



**DON OINE'S 1930 CADILLAC LASALLE**

by Ron Allen

Don Oines loves to restore old classics. He has a respectable collection of antique iron including a 24 Model T Roadster, a 30 Model A TN Sedan, a 31 Model A Coupe, a 47 Buick Roadmaster, a 67 MG B Roadster, and a 77 MG B Roadster, several of which he has totally restored. Don loves a challenge. He certainly got his challenge wish with his latest acquisition, a 1930 Cadillac



Lasalle.

When George Clayton's health started failing he began selling off all his old cars he had stored in three different locations, some in the woods where they had been for decades. In the fall of 2005 Bill Wright asked Don if he wanted to help him retrieve a 1927 LaSalle he was purchasing from George. Don leaped at the chance just to see what other treasures might be there. With several of their other friends they went up on a Saturday afternoon with several four-wheel drive pickups to drag the LaSalle out of



the woods. After cutting down several trees they made a path sloping downhill to the main trail out to the road. With two pickups hooked to the LaSalle they were able to only move it downhill a short distance before it spun out. Being the old man in the group it had been Don's job to steer it. However, being towed backwards with four flat tires on a sidehill turned out to be a rather futile effort. Bill decided to leave the car until late winter and pull it out after the snow melted but the ground was still frozen.

Sometime during the winter of 2006 Bill asked Don if he was interested in buying it. Don reported that he still doesn't know if it was because Bill was setting up a babbiting shop or if it was because Bill hadn't gotten around to telling his wife about his purchasing the car.





Anyway, Bill was motivated to sell, and Don was motivated to buy a new challenge. He paid a small fortune of \$500 for the car, which was Bill's original



investment. The car was solid and was mostly all there despite all the rust and rot. A restorer tends to view a rusty old hulk through rose colored glasses and imagine



what it's going to be like when he is done with it.

Through research Don found that he actually had a 1930 short bodied sedan, and he titled it as such. He didn't want to repeat prior problems of having a mistitled car. What's a few years when we're talking 77 years old?

Don has done a considerable amount of work on the car in the past two years since he acquired it. His goal is to use



all OEM parts in order to keep it as original as possible. That hurts a bit when someone believes their rusty old



spare parts are made of gold. Don says the restoration costs are classified. So far the engine has been rebuilt, the running gear gone through, the frame painted, and body set back onto the frame. Don's friend Frank has been helping Don make and replace the rotted wood parts, which are a substantial part of cars of this vintage. Replacing the woodwork is an impressive work of art.

Don said his objective with the LaSalle is to get it completed, if there is such a thing, before he drives off into the sunset. We look forward to seeing this luxurious classic on the road with Don in the driver's seat well before he takes that journey.

**MYSTERY ALASKAN PHOTO**

Submitted by Squeeky Benham



Here is an interesting historic photo for members to ponder. I'll even provide a couple of hints; the photo was taken at Boundry in 1939. Can anyone tell me the historic significance of this photo? Squeeky will reveal the answer at the March meeting.

**FEBRUARY'S MYSTERY WHATIZZIT**

I had about four members tell me that Garry Farnham was holding two old six-volt battery testers. The testers could

be used to test one battery cell at a time. That was when each cell had lead posts on top of the battery that connected four individual 1.5 volt cells together. Thank you Garry. Please submit mystery items to Ron Allen for publication.

## **FAIRBANKS AUTO MUSEUM UPDATE**

by Scott Grundy

The Fountainhead Development Inc. (FDI) museum construction plans are proceeding well. The building will hopefully be completed by November 2008 and the museum open to the public by the summer of 2009. Several more terrific vehicles have been purchased recently: a 1919 Biddle Town Brougham, 1909 Cadillac Model 30 and a 1919 Stutz Bulldog four passenger sport touring model with a Bearcat engine. The Biddle was designed by a woman (large kitchen & bath?) & it's a beautiful class act! Yes, the infamous Mayflower Madame was part of the Biddle family. Believe they have also purchased three midget racers that are about seven feet long and unsafe to drive anywhere but on a race track!

FDI continues to search the market for specific representatives of early Fairbanks cars; they are currently looking for a White Steamer and a Thomas Flyer. The latter car was involved in the 1908 New York to Paris race. The Flyer was foolishly shipped to Valdez where they planned to drive on top of the snow to Fairbanks and then across the Bering Straits to Russia. They finished the race after shipping the racer back to Seattle and then on to Vladivostok. The race is planned to again on this its 100 year anniversary to commence May 30, but Alaska is not part of the picture. You may recall Dermot Cole's article regarding this in his news column on Feb.12; he also authored an excellent book about the event entitled "Hard Racing: The 1908 Auto Race from New York to Paris" (ISBN 1557783608). If Gulliver's Book Store doesn't have a used copy, an excellent website to search worldwide is: [usedbooksearch.co.uk](http://usedbooksearch.co.uk).

FDI is also looking for vehicles with Alaskan experience (preferably Fairbanks). For example, do you know where one of those big sleighs or a Jeffrey Quad (NC Co.) that was used on the Valdez trail is located? Know of a nice T that's been modified with skis &/or tracks, or just the winter equipment? How about some early 1900's cold weather clothing (including some old fur coats, hats, robes, etc.)? Actually, any item or information that pertains to how folks & their vehicles coped with the snow, ice and cold would be of interest. If you don't wish to sell but are willing to loan items, please don't hesitate to offer. Remember, all inquiries and correspondence need to be routed through me as we don't wish to wear out our welcome. Your assistance is needed and will be greatly appreciated. Scott Grundy

## **RAFFLE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE**

Raffle tickets for the 1960 Falcon Wagon are available from Willy Vinton or Ron Allen. Charlie Jurgens, Willy Vinton, Scott Grundy, Roy Wilbur and others have worked some Saturdays getting the car ready for the raffle. So far the floors have been repaired and painted to get ready for new carpets and mats. A new interior including seat covers and door panels have been ordered.

## **BILL, BILL THE BABBITT MAN**

by Ron Allen

You may have noticed Bill Wright's ad for babbitt work in our newsletter's classified. Last December I had the opportunity to visit Bill at his Sixth Avenue shop to see his equipment and observe how babbitts are made. No, I didn't observe an actual pouring. That should be done with a respirator and other appropriate precautions. Pouring babbitts requires substantial knowledge about bearings and specialized machinery for pouring molds, and boring motor blocks. Bill specializes in Ford Model A and Model T engines. This is the only place in Alaska



Bill Wright takes a break with Ron Stevenson in his shop.



Molds set up for pouring Babbitts



that provides this service, and such services are not very common in other states.



Honing the freshly poured babbitt.



Two completed babbitt jobs



## CLASSIFIED ADS

**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.

**Welding, Repair and Fabrication!** Need it done? I can do it! Tom (Blue) Hinchsliff 479-0478.

**LOST!!!!** On Valentine's Day – One, VERY UGLY Troll Doll, known as the "Traveling Gnome" of the Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club of Fairbanks. REWARD OFFERRED (however modest) FOR

INFORMATION LEADING TO THE EXPOSURE OF THE PARTY THIEVING THE TROLL!

- Rick Larrick



## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

06 Karmen Shoemaker  
 06 Donna Culbertson  
 09 Ron Stevenson  
 10 Gary Nash  
 10 Nancy Hanson  
 10 Luanna Barnett  
 11 Donna Krier  
 11 JoAnn Murphy  
 11 Kevin Yarnell  
 15 Rick Larrick  
 16 Merle Page  
 19 Leslie Yamamoto  
 21 L.D."Corky" Corkran  
 21 Roby McHone  
 28 Loran Benham  
 28 Joyce Chace  
 30 Jan Brabham

### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

14 Charlie & Carrie Jurgens  
 22 Marshall & Kathryn Ninmer

### TOOL DEFINITIONS

Author unknown: (recent email forward provided by Scott Grundy)

These are things you know how to use but never knew they had perfect definitions.

**DRILL PRESS:** A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, splattering it against that freshly stained heirloom piece you were drying.

**WIRE WHEEL:** Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench at the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned guitar calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say..... "Oh ☹️🔪🔪🔪!!!!"

**ELECTRIC HAND DRILL:** Normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age.

**SKILL SAW:** A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

**PLIERS:** Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

**BELT SANDER:** An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touchup jobs into major refinishing projects.

**HACKSAW:** One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija Board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

**WISE-GRIPS:** Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

**WELDING GLOVES:** Heavy duty leather gloves used to prolong the conductor of intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

**OXYACETYLENE TORCH:** Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub you want the race out of.

**WHITWORTH SOCKETS:** Once used for working on older British cars and motorcycles, they are now used mainly for impersonating that 9/16 or socket you've been searching for the last 45 minutes.

**TABLE SAW:** A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity and operator reflexes/dodging capabilities.

**HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK:** Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

**EIGHT-FOOT LONG YELLOW PINE 2X4:** Used for levering an automobile upward off of a trapped hydraulic jack handle.

**TWEEZERS:** A tool for removing all types of wood splinters (see EIGHT-FOOT LONG YELLOW PINE 2X4) and wire wheel debris.

**E-Z OUT BOLT AND STUD EXTRACTOR:** A tool ten times harder than any known drill bit that snaps neatly off in bolt holes thereby ending any possible future use.

**RADIAL ARM SAW:** A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to scare beginners into choosing another line of work.

**TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST:** A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

**CRAFTSMAN 1/2 x 24-INCH SCREWDRIVER:** A very large pry bar that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end opposite the handle.

**AVIATION METAL SNIPS:** See hacksaw.

**TROUBLE LIGHT:** The home mechanic's own tanning booth. Sometimes called a drop light, it is a good source of vitamin D (the sunshine vitamin), which is not otherwise found under cars at night. Health benefits aside, its main purpose is to consume 40-watt light bulbs at about the same rate that 105 mm howitzer shells might be used during, say, the first few hours of the Battle of the Bulge. More often dark than light, its name is somewhat misleading.

**PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER:** Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids and for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads

**STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER:** A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws.

**AIR COMPRESSOR:** A machine that takes energy produced in a coal-burning power plant 200 miles away and transforms it into compressed air that travels by hose to a Chicago Pneumatic impact wrench that grips rusted bolts which were last over tightened 30 years ago by someone at Ford, and instantly rounds off their heads. Also used to quickly snap off lug nuts.

**PRY BAR:** A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

**HOSE CUTTER:** A tool used to make hoses too short.

**HAMMER:** Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.

**MECHANIC'S KNIFE:** Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. NOTE: Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while in use.

## OFFICERS:

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### NEXT MEETINGS

The next general club meeting is Thursday, March 13 at the **Roundup Steakhouse** on South Cushman. Dinner starts at 6:00 PM and the meeting is at 7:00.

The Board Meeting is at 6:30 PM at the **Siam Square** at 59 College across from Sam's Club on Tuesday March 11. Everyone is also welcome to attend Board Meetings.

### 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!*



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