

Antique Auto Musers of Alaska



Tinkering Times



Volume 61, Number 7

www.antiqueautomusersak.org

July 7, 2021

July 4th: Workout, Celebration and Relaxation



Carpenter

The Antique Auto Musers are always very active Independence Day. First, they appear in the Anchorage parade, then some race on out to Chugiak (about 20 miles) in hopes of arriving in time for the 1:00 staging at Latimer Fire Hall.

Kurt Rein arranged the Anchorage parade and Art and Tamea Isham organized the one in Chugiak. Afterwards, it was time to relax at the party at Cresaps' house in Eagle River.

Anchorage Parade

by Kurt Rein (event disorganizer)

All parades are different and this was no exception. The city 'disinvolved' itself and the Vets took it over again with some help from the Far North folks.

The Antique Auto Musers had 11 entries and getting all lined up was somewhat confusing, as usual. One entrant was a newby: Eli Powell with his beautiful, bright red 1959 Caddy, a huge car! Eli also had legionnaire's bad luck in the line-up his car died,

and with lots of batteries, calls and sound advice, it ran again. But ½ way through the parade, his passengers jumped out and started pushing. Eli can tell about the rest of the rest of the day at our next meeting.

Participants in the parade were: Carl Godsoe, 1931 Model A (with club banner); Marianne and daughter, Martha, Robinson, 1930 Model A; John Martin, 1930 Model A coupe; Gwyn Wiedmer, 1949 Ford convertible; Karen Avila Lederhos, 1966 Mustang 289; David Jensen, 1957 Thunderbird (playing his trumpet); Scott Hulse, 1958 Rolls Royce (regally decorated); Greg Carpenter, 1964 Plymouth; Eli Powell, 1959 Cadillac Barrister convertible; Kurt Rein, 1966 Mustang coupe.

Thanks, everyone, for making it a fun day for us all . . . Till the next parade.

Chugiak Parade

Art and Tamea Isham took care of
(See p. 4, "July 4th")

The Anchorage parade line-up shows most of the vehicles listed in the accompanying article. Inset shows Carl Godsoe's 1931 Model A with our club banner.

July Meeting

Business meeting July 14 at 6:30 PM at Hope Resources auditorium off of International Airport Road.

Donn Reese will be placing an order for AAMA Club badges soon. One badge comes with a new membership, extras are \$11 each. We'll finalize the list for the next badge order during our July business meeting.



Your Name

Running Board Reflections



We all recognize Beau, but now president David has a new companion, Maggie. We all look forward to meeting her.

The Jensens are juggling car shows and assimilation of a new dog we adopted as shown in the photograph above (Beau and Maggie, Too.) She's a three-year old Vizsla x who demonstrates her separation anxiety by jumping our 6'+ cedar fencing. As a result, I'm heightening 400' of 6' fencing to 8' rather than stringing together words about the club; working on the '57 or driving around with the new soft top tucked away. If she can jump an 8' fence we'll talk to her veterinarian about shortening her legs.

Most of what you need to know about club activities is printed in this edition of Tinkering Times. And, you're seeing plenty of emails about upcoming events. The club has a lot going on, we're healthy and strong.

By the time this hits your inbox or mailbox, the Jay Ofsthun Show & Shine will be just three weeks away (Sunday; August 1, 2021.) That's the largest car show of the year and I hope you'll mark the calendar and join your fellow Auto Musters.

Finally, come on out to any of our

regular business meetings. Second Wednesday of every month; 6:30 p.m. at the Hope Community Resources auditorium. We're seeing great turnouts and would love to see you again.

Keep your eyes on the new website's calendar. VP Linda Golding is doing an exceptional job of keeping it updated with plenty of details.

Safe travels to you and yours on the roads.

—David, Beau and Maggie, Too

Show-N-Shine
 Scott Hulse reports that he has met with the Midnight Sun club and that the Jay Ofsthun show is on for August 1st. He will give a more detailed report at our July meeting.



2021 Officers

President: David Jensen
868-1680

Vice President: Linda Golding
351-3251

Secretary: Greg Carpenter
Treasurer: Scott Hulse
240-4028

Members at Large

Brian Anderson-748-1698

Al Combs-242-6491

Tamea Isham-688-3671

Past Presidents (10 years)

Gwyn Wiedmer (2017-18)

Brian Anderson (2015-16)

Mike Wiedmer (2013-14)

Howard Hansen (2012)

Donn Reese (2009-2011)

Jeff Hassler/Donn Reese
(2008)

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

Opinions expressed by authors of Tinkering Times—including references about how wonderful we are—are their own and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Antique Auto Musters of Alaska or any facsimile of reality, for that matter.

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.

Secured, Enclosed Storage In West Downtown Anchorage

9'x18'x 7-1/2' high space
\$150/month for single
2 spaces-\$125/each
Dave Syren



For Sale: Scott has ZDDP again. You can call, email or order at our meeting; \$9.00 per bottle, (add to 5 quarts of oil). This is my cost plus \$1 to cover shipping and handling. Scott Hulse, PO Box 111296, Anchorage AK 99511 (907)240-4028, hulse@alaska.net

Travel to Kodiak: Kurt Rein is traveling to Kodiak Island with the Gem and Mineral Society and will be there July 8th through 16th. He has purchased Alaska Ferry tickets, complete with stateroom for the overnight trip. He is looking for a

Schedule of Events

During our driving season, we will meet weekly at the REI parking lot on Northern Lights Blvd. at 6:00 PM on non-meeting Wednesdays.

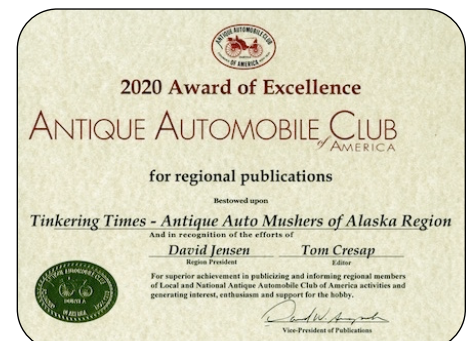
- * July 10—Adopt-A-Road 9:00 AM (Karen Lederhos)
- * July 14—6:30 Meeting (Karen Avila Lederhos)
- * July 17—6:00 PM Bear Paw Car Show at Chepo's parking lot, Eagle River
- * July 24—11:00-3:00, Valley Trash Show (Sutton)
- * July 19-25—Fairbanks Trip (Jim Fredenhagen, 351-3115)
- * July 24—Valley Trash Car show (49th State Street Rodders)
- * July 31—4:00-8:00, Pre Show-N-Shine Dimond/Jewel Lake
- * August 1—8:00-5:00, Jay Ofsthun Show Anchorage Park Strip
- * August 11—Meeting
- * August 14—Kenai day trip, Carr's Huffman, 8:00 AM
- * August 14—4:00-9:00 Hot Summer Nights, Palmer
- * August 21—State Fair Parade (Mark Graber, 907-745-8570)
- * September 8—Meeting
- * September 11—9:00-3:00 Dimond Center Car Show (Valve Cover Races)
- * September 25—9:00AM Huffman Carr's Seward Fall Colors (Jim Fredenhagen, 351-3115)
- * October 9—Trout House Run, 12:00 in Wasilla, Dessert at hotel in Palmer
- * October 13—Meeting

companion who would be interested in joining him and would not mind sharing the cost. Contact Kurt at 907-344-5554.(8)



For Sale: A genuine, 105-year-old 1916 Model T; restored by Bert Harrison of Salem Washington; located in Knik off KGB road; transition year between the old exposed brass radiators and the black sheet metal covered radiators; old auto shop teacher feels like it is time to sell. Asking \$16,000. Jim Uhl <uhldwm@mtaonline.net> (6)

Help Wanted: I am looking for someone to adjust the valves on my 48 Willys Wagon. It has the original 4 cylinder flathead. Darrell Krolick, 229-9456, or Krolick907@gmail.com (10)



The Tinkering Times has again been honored with an Award of Excellence from our national affiliate, the Antique Auto Club of America for production quality and continued promotion of the antique auto hobby. We thank AACA VP of publications, David Anspach, for this recognition.

Father's Day at the Zoo

by Dennis Allen

It was a cool and drizzly day, but we managed to show 24 vehicles at the Alaska Zoo on Father's Day, June 20 from 12:00 till 4:00. Hopefully this is the start of the end of COVID distancing! We had two shelters set up allowing a lot of visiting and renewing of friendships out of the drizzle. Braving the weather, the following vehicles showed up. Representing Alaska Territorial Cavalry: Fred Scharper—1942 Dodge Ambulance; Dennis Allen—1951 M38 Jeep. Representing AAMA members and friends: Dennis Allen—1934 Ford Fordor & 1948 Ford F2; Greg Carpenter—1964 Plymouth Fury; Tom & Marcy Cresap—1938 Chrysler Royal; Art & Tam Isham—1936 Chrysler Airflow; Josh & Jenn Kimzey—1965 Dodge Coronet; Howard Hansen—1936 Dodge; Marianne Robinson—1930 Ford A; Mike & Gwyn Wiedmer—1941 Cadillac, 1956 Thunderbird, 1979 Unimog; Brian



President David Jensen plays his trumpet while his wife, Carol, drives in the Anchorage parade.



Eli's 1959 Barrister gets a jump from Greg's 1964 Plymouth in Anchorage lineup.



Our annual Father's Day at the Zoo is back on after a one-year hiatus. This year, it was soggy but great fun together again.

Anderson—1950 Hudson; David Jensen—1957 Thunderbird; Rich Golding—1986 Citroen 2CV; Bill Brown—1954 Chev PU, 1967 Pontiac GTO; Dave Benesch—

1965 Chevrolet C20 PU; JayDee Ferguson—1956 Ford F100 PU; Dick & Barb Henningsen—1960 Buick; and Donny & Valerie Bell—1930 Ford A. 🍷

July 4th

(Continued from p.1)

the details for the Chugiak parade, which starts at Latimer Fire Hall and travels some three miles to the Chugiak/Eagle River Senior Center in Chugiak proper.

This year's Chugiak parade had been canceled until a week or so before it happened, but just like the Phoenix, it jumped back to life once the word got out that the Anchorage parade was a "go."

There is nothing quite like a small, rural town parade, and Chugiak is the epitome. The residents literally come out of the woods to watch, and they obviously love the spectacle—especially our old cars (and the candy we throw.) The three-mile route is slow and a recipe for boiling over, although the experienced driver has learned to shut down his engine for one ¼-mile downhill grade.

For a variety of reasons, only four AAMA cars were able to participate this year: Ishams, 1966 Mustang; Jensens, 1957 Thunderbird; Robinsons 1930 Model A and Wiedmers, 1949 Ford convertible.

The Party

This year, we have begun to feel somewhat liberated due to the relaxing of COVID 19 restrictions,

although we are aware that the danger of infection is not completely over. Our members all have their immunization shots, so with everyone's consent, we had the traditional post-parade outdoor potluck at Cresaps' place in Eagle River with Tom at the grill.

We had a total of about 32 guests, but not as many cars as expected. It was apparent that some of the cars had forgotten how to participate in parades. This was especially true of club president David Jensen's 1957 Thunderbird, which had serious transmission trouble, and Eli Powell's Cadillac Biarritz convertible, which had some sort of electrical failure.

Due to these and a few other sundry problems, the expected 14-car group at the post parade party got whittled down to about 10 cars: Ishams, 1966 Mustang convertible; Hansens, 1968 Dodge A-100; Goldings, 1986 Citroën 2CV; Ken Evans, 1955 Cadillac Eldorado convertible; Hulses, 1958 Rolls Royce Silver Cloud; Godsoes, 1931 Model A pickup; Robinsons, 1930 Model A fordor; Wiedmers, 1949 Ford convertible; Roesches, 1978 Citroen 2CV and Cresaps, 1938 Chrysler.

This barbecue has become quite an annual tradition, and we are looking forward to next year. 🍷

PRESTIGE CARE and TURNAGAIN SOCIAL CLUB

by Dennis Allen

I want to thank the members that took the time to share their cars on June 17th with the clients at Prestige Care and Turnagain Social Club. Although rain had been predicted the day turned out dry and the clients at each of these senior care centers were delighted to see us and share memories of their own cars.

These AAMA members took part in this worthwhile activity: Tom & Marcy Cresap—1938 Chrysler; Karen Lederhos—1966 Mustang; Mike & Gwyn Wiedmer 1941 Cadillac & 1952 Chevrolet 2-Ton; Rich Golding 1986 Citroen 2CV; Dick & Barb Henningsen 1960 Buick; Scott Hulse 1958 Rolls Royce; Howard Hansen 1936 Dodge and Dennis Allen 1965 Thunderbird. 🍀



Allen

The Clients of Prestige Care start to gather and enjoy the AAMA cars under threatening skies on June 17th in the Muldoon area in Anchorage.



Cresap

The clients at Turnagain Social Club always have lots of questions and memories about old cars.

Two Solstice Celebrations

Downtown Solstice

The East portion of the Downtown Partnership, the “Third Avenue Radicals,” invited AAMA to join in a solstice celebration Saturday, June 19th. Head of the organization, Larry Michael, explained that this was a promotion for the business in the East end of downtown Anchorage and that profits of the vendors would go to benefit Bean’s Café and Children’s Lunch Box.

It was a busy weekend for our members, with a Father’s Day show to follow on Sunday and an MSSRA Solstice celebration at Mirror Lake the following Monday. But five cars and their owners managed to attend for the pleasant, laid-back party at the corner of 4th and Gamble.

Coincidentally, a tragic event

happened early the morning of the 19th and almost caused the event to be cancelled. The police investigation was, however, completed early in the afternoon, and the street reopened.

As the MC, Rob Cupples, made other announcements at the opening of the party, he spoke of the tragedy, and there was a moment of silence to recognize the five victims. “This location and this neighborhood are no strangers to struggle,” he said. “It’s because of this . . . that we have invited you . . . to be a part of creating positive change within this neighborhood.”

As part of the festivities, a food truck offered tacos (donations benefiting Bean’s Café and Children’s Lunchbox.) The band, *Nothin’ But Trouble*, performed. It all made for a very pleasant evening under clear, blue skies. 🍀



Cresap

Adding a little interest to the Turnagain event, Dick Henningsen locked his only set of keys in the trunk of his 1960 Buick. We all jumped into action, and before you know it we retrieved them.

Solstice—Mirror Lake

by Jim Fredenhagen

All the elements for a perfect car show were in place at 49th State Street Rod Association’s Solstice Celebration on Monday, June 21st. We had great weather, great company, and—surprisingly—no bugs.

The only thing missing was cars.

(See p. 6, “Solstice”)

AAMA Business Meeting

June 9, 2021

Location: Hope Community
Resources Learning Center

570 W. 53rd Ave.

Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting called to order at 6:36
PM by President David Jensen

There were 25 members present.

Treasurer's Report

Scott Hulse provided the financial
report. The only expenditure was \$50
for the 4th of July parade registration.

Minutes of May Meeting

Approved as published in
Tinkering Times.

New Business

***Linda Golding went over the
calendar and provided updates of
events for the season. Instead of a
drive around on Wednesday June 30
people will meet at the Aviation
Museum for a tour. It will also be an
opportunity to view the location for
the 60th anniversary celebration. The
Rumble at Mirror Lake will be on
Monday June 21. Bring your own
food for a picnic since there will be
no potluck this year. All the events
are posted on the calendar at the
AAMA website.*

***Kurt Rein talked about the 4th
of July parade and passed around a*

*sign-up sheet for those interested in
participating. Everyone will meet at
the Park Strip between 9:30 and 10:00
am to line up. The parade starts at
11:00am.*

***Marcy Cresap updated
everyone about the 4th of July picnic
at their house at 3:00 PM. She passed
around a sign-up sheet for people to
bring food since we are back to
having a potluck.*

***Dennis Allen passed around
sign-up sheets for the Father's Day
car show at the Alaska Zoo, Prestige
Care and Turnagain Social Club.*

***David Jensen mentioned that
the Downtown partnership was
having a car show for solstice on
Saturday June 19 from 5-9 pm at the
Raven bar on 4th avenue.*

***Jim Fredenhagen gave an
update on the upcoming trip to
Fairbanks on July 19-24. The group
will be departing from the Northway
mall on Monday July 19 at 8:00 am.*

***Adopt a road cleanup is
scheduled for Saturday July 10.
Marcy Cresap said she and Tom will
be on vacation so Karen Avila-
Lederhos will be leading the event.*

Celebration Plans

***David Jensen talked about the
upcoming 60th anniversary
celebration for the club, which is
scheduled for Saturday August 13,*

*2022. The Aviation Museum requires
a \$300 deposit to hold that date. A
motion was passed to spend \$300 to
hold that date for the event. The
planning committee is still discussing
the budget for the event.*

***Mike Wiedmer brought up
bringing back split the pot at the
general membership meetings for
income for the club.*

***Kurt Rein said that the Gem
and Mineral Society is going to
Kodiak on July 8th and returning on
the State ferry July 16th.*

Birthdays and Anniversaries

President David Jensen
announced birthdays and
anniversaries for the month.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm
followed by a drive to Fire Tap
restaurant for dinner.

Respectfully submitted.

Greg Carpenter, Secretary



*The motley crew representing AAMA at the
Mirror Lake Solstice celebration were Brian
Anderson, Greg Carpenter, Rich Golding,
Howard Hansen and Josh Kimzey.*

Solstice

(Continued from p. 5)

Ordinarily this show sees every
square inch of turf occupied by
vehicles from all the area car clubs,
but this year, the Antique Auto
Mushers had the highest
representation, and we had only 12
cars.

We all enjoyed the ideal
conditions, though, and realized lack
of attendance was probably just post-
pandemic a fluke.

Next year this popular show will
be packed again. 🌀



Cresap

*Antique Auto Musher cars parked at the Solstice celebration in Anchorage:
Wiedmers' 1957 Thunderbird, Cresaps' 1938 Chrysler, Jensens' 1957
Thunderbird, Nat Gardner's 1956 Ford pickup and Hulses' 1958 Rolls Royce.*

'Wings and Wheels' on Display at Lake Hood

by Linda Golding

In early June, during one of our Wednesday evening restaurant drives, Phyllis Kilgore, Executive Director of the Aviation Museum, noticed our cars, and asked me if our club would be interested in holding a car show in conjunction with a fund raiser for the Museum.

So, on June 30th, instead of our usual Wednesday night drive, we met up with our cars at the Aviation Museum for their "Wings & Wheels" event. The weather was fantastic. In fact, it was actually quite warm, so most of the cars parked in the shade alongside the hangars and the restoration building. The oldest and newest cars, belonging to Jim and Victoria Fredenhagen (1929 Model A) and the Goldings (1986 Citroen 2CV) parked next to a Taylorcraft airplane, built in Ohio.

We were able to spend time in the Odom hangar/museum, where a sharp-eyed Musher actually found a connection to the AAMA. Longtime member Tom Belleau (now deceased), has his name listed as a pilot on a Grumman Goose's fuselage. We also learned that Scott Hulse's 1958 Rolls Royce Silver Cloud was built in Crewe, supposedly



Jim Fredenhagen's 1929 Ford Model A tudor and Rich Golding's Citroën 2CV nestle among the planes.



On the left, two Model A's, Val Bell's 1930 and Carl Godsoe's 1931, face off with other AAMA cars, including Hansens' Dodge A100, Hulse's Rolls Royce, Andersons' Hudson and Jensens' Thunderbird with various aircraft in the background.

in the same plant where the museum's Merlin aircraft engines were produced in WWII.

Some of us had an opportunity to walk through the restoration shop/hangar. One of the most interesting build projects there is a reproduction of the Space Shuttle Discovery's cockpit. We saw several active restorations, among them a Cessna T-50, nicknamed the "Bamboo Bomber" (due to its plywood construction), a Fairchild, and a P-40 Warhawk from WWII.

Food and drink were on hand, lending a picnic atmosphere to our car show. Marianne Robinson took her 1930 Model A for a spin, while Donny & Valerie Bell (in their 1930 Model A

Sport Coupe) and Carl and Kathleen Godsoe (in their 1931 Model A pickup) parked in the sunshine. Tom and Marcy Cresap brought their 1938 Chrysler Royal, and Gwyn and Mike Wiedmer with mom Shirley drove their 1941 Cadillac. Brian Anderson's 1952 Hudson Wasp, Ken Evan's 1955 Cadillac El Dorado, Nat Gardner's bright turquoise 1956 Ford pickup, and David Jensen's 1957 T-Bird convertible rounded out the 1950's contingent. Two 1966 Mustangs were represented; one from Greg and son, Garrett, Carpenter, and the second from Karen and Don Lederhos. Howard and Colleen Hansen brought their distinctive 1968 Dodge pickup.

Only one thing marred the event. Art & Tam Isham contacted us from downtown Anchorage where their Model A Roadster had conked out while driving to the Lake Hood event. It took nearly two hours to get the car running. With help from Jim Fredenhagen changing the condenser and filing the points, they were able to get the old Ford back on the road. Unfortunately, it was the road home. We missed them.

We had a wonderful evening at the Museum, and hope that our two organizations will collaborate for future events. 🍷

Hudsons Meet at MATI



Hudsons line up at the Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry.

by Brian Anderson

The Alaska Chapter of the Hudson-Essex-Terraplane Club held

their 2021 meeting on July 3 at the Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry (MATI) in Wasilla. Joining

the very tired 1953 Hornet that resides at MATI were five other Hudson cars brought in by members: 1941 Super Six; 1948 Commodore; 1950 Commodore, and two 1952 Hornet Hollywood project vehicles.

Eight members and their guests enjoyed an excellent BBQ lunch under the cool and cloudy skies, and the vehicle display attracted good interest from other museum attendees.

Yours truly would have won the farthest driven award (55 miles) had there been one, while three cars were local, and one was trailered in from Fairbanks.

After meeting informally for several years, the Alaska chapter was established in 2020 and is off to a good start, having grown to 22 members statewide. 🌍



Unique car at Colony Days car show. One of a kind!

Colony Days

by Jim Fredenhagen

The Colony Days car show on Friday evening, Jun 11 was more than the normal display of beautiful, unusual, and sometimes weird cars and trucks. It was truly a homecoming event where people who hadn't been able to interact for more than a year finally could. There was so much discussion and sharing that the cars seemed like an extra feature.

We are all experiencing quite a special feeling as we become progressively "unshackled." 🌍

Model A Day at Dimond Center

by Jim Fredenhagen

This year's official Model A Day patch is now available.

Model A Day is Saturday, September 11, and we'll get out in our A's to show the world just how many of these venerable beauties are still with us. For only \$5, this cool jacket patch helps commemorate the day (add \$2 for mail.)

Quantities are limited so order soon. I will have some also at the Dimond car show on Saturday, September 11th. 🌍



A Big change to the annual Bear Paw Car Show

by Jim Fredenhagen

The Bear Paw car show will be held at Chepo's parking lot in Eagle River on two nights, Friday and Saturday,

July 16th and 17th.

They're apparently only allowing the first 50 cars on both nights so it stands to be a bit of a madhouse.

The show starts at 6:00 PM but they don't want us there before 5:30 PM. Also, they have it set up on Fri for private owners, (no club people) and Corvette club. Then on Sat is the other clubs, 49th State, Midnite Sun, Antique Auto Musers.

The best idea may be to have dinner at Chepo's at 5:00 and just stay. You will already be parked. 🌍

Loran Wayne Benham
March 28, 1934
- May 10, 2021



Loran "Squeaky" Benham, 87, passed away at home in Fairbanks with his family by his side on May 10, 2021. He was born March 28, 1934, to Ben and Ruth (Snyder) Benham in Deer River, Minnesota. He was born the fourth of eight children. He was preceded in death by his son, Michael Loran Benham; his grandson, Max Webber; his parents; and his seven siblings.

When he was 4 years old he moved with his family to Washington state. They settled in the Enumclaw area, and he graduated from Issaquah High School in 1953. After graduation he joined the U.S. Army and was shipped to Anchorage, Alaska, on the USAT Fredrick Funston with the WAMCATS 505th Signal Corp. He drove lowboy and hauled poles and equipment for the Alaska Communication System's Telegraph Line crew who were replacing old tripod lines on the Alaska and Richardson highways.

After being discharged from the Army, he returned to Alaska to work for the Alaska Road Commission in Tok until statehood. He then was hired by Alaska Motor Coaches in Fairbanks to drive their Brill Motor Coach. His run was to deliver

groceries, freight, mail and passengers from Fairbanks to the Canadian Border at Beaver Creek, Yukon Territories.

In 1959 on his way to Mardi Gras he stopped to visit his family in Washington. While there he met his future wife, Marion Bovee. Loran and Marion were married in February, 1960, and he moved his new family to Delta Junction, where Alaska Motor Coaches had the school bus contract. He drove a school bus in the winters and a highway coach in the summers. Over the years he drove to Anchorage, Haines, Valdez, Eagle, Whitehorse and Dawson City, Yukon Territories. He loved driving buses and meeting people from all over the world. He had many stories he enjoyed telling from his driving days in Alaska and the Yukon before tourism was promoted in Alaska.

In 1965 he was hired by the Alaska Highways Department in Fairbanks as an equipment operator and sent to Gardner Creek Highway Maintenance Camp at milepost 1,253 on the Alaska Highway. He worked and raised his young family in camp, which was located 35 miles north of the Canadian border.

After a few years he was transferred to Johnson River Highway Maintenance Camp at milepost 1,380 on the Alaska Highway, which was located 50 miles south of Delta Junction. From camp the kids traveled 100 miles a day to go to school in Delta Junction. When the kids got into junior high, he was transferred to Healy Maintenance Station where he was a working foreman until he retired in 1986.

Loran was a member of the Pioneers of Alaska and the Northern Lights Antique Auto Club. Participating in many car events with his 1926 Model T Touring and his 1960 Ford Thunderbird gave him such pleasure. He was looking for a project when he found a 1910 Jefferies in the Whitehorse Museum and was instrumental in acquiring it

for the Eagle Historical Society. He then brought it home to Fairbanks where he built it up from a bare frame to look like it did in the early days in Fairbanks. After its completion, he took it home to Eagle where it is part of the museum's collection.

He also built a 1926 Ford Pick Up from a frame and a pile of parts. He took in to Eagle and enjoyed many hours teaching residents how to drive it.

Loran is survived by Marion, his wife of 61 years, and his three daughters: Patricia Mix of Tucson, Arizona, Diana (Vince) Perez of Fairbanks, and Twyla (Dave) Webber of Delta Junction, Alaska. He also left five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Loran and Marion were also members of the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska. AAMA members have many wonderful memories of the various trips and other activities we enjoyed with this unique, old-time Alaskan we will fondly remember as "Squeaky." We offer our sincere condolences to Marion. 🌹

The Palmer Alaska State Fair is back up and running.

Mark Graber announced that everything is back to normal, and that we will meet as usual for the parade. The car show will follow at the fairgrounds, like always.

Mark will make an announcement at our meeting or email more details as we get closer.

State Fair Parade
Saturday, August 21st
in downtown Palmer
Car Show to follow at the fair grounds.

Bontshe Richard

Humor by Richard Golding

“There’s no need to push, folks. Everyone will get their chance. Just wait your turn, please,” shouted the fellow in an usher’s uniform. Then he turned and addressed me specifically, “You want to step back into line, Sir? That’s right – I’m talking to you! Single file only!”

Everything seemed rather blurry. I rubbed my eyes. The brightness and the stark white of everything around caused me to squint. I felt a bit dizzy and quite discombobulated. The line ahead of me looked to be quite long. Glancing back over my shoulder, there appeared to be almost as many people behind as there were in front of me.

Dazed and confused, I wondered just where I was, and how I got there. The last thing I could remember was driving on the highway in Arthur. It was a gorgeous summer day, with blue skies. Perfect driving weather for a Model A. The still-snowcapped Chugach mountains reflected ever so perfectly into the water along Turnagain Arm.

I whispered to the fellow standing in front of me. “Excuse me . . . uh, excuse me, I know this sounds kinda weird, but do you know where we are? I seem to be a smidge confused, can you tell me, what is this place?”

“No talking!” shouted the usher. “Just stand in line. It’ll be your turn, soon enough.”

I shook my head side to side as if trying to wake from a deep sleep. But I wasn’t asleep. This seemed very real. I pinched myself to be sure.

“Ow, that hurts!” I cried out.

“Sir,” hollered the usher, approaching me again. “You’ve got to remain silent, Sir. This is a quiet place. There is no talking. Understand?”

Scratching at my head, I took a step towards him. “I’m sorry, but I seem to be a bit confused. I don’t understand. I can’t seem to remember what . . . um. . . er – where am I?”

People ahead and behind me simultaneously raised their index fingers to their lips and shushed me. I shrugged and placidly stepped back into line.

“That’s right. That’s good. Just wait your turn,” repeated the usher, making direct eye contact with me. “You’ll get your turn, just like everybody else.”

My situation was not sinking in. I was standing in a really long line of people, yet I still could not recall where I was or how I got there. My frustration was getting the better of me. I raised my hand like a third grader trying to get the teacher’s attention, and waved it back and forth

at the usher.

“Hey! Hey Buddy! Would someone please tell me where in the Hell I am?”

My words were met with instantaneous consternation by everyone around me. There were gasps, and several wide-eyed folks held their hands in front of their mouths.

The usher approached me again, looking very serious. “Sir, please Sir, we can’t have anyone using that word here!”

Blinking rapidly, I noticed for the first time the white clouds all around. Then gazing down at my torso, I realized I was dressed in a white frock. As a matter of fact, so was everybody else. There was white everywhere. And I began to understand. Upon closer examination, glancing at the usher, I could make out his white wings. I took a long gulp.

The line shifted slowly forward for what seemed like an eternity. Curiously glancing over the shoulders of those in front of me, I could make out a very large gate at the head of the line. There was an older gentleman with a long white beard sitting behind a large wooden desk in front of the gate.

Finally, with the line ahead of me having reduced to only one soul, If I strained enough, I could just barely make out the old man with the white beard asking him questions. Mostly inquiries about his life and accomplishments. Apparently satisfied with the fellow’s responses, the gate in front of him opened, and he marched in. The gate closed behind him.

“Next!” An authoritarian voice roared. “You’re next, step up please!”

Anxious, and taking baby steps, I inched closer to the old man.

“Step up, step up, please. Nothing to fear. No need to be afraid.”

I approached, stopping just a few feet from the old man’s desk. His eyes aimed downward, he was busy studying some of the paperwork on his desk.

“So who do we have here? Mr . . . Mr. Golding, isn’t it?”

I cleared my throat. “Uh, yes Sir.

(See p. 11, “Bontshe Richard”)



AAMA showed up pretty well at the July 4th parade in Anchorage. Among the entourage we can see Hulsles’ Rolls Royce, Karen Avila Lederhos’ Mustang, Greg Carpenter’s Plymouth and a very well decorated 1949 Ford convertible, which is currently being coddled by the Wiedmers.

Bontshe Richard

(Continued from p. 10)

Th-tha-that would be me, Sir," I stuttered. I tried smiling, but my trembling lips never formed past a tiny, pitiful smirk.

"Sir! Sir? Don't call me Sir. That's my father's name. You may call me Peter." Studying the information that lay before him on his desk, he glanced up at me over the wire-rimmed glasses that rested low on his nose. "Automobile accident, huh? Hmm, looks like pretty standard stuff." Pulling off the glasses, he lifted his head, and made eye contact with me, addressing me straight on. "What's written here, Mr. Golding, tells me that you lead a relatively honest and righteous life. Family man. Hard worker. All sounds good!"

"Thank you . . . er, Peter."

"Just doing my job, son. Let's see here, what's your first name? Says here it's Richard, is that correct?"

"Yes Sir, um . . . I mean Peter. My name's Richard. But just about everybody calls me Rich. You can call me Rich. My friends call me Rich." I tried forcing another smile, with equally dismal results.

"Well I don't see anything unusual here. Your paperwork all seems to be in order. Admission seems appropriate. Do you have any questions?"

"Well Sir . . . uh I mean, well Peter," I stammered.

"No need to be nervous, son. We're all friends here. State your question!"

"Well, you mentioned an automobile accident. I don't remember any automobile accident."

"That's actually quite common. What with seat belts and airbags and such, today's modern cars are so comfy that a lot of folks I see never even realize when they were . . . hmm, wait a minute, says here that you were driving in . . . in a . . . a 1928 Ford Model A Town Sedan." His lips pursed a bit and his countenance took on an ingratiatingly impressive air about it. "Wow, we don't get many of those anymore! Let's see, I think I have a picture of it here, somewhere

in your paperwork." He shuffled through the pile on his desk. "Yes, here it is . . . why saaaay, that's some sweet lookin' ride you got there, Rich!"

"Thanks, Peter. It's always a pleasure to meet another old car lover!"

"Please, call me Pete! You know, I always wanted a car like that! My dad had one just like it!"

"I get that a lot."

"Tell me, did you do all the restoration work on it yourself? Somebody really put a lot of love into these wheels! Look at how sweet that nickel plating is!"

"You should take a gander at the mohair upholstery, it's all original."

"Say what? Wow! I gotta tell you, that's mighty impressive! How's it handle? I mean, do you just drive it to the shows, and on Sundays for ice cream?"

"Nope, I take it out all the time."

"In the city? Really? But, I mean, Dude . . . can it keep up with the modern traffic?"

"Oh sure, I drive it just about everywhere."

"Totally! Well I'll be!" His demeanor shifted to one more serious. "It's a real shame about the accident. You should have adjusted the brakes more often!"

"-Oh Man, I knew it! I was going

to get to them this weekend! Really! Honest, I mean it!"

"I get that a lot."

"So that's how I got here?"

"Uh huh . . . 'fraid so," he responded, and returned to studying his paperwork.

I held my head down penitently and shuffled back and forth from one foot to another. Taking another long gulp, and with puppy dog eyes I looked up and beseeched, "Pete, you strike me as a real old car lover. I know it's asking a lot, but isn't there something you could do? I mean, gee - the big car show is next week, and the ride to Fairbanks is coming up, and I was supposed to be leading next month's general meeting drive around. -Damn!"

Surreptitiously he checked carefully around him from one side to the other, then quietly bending towards me over his desk, he beckoned me with a repeatedly curling index finger to lean in closer towards him. In a whisper he replied, "-Damn straight!"

"Wow!"

"Now mind you, I don't do this for every gear head that I come across, but you know, truth be told, I've always had a soft spot in my heart for the Model A's!"

"I get that a lot." 🌀



Disaster: This is a scenario with which any number of us can relate. President David Jensen's Thunderbird gave it up while gallantly presenting its beauty for July 4th parade goes. We hope it will be back on the road soon to enjoy the remainder of the summer.



A blackie contemplating an adventure: crossing the Glenn.

July

JULY BIRTHDAYS

John (J.R.) Russell—4th

Valerie Bell—11th

Kaylene Brown—14th

Dick Henningsen—14th

Judy Powell—15th

Doug Nolte—15th

Doris Fowler—18th

Esther Combs—24th

Lee Plummer—30th

Gwyn Wiedmer—31st

ANNIVERSERIES

Kaylene and Bill Brown—1st

Diane and Dennis Allen—6th

Gwyn and Mike Wiedmer—

24th



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