



In the June 2006 issue we featured a story about Merle Page, her passion for racing, and her love for a Studebaker Avante. In this issue we are featuring another amazing woman in our car club with her own car story to tell.

BETTY'S 1948 TRIP TO CALIFORNIA by Ron Allen

Betty Carlson grew up and lived her childhood in Minnesota. In 1948 she embarked on a grand adventure to drive by herself from her Minnesota home to Los Angeles in a nineteen year old 1929 Model A Ford in order to attend College there. As if that weren't adventurous enough for a lone female on her way to California, she also included a drive up Pike's Peak. She said that her car had no trouble making it up that treacherous hill. Even more remarkable than her independence and progressive actions for that era is that Betty still drives that same 1929 Ford on occasion today, almost 60 years later. The 2007 Fairbanks Golden Days Parade was such an occasion.

Not long after embarking on that journey out west Betty met her husband-to-be, Carl Carlson, at an event in California where he was playing the accordion. Many of you may know Carl from when he operated the music store for many years on Noble Street, or you may know him from his frequent entertainment of Fairbanks residents at various local events over the years with his accordion. He delivered a fine piano to our house 28 years ago where it still sets today. It was rather ironic that while Betty was sitting in her car at the



Betty Carlson and her 1929 Model A Ford at the 2007 Golden Days Parade

2007 Golden Days Parade line-up waiting for the parade to start and was telling me about how Carl's music had attracted her interest as a young woman, Carl was simultaneously swaying and merrily playing his accordion for everyone's entertainment from behind Betty's car. I have appreciated Carl's brand of music over the years at various events in the Fairbanks area. It is hard not to smile and dance a Polka when Carl and his musical friends that he often plays with work their magic.

Betty's adventure led her to a career in education, a lasting romance and lifetime ownership of one sweet old Ford. Note that although the 29 Model A



Karl Carlson plays the accordion during the Golden Days Parade line-up.

Ford may now be slightly faded, it has not needed a restoration to still look good and keep on running. Betty, both you and your car are as beautiful today as you must have been in 1948. Thank you for sharing your story, and I hope we continue to see you with your Model A and Carl playing his wonderful accordion at many future Fairbanks events.

HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

by Ron Allen

I must be living a sheltered life here in the far north. Just a year ago I had never even heard of the week-long "Hot August Nights" classic car festival that has been held in Reno, Nevada every year for the past 20-some years. The Vintons and the Allens spent a week there in early August and had a grand nostalgic time. It was estimated that there were 7,000 old cars in town for the event, so even though we saw as many cars as we possibly could, there were thousands we did not see. There were different show and shine events with live bands playing classic rock and car songs at most major hotel/casino complexes as well as



The Vintons and Allens at "Hot August Nights" in Reno

downtown in the towns of Sparks and Reno. The bands were not only great, there was no admission fee! There were organized cruises (comparable to our "runarounds") that ran a course through cordoned off spectator areas somewhere almost every night. There were many \$60,000 hot rods and muscle cars revving their engines to impress the spectators in addition to the classic and antique cars and trucks passing by in the cruises. It reminded me of my youth at the local drive-in restaurant, except that the drivers and their cars are much older now. We attended a large car auction, a large swap meet, the Big Boy's Toy Store and a spectacular car museum, and we found



Here are the Vintons taking a break from "car-watching" to play with the slots.

time for dining and playing slot machines. If you would like a vacation with lots of sun, old car activities, 50-60's music and casinos, check out "Hot August Nights" in Reno scheduled next year for August 3rd-10th 2008. Our reservations are already made for next year. Maybe we'll see you there.

ELECTION NEWS

by Laurel McLaughlin

The VLNAAC election takes place at the November meeting. In order to do this the nominating committee needs your help in developing a slate of officers. Call any member of the committee and the member will contact the person. The slate will be presented at the October meeting, and nominations will also be accepted from the floor. If you plan to nominate someone, be sure the person attends the meeting or provides you with a letter stating willingness to run for a specific office.

The members of the nominating committee are: Bill Chace 488-3805, Scott Grundy 457-3526, Rochelle Larson 452-5625 and Laurel McLaughlin 452-5234.

Ballots will be mailed soon after the October meeting, and must be returned either by mail or in person by the November meeting. If you will be OUT OF TOWN, please provide Laurel with your address.

MEMBERSHIP LISTING

by Ron Allen

I have noticed that the listing of cars on our membership listing has many errors due to cars being sold or purchased over the years. Please contact Marion Benham at 474-4966 to update any information on your listing.

DUES INCREASE

By Marion Benham

AACA has announced that they have increased their dues for our memberships to \$35.00 for 2008. This affects what VLNAAC must charge its members.

VLNAACF 2008 Dues are due and payable anytime this fall. Rates are:

SINGLE \$50.00

JOINTLY \$65.00

Please send your DUES to Marion Benham, Membership. Make Checks payable to: VLNAACF

YOUTH PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

by Ron Allen

Willy Vinton has expressed interest in developing a youth program on behalf of our club in order to educate and encourage youth in the preservation, restoration and enjoyment of old automobiles. This was briefly discussed to some extent at a meeting last fall or winter with no action being taken at that time. I think it is time to look at it again.

We have declared in our club mission that our club's purpose is to:

- Further the preservation, restoration, and enjoyment of old automobiles and related automobilia.
- Share and encourage others and the public to take an interest through organized activities, meets, rallies, displays, shows, parades, etc.
- Aid individuals, museums, libraries, historians, and collectors dedicated to the preservation of automobile history.

A youth program is consistent with our declared purpose, and our club is now in a good position to pursue a youth program. We have an uncommitted savings account and an individual (Willy) willing to coordinate the program. In the distant past our club gave excess money in our bank accounts to charity. It seems fitting to utilize the effort of club volunteers and perhaps some of the raffle earnings to benefit our community in a manner consistent with our club's purpose.

There are several ways that such a program could work. One method that seems plausible is to offer evening or weekend automotive classes through TVC or Hutchison to youth that includes the restoration of a classic car. The purpose of the class could have multiple components that serve other interests too. The Director of TVC and the Principal of Hutchison have expressed interest in discussing such possibilities. Instruction could come from professionals, although there is a possibility of club member assistance. There are

also several different sources of revenue to share in the support of such activities, and pursuing the activity through an entity already set up for classes eliminates concerns for liability, space, and etc. There are other aspects of a possible youth program to consider too such as offering junior club memberships and inviting youth to runarounds and other possible social activities involving our adult members. Such a program does not require all members to participate in it. It only requires that the majority approve the actions of those who will make it work. Of course the more active support it receives, the better it will work.

In addition Willy is tentatively offering a vehicle at no charge to the possible program, a 1953 four-door Ford sedan that he would like to see made into a vintage Fairbanks Police Car.

It seems appropriate that the board consider adding the item to the general meeting agenda for a discussion of the matter and consideration for a possible motion in support of further exploration of a youth program possibilities.

BILL WRIGHT FINISHES HIS 1929 FORD MODEL A PICKUP by Ron Allen

Bill Wright has finished restoring what appears to be the older brother to his 1931 Ford Model A Coupe, a 1929 Ford Model A pickup. It is painted the same blue colors as his coupe, which enhances the appearance of their sibling relationship. Bill has been working on this project for two years now with the help of Ron Stevenson. He doesn't know much about the history of the truck other than it came out of Delta. Bill and Ron do



excellent work as we have seen on their other projects. We look forward to seeing this one on the road. Congratulations Bill. Nice job!



CLASSIFIED ADS

Heated and Safe Winter Storage: The Jurgens are storing cars in their heated hangar at North Pole. Carrie said they are offering very reasonable rates this year. Call Charlie or Carrie (VLNAACF members) at 488-5719.

Model "A" Repairs: Bill Wright, an active VLNAACF club member, does re-babbitt work on A's, B's, and T's, complete engine rebuilds, and carburetor, oil pump and water pump rebuilds. Call him at 479-8506 or his cell phone 388-2118.

1964 Mercedes: Friends of Ron and Karine Dane in Palmer are selling their 1964 Mercedes and wondered if anyone in the club might be interested. They said it is still in good shape and runs (it is a diesel). Ron believes it is a model 180 with four doors. They can be reached at arleta@mtaonline.net or 907-745-0426.

1937 Ford 1/2 ton flat bed truck: Located in Fairbanks. Call Marv Wright for info. 474-0360

Future Classic: 1985 Honda Prelude. The editor's neighbors, Linda and Loren Smith are selling their collegiate son's Fairbanks summer car. It runs good, the body is reasonably good, and it has seasonal tags. It does need attention though to look sharp or to obtain year-round tags in Fairbanks. Asking \$1,000. 488-3380.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

03 Don McPherson
 07 Dennis Markey
 08 John Borg
 08 Martin Herzog
 12 Lori Hinchsliff
 17 Robbie Casey
 18 Kenny Maxwell
 19 Eric Molloy
 19 Christine Upton
 21 Garry Farnham
 21 LaVonne Gullickson
 31 Don Cameron

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

01 George & Patricia
 Cromer
 05 Ron & Nancy Allen
 08 Don & Connie Ronken
 11 Dennis & Rielle Markey

NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE

Next month's issue will include reports on the September 1 Studebaker reception at the Salmon Bake from Rick and Jill Larrick and on the September Chatnika Run from Wilma Vinton.

OFFICERS:

President	Ray McLeod	rmcleod@alaska.net	907-456-7877
Vice President	Sherry Camarata	pscamarata@gci.net	907-488-4293
Secretary	Marion Benham	Mvbenham1@yahoo.com	907-474-4966
Treasurer	Don Oines	doines1@gci.net	907-452-4601
Director	Gary Nash		907-456-2103
Director	Willy Vinton	wvinton@acsalaska.net	907-456-2261
Director	Bill Wright	tong@mosquitonet.com	907-479-8505
Newsletter	Ron Allen	ronandnancy@gci.net	907-488-3965
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Membership/Roster	Marion Benham	Mvbenham1@yahoo.com	907-474-4966
Events Coordinator	Carrie Jurgens	cjurgens@alaska.net	907-488-5719

NEXT MEETINGS

The August general club meeting is **October 11** at the **Mayflower Restaurant**. Dinner starts at 6:00 PM, and the meeting is at 7:00 PM.

The Board Meeting is at 7:00 PM Tuesday October 9 at the Felix Cookhouse Restaurant in the Best Western Hotel. Everyone is also welcome to attend Board Meetings.

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 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
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