truck

Carl Edgerton - Box 5008 - College, Alaska  
1940 Mercury Convertible Coupe

Phil Gardner - 1827 Broadway - Seattle, Washington  
1927 Willis-Knight Roadster

Robert Giinther - 1806 Hilton - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1924 Buick Roadster - 1925 Chevrolet Touring - 1938 Buick  
Touring

Russell and Jeanne Green - 115 Charles - Fairbanks, Alaska



Robert and Anna Groff - Box 2298 - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1917 Ford Model T Roadster

Jerry Hassel - 1555 Westwood Way - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1931 Ford Model A Sedan

Bud Hilton - 581 University Ave. - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1926 Ford Model T Coupe

Fred Hupprich - 1661 Aspen St. - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1925 Chrysler Roadster

Jerry and Donna Krier - 809 Cushman - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1928 Chevrolet Sedan

Dr. James Lundquist - 215 Slater St. - Fairbanks, Alaska  
Dana Lundquist  
Jon Thomas Lundquist  
1911 Ford Model T Town Car

Colin MacDonald - 131 Adak - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1915 Dodge Touring

Howard Mackey - Box 2033 - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1925 Chrysler Touring - 1928 Hupmobile Opera Coupe

James Messer - Box 870 - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1948 Cadillac Sedan

Bob and Darrelyn Merritt - Box 935 - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1930 Willys-Knight Sedan - 1931 Willys-Knight Sedan -  
1930 B Willys-Knight Sedan

Vern and Evelyn Nash - Box 92 - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1915 Ford Model T Truck - 1926 Ford Model T Touring

W. D. Price - Box 1472 - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1937 Cadillac Sedan Model 444

Don Pruhs - Box 1735 - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1930 Ford Model A Woody

Norman and Joan Rockney - 507 2nd St. Grahle - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1931 Ford Model A Coupe

James D. Sears - 12 Mile Richardson Hwy. - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1914 Saurer Truck - 1931 Henney Hearse

William Sherman - 4659 7th St. Broadmore Acres, Fairbanks, Alaska  
1929 Ford Model A Roadster

Bert Stimple - 1512 Cushman, Room 210 - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1915 Ford Model T Touring - 1929 Ford Model A Roadster  
1937 Indian Motorcycle Mod 45 - 1948 Indian Motorcycle Mod 74

Albert Swanson - 2018 McCullam - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1928 Nash Cabriolet

Alice P. Thompson - 327 2nd - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1926 Ford Sedan

Andrew Twogood - Box 3171 - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1915 Dodge Touring

Paul Wagner - 2608 Kuskokwim St. - Fairbanks, Alaska  
1911 Ford Model T Speedster

Charles Willis, Jr. - % Alaska Airlines - Airport Way & Cushman -  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
1925 Ford Model T Touring

Bill Wilson - 309 Prospect - Seattle, Washington  
1915 Ford Model T Roadster - 1922 Essex Touring

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#### CLUB ACTIVITIES 1970-71

Seems the activities for our club started before the club had a charter, officers or members. Those having vintage cars were invited to join the Sports Car Club in a Concours d' Elegance at Alaskaland following the Golden Days Parade in 1970.

With the club then obtaining a charter, electing officers and taking in members, we started having more people to help direct us toward things to do.

Starting this spring with our first organized tour in June, seventeen cars drove around Farmers Loop to the Switzerland for our meeting, dinner and introduction of the clubs guests, the Phil Gardners and Bill Wilson's, members of the Seattle-Tacoma Group, as well as members of our club. The guests presented us with two great trophies that will be used in a perpetual manner by our club.

July saw us off on a picnic tour to Chena Ridge Camp ground, twelve cars, lots of people, great food and fine beer. Really a great idea for an evening outing.

Then there was the Golden Days Parade, we were really out front in that one. This was followed the same day with our run to the North Pole Speedway where we were given the track at half time to show the crowd our prizes. In addition to having the fun of the tour, showing the cars, we were paid \$5.00 for each car that was shown, pumping \$50.00 into our clubs bank account.

Our tour of Fort Wainwright was certainly well received by the military people. Once we arrived at the display area, the crowd gathered and showed loads of enthusiasm for our fine line up of "Prize Cars".

Then came the big "Progressive Dinner Tour". Could go on at great length on this one, but I am sure it will long be remembered by all that attended. It was a beautiful day, can't recall how many cars were out, but am sure we had 75% club participation. The hospitality at each stop, plus the food, had to be the finest.



Last of our tours was at the request of the Pioneers during the state convention. Again we had full participation and I am sure there were many memories among those fine Pioneers as we lined up with our "Memory Makers" to transport them to Alaskaland.

So went the first year, but watch us "Move\_Out" next spring and summer to show them the products of our winters work.

Darrellyn Merritt would have written this, and much better too, but with she and Bob expecting two new arrivals soon and being kept busy with the Ski Club, I am filling in on her behalf. By the way the two arrivals will be that 66B W\_K and then "Sleeve Valve Merritt, Jr.

Later  
Howard Mackey

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Speaking for all the club members, I want to thank all the club officers for a job well done.

Ralph Brannan