



Christmas Party Draws Modest Crowd



Reese

You can't miss the annual AAMA Christmas party at Ishams' when Art parks his 1930 Model A Murry Town Sedan out by the driveway draped in festive lights.

The 2013 AAMA Christmas party took place at the beautiful home of Art and Tamea Isham on Sunday, December 15th.

Pick Up Your 'Orphans'

A few items stayed at the party at Ishams' place after the Christmas party.

- *Dish cozy and Pyrex dish - Combs
- *Pair of beige slippers
- *Large towel
- *Two spoons
- *One pair grey gloves with leather padding on palm

If you left any of these items, Tamea will have them for you at the January meeting.

The crowd was slightly smaller than previous years, possibly due to the recent snow that created somewhat iffy driving conditions. We didn't take an accurate count (never do) but estimated about 40 to 45 attended.

Host, Art, ventured to park his 1930 Model A Town Sedan out in the falling snow next to his driveway with lots of colored lights draped all over as a sure sign that this was where the party was.

Featured guests were Kelly Karcz, her son, Kaden and Elizabeth Wiedmer (daughter and grand son of Mike and Gwyn Wiedmer and Mike's mom.) Also helping with the celebrating were Long-time friend and member (whose presence we've missed in recent years) Hank Raymond, Art and Tam's daughter and granddaughter, Jennifer and Madeline, and Brian Anderson and

Shelly Lord's son, Will. We were glad for the fresh faces, as well as all the familiar ones.

As usual, we had lots of everything in the line of food and visiting, and the Chinese Auction gift exchange was humorous as ever.

Popular gifts made the rounds. Some enameled metal garage signs exchanged hands, as did some antique automotive tools. Perhaps, the most humorous was a set of king-size bed pillowcases with cars and nice-looking ladies printed on them. Much to Colleen's chagrin, Ted Kimzey ended up grabbing them, and there were at least a couple of blushing faces and some giggles before he lost them. Did Ted know what he was stealing?

All in all, we had a great time just being together, and we want to thank the Ishams for being such gracious hosts. In addition to hosting, Tamea took charge of getting our food donations delivered.

Thanks to everybody for joining us and making the evening great!

January Meeting

Our January 8th business meeting will follow the installation of 2014 officers.

The meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the AAMA clubhouse at the home of Robbie and Marianne Robinson.

Refreshments will consist of Christmas party leftovers and will be coordinated by Dennis and Diane Allen.

Running Board Reflections

This is the season of reflection and thankfulness and I've been recalling our events of 2013 and the people who made them happen. My memories will be different from yours, and I apologize to those I unintentionally leave out, but here is my somewhat jumbled list of 2013 AAMA events.

The Ishams and the Cresaps started us out in song and oath as Masters of Ceremony for the January officer inductions. Kurt Rein and Donn Reese chaired the February Fur Rendezvous parade and car show, and Bill Brown, his family and his staff graciously—for the second year—hosted the car show in the fine shops of Bob's Services.

The Ishams opened their beautiful home twice this year for key celebrations—Mother's Day and Christmas—and I cannot thank them enough for their warm hospitality.

As in past years, we toured extensively this year. In May we started a new tradition with a Shake Down Cruise to Homer piloted by Buzz Wallace and Jim Fredenhagen. Jim continued stoking our driving enthusiasm by leading many Model A(+) tours between late winter and late fall along southcentral Alaska's byways. The Ishams guided 10 vehicles and their intrepid drivers and passengers for the mid-summer Long Distance (more than 1700 miles!) Tour to Whitehorse, Atlin and Haines and returned them all safely. In September the Ishams followed this triumph by herding a stout group of adventurers through the wilds of Denali National Park.

Scott and Lynn Grundy were at the reins as the Vernon Nash Club of Fairbanks chaired the annual Joint Meet held this year in Healy. All of us who attended can attest to the high bar they set, and we thank them for their outstanding northern hospitality.

Diane Allen extended her decades-long tradition of bringing a group of vintage cars to both the Daybreak and Serendipity Adult Care centers where we gave rides to those who were young when our cars were young. In July, Dennis and Diane also maintained their tradition of coordinating our fun during

Hope's Wagon Trail Festival, where—as in years past—Howard Hansen secured glory for our club by winning his class in the 5-K footrace.

Gwyn Wiedmer and Tom and Marcy Cresap (twice) hosted our three summer Adopt-a-Road cleanups of East Northern Lights Boulevard. Scott Hulse worked on a new generation of club decals and Jim Fredenhagen got us an upgraded club banner.

Donn Reese coordinated our involvement with Anchorage's Summer Solstice fair on 4th Avenue, which was a great success. Jim Fredenhagen spearheaded the AAMA's role in the June Palmer Colony Days Show and Parade, and Mark Graber followed in August when he organized our participation in the Palmer State Fair parade.

At August's Show & Shine car show, Alaska's largest, Dennis Allen fed us under his awning while Ralph Centoni won the Best-in-Show award for his stunning 1931 V12 Cadillac.

Brian Anderson, Sara Stoops, and Scott Hulse all stepped to the plate this autumn as members of the Nominating Committee—charged with collaring a slate of 2014 club officers. I particularly want to thank all the candidates who offered their time to our organization: Brian Anderson, Richard and Barbara Henningsen, Pam Tanora, Mark Graber, and Donn Reese.

Our summer meeting drive-arounds were orchestrated by Donn Reese, Brian Anderson, and Jim Fredenhagen, and our winter refreshments were provided by Donn Reese, Howard and Barbara Hansen, Gwyn Wiedmer, Sara Stoops, Lee Truesdell, Milt and Pam Tanora, Dennis and Diane Allen, and Mark Graber.

I thank my fellow executive board members: Vice President Brian Anderson, who stepped in during my absences—Treasurer Donn Reese, who kept us solvent and who was acting President for the August meeting—Secretary Pam Tanora, who miraculously tracked our meeting chaos—and our members at large: Ken

(see p. 3, Running Board)



www.antiqueautomusersak.org

2014 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

Ralph Centoni 345-0869

Tam Isham 688-3671

Kurt Rein 344-5554

Past Presidents (10 years)

Mike Wiedmer (2013)

Howard Hansen (2012)

Donn Reese (2009–2011)

Jeff Hassler/Donn Reese (2008)

Jim Fredenhagen (2006–2007)

Fred Schurman (2005)

Diane Allen (2004)

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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.



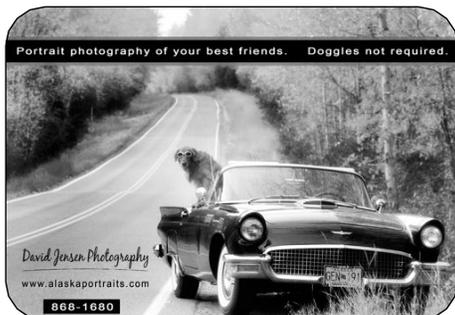
For Sale: 1957 Ford Retractable Hardtop. \$20,000. Contact Art Isham, 907-688-3671 or 907-227-2307 cell. (4)

For Sale: 1957 Chevrolet hardtop BelAir; Red and White; all original; 4 owners from new to present; 68,000 miles; appraised at \$38,000 three years ago; asking \$35,000. Wayne Weiler, 345-4632 or 240-9491. theweilers@gci.net (2)

For Sale: 1929 Model A Sport Coupe restored by owner; very few miles; everything original except 16" wheels. \$20,000 OBRO Jim, 907- 344-7161 (2)

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

- * **January 8**–7:30 p.m. Installation of Officers (Refreshments: Christmas party left overs)
- * **February 12**–7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting (refreshments?)
- * **February 22, 23**–Fur Rendezvous (Kurt Rein, 344-5554, Donn Reese, 245-7203)
- * **March 12**–7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting (refreshments?)
- * **April 9**–7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting (refreshments?)
- * **April 19**–12:00, lunch at Eagle River Garcias followed by light shakedown and pics through Birchwood and potluck dessert TBA (Jim Fredenhagen, 351-3115)
- * **May 10**–Adopt-A-Road (Cresaps, 694-7510)
- * **May 14**–6:30 p.m. Rolling Meeting (leader?)
- * **May 17-20**–Shake Down Cruise to Homer (Jim Fredenhagen 243-5214)
- * **TBA**–Joint Meet with VLNAACF (Howard Hansen, 345-1268 or Sara Stoops, 345-5992)
- * **June 11**–6:30 p.m. Rolling Meeting (leader?)
- * **June 20-21**–Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum 3rd Midnight Sun Summer Solstice Cruise-In, Fairbanks and Long Distance Tour to Wiseman (Tam Isham, 688-3671)

Running Board Reflections

(continued from p. 2)

Stout, Tom Cresap, Tam Isham, and Kurt Rein. Each month Sergeant-at-Arms Sara Stoops was our enforcer (mostly of name tags) and added to our coffers by running our Split-the-Pot fundraiser.

Special thanks must be given to Donn Reese for building, updating, and maintaining our fine AAMA website—I find this website an invaluable resource. Tom and Marcy Cresap richly deserve the series of national awards their monthly newsletter *Tinkering Times* has garnered. I am in awe of the effort and talent they put in each and every issue. Rich Golding deserves particular mention when his computer genius and resources kept the club's information flowing smoothly after the Cresap's newsletter-generating computer failed. The *Tinkering Times* kept us informed and entertained through the contributions of many, including the Cresaps, Dennis Allen, Walt Sonen, Bruce Campbell, and Rich Golding.

Because we have met there for so long (around 17 years!) and because everything is so effortless and

convenient, it is easy to forget the generosity and effort Robbie and Marianne Robinson offer us each and every month by hosting our meetings—they provide our club a home. Words cannot begin to express my appreciation to the Robinson clan. I thank Tom Cresap as well for his work generating the support that ensured the AAMA contribution to the needed club house renovations.

Not all was fun and adventure this year as we lost dear members of our AAMA family. We mourn the passing in 2013 of long-term club members and friends: Margaret Heaven, Ken Stout and Floyd Gori. We also reflect in pleasure at the good times we shared and resolve to keep their memories and spirit with us as we forge ahead.

Finally I would like to thank all of you who came out in 2013 to our car shows, our tours, our community outreach programs, our Adopt-a-Roads, our parties, and all other AAMA events—you make this club worthwhile. So until next we meet, I thank you for a rich 2013 and wish you all a very happy and healthy 2014! —Mike

A 1934 Lagonda Le Mans Racer January 1934 – January 2004

In Memory the Demise on January 12, 2004.

“It has been in Antique Car heaven for ten years as of January 2014 and I still mourn the passing.”
Robbie Robinson

The following article is an amalgamation of articles we have published over the last twenty years concerning Robbie's 1934 Lagonda. Those articles were the efforts of AAMA members, Tom Cresap, Scott Hulse, Art Isham and Robbie Robinson. They also included comments by members of other clubs: Colin Gurnsey (RROC, Lagonda Club, VSCC-UK, etc.) and Christopher Claridge-Ware.

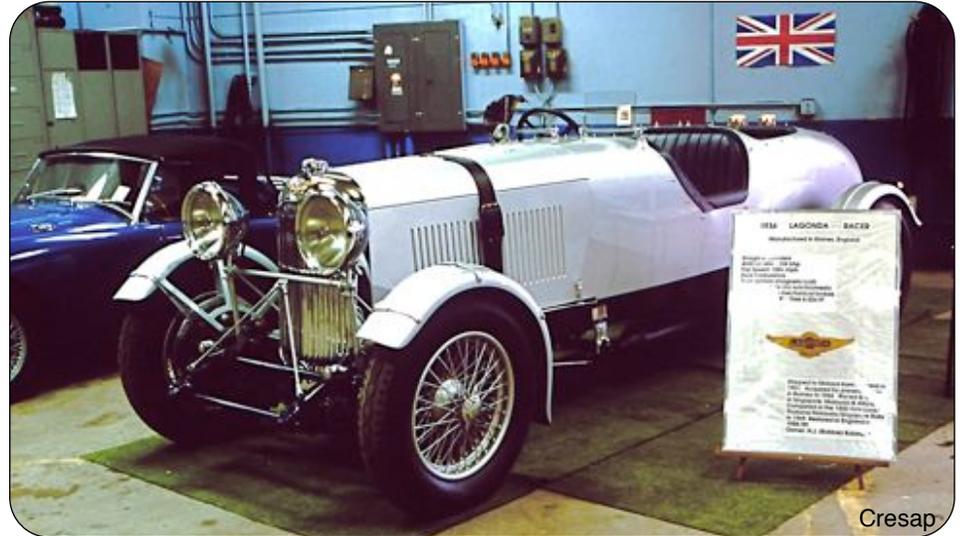
We will begin with a little background on the Lagonda automobile. The year was 1899, and William Gunn—an American expatriate living in England—formed the Lagonda Engineering Company, which manufactured marine engines (presumably steam.) Shortly afterwards, Gunn began manufacturing motorcycles, and—by 1904, after changing the name of his company to the Lagonda Motor Company, Ltd.—he built his first tri-car followed by a “proper” car with 4 wheels in 1905.

The firm suffered ups and downs until the Lagonda won the gold medal in the Russian reliability run from St. Petersburg to Moscow in 1910. Although William Gunn died in 1920, the firm continued manufacturing fine motor cars up to WWII. Among other significant race and rally wins through the years, was the 1935 Le Mans race with a 4.5 liter engine.

Mergers after the war diminished the Lagonda name, although it still exists as an entity under the name Aston Martin Lagonda, Ltd.

Robbie's Lagonda has a

In Memory



Robbie Robinson's 1934 Lagonda Le Mans race car presents a stately image at AAMA's 1993 Alaska Sales car show, February 10, 1991. It was destined to meet a fiery end in Victoria, BC in 2004.

particularly interesting history. During the Second World War, it had been hidden from the Japanese in Borneo—by being buried! When Robbie was stationed in Singapore, in the late 1950's, he heard about the remains of the car and he investigated. He discovered the Lagonda and was able to acquire it. He then imported it into Singapore, declaring it as used welding equipment!

For a number of years, he used the car in Singapore and rallied it with a homemade body replacing the one the Borneo termites had eaten; then he shipped the car to the UK, where a replica body similar to the 1935 Le Mans-winning M-45 was manufactured and fitted.

Robbie was later transferred to Anchorage, where he decided to return the Lagonda to England for a complete restoration.

You might say the story of the car's demise began in June, 2000.

The Lagonda had been back in Anchorage for only a few years, when the Around the World in 80 Days Motor Challenge Rally passed through town.

The Rally captured the imagination of the world in the style of the Jules Vern's 1873 classic after which it was named. In that fictitious story, Phileas Fogg made the trip to win a wager he made in the Reform Club. In the ensuing years, real live attempts on bicycles, balloon and planes have imitated the story. This, however, was a first for antique and classic cars. The 43 world-traveling cars and their passengers stirred our imagination, whetted our appetite and provided us with a global-scale vicarious experience, and we enjoyed hosting them as they passed through our little town and on to further adventures.

But on Friday, June 16th, the
(see p. 5, Lagonda Loss)

Lagonda Loss: Anniversary

(continued from p. 4)

U.S. representative of the Lagonda Club sent out an S.O.S. A 1934 Lagonda that had received extensive suspension repair in Anchorage, the owner of which Robbie had met during his sojourn in Anchorage, had blown its engine in Ross River, 130 km north of Whitehorse. If a replacement could not be found quickly, the team would have to pack it in and head home. Christopher Claridge-Ware and his co-driver, Steve Morley-Ham were in a peck of trouble!

Back in Anchorage, Robbie—a long-time Lagonda Club member and inveterate knight in shining armor—received the call for help and, without hesitation, removed the engine and transmission from his racer, packed it into a custom-made crate and sent it out. The 854-pound engine and transmission flew by Alaska Airlines to Seattle; then on Sunday, June 18th, it traveled the 500-mile road to Prince George, BC to meet the disabled vehicle, which had been carried by flatbed transfer from Ross River the previous night—a 14-hour drive.

By June 20th, the Lagonda—now powered by Robbie’s engine—rejoined the rally group, which had just arrived that day for an overnight stop. Talk about timing: Jules Verne couldn’t have crafted a more suspenseful adventure for Phileas Fogg! The race was on again, and the Claridge-Ware/Morley-Ham team went on to complete the tour.

In return for Robbie’s thoughtful and timely action, Christopher arranged for Robbie’s Lagonda to go to Victoria, BC for the replacement of the engine and a complete refurbishment by a professional restoration shop there.

Now for the *coup de gras*, the ignominious end: On Monday,



Colin Gurnsey

Colin Gurnsey took this photo of Robbie Robinson’s 1934 Lagonda Le Mans race car as it sat in Jim Walker’s rural shop on the north end of Elk Lake near Victoria, BC some time before fire consumed a nearby storage barn and about 20 collector cars.

January 12th, 2004, this lovely piece of racing history and the pride of Harry J. “Robbie” Robinson, met its final and irrevocable fate. The barn where it was stored in Victoria, BC and all its contents were consumed by fire. Some of the other cars in the same building were, like the Lagonda, highly prized and even Pebble Beach bound. Marianne’s 1933 M-45 Lagonda Tourer, also there for restoration, survived. Though it had been in the barn, it was out for brake work and was the only car to escape the conflagration.

Colin Gurnsey describes the fire:

“On the evening of Monday, January 12th, 2004, Jim Walker heard fire engines approaching the rural area where he lived. He also maintained restoration shops and parts storage in a number of older farm buildings now used as garages. The garages are up the hill

from his house, which is located on the north end of Elk Lake about 10 miles north of Victoria, BC.”

“Jim was startled to realize that the fire trucks were coming to his place. By then, the fire was fully involved so that there was no opportunity to remove any of the cars being worked on or stored.” Christopher Claridge-Ware’s 1934 Lagonda, Robbie’s 1934 M-45 and about 16 other cars were lost.

Apparently, the fire was so intense that the radiator shell on Robbie’s car melted as did all of the aluminum body, the engine and transmission. The total loss was not covered by insurance.

The Lagonda Club counted 152 M-45’s in registry, of which two were lost in this fire.

We join many other automobile enthusiasts in wishing Marianne and Robbie Robinson our condolences on the 10th anniversary of this tragic loss.

AAMA 2014 Long Distance Tour

June 20 – June 27 Fairbanks and Wiseman

This year's Long Distance tour will combine with the Model A tour-mentioned in the last newsletter and planned by Jim Fredenhagen-to Fairbanks and beyond. The tour includes dinner at Alaska Land, taking part in the Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum Show, participating in the 3rd. Midnight Sun Summer Solstice Cruise-in, visiting a mine in Ester, and taking a trip to Wiseman to scout out that historical mining area.

This tour will be from June 20-June 26. You have several options; it's up to you. You can go all the way to Wiseman or end the tour in

Fairbanks.

The Midnight Sun Cruise-In will be June 20 and 21. The dinner cruise is on Friday and the show, Tour de Fairbanks and banquet will be on Saturday.

For a discount on your room, call 1-800-528-4916. Tell the clerk your reservation is for Bear Lodge and that the code is CRUIS14. (So far, they do not have this programmed in their website.) The discounted price is \$99/night. For those continuing on the Long Distance Tour, make three-night reservation at the Bear Lodge. The hotel generally fills early for the

solstice weekend, so do this now. You can always cancel later.

After the Solstice, some folks may wish to return to Anchorage, but those who want to continue on with the rest of us on the Long Distance Tour can go on the following schedule:

- * Sunday, June 22, visit the mine in Esther (stay night in Fairbanks)
- * Monday, June 23, 8:00 a.m. leave Fred Meyer parking lot for drive to Wiseman (dinner at Coldfoot and spend night in Wiseman or Coldfoot)
- * Tuesday, June 24, explore Wiseman with local prospector, Jim Lounsbury-Mine workings, museum, old equipment (spend night in Wiseman or Coldfoot)
- * Wednesday, June 25, 8:00 a.m. leave Coldfoot for Fairbanks, with a possible side trip to Livengood (night in Fairbanks)
- * Thursday, June 26th, 9:00 a.m. (depart for Anchorage.)

Contact Tam Isham at 688-3671 or email Isham@gci.net by Feb 15 if you wish to come along and details will be sent you concerning lodging, etc. Also, please indicate how far you plan to go on the tour so that we can keep track of everyone.

Note from Jim Fredenhagen:

I went to the Fountainhead site last night to book for June. They had the code "Bearlodgecruis2014" to use in booking but when I tried, it didn't change the \$146 price. After several attempts, I just called the 800-528-4916. At 10:00 p.m. it wasn't busy and she made the booking quickly.

It's \$99 per night for the first three nights, June 20, 21, 22, and \$146 for the return on June 25. They are able to get us in the Bear Lodge for the Cruise-In, but not on the 25th. I told her that was okay. They still have handicap rooms. -Jim

The Hierarchy of Marriage

Humor by Rich Golding

So it was in the beginning . . . so it shall be for all time.

There are two types of male drivers. I refer not to traits of aggressiveness, nor skill or consideration. No, the two distinct varieties of men who drive are most certainly: those that are married and those that are not.

Consider the simple act of entering the automobile itself. The single man opens his door and plops himself freely onto his front seat. This is his territory. His domain. He stretches out and relaxes as he surveys and enjoys all that is his.

The married man enters his machine's front seat in much the same way, until his wife enters at the other side of said seat.

"Move over," commands the female of the species, as she piles herself into the passenger side of the front seat, superseded by her secret weapon . . . that which has struck fear deep within the hearts of all men married, since there were front seats . . . *the purse!*

Why is it that my importance, my

rank in the greater scheme of things, has been reduced to third place when it comes down to: 1.) Wife 2.) Purse 3.) Husband?

The otherwise comfortable position I once held as Lord and Master of my domain has been significantly reduced, captured and seized by a hand-stitched faux leather sack. My position in the hierarchy of life irrevocably decreased to whatever leftover and cramped area afforded me, as my once noble position and place is diminished to squeezing up against the inside of the driver's door, so that Wife and Purse may rest themselves comfortably.

It has been this way for so very long, that I hardly remember when it was that I surrendered those last bastions of my vehicular masculinity to my most formidable of foes, the Purse.

After a deep and careful study of the subject, my research has concluded that, apparently, it has ever been this way. Whether the area invaded was a simple log, or bench, or couch, or horse

(See p. 7, The Hierarchy. . .)

Christmas Party Shots



Ted and Colleen Kimzey, Lee Truesdell, Peg Stout, Clarice Syren, Gwyn Wiedmer, Madeline Dennis, Kathleen and Carl Godsoe and Art Isham look on as Kaden offers his grandma some entertaining bubble wrap during the gift exchange.



Above: Ishams' daughter, Jennifer, prepares the generous repast. Below: Carl Godsoe, Madeline Dennis and Art Isham look on as Kathleen Godsoe displays her gift.



Host, Art Isham, presides over the gift exchange.

Think Spring and Shake Down Cruise

In May, the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska will be breaking the old iron out of the snow and ice and they will be ready to see how their vehicles are working after a long winter's rest.

Of course, that is the reason for the annual Shake Down Cruise.

The 2014 version will take place in the beautiful town of Homer, and although we may not have yet been ensconced in winter quite long enough to be openly salivating for spring, our thoughts may be headed that way.

Buzz Wallace and Jim Fredenhagen have begun to organize the event, and will soon have information for hotel information and anything that requires us to plan ahead.

Be sure to watch in these pages and at our meetings for info.

Get ready for the

Fur Rendezvous

February 22, 23
Start digging the cars out!

The Hierarchy of Marriage

(Continued from p. 6)

or carriage, or car. Married men have continually come in third place throughout time, bested always by the sack, the bag, the clutch, the purse!

Once, after meticulous studying of the ancient Chinese text, The Art of War (which has an entire chapter devoted to this precise subject), I thought I had come up with a remarkably clever solution – buy a bigger car! But alas, my plans were eventually thwarted by Her Highness. As the size of the front seat grew larger,

so did the purse! It morphed first into something comparable to a small overnight bag, and eventually a full sized suitcase, grabbing and commandeering every possible inch of seat it could.

Those of you reading this, that used to call yourself “men.” Those of you whose third finger exhibits an indentured band of gold or silver, I implore you – it is not too late! Take up arms against a sea of troubles, and by opposing, end them!

Buy only cars with bucket seats!

Christmas at Ishams



Reese

As we entered the Ishams' driveway, the lighted grill. Is that a DeSoto?

January

BIRTHDAYS

Dutch Overly–2nd

Gary Smith–2nd

Ralph Centoni–7th

Dave Syren–7th

Randall Moss–17th

Michael McNamara–20th

Bruce Campbell–23rd

Donald Morfield–29th

ANNIVERSARIES

Pam & Milt Tanora–11th

Laura Reese & Larry

Montgomery – 13th

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AAMA

