



Tinkering Times



The Dimond Show Was Nice and Windy

by Greg Carpenter

The 6th annual car show at the Dimond Center was held on Saturday September 17. As we navigate a changing climate here in Alaska, having a day with no rain was nice. But it was windy and cold throughout the day.

Participants received a goody bag and Dimond Center staff provided 3 boxes of Dino's donuts. Everyone was a good sport, bundled up and stayed the course—true Alaskans, all.

Over the course of the day 26 cars were on display.

Special thanks go to John Martin and Sonni Gregory of the Dimond Center Mall for their help in putting on the show.



It was a treat to see Ken Evans' 1931 Chevrolet Independence at the show. Ken says that the original stovebolt 6 has needed little, and it keeps running smoothly. (See photo, p. 6)

Fall Colors Tour to Seward

by Greg Carpenter

After last year's snow cancellation it was no surprise that the turnout this year was cautiously small. Thanks to all five who came, though, Greg Carpenter, Sara Stoops, Ralph Klassen and Tom and Marcy Cresap.

The colors were rewarding this year, and although the pavilion in Seward was not reserved as we thought, it was free for our use, and we enjoyed watching an otter and a bunch of sea gulls frolicking in Resurrection Bay as a few fishing boats passed by. We had a dry, sheltered place for our picnic lunch, and when we were

almost done with our meal the lone emissary of the Kenai Kaknu Krusers, Ralph Klassen, showed up, and we had a nice visit before heading downtown for ice cream at Sweet Darlings. (Photos on p. 5)

Elections are coming. We have an opening for club treasurer. For more details, see p.3 .

October Meeting

Our October 12th meeting will begin a 6:30 in the Hope Community Resources Learning Center in Anchorage.

We are winding up our summer touring season for 2022 and are headed into our election of officers for 2023. We also can look forward to the Christmas party. Announcements are coming for those two items, as well as reports on our recent activities. so we'll see you there.

Running Board Reflections



Linda and her siblings sat patiently as their dad made the trip back to Sears to save the day, and get them on their way to Disneyworld..



Golding

Richard and I took a trip to Disneyworld last month. That trip was an anniversary of sorts, since my own family took its only road trip fifty years ago in June 1972, the same year I graduated high school.

My parents decided to drive to Disneyworld, since it had just opened its doors the previous October. Taking five kids (my eldest brother lived in Florida at the time and would be meeting us) was no small undertaking. In anticipation, my father purchased a small trailer (from Sears, of course) for the Chevy station wagon. This would help with luggage storage, since each of us was allowed one suitcase.

We packed up the Chevy and the trailer and were on our way when, only about two hours out of Chicago, we realized we had a problem. One of the wheels of our brand new trailer was smoking! Dad pulled onto the shoulder of the Indiana Toll Road, and diagnosed the reason for the smoking wheel. There was no grease in the wheel bearings!

We could not drive back with the trailer hitched to the car without risking a fire. So we unloaded the station wagon of supplies, and Dad drove back to Chicago to find a Sears store in order to replace the offending wheel. In those days before cell phones, this was, as you might expect, a time-consuming process.

My mother, brothers and sisters, and I stayed with the trailer and most of our belongings, whiling away the hours, and hours, and hours by reading, eating the food we had packed, and listening to music on the AM transistor radio. John Denver was particularly popular that summer. Dad returned late in the afternoon with a new wheel (obviously making sure that the bearings were greased).

He and my brother replaced the wheel, and we were on our way having already had a great, although boring, adventure.

—Linda



2022 Officers

President: Linda Mattes
Golding
351-3251

Vice President: David Jensen
868-1680

Secretary: Greg Carpenter
Treasurer: Scott Hulse
240-4028

Sergeant-at-Arms: Dutch
Overly

Members at Large

Brian Anderson-748-1698
Tamea Isham-688-3671
Donn Reese-245-7203

Past Presidents (10 years)

David Jensen (2019-21)
Gwyn Wiedmer (2017-18)
Brian Anderson (2015-16)
Mike Wiedmer (2013-14)
Howard Hansen (2012)
Donn Reese (2009-2011)

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 email:

tmcresap@mtaonline.net

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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 Musers 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: 1957 Thunderbird D-Class 312 Y-Block. Well-maintained and ready for the road; soft-top and Porthole Hardtop. Email or call David Jensen for more info. She's in her best shape since being introduced to Alaska 12 years ago. \$37,500. David Jensen, (9 0 7) 8 6 8 - 1 6 8 0 ,



For Sale: 1955 Ford Fairlane 500 Town Sedan; 272 V8, Cruise O Matic, radio, heater; not running, has been sitting outside. Asking \$5,500. Sandra Manfred 907-333-1926.

Schedule of Events

- * October 8—Trouthouse Run (Jim Fredenhagen, 907-351-3115)
- * October 12—6:30 Meeting
- * October 29—12:00-4:00 Trick or Treat Street
- * November 9—6:30 Meeting
- * December—4:00 pm Christmas Party at Ishams
- * January 11—6:30 Meeting (Installation of Officers)
- * February 8—6:30 Meeting
- * July 14-17—Hope Weekend (Howard Hansen, 907-440-1002)

Search on For Club Treasurer

by Art Isham

The Nominating Committee is searching for candidates interested in running for the Club Treasurer position for 2023. Transition and on-the-job training will be provided by Scott Hulse to ensure that there are no gaps in coverage and responsibility for the club funds. The position is most easily filled by a person that lives in Anchorage, since our mailbox is located at an in-town post office, and most of the mail involves finances. Call any member of the Nominating Committee - Art Isham (907-688-3671); Donn

Reese (907-748-0036) ; or Kurt Rein (907-344-5554) if you are interested. We need to hear from interested individuals by October 10, 2022.



For Sale: 1930 Model A Ford Tudor; Modified B engine; 39 Ford synchro transmission; Mitchell Overdrive; hydraulic brakes; 16" wire wheels (with radial tires); too many extras to list. \$20,000. Call Lee Truesdell, 907-232-2352.

Dues Reminder

As we are in the fourth quarter of the year, dues statements will be attached to the November Tinkering Times.

We are asking members to pay the dues for both the AACA and the AAMA to our local group. This will make it much easier for our Treasurer to keep track of member payments.

We will then forward the AACA dues to the National Office.

AAMA Business Meeting
September 14, 2022
At Hope Community
Resources Learning Center
570 W. 53rd Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm
 by President Linda Mattes Golding

There were 25 members present.
 Guests were Rick Brooks.

Treasurer's Report

Linda provided the financial report
 since Scott Hulse was gone.

August Minutes

The minutes were approved from
 the August business meeting as
 published in the *Tinkering Times*.

Linda Mattes Golding received
 information that the *Trunk or Treat*
 event was taking place on Saturday
 September 17 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm if
 anyone was interested in participating.

Old Business

****Mark Graber** said he received
 an email that the club had won second
 place in the State Fair parade along
 with a check.

****The Dimond Center car show** is
 Saturday September 17 from 9:00 am
 to 3:00 pm. There will be goody bags
 for participates.

****The fall colors tour to Seward** is
 Saturday September 24. Meet at the
 Carr's parking lot on Huffman Road
 at 9:00 am. Bring your own lunch for
 a picnic at the Pavilion on the beach
 followed by ice cream at the Harbor
 Creamery.

****The Hope weekend** is scheduled
 for July 14-16, 2023. Howard Hansen
 is the contact person for this event.

New Business

****The holiday party** is scheduled
 for Sunday December 4, 2022, at 4:00
 pm. The party will be hosted at Art
 and Tam Isham's house.

****Renewal notices** for AAMA and
 AACA will be coming up soon. This
 year everyone should submit payment
 to the club for \$65.00. The AACA
 membership is \$45.00, and the
 AAMA membership is \$20.00. To
 make things easier accounting wise
 Scott Hulse will send one check in to
 AACA for everyone's paid
 membership dues.

****Linda Mattes Golding** said that
 a board meeting is planned for October
 and that starting in November the
 business meetings may start using
 Zoom again for the winter months.

****Karen Avila Lederhos** would
 like to update the mechanic and

service list on the club's website.
 Members can contact her about any
 repair shops that provided good
 service and these businesses can be
 added to the list. Her contact info is
klderhos@gmail.com

****Art Isham** informed everyone
 that the nomination committee will
 begin taking nominations for elected
 positions at next month's business
 meeting.

****Mike Wiedmer** suggested having
 a list of past Show and Shine car show
 winners on the club website.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

President Linda Mattes Golding
 announced birthdays and anniversaries
 for the month.

Split the Pot

Split the pot winner was Mark
 Graber

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm
 followed by a drive to Fire Tap
 restaurant for dinner.

Respectfully submitted.

Greg Carpenter, Secretary



25 members present



The cold, rainy day kept our numbers at bay. The antique autos present were: Ralph Klassen's El Camino, Sara Stoops' 1958 Chevy Bel Air and Greg Carpenter's 1964 Plymouth Sport Fury. Tom and Marcy drove their modern car.



The intrepid sloggers for the day were Sara Stoops, Marcy and Tom Cresap and Greg Carpenter. Ralph Klassen from Kenai joined us later.



The choice of ice cream at Sweet Darlings was superb and very tempting.



Ralph Klassen, Tom and Marcy Cresap and Greg Campbell enjoy their ice cream at downtown Seward's Sweet Darlings. (Sara Stoops was behind the camera.)

Just One Last Drive

by Jim Fredenhagen

We have one final event this month, the annual Trout House Run on Sat, Oct 8. This is on the Model A Club schedule, but, as usual, we are all invited to drive along.

Meet at Trout House (Windbreak) Cafe in Wasilla at noon...old car or new. Turn right at the Hermann Road light in Wasilla.

After lunch, we will tour to Valley View Hotel in Palmer for dessert.

The caravan from Anchorage will leave at 11:00 am from Northway Mall east end parking lot, near the old Carrs gas station by Jiffy Lube.

Come join us as we get to see some of our extended old-car family in the Valley.

Trick or Treat Street

We have one last possible event in Anchorage.

Kris May, the Events Coordinator for the Anchorage Downtown Partnership, has invited us to participate in Trick or Treat Street like we did a couple years ago. We get to dress up in our Halloween finest and

hand out candy from the trunks of our cars.

This was a fun activity when we last participated. We decorated our cars with lights and goblins, coffins and bloody hands.

The weather could be a challenge, since the date is October 29th. The time is agreeable: 12:00-4:00. Let's talk about this at the meeting and see what everybody thinks.



Some of the 26 vehicles displayed at the Dimond Center were: a little hot rod (The Rust Rod), Mike Wiedmer's 1952 Chevy Stakebed, Greg Carpenter's 1966 Ford Mustang, Rich Golding's 1928 Model A Ford, Michael Scruggs and Janice Czerwinski's beautiful Model A Ford Victoria, Brian Anderson's 1950 Hudson Commodore, Sara Stoops' 1958 Chevy Bel Air and Nat Gardner's 1956 Ford Pickup.



John William Piper II
May 27, 1946-
September 10, 2022

John W. Piper II, 76, lost his 22-year battle with cancer on September 10, 2022, in his home. He was born on May 27th, 1946 in Tacoma, Washington to John W. Sr. and Betty (Haven) Piper.

He served in the U.S. Army, but most importantly he started at the bottom of the North Slope and worked his way up and retired as a tool pusher

for Doyon Drilling, Inc. in 2018. The effort he put into work was nothing compared to what he put into his family. He was an amazing husband, father, uncle, grandfather and friend.

John Piper was a friend to anyone. His top hobby was Model A's, and he was a top-of-the-line Model A'er. He will forever be remembered as a one-of-a-kind boss, a true-hearted partier and an out-of-this-world pingpong player.

He is survived by his wife, Linda, four children, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. John W. Piper will be remembered forever as the best grandfather to exist.



Marguerite and Len Grau

Marguerite Elaine Grau
August 8, 1938-April 25, 2020
Leonard John Grau, Jr.
July 9, 1936-July 27, 2022

Marguerite

Marguerite Elaine Grau, 81, passed away on April 25th, 2020. She is survived by her two children:

Marguerite was born in Torrance, California to Raymond and Caroline Thomas. She grew up in Cheshire, Ohio, where she graduated from high school.

After graduation, she moved to Salinas, California to take care of her grandmother. During that time, she worked in the library. One weekend in 1959, she went on a blind date with Leonard Grau while he was on leave from the National Guard in Coos Bay, Oregon. They married on January 22, 1960 in Reno, Nevada and moved to Alaska to begin a new adventure.

Marguerite was a stay-at-home mom. When the children were old enough to go to school, she taught drama as a volunteer at their elementary school. Being an ambitious teacher, she staged a number of Shakespeare plays. Her students were up to the challenge, and

(See p. 7, "Marguerite and Len")

Buddy Holly's Motorcycle



Buddy Holly's Ariel Motorcycle was displayed in the Buddy Holly Center and Museum in Lubbock, Texas. Sometime, Jim Uhl's bike was displayed with it for comparison.

Jim Uhl in the Valley tells an interesting story. He owned an Ariel Cyclone motorcycle, one of only 80 or so that were built by Ariel. The one he had was restored in Canada by an ardent fan of Buddy Holly's, the early rock star who owned one just like it back in the 1950's. Jim tells that he bought the bike and had it in Knik for a few years before selling it to George McMahan, a super Buddy Holly fan. At the time, McMahan owned the original bike that had been owned by Holly and had it in a Buddy Holly museum in Lubbock, Texas. He used Uhl's bike as a stand-in and for comparison to the bike Buddy had when it was brand new.

The story goes that after Buddy Holly died in a plane crash while touring in 1959, his bike was sold but was subsequently purchased by the remaining Crickets, who then gave it to Waylon Jennings. When Jennings died, his widow, Jessie Coulter, had the bike put in a glass case and kept it for years in her Living room. Later it was sold at auction for around \$457,500.00. That's when Mr. McMahan bought it for display in the Buddy Holly Center and Museum in Lubbock, Holly's hometown. Jim Uhl laughs and reports that, "I can guarantee I sure didn't get anything even remotely close to this when I sold mine, but was happy to see it go to a better place . . ."

Marguerite and Len Grau

(Continued from p. 6)

they delighted many.

As her children got older, she started working at the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau. During that time, she kept busy with conventions and helping many visitors to the state.

Marguerite and Len had many commitments: Marguerite was a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs Anchorage and Nome. Both Marguerite and Len were members of Pioneers of Alaska Igloo 4 in Anchorage and Igloo 11 in Palmer, and the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska, where they both served terms as president and edited the club newsletter. Later, after his retirement, as a master gardener, Len joined the Wild Flower Garden Club in Anchorage; then when they moved to Wasilla after Len's retirement, they met new friends when they joined the Valley Garden Club.

Len

Leonard John Grau, Jr. passed away at 86 on July 27th, 2022.

Leonard was born in Palmer, Alaska on July 9th, 1936 to Leonard Grau, Sr. and Thema (Cook) Grau. In 1940, the family moved to Anchorage, Alaska and lived in the Fairview area. He attended University of Alaska for two years and transferred to Oregon State University, where he received a degree in electrical engineering in 1959. Leonard served six months active duty in the National Guard.

He began his career at the Federal Aviation Administration that year and retired 33 years later, only to continue to work with a private contractor. He then spent much time traveling around the state working for the FAA.

When he retired in 2011, he and Marguerite moved to Wasilla near the

homestead where he had lived as a child.

Leonard loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing, berry picking and joining in many family picnics. He could tell you most of the plants and animals that you could find in the woods.

One of the highlights of his year was during the Alaska State Fair, where he served many years on the panel of judges for berries.

As a lifelong Alaskan, he was always interested in the history of the valley. He was a member of the Wasilla-Knik Historical Society, and served on their board of directors.

Len and Marguerite are survived by their two children: son, Kurt Grau (Paula) daughter, Gretchen Lenore Grau, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Celebration of life for the pair was held at Farm Loop Christian Center, 5900 Farm Loop Road in Palmer on September 10th, 2022.



Marguerite and Len taking part in the highway cleanup at Foster's in the valley,

model A odyssey: A Sequel (Part 2) final leg to seldovia

by walt sonen

we hopped from campgrounds to homes of friends that we had visited two years before on our southerly trek. it was a record 111° in silvertown, OR, where we spent a few extra days waiting for it to simmer down into the 90's. with a new water pump in place, we headed north. a swim and a camp along hood canal brought us to port townsend, WA, where we hung out for a while visiting friends in the area. a new muffler assembly had been preordered and was installed. we prepped ourselves for a very covid-conscious canadian customs.

a ferry to whidby island and a pleasant morning drive brought us to the sumas/abbotsford crossing with the required very recent certified negative covid test results. it was midday. we sat in the "alaska lane" as the solitary entrant for quite some time before an agent deigned to speak with us. two hours later we were told to come back the next day with confirmed sequential hotel reservations during our traverse to alaska. so we retreated several hundred yards to an inn where sachiko successfully came up with 5 places to stay along the mandatory route at about 300 mile intervals.

at 7:AM the next morning, "don't come any earlier", we were 1st in line again and waited 2 hours before an agent came to speak with us. we were granted 6 days transit instead of the usual 4 as a nod to the age of our vehicle. actually the young agent that morning was quite nice. we were not to camp. apparently the normal tourist industry was hurting like everyone else and the requirement was made that through travelers to alaska (including self-contained RVs) were to stay in established places of



This idyllic campsite is but one of many they shared on their Model A Odyssey.

lodging. no restaurants, no grocery stores, no convenience stores attached to gas stations, no walks around town. oh and, "do you have enough water?" we suggested that when we got to a motel that perhaps we could contact a carry-out and have food delivered in. after some murmuring behind the counter, it was conceded that that would be okay. we were then issued a fancy certificate to be surrendered upon our canada exit at the beaver creek crossing. sachiko's name was not listed. when asked, the reply was that each embossed paper cost \$20 a sheet. next was a covid testing station. altogether, a three and a half hour ordeal!

so by golly, we were on our way! we were shunted onto the freeway an extra 50 miles because of fires. i thought we would be swept away in the easterly bound truck traffic. williams lake was the 1st night and chetwynd was the 2nd (renowned for it's competition and display of chainsaw carvings). from there we had two options to connect with the alaska hiway. i wanted to go through hudson's hope rather than dawson creek because some 50 years ago an older woman had picked me up in chetwynd hitch hiking. hudson's hope had seemed out of the way and i was hesitant. she had kids my age

and said i that could have dinner and spend the night at their place. her husband had to go to fort saint john early the next morning and could drop me on the alaska hiway.

passing through hudson's hope early the next morning, we stopped for coffee (violation! - not the first time). "the mc williams passed away, their hardware store sold, the kids all moved away, it was like her to have picked you up, what wonderful people they were! no charge for the coffee. thanks for stopping by and have a good trip." good feelings indeed! from there we came through a HUGE construction area. it is obviously a large government dam, waterworks, and hydro project still years in the making. certainly a surprise. we then joined the al-can with overnights at fort nelson, watson lake, and whitehorse.

we would get going about 4:30 and often we wouldn't see another vehicle until 6:00, in part due to covid i'm sure. coming out of whitehorse we stopped to watch a herd of 50~60 bison cross the road. we refueled at haines junction. about 3 miles later we were having trouble making it up a 3% grade. i was down to first gear and struggling. this was not the first time. we pulled over, propped up the hood and were fiddling around for a

(See p. 9, "Model A")

Model A Odyssey

(Continued from p. 8)

few minutes when a big rig pulled over and stopped just ahead of us. the guy walked back, asked the usual questions. yes, yes and yes. i told him that i was considering driving to haines and putting the car on the ferry and eventually get it home that way. he said, "that's not you're only option." he offered to put the A in the back of his truck! he expected to be home in palmer that evening!

we followed him to a pullout a couple of miles up the road and he had opened the back of the trailer, a low equipment hauler which had a rollback thick canvas enclosure. there sat a very dusty black ford taurus, a used north carolina patrol car that he had bought for his daughter. i assumed he could roll it forward. he said "no", turned and pointed his finger at me and said, "YOU'RE drivin' it!" (the truck was otherwise full with equipment.) so i helped him with the ramps and we exchanged cars, tied down the A and so on. we were cleaning the car windows and noticed it didn't have tags. we inquired. he said he'd print out a copy of the registration. sachiko remarked about a printer to which he replied, "what do you think we are, CAVE MEN?" and we were off—70 miles an hour.

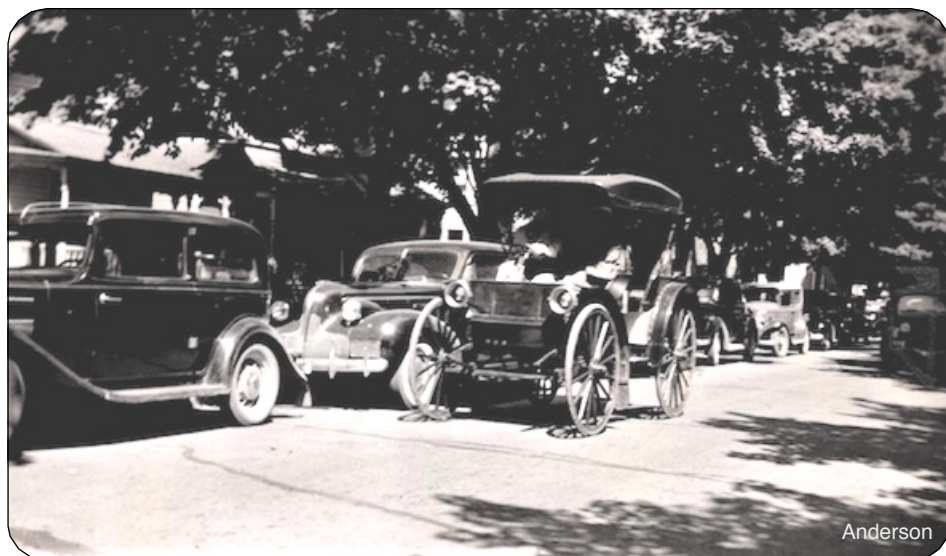
the border crossings were a story in themselves, rather hilarious. we fueled with him in tok and agreed that he would go on ahead and we would meet him at his place the next day. he printed out instructions and we overnighted in glennallen. we fueled and washed the car in palmer with a bit of the logo of its former occupation still peeking through. after driving around in circles for a while he came and led us to his place. we met his wife, son, grandson, and his folks. he had unloaded the model A.

we fiddled with the carburetor and took it for a test drive. the car ran fine. bob havemeister, havemeister trucking. he had retired from several jobs with the state and now, trucking is his retirement. a wonderful family. they had close connections with some folks in seldovia and i since learned that the family had recently closed their dairy, the last of its kind in alaska.

we topped up our fuel tank in anchorage and proceeded to visit friends on the hillside. oops, same deal. down to 1st gear and struggling. changed the carburetor -again- and made it to their place for the night. it was suggested that symptoms indicated the gas cap may not be vented correctly. duh, yes! brilliant! we took our time coming down the peninsula, made the ferry to seldovia, the wedding, the roof. we were home

happy and in one piece. the old ford was not as responsive as it used to be and the milage was horrible and had become increasingly worse: 12 MPG soldotna~homer. so over the winter it was time to investigate. i shined up every electrical connection that may have been remotely concerned and checked the valve clearances. the intake valves were all in tolerance range and within .001" of each other. the exhaust valves were a different story entirely. specifications call for .015" clearance. measurements were 10~13 thousandths shy — almost no clearance at all!! well, adjustments were made and i got my car back. it has been running quite well since, thank you very much. . .

we logged 4920 miles on our return + 580 in mr. havemeister's truck. hitch hiking counts too, doesn't it?



This is yet another old photo from Brian Anderson's dad's fantastic collection. He took this photo of a high-wheeler driving by in Traverse City, Michigan, sometime just before WWII. Brian also sent the photo off to Fountainhead's Willy Vinton in Fairbanks, hoping that he could identify the make (no word yet). Brian sent the photo thinking that it was nice example of the interest in antique autos even 80 years ago. The cars parked along the side of the street could be a modern-day antique car show. Are there any YOU can identify?



Two long-time Auro Musers, Hank Raymond and Bob Dreeszen, showed up at Len and Marguerite Grau's Memorial in Palmer.

October

Birthdays

Sara Stoops–6th
 Fred Scharper–12th
 Cindy Hulse–13th
 Season Baker–15th
 Dave Chiotti–16th
 Milt Tanora–26th
 Donn Reese–31st

Anniversaries

Jenny & Morgan Blanchard–
 11th
 Martie & Blacky Black–14th
 Cheryl & John Martin–18th
 Karen Avila & Donald
 Lederhos–23rd



AAMA
 P.O. Box 770703
 Eagle River AK 99577-0703

