



December, 2012
Volume 41, Issue 12

Veteran's Day Parade Opens New Bridge

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Photo by Nancy DeWitt

Willy Vinton, with a carload of very special guests, drives the 1916 Dodge on it's first outing since it was reunited with its rebuilt engine. The Dodge was one of the cars that made the Valdez Trail run in regular service for Tom Gibson in the early days of Fairbanks.



Photo by Nancy DeWitt

The Chalmers leads the parade, as it has for the last three bridge openings in Fairbanks!

BRIDGE OPENING—The 1910 Chalmers-Detroit, that has been in the Creamer family for so many years, led the parade across the new Veterans Memorial Bridge on November 12th. The Creamer's Chalmers-Detroit was also the first to cross the new Cushman and Wendell Street bridges when they

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This newsletter is a publication of the Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club of Fairbanks, which is the farthest north region of the Antique Automobile Club of America.



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If you have material you would like to contribute, please contact our editor, Rick Larrick, at the club email: vlnaac@gmail.com

The only fool bigger than the person who knows it all is the person who argues with him.

Honoring our Veterans in a Special Way

(Continued from page 1)

opened in 1953 and 1960, It looks like Jeff is proud to be continuing the tradition!

Temperatures were hovering around zero as the opening parade started across the bridge. The Chalmers-Detroit led, followed by the recently refurbished 1916 Dodge, owned by Don Cameron, Ray Cameron and David Stone. Third in line was the Gibson Model T, restored by Bill and Joyce Chace. It was followed by Rod Benson, driving the Fountainhead Museum's 1932 Cadillac V16, with a carload of warm and happy Veterans.

The parade led to the Morris Thompson Center where various speeches were made commemo-



Photo by Jim DeWitt

Jeff Creamer drives the family Chalmers—Detroit to break the ribbon on the new Veteran's Memorial Bridge. His daughter, Anna, is in the back. Riding shotgun is Benno Cleveland, A Vietnam Vet and president of the local Native Veterans chapter.

but the '32 Caddy was driven over from Fountainhead.

An effort had been launched to name the bridge after transportation pioneer, first Alaskan car builder, and honorary car club member Bobby Sheldon, but it was found that the bridge had been named early in its planning to be an honor to Veter-

rating the \$23.6 Million bridge.

Everyone got into the act, even the Fish and Wildlife Service, who awarded community leaders and the contractor with a certificate honoring their protection of the Chena River salmon run.

The older cars were trailered to and from the parade (icy streets are a bit much for two wheel mechanical brakes)

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Photo by Nancy DeWitt

Rod Benson drives the Museum's 1932 Cadillac V16 in the parade.



Photo by Nancy DeWitt

Bill Chace drives his Gibson Auto Line's Model T in the Parade

Overhead shop talk: I couldn't repair the brakes, so I made the horn louder.

ELECTION RESULTS!

President: **Scott Culbertson**
Vice-President: **John McCarthy**
Secretary: **Nancy Peterson**
Treasurer: **Ron Allen**
Director: **Rick Larrick**
Director: **Willy Vinton**
Director: **Bret Helms**

BORED NOTES FROM BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN OCTOBER

- Minutes and Financial Reports were read and approved.
- The Board is still looking for a Raffle Car Chair. The car is now in heated storage. Raffle Tickets are printed and the kick-off for the sale will be at our Annual Meeting / Christmas Party.
- Christmas Party arrangements were discussed (see article and form sent with this newsletter)
- Rochelle Larson will be our Program and Events Chair again for next year. The kick-off Program



1965 Ford Mustang Raffle Car

Planning Meeting will be January 23rd at the Fountainhead Museum (with Pizza). All are invited.

- The annual club charity donation will be made to the organization, "Love in the Name of Christ" which is a support clearinghouse for local church support to the needy. An article will follow in a future newsletter.



Georg Clayton, Bill Chace and David Stone with Don & Ray Cameron in 2006, and Ray & David with the 1916 Dodge at Monroe High School just before the Veterans Parade on Nov 19, 2012.



Photo by Bill and Joyce Chace



Photo by Bill and Joyce Chace

Bill Chace in his 100 year old vintage

(Continued from page 2)

ans of our Armed Services. I guess someday a Creamer will have to inaugurate another bridge with the Chalmers—Detroit!

The 1916 Dodge, owned by Don & Ray Cameron and David Stone, was purchased from George Clayton who got it directly from Tom Gibson in 1957. According to the Fountainhead's blog, the car was probably parked in Gibson's Garage about 1926 when the car's engine gave up. Gib-



Photo by Willy Vinton

son apparently used it as a parts car to keep the rest of the fleet going. When the car came to the museum on loan, it was minus its engine and transmission and was pretty well stripped down. Steve Cary and the group of volunteers who work in the shop at the Museum each Tuesday spent several months collecting proper parts, rebuilding an engine and transmission, and refitting the car so that it could be driven. It made its first run since 1926 on November 7th, in below zero temperatures.

Work on the 1916 Dodge in the Fountainhead Museum Shop was done by Steve Cary and volunteers (many of whom are club members) who contribute time each Tuesday.



December, 2012

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 <i>BOARD Meeting</i>	12	13	14	15
<i>16 Annual Meeting— Christmas Party</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR ANNUAL PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING WITH ROCHELLE ON JANUARY 23RD				

- Tuesday, Dec. 11th—
BOARD MEETING:
Meeting at 6:30pm at Sam's Sourdough, with dinner before.
- Sunday, Dec. 16th—
ANNUAL MEETING,
aka **THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!** - at the Westmark **GOLD ROOM**
4:30 pm

President's Headlights - Scott Culbertson

Hello Everyone. Here we are already in December. If winter continues moving this fast we will all be back on the road in our old cars before we have time to get our projects done. Speaking of projects I am still looking for that special someone to lead our raffle car for 2013. We will be distributing raffle tickets at our December meeting at the West Mark Gold Room.

Now that elections are done, I would like to take a moment and thank all those that put their names in the hat. It is important that we all share in the driving. It is also great to have new leadership, allowing new ideas to come forward. Special thank to Bret Helms and Blue Hinchsliff for their willingness to take on a leadership role. A truly

big thank you to Terry Whitledge for his time as a director and the hours he has put in. Terry has given of his time and talents to lead our 2012 raffle car work details and leading multiple slow car tours and events around Fairbanks. Terry can always be counted on and I hope that he will continue to lead our club in special events.

I would like to let everyone know that Scott & Lynn Grundy are going to chair our 2013 joint meet with Anchorage. Scott will be pre-

senting his ideas to the board in December. If all is ready to go by the December membership meeting, perhaps we can take a vote and allow Scott & Lynn to get started as soon as possible.

See Ya at the meeting.



Birthdays



- 1- Howard Hansen
- 3- Debbie Palmer
- 5- Ron Dane
 - Glen Shaw
- 6- John McDonald
 - Ralph Moore
- 9- Brenda Wilbur
- 12- Tony Miller
- 13- Paula Beal
- 20- Colleen Kimzey
- 30- Cindy Helms
 - Laurel McLaughlin
 - Robert Holmes

Anniversaries



- 15- Wilma & Willy Vinton
- 17- Susan & Jeffrey Cook
- 19- Sharon & Terry Whitledge
- 22- Angie & Don Oines
- 23- Lapita & Tony Miller
- 26- Wendy & Ken Uzzell

Sunshine Club



Tracy reports: -

- on 11/12 a get-well card was sent to Erin Kelahan in care of Ron and Karine Dane (most of you probably saw the article in the paper about her accident in Phoenix).
- On 11/12 a sympathy card was sent to Rochelle and Bub Larson for the loss of their pet dog in a hit and run.
- On 11/14 a sympathy card was sent to the family of Ben Anderson (see article)
- On 11/14 a get-well card was sent to Ed McLaughlin recovering from knee surgery
- On 11/14 a sympathy card was sent to Roby McHone on the death of his son.

Tracy McLeod is the Sunshine Contact. Please give her a call or send her an e-mail if you know of a club member who could use a little "sunshine". She says she is in the process of creating more cards to send out on behalf of the club. Tracy can be reached at home: 456-7877 or by e-mail: mcleod@gci.net

Member Advertisements



FOR SALE: 1977 Jeep J-10 Golden Eagle pickup. 401 cid V8, automatic

transmission w/ Quadratrac; engine has 90,000-plus mi., but runs good; features include original gold mag rims, decals, roll bar, push bar; interior and exterior all original and in good shape. Well-preserved vintage truck for collectors. \$4,500. Call Nancy at 907-590-9010

WANTED 1961-66 Ford "Y" block 3-speed Overdrive Transmission Contact Ross 451-8749/email : rossbeal@gci.net

**DUES
\$ ARE \$
DUE!**

Rochelle has mailed out invoices, and membership dues are now payable for 2013. Remember that payment is due by the Christmas Party for the following year, and help Rochelle out by paying promptly.

Dues are \$50 for a single membership and are \$65 with a spouse (or associate). Of these dues, \$35 pays for the AACA Magazine, Antique Automobile and your AACA dues.

Those who have joined since June of 2012 may have a credit toward next years dues, so you should call Rochelle for the correct amount.

FOR SALE; 1 very small tear drop trailer, good to tow behind a small car or an OLD car. I have towed it over 8K miles and it tows great; \$1500.00, If your into something bigger, a 1970 F600 with hoist, V8 5spd with 2sp axle. 27K original miles and runs great, lets talk on this one.

Willy 388-8252

ANNUAL MEETING / HOLIDAY PARTY



The Vernon L. Nash Automobile Club of Fairbanks Annual Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, November 16th at the Westmark Hotel downtown. We have a brief amount of business which is why it is the "annual meeting" - things like induction of officers, formal review of our raffle fund income and expenses, announcement of our annual charity donation, kick-off of our raffle ticket sales for the 2013 raffle car, and the coveted "most improved award". But the main order of business is always FUN.

As in the past several years, the club has grown big enough and with the number of meals having to be guaranteed to the hotel, YOU MUST MAKE A RESERVATION, and that reservation must be accompanied by a \$10 fee per person. That \$10 holds your place, but it really gets split in half with the first half going to door prize cash and the second going to our selected charity. The reservation form is with this newsletter as a separate attachment (or if you get the newsletter through the Post Office, as a separate page inserted). The FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH PAYMENT—it can be mailed to the club post office box (should be postmarked by December 4th), or it can be hand delivered to Rochelle at Larson's Locksmith by the 4th, or (if you are really a procrastinator) just get it to Laurel McLaughlin before the 10th when she has to make the hotel meal guarantee!).

Meal is a sit down served affair with meal choices being Chicken Cordon Bleu, Prime Rib, Halibut Olympia, or Veggie. If you are a member, price is free. If your membership is "joint", then your spouse gets a free meal too. If you want to bring someone not on our membership roles, then the guest price is \$30 / or \$10 if the guest is under age 13. The club picks up the tip for everyone.

Don't forget your exchange gift for the "Chinese Gift Exchange" - gifts should be in the neighborhood of \$20 value each, and should be marked "girl" or "boy". The gift exchange is after dinner and always a bit of jolly good fun!

You can have anything in life you want if you help enough other people get what they want.



Ben Anderson

(1931-2012)



Left: Ben Anderson; Above: Ben Anderson in his '49 Buick waiting for the parade to start; Below: Ben Anderson proudly displays his Ford Pickup

Ben Anderson passed away November 2nd. Ben and his wife Ardith were very active members of the club from the time they moved to Fairbanks in 1971 until Ben retired. They left to RV travel the country in 1996 and eventually settle in Arizona. After Ardith died in 2007, Ben returned to

Fairbanks in 2008 to live in a cabin that his son Craig had built for him.

Ben was a very active member, serving on the Board for a number of years. He and Ardith attended most club events. Ben was a Cat mechanic for NC Company, and used his expertise to help other club members with their repairs and restorations. In the top left picture, he is working on the engine for Bill & Joyce's Plymouth.

eral folks have remembered is Ben being pulled over by a State Trooper in the late 80's on the return run up the Parks Hwy after a Joint Meet near the Park with the Anchorage Club. Ben was doing at least 80 in his '49 Buick. Bill Chace relates the story that the Trooper asked Ben "Do you like to abuse this fine car?" Ben replied meekly, "Was I speeding? - the speedometer doesn't work." After a very long pause, Ben asked "Are you going to give me a ticket? The Trooper replied, "No, I'm not going to give you a ticket—you'll just take it (the ticket) to the next club meeting and brag about how fast your old car will go, and I will be the laughing stock at the station because no one will believe me!"

One story that sev-

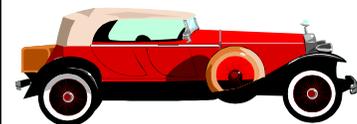
Many thanks to Bill and Joyce Chace for the pictures of Ben.



2013 Adventure Before Dementia Tour Dates

Where: To Dawson City for their Canada Day celebration & Eagle for our Independence Day celebration.

When: Sat. through Sat. bracketing the Fourth of July week as follows:



E-mail grundy@mosquitonet.com for info

- Sat., June 29 p.m.: FBX - Tok
- Sun., June 30: Tok to Dawson City
- Mon. & Tue., July 1 & 2: Dawson City
- Wed., July 3: Dawson City to Eagle
- Thurs. (Holiday), July 4: Eagle
- Fri., July 5 pm: Eagle to Tok
- Sat., July 6: Tok to FBX

Mark your calendar now and contact Scott Grundy for details regarding this fun and leisurely tour of two very historic communities! Scott recommends you secure housing in Eagle NOW as such is currently limited. However, there is plenty of room for those who wish to camp. Call Scott Grundy at 457-3526 or email for info.

MANY THANKS

go to Bill and Joyce Chace and to Nancy and Jim Dewitt for contributions to this month's newsletter. Bill and Nancy are a wealth of historical information on the Gibson Line and early Fairbanks motoring history. Joyce and Jim helped with photographs, and Bill and Joyce are a wealth of information on the Club from Bill's years as President and their work as club historians over many years.



I still need articles for the newsletter for January through April—please email or call to talk about what you can contribute!

- The Editor

How do they know each snowflake is different, not just reincarnated each winter?

Early Dodges in Fairbanks



Colin MacDonald stands with his Dodge sometime in 1970

Dodge history records that Horace and John Dodge were major suppliers of drive trains to Henry Ford. They made such a high quality product that when they went on their own and incorporated in 1914 as the Dodge Brothers Motor Company, over 13,000 dealers signed up with them before even a single vehicle was manufactured.

The new vehicles quickly proved so reliable that the US Army used them in the 1916 Mexican Border War against Pancho Villa. For many years, Dodge also maintained a great market share in taxi cabs and livery vehicles. Fountainhead Museum histo-

rian Nancy Dewitt's research finds that one of those early dealers was NC Company and that they advertised in 1915 that they were bringing six roadsters and touring cars up to Fairbanks via Whitehorse. One was purchased in Dawson, and one went to Chitina for James Rockefeller. The others were purchased by Hosea Ross,

James Samuelson, Bert Stevens, and J.H. Groves. Samuelson started service with his on the Valdez Trail in August of 1915. By April, 1916, W.A. Coghill owned a Dodge, perhaps purchased from Stevens or Groves.

In May 1916, the NC Company brought in five more Dodges and another five in September. In September, 1916, Tom Gibson announced that he was starting his own stage business to the coast, using a Dodge and a Model T Ford. By September, 1916, Samuelson, Scotty Lyons, the Frame Brothers, and Gibson were all running Dodges over the Valdez Trail from Fairbanks.

One of those Dodges is seen in many club photos during the 1970s and 80's. It belonged to Colin MacDonald (1922-1997) who was an active car club member and very active in the community as a collector of all things old and wonderful. He purchased his Dodge from Hal Hendrickson of Anchorage, who had bought it from Tom Gibson some years earlier. The car was reported as a veteran on the Gibson Auto Lines Fairbanks to Valdez run, and bore a few scars from some of those trips with the frame having riveted patch plates in several places. When MacDonald passed away in 1997, the car was sold at auction, and probably went out of state. Carcasses of other early Dodges can be found at Chena Hot Springs and on the path behind the Fountainhead Museum.

Bill Chace reports that when the bridge at Nenana connected the railroad to Fairbanks in 1923, automobile stage service to Valdez and to Chitna (for the CRNW railroad connection) ceased. Tom Gibson continued in business by converting the last of his fleet (the two cars in the parade—one Dodge and one Model T Ford) into rental cars, and it was then that "Gibson Auto. Line" was stenciled on the lower windshield of those cars.

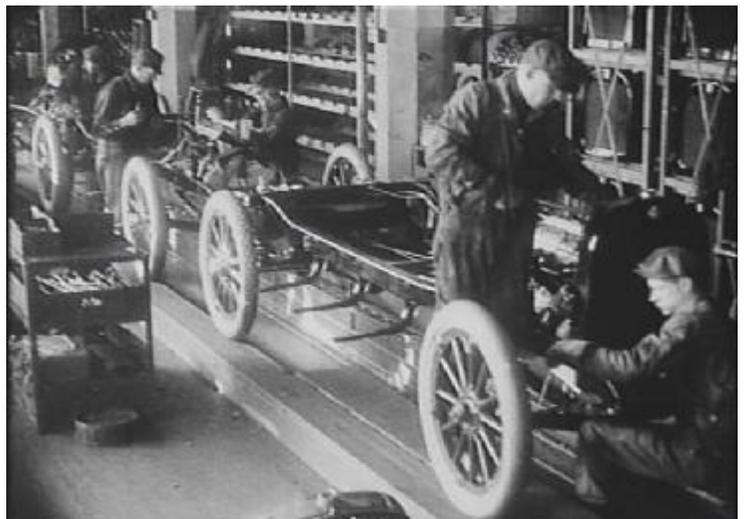
The popularity of these early Dodges for stage service to the Interior of Alaska is certainly a tribute to their reliability!

DODGE MANUFACTURING FILM

DISTRIBUTED FOR DEALERS

IN 1917

In 1916, the Dodge Brothers Motor Company created a film department. A film on the manufacture of 1916 Dodges was one of the first productions. The film was restored by the National Film Preservation Foundation, and for those of you who receive this newsletter electronically, it can be seen by clicking on the address below. Everyone can reach it by typing it in on your computer browser:



<http://www.filmpreservation.org/preserved-films/screening-room/dodge-motor-cars-ca-1917>

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VLNAAC Website: <http://local.aaca.org/fairbanks/>

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NEXT MEETINGS

This month the membership meeting is our Annual Meeting / Christmas Party at the Westmark at 4:30 pm on Sunday, December 16th. Your reservation form came with this newsletter and must be returned by December 4th, if mailed.

The Board Meeting is at 6:30 PM at Sam's Sourdough café on Tuesday December 11th / Dinner is B4. Everyone is also welcome to attend.

Chalmers—Detroit Leads the Parade Nov 12, 2012



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