

FAIRBANKS

Vernon L. Nash

ALASKA



Antique Automobile Club of America

WILD HORSES, FAST CARS, AND ANGRY WOMEN

As told by Paul Camarata to Ron Allen

In 1945 when I was fifteen years old I worked for my dad, a tile contractor in Trenton, New Jersey. We lived near a small town not far from Trenton. My dad gave me a horse that year. We kept the horse in a field near our house staked with a rope to an axle driven in the ground so that he could eat fresh grass. One day while Dad and I were at work, the horse apparently lunged against the rope and pulled the axle free from the ground. He bolted down the street for half a mile to a gas station with the axle wildly swinging behind him. The horse ran through the gas station lot and turned in front of the station's open double garage doors so that the swinging rope and axle wrapped around the support post between the bay doors. His momentum jerked the support post right out of the garage, which caused quite a commotion. The horse continued on and finally returned home with the axle still attached. Fortunately for everyone, Dad was able to repair the garage damage. It was fortunate that Dad was an easy going person and very supportive of my efforts. We got along very well.

The following year I decided I didn't want the horse anymore, so my dad allowed me to trade the horse for my first car, a black 1937 Chevy Master 2-door sedan. It was not exactly a sports car, but it was "wheels" for a young man. It came well used. Not many cars were available at the end of the war. It did have a heater and a radio, which were very popular options. At that time if a car was not advertised to have a radio or heater, it did not have a radio or heater. Dad showed me how to care for the 37 Chevy and keep it running. It got me and my five or six

buddies around to do whatever 16 year-olds do. My buddies would chip in 5, 10, or 15 cents to purchase gas for running around, and off we would go.



One of my buddies, Joe, had a girlfriend. One time Joe borrowed his father's car to take his girlfriend on a date. It was a beautiful black 1941 Chrysler that his father polished weekly. A group of guys and I were riding around in my jalopy and happened to see Joe with his date in the car with him. We followed Joe in my Chevy for a while to see what he was going to do. Joe saw what we were doing, pulled over and stopped along side the road, and we drove on past him. I stopped about ten car lengths ahead of Joe in the middle of the street. At that time Joe gunned the Chrysler ahead without looking to see that we had stopped not far ahead. A guy in the back seat of my car was looking out the back window and said, "He's not going to stop! He's not going to stop!" Sure enough, Joe creamed the back of my 37 Chevy with his dad's Chrysler. The Chrysler's shiny pointed grill was all caved in, and the bumper and trunk lid of my Chevy were creased. Joe was very upset about damaging his father's car and was wondering what he was going to tell his dad. He decided to tell his father right then. His dad happened

to be at a wedding reception. His father looked across the room at the reception to see Joe standing there and could see trouble in Joe's face. Without Joe saying anything, Joe's dad said, "You crashed the car!" Later, when they went to the garage where Joe had backed the car in, Joe's dad touched the license plate, and it fell off. He said, "Joe. Five miles an hour?"

I replaced the trunk on my car that was damaged from the accident and repainted the car gun-metal grey, a popular color at the time. It was my first attempt at painting. I recall I used a vacuum cleaner with the blower port and a special paint spray attachment designed for that purpose. The paint job turned out to be pretty good. However, the car was mostly held together by bailing wire and yahoo glue. It also tended to jump out of high gear, so I or one of my buddies had to hold the gear shift lever to keep it in third gear. Still, we would drive all the way to Atlantic City to see the ocean, about 60 miles from our town.

I started dating a girl about that time. One time when she was riding with me I decided to show off and give the car a bath by hitting a fresh puddle of water from the rain while driving very fast. The Chevy had a battery plate that sits loosely on the floor in front of the passenger seat. It was a deep puddle, and not only did I give the car a bath, but because of a loose battery plate I gave my girlfriend a complete bath as well. She never did forget that. She did forgive me though, at least enough to eventually marry me (my first wife.)

I kept the 37 Chevy for a couple of years and eventually traded it for a 42 Chevy Fleetline. The 37 Chevy wasn't a necessarily a great car, but she carries a lot of fond memories of good times and memorable experiences with teen-aged friends.



Paul with his 65 Mustang

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, spring is approaching fast, winter is on the downhill slide, and another summer is nearly here. OK, so its not quite here, but we can dream can't we? Lots of things are

going on this summer. To start things off, our show at the Carlson Center is June 3 - 4, and I just found out that the Racing Lions are going to have their show at the fairgrounds on June 24 - 25. Also Craig Compeau called and asked if we could get a few 60's and earlier cars out for the "Tired Iron Race" (snow machine) which is on March 11. I told him that if the roads dried up there may be a few that would come out, but that it would be unlikely anyone would venture out if it is real cold or slick. Are you game Bill????????? We wouldn't want to see anyone suffer the fate of the Chaces from trying to do a good thing for the community.

We had another upholstery class on covering and repairing of seats. I think everyone learned a little. I want to give a big Kudos to the Broline brothers. They attended the class and brought the seats out of their 55 Ford two-door post. They started their project during the class and came back to work a couple more evenings to finish them. They did an excellent job.

I am nearing the completion of the 53 wagon, which will be out this spring. I am worried, as Wilma keeps eyeing it and making statements like, "that would be a fun car to haul the grand kids in," and "I could see me driving that," so I may loose another one. This one is even getting seat belts.

February 18 found Ron Allen, Jonathon and Gregory Broline and myself on a mission to rescue a 1940's Dodge pickup and a 1950's MGA from destruction. The pickup is a good street rod project as it has no engine, transmission or front axle. However, the cab is in great shape, all the glass is intact including the cowl lights and the interior is complete including the head liner and door panels. After taking down two chain link fences, winching and jacking the pickup sideways and cutting trees, we were able to drag it out where we could get it loaded. So now Jonathon has a new project for next winter.

The MGA we rescued is a parts car with lots of usable parts that can be had if anyone has a need or want for it.



Jonathon Broline, Gregory Broline, and Willy retrieving a forty's Dodge pick-up from the Woods

I think a lot of us would enjoy going to the Old Iron snow machine races on March 11 at Pikes and seeing the old sleds dated 1975 and older to qualify. I won't have my Hus-Ski done for this year, but maybe next year if I can find a recoil starter for it. So if anyone wants to go to it and wants to take an old car, let me know and we will make arrangements to have a place to park them. As anyone that has a garage or shop knows, there are such things as bench gremlins, and I now have a gremlin in my mist. I had Dad's 1975 Gremlin brought up from Montana and will try to get it in driving condition by summer. Well enough rambling, see you at the next meeting.

Willy

UPCOMING EVENTS

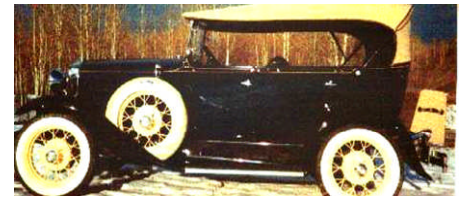
- **Annual VLNAACF Car Show** June 3rd and 4th
- **Poker Run** Date currently unknown
- **Wednesday Night Run-Arounds** starting Wed. 6/7
- **Summer Solstice Car show & Root Beer Stand** Wed. 6/21
- **Dawson/Eagle Trip** Leave before and return after Saturday 7/1-7/4.
- **Golden Days Show 'N Shine** Wed. 7/19.
- **Golden Days Parade** Sat. 7/22
- **Joint meet with Anch Auto Musers** (they host) Fri – Sun. Aug. ??
- **Delta Parade** Sat Aug
- **Fall Jaunt** Sat or Sun (Date undetermined)



Place your ad here at no charge.

- ❖ **1930 Willys Knight** 4-door restored. Call Bill at 479-6552.
- ❖ **1953 Jeep CJ3** with insulated cab. Frame-off restoration. Call Alva Ditch at 457-4788.
- ❖ **Looking for 1965 or so Corvair body.** Email Gene in Wasilla at lhoffner@mtaonline.net.
- ❖ **Three medium sweatshirts @ \$10.00 each.** And there are **15 hats @ \$8.00 each** or 2 for \$15.00.
- ❖ If anyone is interested, call Marion at 474-4966.
- ❖ **1931 Model A Phaeton.** Here is a rare opportunity to own a piece of Dawson history. Bob Cartwright

of Dawson City is selling this prize possession. The car has been in the Dawson area since new and was owned by some prominent miners in the area during its past life. Contact Loren Benham at 474-4966.



- ❖ **The Club needs your pictures!!** If you have pictures from events in 2001-2004, please share them with the club. We do not have photos albums from these years. For more information, please contact Bill Chace at 488-3805.
- ❖ **Club Jackets** Marion Benham is putting together an order of Club Jackets. If you want a Jacket please call her at 474-4966. We need to get an order for 20 jackets to get a price break. She will re-confirm your order and give you a price when she has received gotten enough orders.

OBITUARY: GARY STOOPS

The Anchorage Auto Musers member, Gary Stoops passed away recently. Gary and his family have actively participated in our joint meets. He had been battling cancer for over a year. Consistent with Gary's personality, he never lost his joy for life. Just a few hours before he died, he went out for a ride in his '36 Cadillac which had just undergone an engine rebuild.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

05 Ray McLeod
06 Karmen Shoemaker
09 Ron Stevenson
10 Gary Nash
10 Nancy Hanson
11 Donna Krier
11 JoAnn Murphy
16 Merle Page
21 L.D."Corky" Corkran
21 Roby McHone
28 Loran Benham
28 Joyce Chace

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

No anniversaries this month.

OFFICERS

President	Willy Vinton	Willy@ntc.fairbanks.ak.us	474-0939 day 456-2261 evn
Vice President	Ray McLeod	rmcleod@alaska.net	347-4070
Secretary	Laurel McLaughlin	mcbug@gci.net	452-5234
Treasurer	Ruth Hill		452-4510
Newsletter	Ron Allen	ronandnancy@gci.net	488-3965
Webmaster	Wilma Vinton	wvinton@acsalaska.net	456-2261
Events Coordinator	Sherry Camarata	pscamarata@acsalaska.net	488-4293
Roster/Membership	Marion Benham	Mvbenham1@yahoo.com	474-4966

NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, March 9, 6:00 PM
at China One.**

Newsletter Deadline

All materials for the newsletter should be in by the 20th of the month to be considered for the next newsletter. Email ronandnancy@gci.net or call 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

