

FAIRBANKS

Vernon L. Nash

ALASKA



Antique Automobile Club of America



Dementia Tour Members at Miles Canyon Swinging Bridge

ADVENTURE BEFORE DEMENTIA 2009 TOUR

Scott Grundy (a.k.a. Cat Herder II)

By golly we all made the 1500 mile tour de Alaska - Canada! "All" were Ron & Nancy Allen ('36 Chevy), Squeaky & Marion Benham ('60 Thunderbird), Bill & Joyce Chace ('52 Plymouth), Will & Theresa Chase ('63 Chevy panel), Scott & Linda Grundy ('55 Plymouth), Howard & Barb Hansen ('76 VW convertible), Rick & Jill Larrick ('32 Studebaker),

Bub & Rochelle Larson ('66 Ford PU), John McCarthy & Nee Nakprasit ('65 Falcon sedan delivery), and Ed & Laurel McLaughlin ('62 VW).

The first day (June 28) we had to push to make the dinner show in Beaver Creek, YT. I emphasized that we could not wait for stragglers. Bub Larson,



Mike and Donna Stockstill of Whitehorse joined us in the Whitehorse parade. They invited our whole club to their home to see their garage and old car collection. We quickly accepted their offer. We spend considerable time enjoying their old cars and memorabilia decorations in the garage. They even joined us in the Skagway parade a few days later. We thank them for their wonderful hospitality and hope we will get a chance some day to return the favor.

the town's best locksmith, was late as he had to run back home & found he didn't have a key to his house! He & Rochelle quickly caught up with us in N. Pole. The major mishap this day occurred when Jill Larrick attacked Rick with the dry chemical fire extinguisher in their motor home while underway. Jill claims it was an accidental discharge, but I think that's a strange claim for a gal! Our crew was complete when the Hansens met us in Tok where we all had lunch. We made it to Beaver Creek in time for dinner & enjoyed the show, especially when the plane crashed through the roof! The singing was amazing & world class.

The next morning, the Larricks were having electrical problems with their 1973 Dodge Travco motor home. They had experienced some minor but bizarre electrical problems the previous day and fortunately tried to start the engine early before departure and found all systems dead! Rick looked a bit crazed, but had everything diagnosed & operating when I went to check on the happy campers (Allens, Chases, Larricks, & McCarthys). (The



Rick Larrick had an incredible amount of luck, some bad and some good depending on the perspective. In the above photo, the fuel pump on the Larrick's Studebaker gave out in an intersection on a day trip to Dyea, which gave the guys a chance to get some exercise.



Very Rare Upside Down Palm Trees in Atlin,
BC

Hot Springs!

The Canada Day parade was a lot of fun. The weather was super & there were lots of beautiful children who really enjoyed the attention we provided them as we wished them a happy Canada Day & entertained them with strange looking cars and funny sounding horns. Our cars were heavily adorned with Canadian and Alaskan flags. We lined up roughly according to the age of our vehicles. When Barb

Allens & Larricks hauled their vehicles.) Also, John McCarthy had lost a 7/16" nut from his alternator bracket & feared for his radiator. We all searched our supplies to no avail, but John found what he needed at a local shop. Bub had worked feverously prior to the trip installing a big engine & special transmission in his truck. He was not pleased with the engagement of the clutch pedal, so a welder modified it to his satisfaction. Even after all these "issues" (Ron Allen's term), we departed close to our targeted time.

Whitehorse was wonderful! The town, people, food, museums, S.S. Klondike sternwheeler, etc. were terrific. But the best of all (as Squeaky advised as I formulated our plans) was the Frantic Follies

Vaudeville Show! It was by far the best show we experienced on the trip & we saw them all! Will & Theresa Chase even squeezed in a trip to the Takhini

Adventure Before Dementia: All VLNAAC members and their cars just prior to the Whitehorse Dominion Day Parade.



Hansen heard “oldest first” she thought she was going to have to lead the parade! But the Larrick’s beautiful ’32 showcased our vehicles and Bub brought up the rear with our new club banner displayed on his tailgate. The celebration continued at the Rotary Park where we displayed our cars & the locals thanked us profusely for coming. Love those Canadians, eh? The negative of the day was when Theresa mashed her thumb with her truck door- ouch!

The drive to Atlin, BC included stops at the Miles Canyon swinging bridge, beautiful Emerald Lake, Carcross Desert (known as the smallest in the world), downtown Carcross, & other highlights. Atlin is the most beautiful dying town I’ve ever visited. The Lake is the site of the highest point in freshwater in the world (Birch Mountain, elev. 6,755’, on Teresa Island). The next

morning Howard Hansen led us to the northern-most palm trees (spruce trees ”planted” with their roots in the air). Will Chase led us out of town to the Pine Creek Falls; it’s amazing how much water twists through that narrow gorge.

Then off to Skagway, AK via the spectacularly beautiful southern section of the Klondike Highway. Lynn & I departed Carcross early because we had logistics to coordinate for our group in Skagway. Well this was our first drive on this scenic highway so we took several pictures and arrived in Skagway

last! Most of the group took the narrated Streetcar Tour in the reportedly refurbished 1927 B Series Mack buses from Disneyland. It was a little disappointing to learn that the original earlier vintage canvas-topped White buses had been returned to Yellowstone NP about five years ago. Rick & Bill Chace question the validity of the Mack claim as everything other than the Motometer on the hood seemed to be of a relatively new design. Regardless, we all found the fantasy '27's cool too. Our driver and narrator, Courtney Wilson, was delightful and she loved our group. We gave her lots of new material regarding Bobby Sheldon's car-the first to be built in Alaska. A wonderful fireworks display occurred that evening at the waterfront in fabulous weather.

The 4th of July parade in Skagway was lots of fun once we found where we should really line up. We had a Model T touring car from Whitehorse join our group. When the parade coordinator (Buckwheat) heard that we had a total of 11 cars he exclaimed, "Holy S____." Believe there was only one local car & truck in the parade, but we saw several other nifty cars in the community. The crowd loved us. Later as we walked the streets in our new club T-shirts we had many folks commend our group. That afternoon all but the Chaces drove out to Dyea and hiked the Chilkoot Trail (well the first 100' of it).

The following day most of our group boarded the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad for a highly scenic three hour excursion. The McLaughlins & Grundys stayed and toured more of the town. Our highlight was hearing "Buckwheat" recite Robert Service poems; he is fabulous! That evening we attended the Days of 98 Show and Rick was commandeered to the stage by "the girls of the night." He was eventually led upstairs by the girls & reappeared in a colorful striped night shirt and was proclaimed as "skookum with a wonderfully deep voice!" Rick represented manhood & our group superbly! Lots of fun & I took many incriminating photos!



Our ferry from Skagway to Haines



Group photo: On the Chilkoot Trail

July 6 found us all queued up for the ferry to Haines at 5:45 a.m. in continued superb weather. As the "leader" I planned to arrive first, but was last once again. The ferry dock & ramp were poorly designed for a minus tide & Rick had a terrible time loading his 55' rig. Our group cheered us from an upper deck as we drove our car "Edith" onto the ferry. We had a beautiful "sail" and a terrific breakfast en route to Haines. Once in Haines, the group scattered. Lynn & I toured the Chilkat State Park with the Hansens, the community and its museums. The Hammer Museum is really unique & very interesting.

The drive to Haines Junction was very beautiful. We stopped for several photos, pushed Edith hard to catch the group (but never did) and bucked a very stiff headwind all the way to the Junction. Well, this combination & all our exploration in Haines caused us to run out of fuel! Fortunately we were on a downhill run into Haines Junction & Edith coasted to within ¼ mile of our Inn & gasoline. As I walked toward assistance I saw the bright yellow McBug cross the highway. I waived frantically & to my relief the McLaughlins stopped, but then proceeded on! As I walked to the Inn the group greeted me incredulously & Squeaky leapt to my rescue. Well, as his FORD was towing me to the gas station I pleaded with all I encountered to not to tell Willy. Of course, Willy later greeted me with, "I heard a FORD came to your rescue!"



major injuries. Joyce called 911.

Some nicknames awarded during the trip:

Issues- Ron Allen (Vehicles had "issues" not problems.)

Accolade- Nancy Allen was always positive & supportive.

Dolly- Marion Benham is as sweet & as cute as Ms. Parton herself.

Sweep - Loren Benham drove last in line to assist those in need - a real good guy.

Spoons - Bill Chace played spoons in wonderful harmony with the pickers in Skagway.

Nurse - Theresa Chase kept me well supplied with the proper cold medications.

Thunder Pipes - Will Chase quivered with excitement listening to high decibel exhausts!

Helpful Howard (Hansen) - Always there to assist with mechanical or other problems.



The White Pass Railroad trip from Skagway was a memorable experience. This photo shows the engines of our train going over a wooden trestle into a tunnel.

“short” walk through the bug infested forest from the Chilkoot trailhead to the Slide Cemetery. He later explained that he recalled it as short trek. Well, it was compared to their hike of the entire Chilkoot Trail in 1977!

Wimbledon-Nee Nakprasit exemplified great form as she swung her electrified bug zapper racket!

I really enjoyed planning & assembling this tour. Also, many thanks to my bride who essentially orchestrated the trip for me as I fought a nasty cold. We gained experience that will hopefully improve a tour that I'd like to see the Club do next summer if you allow me. I'm thinking of a tour via Cordova & Whittier. I don't want to hog all the “joy,” so I encourage you to form your own trip; they needn't be long nor involve lots of vehicles. But they're sure lots of fun & build camaraderie. In fact, I think these trips are the most enjoyable thing our club does. So start working on your rig now to assure you cruiser is roadworthy & join the fun!



Edith (55 Plymouth) ran out of gas near Haynes Junction. Scott (arms waving in the background) is frantically attempting to hitch a ride to a gas station.

Sweet Barb (Hansen) It just fits!

Dirty Rick (Larrick) Was first to crawl beneath his car & soil his new club T-shirt.

Skookum- Rick Larrick renamed by the ladies of the night after his superb performance!

Mr. Generosity- Bub Larson who purchased railroad pins for the entire group.

Miss Congeniality-Rochelle Larson who always smiled and offered her assistance.

Leadfoot- Laurel McLaughlin transformed McBug into a yellow streak when she drove.

Scout- Ed McLaughlin led us on a

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

August Birthdays

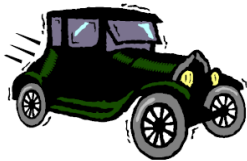
Long	Daniel	August 1
Camerata	Sherry	August 3
Hansen	Gene	August 4
Hinchsliff	Tom	August 4
Ninmer	Marshall	August 10
Monsma	Alan	August 12
Holt	Rob	August 17
Fuller	Joe	August 18
Grundy	Scott	August 25
Culbertson	Scott	August 26
Yamamoto	Stuart	August 26
Chace	Bill	August 31

Reed	Terry	August 4
Oslund	Lois	August 6
Uzzell	Wndy	August 20
Carpenter	Stella	August 22
Hume	Jeanne	August 22

August Anniversaries

Hansen	Gene and Mebble	August 5
Chase	Will and Teresa	August 9
Monsma	Alan and Beccy	August 9
Yamamoto	Stuart and Leslie	August 11
Shoemaker	Greg and Karmen	August 14
Larrick	Rick and Jill	August 15
Hansen	Howard and Barbara	August 20
Bennett	Larry and Margaret	August 25
Hume	Hal and Jeanne	August 25

Schedule of Events
by Rochelle Larson



VLNAAC Sponsored Event
Other Events not sponsored by VLNAAC



June 3 to August 26	X	Wednesday Night Runarounds
August 2	X	30th annual car show Anchorage park strip -- Valley
August 8	X	Hot Summer Nights Palmer-- Valley Cruisers Anchorage
September 5 or 12	X	Poker Run to Chatanika Lodge



Rick "Skookum" Larrick impresses the "ladies of the night" in Skagway's Trail of 98 Show.



Lynn Grundy taunts a giant squirrel.

OFFICERS:

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NEXT MEETINGS

The general membership meeting is **Thursday August 13 at the Alaska Salmon Bake**. Dinner is at 6:00 PM and the meeting starts at 7:00 PM. Cost is \$20 per person.

The Board Meeting is at 6:30 PM at the **Food Factory** on **Tuesday August 11**. 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!

