

FAIRBANKS

VERNON L. NASH

ALASKA



Antique Automobile Club of America

## FOUNTAINHEAD ANTIQUE AUTO MUSEUM TAKING SHAPE

by Nancy DeWitt

Okay, disregard what I wrote in last month's newsletter about not calling our collection a museum. We've decided to call ourselves a museum after all. We couldn't find a good synonym for museum in the Thesaurus, and there just isn't a better word out there to describe the facility we're building and the collections we've accumulated. "Fountainhead Antique Automobile Museum" is now our official name, although we won't be offended if you shorten it to the Fountainhead Museum, or simply FAAM.

In addition to putting up all the steel for the building and getting the wall panels ready to install, our most exciting news is that we've hired VLNAAC president Willy Vinton to be



The new Fountainhead Antique Automobile Museum building takes shape



Fountainhead Museum: 1909 International Harvester Highwheeler Model D

our mechanic! We are thrilled to have Willy on board and sure enjoy seeing him zip around the parking lot in the old cars (although we had to tell him the lot was off limits to our Midget racers). If any club member would like to see some of our cars, or if you have ideas or questions regarding the museum, feel free to give Willy a call at 388-8252.

The Fountainhead Collection has now grown to 59 vehicles, plus an antique cutter sleigh, Cleveland motorcycle, radiator collection, Frontenac engine and an extensive assemblage of vintage clothing, photographs and music. Our most recent acquisitions include a 1930 Packard Deluxe 8 Model 745 roadster, 1932 Chrysler Imperial sedan and a 1934 Packard 12 Model 1107 touring. Another truckload of cars arrived in Fairbanks on September 6, delivering our 1909 Hudson Model 20 roadster (a barn find), 1908



Willy Vinton and Fountainhead Development owner Tim Cerney pose with the 1933 Auburn V12 Boat-tail Roadster.

Cadillac Model G touring, 1908 Rambler Model 31 (which sat unused for over 60 years and has only a few thousand miles on it!), 1909 International Harvester Highwheeler and a 1933 Hupmobile 2-door Victoria sedan. Alas, our 1927 Stutz Blackhawk was damaged in transit and had to be shipped back Outside for body work--but not before Willy took it for a test drive... MANY thanks to the club members that helped Willy unload the cars and roll them into the warehouse: Jim Cornell, Mark Cosson, Scott Grundy, Don Oines and Rick Larrick.

While the guys were off-loading these vehicles, Tim Cerny, Derik Price and I were in Michigan and Indiana visiting car museums, private collections and the annual Old Car Festival. Our primary goal was to review flooring materials, lighting, ceiling colors, car arrangements, exhibit materials, and other nuts-and-bolts features of museums. We came away with many great ideas, plus a few warnings about what NOT to do with our facility. It was a valuable trip that included plenty of time to admire a lot of fabulous vehicles (oh, those Duesenbergs!) and



Willy is inspecting a 1935 Offenhauser Midget racer. He hopes to drive it on a dirt track in Fairbanks during a race event (but not in an actual race).

brainstorm ideas for the Fountainhead Museum. Stay tuned for details!

Nancy DeWitt

[projects@fdifairbanks.com](mailto:projects@fdifairbanks.com)

<http://www.fountainheadhotels.com/auto/autocollection.htm>

## DREAMLAND

by Willy Vinton

As of the first of September, I have come out of retirement to accept a position with Fountainhead Development working with their antique car collection. It is a very "difficult" (tongue in cheek) job working with cars that most people can only dream about and bringing them back to functional life. My responsibility is to repair, maintain and exercise the cars, which is a true dream job for me. As an example of the "difficulties" I encounter, today I had to get a 1933 V12 Auburn boat-tail roadster running, drive it to check its operation, and with Rick Larrick's assistance, work on a 1925 Chrysler brake system. To top off an already "rough" day, we had to chase parts in the 1936 Packard. Needless to say, we worked our fingers to the bone, and we didn't even stop for the almost

mandatory mechanic's coffee break! Something must be wrong with that, but we did take a short lunch (had to feed Rick to keep up his strength).

As you can no doubt imagine, working on these cars is an endeavor of love as well as a privilege since some of these cars are makes that most folks have never heard of or seen, let alone having the joy of putting hands on. The collection of cars that Fountainhead has gathered to bring to Fairbanks is world class. In my opinion there may be no finer collection of auto history in the world for this time period. This collection will put Fairbanks on the world map of automobile enthusiasts and will bring them from all corners of the world to view specific cars of interest and to see the complete collection.

The most exciting thing to me is that we, as a club have the opportunity to learn about these cars, to work on them, and to even learn to drive them. If you don't think it will bring joy and a smile to your face, just ask Rick Larrick about driving a 1908 Cadillac or a 1936 V-12 Packard and see if he keeps a straight face as he talks about it.

It is a constant challenge to study and learn these cars and to make sure that they are in running condition so that they can be driven and displayed for the viewing pleasure of locals and tourists alike. As an example, I am working on a 1909 IH high wheeler (wooden wagon wheels) with a 2-cyl air cooled engine with no books to refer to and must figure out how it works, how to safely start it and how to drive it without running over something or someone. The many variations of the different cars and their systems make it fascinating and challenging to examine and repair or adjust as needed. They all seem to need a little TLC, which I am more that happy to provide.

Soooo, if you would like to commiserate with me over my "misfortune" at having to work on these beauties, or would like to get

involved in repairs, service, or just look at the cars we have, you can call me on my cell at 388-8252 to arrange a tour or a work session.

Willy Vinton, President

## **ANNUAL VLNAAC OFFICER ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER**

by Ron Allen

We need volunteer candidates for club officer positions. All officer positions including president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and directors are open. Don Oines indicated he will not run for treasurer. Nancy Allen indicated she will not run for secretary. Willy Vinton indicated he would serve one more year if no one else runs for president. We also need a volunteer nominating committee chair, who is essentially someone who will solicit possible candidates and coordinate ballot preparation and the election process. If no one volunteers to do this, the current board may have to assume that responsibility. Another opening may be the newsletter editor if I happen to assume treasurer duties. Contact Willy or another board member if you are interested in running for an office and helping to keep our wonderful club functioning well.



George and Pat Cromer purchased this 1974 Impala recently in Huntsville, AL and drove it up to Alaska to cruise around Fairbanks in. It is very nice with a little over 17,000 original miles on it. George said it rides very smoothly and still has the original belted tire in the trunk and original paint on the body. Nice find!

## VLNAAC MEMBER GENE YURKOVICH PASSES

Gene Yurkovich passed away in on September 7, 2008. In addition to his many community and personal accomplishments Gene was a VLNAAC charter member from 1974 and has held club office positions including president. Gene is survived by his mother, Molly Yurkovich of Fairbanks; his loving wife, Tena Yurkovich of Fairbanks; his children, son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Carolyn of Fairbanks; daughters, Gina and husband Paul Hufman of Salcha, Susie and husband David Harms of Colorado, Diana and friend Jan Nichols of California; stepdaughter, Tamera and husband Chris Phillips of Indonesia; stepson, Michael and wife Bobbie Jo Lindsey of Arkansas; his grandchildren, Chet and wife Chauntelle Hanns of Colorado, Morgan and Wyatt Yurkovich of Fairbanks and Alex and Sam Lindsey of Arkansas and great-grandchild Cheyenne Hanns of Colorado.

Our condolences to Gene's family. He will be missed by the whole Fairbanks community.

## ALASKA AUTO HISTORY SNAPSHOT

by Nancy DeWitt

This old photo is of a 1908 Model K White Steamer. Apparently it was the third automobile to hit the "streets" of Fairbanks, making its first appearance in December of 1908. It was shipped here by David Laiti and purchased "for the bargain price of \$3,400" by Fred B. Parker, one of Fairbanks' pioneer lumbermen. In the spring of 1909 Parker used the car to start a twice-daily stage

between Fairbanks and Fox. According to a 1955 Golden Days edition of the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, its first run to Fox "took about an hour, but a year later, after the wagon road had been improved, the White made it in about 30 minutes. When the going was tough, the passengers would help push." This car was also the first to travel out the Valdez Trail as far as Birch Lake. "Only a footbridge spanned Piledriver Slough, so with a burst of steam, the White shot across the river, with the water up through the floorboards."

Incredibly, this car still exists and is only one of two Model Ks known to survive. In 1926 it was dumped in the Chena River to serve as rip rap, but thankfully it was salvaged by William Sherwin. Nick Howell of Stockton, California accompanied his father here in the 1960s to purchase the car and the remains of a Model M White Steamer that had been run by the Valdez-Fairbanks Transportation Company. Nick has been putting the Model K through "the longest restoration ever undertaken" but hopefully one day it will hit the streets again and draw as much attention as it did 100 years ago.



1908 Model K White Steamer in Fairbanks

Photo courtesy of Candy Waugaman

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays

|            |         |        |
|------------|---------|--------|
| McPherson  | Don     | 3-Oct  |
| Karpik     | David   | 5-Oct  |
| Markey     | Dennis  | 7-Oct  |
| Borg       | John    | 8-Oct  |
| Herzog     | Martin  | 8-Oct  |
| Casey      | Robbie  | 17-Oct |
| Maxwell    | Kenny   | 18-Oct |
| Farnham    | Garry   | 21-Oct |
| Cameron    | Don     | 31-Oct |
| Hinchsliff | Lori    | 12-Oct |
| Rockney    | Deborah | 19-Oct |
| Baldwin    | Jude    | 21-Oct |
| Gullickson | LaVonne | 21-Oct |

### Anniversaries

|             |                   |        |
|-------------|-------------------|--------|
| Cromer, Jr. | George and Pat    | 1-Oct  |
| Allen       | Ron and Nancy     | 5-Oct  |
| Ronken      | Don and Connie    | 8-Oct  |
| Markey      | Dennis and Rielle | 11-Oct |
| Graham      | David and Laura   | 23-Oct |
| Reed        | Eugene and Terry  | 31-Oct |

## 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.

**Automotive and Diesel Machining:** Serving Fairbanks since 1974. R&S Machine, Ric Smoyer, Proprietor, 515 Noyes Street in Fairbanks. 456-6496

**Very nice 1962 Chev. Impala Two Door Hard Top Sport Coup:** 283 V8, AT, no rust thru, one small dent, beautiful interior & 131,344 total miles. \$ 8,500 OBO. Wouldn't take much to render her a beauty queen once

again. Call Scott Grundy for photos or Mike Cotton at 456-2587 to see the car.

**For the following vehicles** call Erick Byrd after 6:00 PM @ 490-5983:  
'69-'79 Ford trucks - parts  
'66 Cad. Deville sedan - fair cond.  
'67 Ford Fairlane - fair cond., no engine  
'67 Cad. Eldorado - complete but rough  
'64 Morris Austin Minis - one complete & one parts  
'39 Pontiac 4 door Sedan - complete

**For the following vehicles** call Dick Austin in Delta Jct. @ 895-4449  
'48? Ford coupe  
'59 Buick 4 door sedan

**Over 100 vehicles of all types dating from 1939 to the 1970's:** Call Duke Marshall of Iron Age Reclamation in Tok @ 883-5311 (Scott Grundy @ 457-3526 has a partial list)

## MEMBERSHIP DUES INVOICE

Rick Larrick is mailing membership dues invoices this month and is attaching it to this month's newsletter for those members still receiving newsletter hardcopies. Prompt payment is always appreciated.

## OFFICERS:

VLNAAC Website: [oldcarsfairbanks.org](http://oldcarsfairbanks.org)

|                         |                 |  |              |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--|--------------|
| President               | Willy Vinton    | <a href="mailto:wvinton@acsalaska.net">wvinton@acsalaska.net</a>       | 907-456-2261 |
| Vice President          | Bill Wright     | <a href="mailto:tong@mosquitonet.com">tong@mosquitonet.com</a>         | 907-479-8505 |
| Acting Secretary        | Nancy Allen     | <a href="mailto:ronandnancy@gci.net">ronandnancy@gci.net</a>           | 907-488-3965 |
| Treasurer               | Don Oines       | <a href="mailto:doines1@gci.net">doines1@gci.net</a>                   | 907-452-4601 |
| Director                | Gary Nash       |  | 907-456-2103 |
| Director                | Ray Mcleod      | <a href="mailto:rmcleod@gci.net">rmcleod@gci.net</a>                   | 907-456-7877 |
| Director                | Scott Grundy    | <a href="mailto:grundy@mosquitonet.com">grundy@mosquitonet.com</a>     | 907-457-3526 |
| Newsletter              | Ron Allen       | <a href="mailto:ronandnancy@gci.net">ronandnancy@gci.net</a>           | 907-488-3965 |
| Webmaster               | Wilma Vinton    | <a href="mailto:wvinton@acsalaska.net">wvinton@acsalaska.net</a>       | 907-456-2261 |
| Events Coordinator      | Rochelle Larson | <a href="mailto:Rochelle1987@hotmail.com">Rochelle1987@hotmail.com</a> | 907-456-6736 |
| Acting Membership Chair | Rick Larrick    | <a href="mailto:crlarrick@alaska.net">crlarrick@alaska.net</a>         | 907-457-4344 |

### NEXT MEETINGS

The next general club meeting is **Thursday, October 9** at the **Mayflower**. Dinner starts at 6:00 PM and the meeting is at 7:00.

The Board Meeting is at 6:30 PM at the **Food Factory** on **Tuesday October 7**. 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!*

