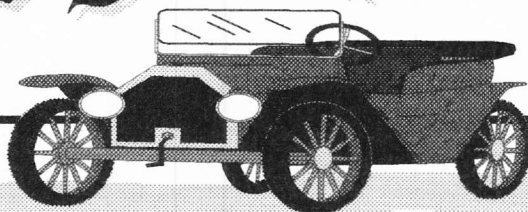


Puddle Jumper Gazette

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CHEERS!

We'd like to congratulate Gene Wescott and his 1937 MGVA for winning the 1996 S.F. Edge Award from AACA in last summer's annual meet in Hershey Penna. S.F. Edge was considered the "father of the English motor car" and the award is given each year from a fund set up by S.F.'s widow for the best foreign car restoration. Gene was presented the award at AACA's annual banquet and received a beautiful sterling silver tray. Congratulations Gene, great job!!



Our monthly dinner meeting will be March 13th at El Sombrero's on Cushman Street. Cocktails at 6:30, dinner at 7:00 and the meeting is at 8:00 -- see you there.

John Gates from Arctic Wheels was a guest at our February meeting and announced that Arctic Wheels annual benefit show will be May 9, 10 & 11 at the Carlson Center in Fairbanks. Entries can be obtained from Arctic Wheels members, various businesses around town or Sherry Camarata from VLNAACA - call 488-4293 - and they will be available at the March 13th meeting at El Sombrero's. All entries must be in by April 4, 1997 and fees are \$30 for individual vehicles, or \$50 Club rate. Let's see your car out there, you may not win a sterling silver tray, but the prizes are fantastic and winning isn't everything. Come have some fun! The show will benefit the Fairbanks Food Bank and Senior Center which sponsors an emergency food gear & pak for shut-ins and the Meals on Wheels program. Hey! how about a delivery day or week this summer in our old cars -- wouldn't that be fun to do. There will also be a food drive during the car show and kids under the age of 12 can get into the show free if they bring a can of food.

Also, John conveyed the request from Arctic Wheels that they would like to join with the VLNAACA on our trip to Wasilla this year. The trip is tentatively scheduled for June 6, 7 & 8 and everyone thought it would be fun for us ALL to be together. We'll bring up the dates, etc. at the next meeting March 13th.

The Loooong Wait . . .

The Good Book says that "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife" ---well okay --- but what about his car? Can't I covet his car?? Even when it's a beautiful 1930 WK 66B!

Well now the truth can be told. For twenty-five years I've coveted (wanted real bad) my neighbor's car. But at last the affair is over: He still has his wife but I've got the car!

This story really starts in the late 1960's with Mr. Bob Merritt here in Fairbanks, Alaska. Bob became interested in these sleeve valve engines and the cars that had used them. He made contact with Charlie Weaver and joined the WOKR (No. 771). From want ads in the Newsletter he started buying and bringing up some WK cars.

First was a nice dark green WK 70. This was followed by an even better maroon WK 70B. then suddenly both of these were set aside when Bob found his dream car; a big beautiful Brown/Brown/Orange 1930 66B. This car had been given a total restoration with each and every piece being refinished or replaced. With its new plush upholstery, dual side mounts and acres of chrome it's easy to see why Bob liked it so much.

Bob really pampered his new 66B. For starters it wasn't trucked or boated up to Alaska, it was flown up in a C130 cargo plane. He kept it under its own velvet lined cover in a heated garage and only brought it out once or twice a year for a short trip to the local parade or car show. It's said that each time before starting the car Bob would even refill the radiator with nice hot water so the engine would be warmed up and running without the wear of a cold start.

For the next two decades I would occasionally see and admire this car. Sure I wished it was mine but everyone just knew that Bob would never sell it and even if he did the price would be way out of sight. Then the unthinkable happened. Bob had a sudden change of fortune and had to leave Alaska. He sold their home and offered the 66B for sale to the members of our local car club. Further more his asking price was a low fraction of what the car must be worth! What a chance! But as luck would have it I wasn't at the meeting when all of this was announced and the 66B was quickly sold to Bernie Saupe, another member of our club.

I was upset at missing out on this sale but glad that it was Bernie that got it. He was the owner and operator of the local Chevron Bulk Plant and he could keep the car in warm storage at one of their truck garages. He was proud to own it and liked all of the comments and interest others had for his new car. Bernie, like Bob, enjoyed owning the car but only put it to very limited use. A short tour around town was about all the driving he did with it. Even today the odometer shows it has been run less than 40 miles per year since restoration.

It seemed like the 66B had found another long-term home until August of this year when fortunes quickly again changed. Bernie received an unexpected offer to buy out his business and he was suddenly retired. The truck garage was also going and this car was fast losing its home. Bernie decided to sell and now, at last, it was my turn - or was it?

Bernie knew of my interest in the WOKR and asked if I'd help him sell the car by running a for-sale ad in our National Newsletter.

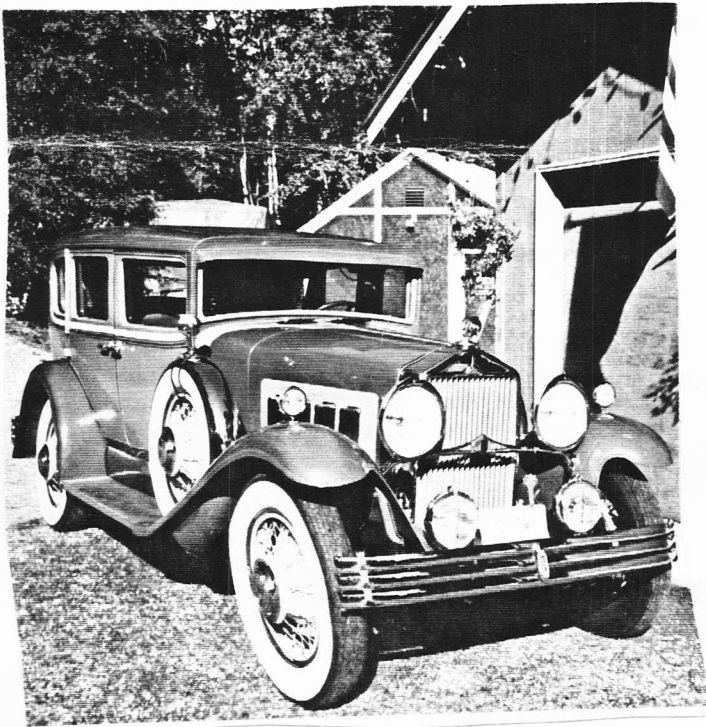
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I agreed and the ad he brought to me was as follows: "FOR SALE: Beautiful, rare 1930 WK Model 66-B 4-door sedan. Striking 3-color tan, brown, and orange. 1500 miles and heated storage since total show winning restoration. Original documents, manuals, and restoration photos. Wire spokes, W W W, dual side-mounts, luggage rack with trunk, dual driving lights, some extra parts, custom cover."

Now I ask you, how could anyone resist buying such a prize? This was certainly my last chance to own the car which would be lost if this ad was sent out. But by now the price was back up and seemingly out of our reach -- but then again look at all that chrome! A conference was held and finally it was decided to go ahead and spend the kid's inheritance (they will never know).

At last the 66B came home! Now it sits in our heated garage under its velvet cover. I can't wait for spring to fill it with HOT water and go for a ride!!

by Rudy Domke



FOR SALE FOR SALE

Brand New In The Original Package --
1967 ALASKA License Plates. Contact Bob &
Bonnie Fistner at 452-8359. Price is negotiable.

CHUCKLE CHUCKLE

A true statement said by a guest on a
late night talk show: "I needed to change
professions to one where my mental illness
would not be a handicap; so I became a
lawyer!!!"

INVITATION

Jack Coghill has invited the VLNAACA to
the 80 Year celebration of Nenana on July 5th
1997!! Cars of all ages (and their drivers &
passengers) are invited to meet at the Nenana
Civic Center between 1 and 2 PM for a 3 PM
parade and celebration to follow. Contact Bill
Chace 488-3805 for info.

EDITOR's NOTE

Our By-laws from AACA state that "the
basic purpose of AACA is to further the
preservation and the enjoyment of antique
vehicles. Its purpose has never been to raise or
accumulate sums of money for any reason and
Article VI was designed to prevent its use by
other organizations, either charitable or
commercial, to make money." I checked with
AACA on the specific issue of pull-tabs and their
response was "NO." Come to the next meeting
to voice YOUR opinion on what to do with the
50/50 money we still have to disburse (\$400
went to the Hospice of Tanana Valley), and the
50/50 drawings themselves. As Gene Hansen
noted we need a State Gaming License in order
to have any kind of drawing, raffle, etc. See
YOU at the meeting.

CALENDAR of

March 13th	Dinner & Meeting El Sombrero's
April 4th	Deadline for entries to Arctic Wheels Annual Car Show May 9th, 10th & 11th
April 10th	VLNAACA Dinner Meeting - Place to be announced
May 8,	VLNAACA Dinner Meeting - Place to be announced
May 9, 10 & 11	Arctic Wheels Car Show Carlson Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 3	Wed night cruises
June 6, 7 & 8	Wasilla Trip
July 4th	North Pole Parade?
July 5th	80 Years - Nenana Celebration

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>
Jerry Roehm	Alan Monsma
488-1644	458-0024
<u>Secretary/Newsletter</u>	
Sherry Camarata	
488-4293	
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Historian</u>
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