



Tinkering Times



On The Cover of 'The Tinkerin' Times'



AAMA's officers and honorees pose with their birdhouses: (1 to r) Robbie Robinson, Howard Hansen, President, Mike Wiedmer; Vice President, Brian Anderson; Treasurer, Donn Reese and Secretary, Pam Tanora.

*We're old car drivers
We've got greasy fingers
And we're loved everywhere we go
We talk about clutches
We polish our fenders
And we wait for the Rony Show.*

*We take all kinds of pills
To cure our old-age ills
But the pill we never will find
Is the pill that'll getcha
That'll get your picture
On the cover of the "Tinkerin' Times."*

*(Tinkerin' Times. . .)
Gonna get my picture on the cover
(Tinkerin' Times. . .)
Gonna buy five copies for my mother
(Tinkerin' Times. . .)
Wanna see my smilin' face
On the cover of the Tinkerin' Times
On the cover of the Tinkerin' Times!*

The date was January 9, the place was Robinsons' clubhouse and the occasion was the 2013 Installation of Officers for the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska. The song, which may become the anthem of the AAMA (who knows?) is a parody of the 1973 song,

"On the cover of the Rolling Stone," written by Shel Silverstein and performed by Dr. Hook and the Medicine Show. Remember that one?

Honored inductees, who took their positions with perceptible verve and excitement (some for a repeat performance) were: President, Mike Wiedmer; Vice President, Brian Anderson; Secretary, Pam Tanora and Treasurer, Donn Reese. The induction also was to include Sara Stoops, who is serving her second term in the unofficial (but nonetheless important) position of Sergeant-At-Arms. Sara had important business in Mexico and was unable to attend. We'll get her later!

While Brian and Pam are "new blood," Mike previously served as president in 1996, and Donn served as president from Mid-2008 through 2011 and as treasurer after that.

As a sequel to the induction, club members also honored Immediate Past President, Howard Hansen and inveterate Toastmaster, Robbie Robinson, for their repeated leadership throughout the years.

All inductees and honorees re-

ceived custom, hand-made, souvenir birdhouses reminiscent of their particular role in the club.

We closed the induction with our second club anthem:

*On the road again,
Just can't wait to get on the road again,
Life I love is drivin' old cars with my friends
I just can't wait to get on the road again.*

*On the road again,
Goin' places that I've never been,
Seen' things that I may never see again,
I just can't wait to get on the road again.*

*On the road again,
Like a band of gypsies we go down the highway
We're the best of friends,
Insisting that the world keep turning our way, and our way is on the. . .*

February Meeting

Our regular business meeting for February will begin at 7:30 p.m. February 13 at Robbie and Marianne Robinson's clubhouse.

Refreshments: Many thanks to the Allen's and the Ishams for the excellent repast at the January meeting.

February goodies will be supplied by the Hansens and Wiedmers.

Running Board Reflections



AAMA's 2013 president, Mike Wiedmer, takes control of the meeting after his installation the evening of January 9.

For the past three weeks I've been visiting my mother who retired to a remote corner of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. My mom keeps two bird feeders going full time, and even at 20° F she is entertained by a steady day-time stream of chickadees, redpolls, nuthatches, jays, tree sparrows, and red squirrels; and at night a lone flying squirrel sets up camp. Her summer chipmunks, however, hunker down all winter, staying in their burrows—watching TV, eating Cheetos, and generally lying low. They reliably stay below ground from November through March, except for last January 30, when a quick-moving front raised temperatures to +45° F and inspired one bold chipmunk to emerge into the light for a few hours to sample my

Be sure to check information about Fur Rendezvous parade and show—page 5

mom's fresh sunflower seeds.

That chipmunk reminded me of our club's winter automotive activities. From mid-October through mid-April we stay comfortably indoors, eating whenever the opportunity arises, while our vehicles stay carefully cocooned—except for a brief window during the second half of February, when cabin fever reaches its peak and we join our community in celebration of the annual Fur Rendezvous. For one wonderful weekend, we excavate our garages and sheds, pull off dust covers, top off batteries, and bring our vintage vehicles out into the light, before they return for another two-month nap.

I hope you will join me this year at our Fur Rondy events. Kurt Rein is leading our Parade entries. In addition to our club's place in the parade, we've been asked to provide several vehicles for various VIPs. Let Kurt know if you can participate in either of these roles. Donn Reese is organizing the car show, which will be held like last year at Bob's Services. Please join me in thanking Donn for his efforts, and particularly the Brown family for going far out of their way in hosting our show.

You should remember that this is your club, and I am very interested in your ideas on what your club should do, or not do, to make it the best club it can be. Call, email, or grab me at a meeting to share any recommendations you have.

Members of our club are our extended family, and each of us could use a lending hand or a good word from time to time. This month I encourage you to extend special good wishes to Robbie Robinson, Colleen Kimzey, Ken Stout, and Margaret Heaven.

Until next time, I wish you all the best.
—Mike



www.antiqueautomusersak.org

2013 Officers

President: Mike Wiedmer 243-7005

Vice President: Brian Anderson 345-9244

Secretary: Pam Tanora 868-1575

Treasurer: Donn Reese 245-7203

Sergeant at Arms: Sara Stoops

Members at Large

Ken Stout 337-7047

Tom Cresap 694-7510

Tam Isham 688-3671

Past Presidents (10 years)

Howard Hansen (2012)

Donn Reese (2009–2011)

Jeff Hassler/Donn Reese (2008)

Jim Fredenhagen (2006–2007)

Fred Schurman (2005)

Diane Allen (2004)

Fred Schurman (2001–2003)

Tinkering Times Staff

Editor: Tom Cresap

Proofing, scheduling and keeping the old man in line: Marcy Cresap

Send correspondence to:

Tinkering Times

Tom Cresap, Editor

P.O. Box 770703

Eagle River AK 99577

or e-mail:

tmcresap@mtaonline.net

The Tinkering Times is published monthly by Alaska's premier classic and antique automobile club, Antique Auto Musers of Alaska, P.O. Box 232086, Anchorage AK 99523-2086.

Opinions expressed by authors who contribute to Tinkering Times are their own and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska.

One Man's Treasures

Our ads are intended for members and others who wish to sell cars and related items. There is no charge, and the ad will run for three consecutive issues before being removed. To pull an ad, extend it or to place a new ad, contact Tom, 694-7510.

Wanted: Parts needed for 1948 F-2 truck: front bumper; 16" x 6" 8-lug rim, hubcaps. Contact Dennis Allen 345-6355 or allendd@alaska.net (5)

Bring at least one car to the Ronly Show.

Call Donn (748-0036) or Kurt Rein (344-5554)

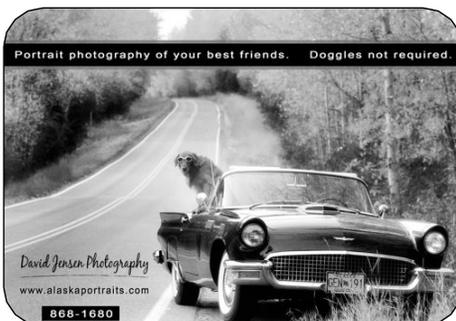
Secured Enclosed Storage

West Downtown Anchorage location

9'x18'x7-1/2' high space
\$125/month

2 or more spaces—\$100 each
Hurry!

Dave Syren, 274-9046 or 440-2982



Schedule of Events

- February 13—7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting (Refreshments: Hansens and Wiedmers)
- February 23, 24—**Fur Rendezvous** (Kurt Rein, 344-5554 and Donn Reese, 748-0036)
- March 13—Regular Meeting (Refreshments: Donn Reese and Pam and Milt Tanora)
- April 10—Regular Meeting (Refreshments: Mark Graber and ?)
- May 8—Rolling Meeting (Brian Anderson)
- May—Adopt-A-Road (Gwyn Wiedmer)
- May 12—**Mother's Day Run** (leader needed)
- June 12—Rolling Meeting (Leader needed)
- May 18-21—**Shake Down Cruise to Homer** (Fredenhagen, 243-5214)
- June 14, 15, 16—**Joint Meet with VLNAAC** (Scott and Linda Grundy, 1-907-457-3526)
- June—Daybreak
- June—Serendipity
- June 28-July 7—**Long Distance to Atlin, Skagway, Haines** (Tamea Isham, 688-3671)
- July 4—Anchorage Parade
- July 4—Chugiak Parade
- July 4—Wasilla Parade
- July—Adopt-A-Road (Host needed)
- July 10—Regular Meeting (rolling)
- July 18-21—**Hope weekend; Thursday through Sunday** (Dennis and Diane Allen, 345-6355)
- August 5—**Jay Ofsthun Car Show**

Positive Thoughts, Cards and Prayers Needed

At least three of our members have visited the hospital recently. Cards, well-wishes and prayers would be appropriate.

Robbie Robinson had a hip replacement on Tuesday, January 22. He is doing well and is home recovering and planning his next project. (3318 Jerde Circle, Anchorage AK, 99504)

Colleen Kimzey had her knee replaced Tuesday, January 29th and is home recovering. (7051 Hyatt Dr., Anchorage AK, 99507-2403)

Although not in the hospital, Ken Stout has been diagnosed with termi-

nal cancer. Say a prayer.

Margaret Heaven has been in the Mat-Su Regional Hospital since December 31. She has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. She remains positive and realistic about her condition. In a recent email, she said, "We are now actively searching for a full-time, live-in care giver for me when I get home. Start ASAP. 907-631-9719 or 907-376-5679."

Send a card to Margaret at 2341 S. Davis Road, Wasilla, AK 99654.

For Heaven's Sake . . .

What Does The Weather Have To Do With Anything?

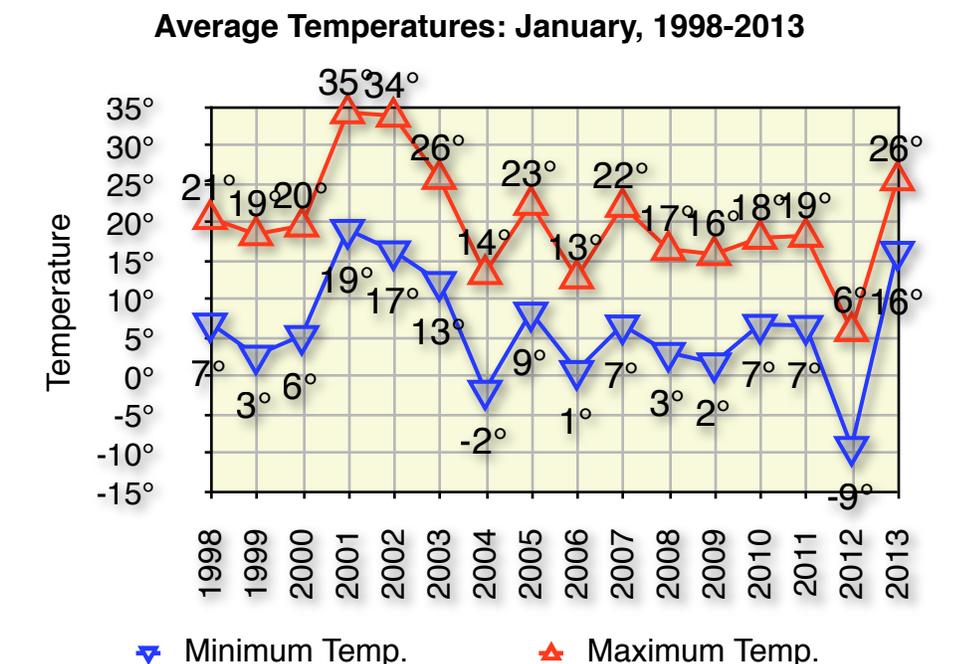
The New Year, 2013, is off to a rousing start. We have a new bunch of officers, and the Fur Rendezvous parade and show are just around the corner.

In this issue of the Tinkering Times, we are, again, venturing into a world that admittedly does not always toe the line of pure automobilia. We doggedly continue to shun the passive voice and try not to regurgitate internet jokes. Surely, this is not winning stuff in the world of car club newsletters, but we do so unapologetically. Don't get me wrong. Those things may be fine for other folks—just not on these pages. Your editor believes that we must indulge in self-preservation: “cabin fever shall not prevail.”

For the third month running, we included a chart of temperatures for the current month for the past 15 years. We do this knowing that it takes up space that might otherwise be devoted to less-meaningful fill, such as a cute cartoon or joke seen in another publication. The latter, of course, not only would set us up for charges of plagiarism, but would also be somewhat foolish, since the material could be experienced elsewhere.

We live in Alaska, and much of our lore has to do with how cold it gets and how warm it doesn't get. Over my almost 48 years here, I have heard many tales—and I often wondered about their veracity. So, as soon as they were available, I purchased a thermometer with a memory (low and high for the day) and began recording what it caught. This was in 1997. I made it a morning ritual, and before I knew it, 15 years had elapsed.

Just the other day I picked up the *Anchorage Daily News* and, lo and behold, there were several items about climate change. We are all familiar with the scientific data showing sig-



These are average temperatures for Januaries of the past 15 years in Eagle River, Alaska. The records are unscientific, but as accurate as I could make them. They do not reflect the extremes. The January extreme temperatures were -24.9 on the 31st in 1999 and +52.5 on the 16th in 2009. The general trend is one of cooling. In 2012, our year of record snowfall (over 13 feet) the temperatures didn't spike so low, but they stayed below 0° for a greater part of the month. —Tom

nificant warming and the subsequent crazy weather spawned around the world.

So far, my charts demonstrate—even with all the high and low spikes—a slight downward trend. You must realize, this is just one little corner of the world, in one little part of south central Alaska: Eagle River.

Then I came across an article by Mike Dunham in the *Daily News*. Mike wrote about real, bona fide researchers with the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. These folks collected temperatures recorded at (get this) 20 “first-order stations” in Alaska from 2000 to 2010. Every one except Barrow showed a significant cooling trend: an average of -2.4° for all 20 stations, and -4.42° for King Salmon.

You can bet that I felt that my little unimpressive and unscientific recordings took on a little more status!

Wow!

The difference between local yokel and scientists came in theories about the *cause* of the phenomenon. I blamed the lack of Aurora (sunspots, leading to changed jet streams) but I have to bow to the scientists, who say the cause is something called the “Pacific Decadal Oscillation” (PDO) a shift in ocean temperatures similar to El Niño.

What does this have to do with cars? Well, let's see, it may mean that the little treasures will have to remain entombed a bit longer. Or not, judging from our current weather trend. So far this year, the snow cover is so slight that you may not have to shovel your car out for the Rony parade and show.

Lets hope it works to our advantage and that we have a great turnout of great antique cars in the parade and at Bob's Services for the show.

Get Ready to Rock and Rony!

Kurt Rein, lead contact for the Rony Parade, has announced that participants should report to the staging area at 9:00 to 9:30. Call him for

location. He also said that one more convertible is needed for dignitaries. Please call Kurt, 344-5554.

Donn Reese advised that the Rony car show will take place Saturday and Sunday, February 23 and 24 at Bob's Services. This year, two buildings will be available for us, and

we can put cars in on Friday after 3:00 p.m. If you plan to take your car out for the parade, let Kurt or Donn know so you can be placed near a door. (Donn, 748-0036)

We hope lots of people can bring cars in order to make use of the great facility Browns are supplying.

Shake Down Cruise Takes Shape

Buzz Wallace and Jim Fredenhagen have announced that our 2013 Shake Down Cruise will take us to Homer on May 18-21.

Anyone interested in making a reservation should go to: www.OceanShoresAlaska.com or call 1-800-770-7775 or 1-907-235-7775

The Ocean Shores has 38 rooms on the shores of Kachemak Bay (state park). These are modern, spotless, seaside rooms with balconies, large picture windows and access to our beautiful private beach. They have spectacular views of beaches, tide pools, the Kenai mountains and many glaciers.

On Saturday, we will travel to Homer and get checked in at our hotel.

Sunday, Jim plans a late morning parade around Homer followed by a car show, probably at NAPA. After that, we will rest and have dinner.

Monday will be Homer exploration as desired. A fishing trip, water taxi to Seldovia, Halibut Cove, tour to East End, tour to Anchor Point, Russian Village. All are possibilities for a free day in Homer.

On Tuesday, the 21st we'll head back home.

Jim is keeping a log, so whoever's coming should email him so he can keep it touch. takecare@alaska.com

2013 ABDT Tour to Dawson City, YT & Eagle, AK

Scott Grundy reports that the Vernon Nash Club's 2013 "Adventure Before Dementia Tour" is to Dawson for their *Canada Day* celebration & to Eagle for our Independence Day celebration. This sounds like an enjoyable trip, and the company couldn't be better. The following is the schedule:

Saturday, June 29 p.m.: FBX - Tok (206 miles - 4 hours driving)

Sunday, June 30: Tok to Dawson City (185 miles - 4 hours driving + Yukon ferry)

Monday & Tuesday, July 1 & 2: Dawson City

Wednesday, July 3: Dawson City to Eagle (143 miles - 3 hours driving + Yukon ferry)

Thursday, July 4: Eagle

Friday, July 5 p.m.: Eagle to Tok (171 miles - 3.5 hours driving)

Saturday, July 6: Tok to FBX (206 miles - 4 hours driving)

This leisurely & historic tour

(See p. 6, ABDT Tour)

Tidbits

Penetrating Oil

On the subject of penetrating oil, our observant man in the field, Ted Kimzey, recently ferreted out some useful information in the way of a comparative analysis of some available products. The listing refers to average torque required to remove a rusted nut. Mind you, this is serious stuff:

No oil used-516 pounds

WD-40-238 pounds

PB Blaster-214 pounds

Liquid Wrench-127 pounds

Kano Kroil-106 pounds

ATF/Acetone 50/50 mix-53 pounds (Lacquer thinner can be used in place of Acetone.)

Ted passed along something else he wouldn't know about, that came from his cabin neighbor, Don Frantz:

"Whiskey works best on most of the old nuts I know-loosens 'em up right away." Just thought we'd give Don credit for that little bit of wisdom.

Shoot For Luxury!

Luxury cars are apparently coming back. A recent report stated that cars costing more than \$130,000 would climb 35 percent to almost 540 thousand by 2015. In the U.S. alone, households with more than \$300,000 in annual disposable income are forecast to reach 4.6 million this year.

Wouldn't it be nice to get some of these guys to join our club? We wouldn't even care if they were driving Ferraris, Maseratis or Lamborghinis. We should not discriminate.

Let's do some recruiting. Heck, we already have a Rolls Royce and a Bentley. We should go for broke!

Time Flies When You're Having Fun

by Rich Golding

This column is dedicated to guys like me who believe in the old adage: "If you want it done right, do it yourself!"

My hero is that old Greek guy, Archimedes. Remember him? He was the dude who said if you gave him a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, he could move the earth. That's my kind of guy! A little overly pretentious perhaps, but a role model for all us Mr. Fixit's for centuries past and centuries yet to come.

When I bought my daily driver, a 42-year-old Volkswagen Squareback that I named Irving, I vowed that I would be the only one to ever work on or repair him. To this day, I am happy to report that I have held to this self-imposed maxim, and that Irving is alive and well and driving throughout the streets of Anchorage on a daily basis.

It is I and I alone who sees to it

that the engine stays perfectly in tune. The lights and turn signals all function as designed. The oil stays topped off, and gets changed religiously at proper intervals. The tires are mounted and their air pressure is meticulously monitored by yours truly. I've done it all, and am glad I did. It gives one a sense of pride and purpose, which is so important—especially when one reaches an age where the world around you expects you to be dunderheaded, doddering and helpless.

Yes, life was pretty good, cruising around all day, just me and Irving. Care free. Trouble free. Until one day when my wife decided to take a drive with us.

"Irving's looking good," she commented as she was buckling herself into the passenger seat. "You've done a lot of work on him, and it shows." I thanked her for her kind (and accurate) words. Then her eyes began glancing suspiciously around

the car. "I like the new radio and speakers you installed," she said as her visual inspection continued. "Nice patch job on the torn headliner, too." Her eyes kept sweeping and studying the interior of the car. Looking . . . searching, like a master sergeant at inspection. I could feel beads of sweat building up on my now furrowed

(See p. 7, Time Flies)

ABDT Tour

(Continued from p. 5)

takes eight days (actually six days plus two half days).

Marathon drivers could do the above tour in six days by driving from Fairbanks to Dawson City on Sunday, June 30 (391 miles) & returning from Eagle to Fairbanks on July 5 (377 miles).

"Cat Herder Jr."
Scott Grundy
457-3526

2013 JOINT MEET IN HEALY

Vernon L. Nash Antique Automobile Club to host The Antique Auto Musers of Alaska

June 14, 15 & 16

Lodging Friday and Saturday at the Denali Park Hotel

BBQ Friday evening at the Otto Lake Pavilion

Car Games on Saturday Morning

Saturday Afternoon:

A Private Tour of the Usibelli Coal Mining Operation!

Awards Banquet at the Black Diamond Café, Saturday Evening

Mark your calendar and reserve a room at the Denali Park Hotel **NOW** to secure your desired bed configuration; payment is not due until you check-in & you may cancel with a four-day notice! View the hotel website at www.denaliparkhotel.com; or email: stay@denaliparkhotel.com; or phone: 1-866-683-1800 or 1-907-683-1800. For a 10% room rate discount, either book online or identify yourself as a member of the car group. Questions? Contact Scott or Linda Grundy for details at 1-907-457-3526 or email grundy@mosquitonet.com.

Final Installment:

Remy Baker, Father of the AAMA



Betty Baker (r) with a friend pose with her 1923 Rolls Royce at the Palmer State Fair in about 1962.

It took us three hours to reach Cheyenne, and the first motel we came to was one and a half blocks from the city's center. We pulled in.

The motel had some garages with rooms over them - but the manager just rented the last such unit to the gentleman just signing in. When the manager and the gentlemen saw what we were driving, the gentlemen said we could have his garage space.

It took myself and the other two men to weigh down the RR to get it in the garage door—we were about 2- or 3-inches too tall for the opening.

Within minutes, we were in the room—one in the tub, other in the shower getting thawed out. Some time during the night, it stopped

snowing.

The next day, snow was knee deep in the center of the road, sun out, nothing moving. It was Mother's Day weekend, May 13. We decided to walk over to the theatre and see a movie. What was it?? “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.” Of course we sat there with wet feet and trousers up to our knees. Stepped off a curb and the snow was knee deep. We made it ok, no colds at all.

On the third day, the plows were out but, they said the highway going

(See p. 8, “Remy Baker”

Time Flies, But a Wise Man Knows His Limitations

(Continued from p. 6)

brow. “Hmmm . . .” she cooed. I began to feel a little queasy as her glance neared the dashboard. Then came her grin. I know that grin. I hate that grin.

“By the way” she asked with false innocence, “. . . what time is it?”

“Damn!” I thought as I found my body slowly sinking into the exquisitely recovered (by my own hand) faux-leather driver’s seat . . . “she’s found it!”

A wicked, wifely smile began to creep over her lips, as she stuck the dagger a little deeper into my heart . . . “I can’t help but notice that your clock isn’t moving,” she said with a definite smugness. My teeth were grinding by now. “Can’t you send that out to somebody to get it fixed?” she chortled.

Smugness I can live with. After many decades of marriage my teeth have ground down to barely manageable nubs. But chortling . . . CHORTLING! —T’was more than any man could bear!

Forty-five minutes later, my forty-two year old clock had been removed

from Irving and sat disassembled on the kitchen table. I sat quietly in front of the dozens of daunting gears and springs. I chanted an Om sound and began contemplating my navel. Through serious meditation, I was able to finally determine the true meaning of life. But how to fix the clock still eluded me.

Linda was upstairs. She went off to bed at about 10. I was left with just myself and my demons. I continued to stare intently at the motionless parts laid out in front of me.

Hours passed. I pondered what Archimedes would have done. The silence was deafening. Then it came. The parts started to reassemble themselves in my mind. I was suddenly seeing the entire repair and reconstruction three dimensionally. My hands went to work, guided as if by divine intervention.

“Eureka!” I cried, with the completed, repaired, ticking clock in my hands. I ran up the stairs. “Linda, Linda - Eureka!” I pronounced in a loud and steady voice, thrusting the ticking timepiece directly towards her

face, “Eureka!”

“It’s four o’clock in the morning,” she retorted, seeming unimpressed, nary a chortle in sight. She turned over and went back to sleep.

I galloped back down the stairs and into the garage. Surgery was completed in less than fifteen minutes, and Irving’s clock was reinstalled in his dashboard. I was there, a witness to history, as the ticking began slowing, eventually coming to an abrupt stop, followed by some sort of heart-breaking ‘twang’ noise.

Someone once said, “a wise man knows his limitations.” I don’t remember exactly who that person was, but I suspect he knew ‘ol Archie. They probably bowled together in the same league.

The clock still resides in Irving’s dash. Shiny and cleaned, the well oiled hour and minute hands both pointing up at the noon/midnight position. Absolutely accurate twice a day. If it’s good enough for my VCR, it’s good enough for my car.

Remy Baker

(continued from p. 7)

west was still closed.

Because of my orders, I went to the railroad station to see if I could put the car on the train, but no trains were running. So, I started “hounding” police and highway department. By mid afternoon, one lane was open out of town, and state highway personnel said I could leave. If I had trouble, they would not be able to help in any way. We agreed, left in the afternoon, and got ourselves out of the

snow area before night. End of the snow story, but the adventure didn't end.

My first interest was not in getting a group to join AACA of which I was already a Life member since early 1951, but to get old cars on the road. So, give whatever credit is due to Leo [Knuff] for his getting the group I was getting together, into AACA as a club. (As you know, I had to leave Alaska in 1962, so paper work after that had to be done by others. “The rest is history.”

Happy Birthday, Velma!

We wish a belated Happy 100th Birthday to Velma Davidson, who was born on January 10th, 1913. Velma, the owner of the gas station and liquor store in Hope—and familiar to all AAMA Hope weekend participants—now lives at the Chugiak/Eagle River Senior Center.

February

Birthdays

Madeline Dennis—2nd

Kathleen Godsoe—6th

Mary Taylor—6th

Larry Montgomery—24th

Jennifer Dennis—25th

Madeline Belleau—28th

Ken Evans—28th

Anniversary

Loran & Marion Benham—12th

(Missed Pam and Milt Tanora, January 11)

AAMA
P.O. Box 232086
Anchorage AK 99523-2086

