

January 2022 VAE Year 69

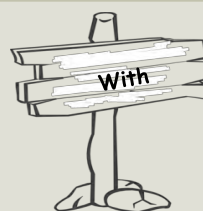
Wheel Tracks



Tammy and Charlie Thompson, (Daughter and Dad),
are on their way to a parade in this beautiful
1929 Willys Knight Sedan.

Read more about the Willys,
and some of Tammy's adventures, on page 11.

The Official Monthly Publication of the Vermont Automobile Enthusiasts



Falcon Knight (1927-1928) Slogan

"America's Finest Type Motor"

A teacher asked her students to use the word "beans" in a sentence.
"My father grows beans," said one girl.
"My mother cooks beans," said a boy.
A third student spoke up,
"We are all human beans."



A mom texts, "Hi! Son, what does IDK, LY, & TTYL mean?"
He texts back, "I Don't Know, Love You, & Talk To You Later."
The mom texts him, "It's ok, don't worry about it. I'll ask your sister, love you too."

Two little boys were known troublemakers, stealing everything they could get their hands, even from the church.
One day a priest stopped one of the boys and asked, "Where is God?"
The boy shrugged and the priest repeated, "Where is God?"
The boy ran out of the cathedral crying to his home where he hid in a closet.
Eventually his brother found him and asked, "What's wrong?"
The crying boy replied, "We're in trouble now! God is missing and they think we took him!"

Paddy and Murphy are havin' a pint in the pub, when some scuba divers come on the TV.
Paddy says,
"Murphy, why is it them deep sea divers always sit on the side of the boat with them air tanks on their backs, and fall backwards out of the boat?"
Murphy thinks for a minute then says,
"That's easy.
It's 'cos if they fell forwards, they'd still be in the friggin boat!"

Our normal December mailed notice has not been working. So, it will not be mailed out this year.



It is fairly normal to have 30 members who have not paid their dues on time, but last February there were over 60.

"This notice will be the last."

We don't want to lose you as a VAE member,
Please note the date next to your name on this issue's mailing label to see if your membership ends on the 31st.

From your editor, GF....

Sharon and I came home from Mary Noble's funeral feeling both sad and uplifted. Mary was an amazing woman, and her family and friends gathered to have a wonderful "goodbye" for her.

We have a very chubby neighbor's cat that comes to visit in the night, and recently I mentioned to Sharon that I had seen the cat's prints in the fresh snow.

Big mistake on my part, as she was filling a dish of food for the cat. I gave her a speech about the cat being just a visitor from next-door and that our sleeping old-cars would become a winter hotel to every field mouse and chipmunk in the area, if there was ready food each day. It was a long ride home, from Mary's funeral, with Sharon reminding me about that poor starving cat, and what Mary would do.
God Bless you Mary.

A little gossip..... I learned that David Stone has retired after working as an air flight controller for 35 years. Being only 55 years-old, means he was telling planes what to do when he was only 20 years-old...WOW.

I have to admit I was a little jealous. Here is this guy, with all of his hair and no wrinkles, telling me he just retired.....at 55! What did he know, that I didn't?

Dave has invited us for a "VAE Tour" this summer, where he now lives in the Rutland area. I will pass the word to our new 1st Vice, Mike Felix, and hope we can take him up on his offer.

I was on the phone, a few days ago, with Lloyd Davis and he told me he had to make a trip to the hospital to fight a case of Covid. Luckily, he had all of his shots including the booster, but it still gave him a good kick.

I visited him a couple of summers ago and found him up on the roof, fixing some shingles. "They needed attention" was his words after I expressed concerns about his climbing any ladders. He told me this last summer, he is unable to do repairs on his south roof any longer. I told him I could not remember the pitch of that roof being any different than the north side. He said it was not the pitch, it was that his doctor lives just south of him and might see him up there.



Jan Sander-Chairwoman
802-644-5487 sander@pshift.com
Duane Leach - President
802-849-6174 dmleachs@gmail.com
1241 Main Street, Fairfax, VT 05454
Gary Fiske- 1st. Vice
802-933-7780 gafiske@gmail.com
Mike Felix— 2nd Vice
845-656-7260 felixmike3@gmail.com
Don Pierce- Treasurer
802-879-3087 dwp@melodyelectric.com
203 Colchester Pond Road
Colchester, Vt. 05446
Charlie Thompson- Recording Secretary
802-878-2536 charlieandmarion@comcast.net
Tom McHugh 802-862-1733...Term ends 12/31/2020
Judy Boardman 802-899-2260...Term ends 12/31/2020
Dave Sander 802-434-8418...Term ends 12/31/2021

Membership Secretary (Ex-Officio)
Christina McCaffrey
89 Ledge Road
Burlington VT 05401-4140
VAEmembership@gmail.com
marleyparis@aol.com

The Vermont Antique and Classic Car Meet
Co-Chairs
Bob Chase 802-253-4897
Duane Leach 802-849-6174

Education/Outreach Committee
Ed Hilbert— Chair Gary Fiske
Tom McHugh V-Chair Charlie Thompson
Wendell Noble— Sec. Don Pierce
Gary Olney Nancy Olney
John Malinowski

Wheel Tracks Editors.....

Anne Pierce, 802-879-3087
fortherecordinvermont@gmail.com
Colchester, Vermont
&
Nancy & Ken Gypson, 518-423-7565
kengypson@yahoo.com
nancygypson@yahoo.com
Poestenkill, New York
&
Gary Fiske, 802-933-7780
gafiske@gmail.com
Enosburg Falls, Vermont

Justin Perdue—Webmaster

Welcoming Committee
David Hillman
david.hillman@vtmednet.org

Wheel Tracks printer
Messenger Marketing, St. Albans, Vermont

FROM OUR PRESIDENT, DUANE LEACH



Hello Everyone,

Another month has gone by and we had to cancel our annual meeting and the holiday gathering at the last minute to keep all the members safe. With the covid numbers being so high we just didn't dare have the events. I'm hoping the January event goes as planned.

This year's President's Restoration Award goes to Bill Cooke for the beautiful restoration of his 1903 Grout Model J completed in 2021. It will be presented at a future date. Thanks, Bill, for sharing that beautiful car with us. The Antique and Classic Car Meet community is looking for a volunteer to come forward and be the lead person in charge of the show's flea market. We are also looking for more people to be on the show committee.

Please call Duane Leach or Bob Chase if interested. Thanks for putting up with me as the club president for the last two covid years. Gary Fiske will become the VAE president in January. Go Gary!

See you around,
Duane

Editor's Note: Thank you, Duane, for two years of service and dedication to the Vermont Automobile Enthusiasts!

**Membership
Only \$30**
\$50 for 2 years

**Wheel Tracks
Monthly deadline to
the editor is the
5th of each month**

**"How to be
a member"**
*Go to vtauto.org
*Click "Join VAE"
*Print form, fill it
out and mail it with
your \$\$ to our
secretary

If you want your
latest
Wheel Tracks
earlier.... go to
vtauto.org then to our
Member Only Page.

The new issue can
usually be found
there, around the 25th
of the month.

Wheel Tracks
is a monthly
newsletter published
in print and
electronically for the
public, and for the
VAE membership.
The VAE is a 501c3
a not-for-profit Inc.

Well, the 65th annual Anne Gypson Fall Foliage Tour is in the books. It's hard to believe that 65 years have passed since Rod and Emily Rice won the first tour! It's with great gratitude that I thank Judy Boardman and Buzz Stone for planning this year's event....(Buzz, your award for 2020 is still in Duane's possession...stick around, he may let you have it some day.)

This year's winners are Ed and Chris Hilbert. Over hill, over dale in the pouring rain had them on English Settlement Road and Route 15. Nancy and I planned on attending this year until we found that the one and only hotel room within 50 miles wanted \$600 for one night! (And, you woodchucks talk about us New Yorkers!)

Also, as you read this know that Judy has received her own special "Appreciation" award for her efforts.

And, finally, I need to thank my soulmate, Nancy, for doing 90% of the computer work....she works well with misfits.

Long live the VAE...**Ken Gypson**





Wheel Tracks Academy

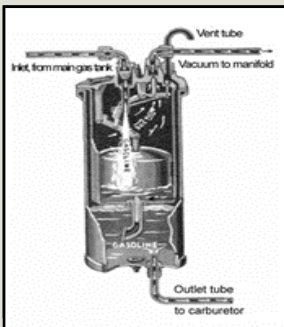
WHY ENGINE VACUUM?

By guest writer, Gary Fiske



Fred Gonet is a restorer of all things, especially old cars. I have heard him cuss (I mean really cuss) at certain brands and then go on (and on) about his favorite brands. The Locomobile brand gets lots of his praise, so get ready if the subject comes up. Fred's shop is in Proctorsville, in south-central Vermont, and I live up next to the Canadian border, so much of our old car stories are by way of the telephone.

A recent conversation started with my comment about watching a TV movie about the inventor, Robert Kearns, who developed the intermittent windshield wiper. Wendell's columns on patents will really make sense, if you watch the movie. Anyway, Fred said the old Model A he used to have, had variable-speed wipers, its just they worked a little differently. He spoke about going up a slippery mountain road during a snowstorm many years ago. Every time he "stepped on it", the wipers would quit, and he could not see. He had to let up to make them work again. He ended up having to get pulled up the hill by a farm tractor, very embarrassing.



So, "Why Engine Vacuum?" Well, as mentioned, your engine vacuum can run the wipers.

Sometimes, to gain engine power in these old cars, you had to turn the wipers off. A few modern cars used engine vacuum to pull the recessed headlights out of their compartments. Many old cars used **Stewart vacuum tanks**, pictured left, to pull gas from the rear tank. My '27 Dodge uses a Stewart and it works great. Any time the Dodge engine would act up, the first thing I would do is check vacuum. A tiny leak, in many cases, does not affect the engine that much, but for the Stewart, it is critical.

Now, back to "Why Engine Vacuum?" There is another small reason why proper vacuum is good. Your engine needs vacuum to operate. And, how is vacuum created? In a 4-stroke engine, we know the four strokes are intake, compression, power and exhaust. Vacuum is created by two of them, the intake and the power strokes. We also know that vacuum's main job is to suck the air/gas mixture from the carburetor by way of the intake manifold. A friend of mine had an old

dilapidated Dodge. Every time he started his car, when it was cold, he would open the hood and plug all the rubber vacuum hoses, so all the vacuum can be used to pull the air/gas mixture into the cylinders. He had a lot of vacuum leaks!

So, here is my pitch for having a permanent vacuum gauge installed on our old car dashes. Doing this column this month has convinced me, this is a good idea. If you became used to watching your vacuum gauge, you would have a whole new eye into your old engine. Beside knowing, early-on, that you have a small vacuum leak for your wipers or fuel tank, you can also have an idea your engine valves, your engine timing, piston rings, valve guides and valve springs are all doing their job properly.

Lets say normal vacuum in your car is about 18. That is 18 inches of Mercury, but lets just keep it simple and just say your gauge normally runs about 18.

If you are driving down the road and notice your gauge is running higher by 2 to 4 or lower, by the same, your timing might need adjustment. Other indicators might be happening also, like low power or backfiring. Your vacuum gauge would be confirming the area that needs attention.

Lets say the gauge is fluctuating 4 or 5 increments, up and down. The manuals tell us you could have a sticking valve. With your vacuum steady at 18, you can speed up and hold the higher RPMs then watch the vacuum drop to maybe 5. That is normal. If the reading fluctuates while it moves down to 5, the book says you might have a valve spring problem. If, while you are holding the same higher RPM, the needle climbs back up, you may have some valves that are leaking.

A steady but low reading might indicate ring problems.

My point here is that we are often doing a lot of guessing when our old engine has a hiccup. A permanent vacuum gauge on your dash and your knowledge after watching it for a while, could make for a much more comfortable ride.



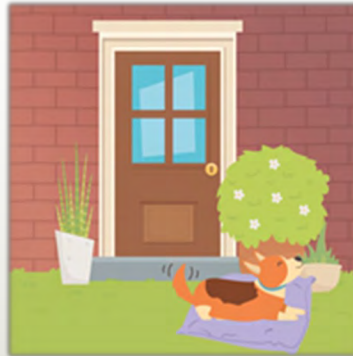


"The Softer Side"

A Column Shared by Anne Pierce (Left), Judy Boardman (Center) & Nancy Olney (Right)

.....from Judy

I've had a house full of family members visiting this fall, and with all these people came 4 dogs. Now, I must say all the dogs, along with my old dog, got along really well. One thing that helped was the fact that I have a doggie door next to the back door. Unfortunately, 2 visiting dogs never figured out how to use it. I have forgotten what it is like to have to open the door whenever a dog wanted to go out or in. What a nuisance. We originally installed the door for a dog we had many years ago. We were both working and the dog, Phoebe, was afraid of thunderstorms. The doggie door allowed her to go in the house when the weather got bad.



A few years ago, I came down in the morning to find a sweet little beagle sleeping on the couch. I had never seen this dog before. After making a few phone calls, I put her in the car and drove around the neighborhood, but no one knew who she belonged to. I finally found a family that just moved into a house down the road; the dog was theirs. She came back to visit several times after that. Sweet dog.



We had a Cat that used the doggie door too. Steve Dana gave us a cat many years ago named Rosie. Rose liked chipmunks, live ones. We had it down to a good system. Rosie would bring a chipmunk in the house, drop it, I would quickly

barricade doors, open the back door, get a broom, put Rosie in another room, and chase the chipmunk out the back door.

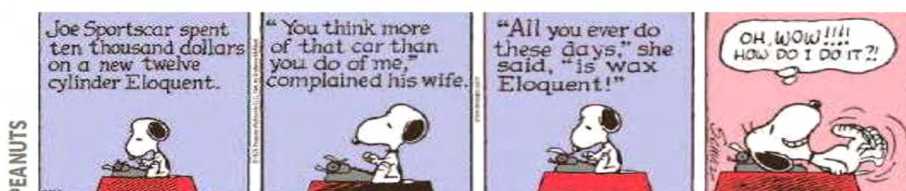
There are also the times in warm weather when the windows are open at night that our dog (or dogs) would hear something outside and run out the doggie door only to bark and bark and bark, waking everyone up. This is when I would get the dogs inside and put the sliding panel in that closes the door, not letting anyone out.

A neighbor has a huge St. Bernard, and this dog has a doggie door that a bear cub could walk through. It has never happened, but I have heard stories about raccoons using doggie doors, and if a racoon can, a skunk can too! Not a pretty thought.

Our dog, Dixie, likes to walk down the hill to the neighbors' house to go swimming in their pond. They love Dixie. Everyone loves Dixie. She has a wonderful smile and is very fond of dog biscuits. After her swim, she uses their doggie door to go inside to visit and maybe look for a treat before walking back up the hill. Sadly, Dixie is getting too old to do that anymore. She would rather just nap in the house now.

The other day some of the visiting family finally left and took with them their 2 dogs. We are now left with just 2 visiting dogs plus our own. Unfortunately, one of the dogs is one that doesn't know how to use the doggie door. Good grief!

D·O·G





"My First Car Stories"

I am hunting for "First Car Stories"
Can I have yours?
Call me...802-878-2536 or email...charlieandmarion@comcast.net
Thanks, Charlie Thompson



Editor's Note: Unfortunately Charlie is still "hunting" for First Car Stories. Do you have one to share? You don't even have to write it down. Just give him a call and he'll interview you over the phone and then write it up himself. How easy is that? His contact info is above.

This and That



Anything catch your eye?
Thanks to Isabelle & Clark Wright

"POPEYE THE SAILOR MAN" WHO KNEW?

His real name was Frank "Rocky" Fiegel. Born in 1868 in Poland, he immigrated to the U.S. with his parents. As a young man, Rocky went to sea, and after a 20-year career as a sailor, he retired. Fiegel was later hired as a "bouncer" to maintain order in a rowdy bar where he quickly developed a reputation for always being involved in fighting, hence his deformed eye ("Pop-eye"). And he always smoked a pipe, so he always spoke out of one side of his mouth.

The creator of Popeye, Elzie C. Segar, met Rocky at the bar and would sit for hours listening to the old sailor's amazing "sea stories." Years later, Segar became a cartoonist and developed a comic strip called "Thimble Theater." He honored Fiegel by asking if he could model his new comic strip character, "Popeye the Sailor Man," after him. Thanks to Dave Stone



Next up.....

Coming VAE Events for 2021



January 15th, 11AM, at the St. Andrews Parish Hall, 109 South Main St., Waterbury, will be our annual Memorabilia Gathering. Please bring your favorite dish for our traditional Potluck Luncheon (drinks will be furnished by the club).

Also, plan to bring something from "your collection" that you will have fun showing your friends: an odd wheel or crazy Carburetor that might have been used in the old days, anything you would like to show us. Let's see who can create the most "table visits" or the quietest room when you have the floor!

Several tables will be set up for our "Education Fund Sale." The club will have hats, Ts, books and dash plaques, from earlier car shows for sale. If you have anything you would like to donate, you are welcome to bring them. The "elephant in the room," of course, is Covid. We will try to make a wise decision as we get closer to the event; your advice is always welcome. Please call me with any questions or comments. My contact info is on page 3.

Thanks, Gary Fiske

Watch for John Lavalley's email messages for VAE news,
reminders and the latest planned events,
Our website VTAUTO.ORG



"Remember When".... with Chris Barbieri



Our "senior" readers may recall when a gas station was really a service station where you remained in your car while a station attendant filled your gas tank. Service was the name of the game in those days, and customer loyalty was important for service station success. Filling your gas tank was an opportunity to offer services such as checking your oil and coolant levels, the radiator cap, and even a quick glance at other under-the-hood needs.

The accompanying illustration titled "A Quick Picture of Friendly Service at the Pump" is included in a detailed 3-ring binder distributed in 1946 by Mobil Socony - Vacuum to their service station operators. Titled "Car Service Bulletins," it covers virtually every car component as an opportunity for more business. It includes the battery, spark plugs, front wheel bearings, lubrication, cooling system, oil and air filters, and much more. It even covers how to properly wash your customer's car.

Mobil tells how to take advantage of "Friendly Service at the Pump." It includes doing all essential services at one time, the easiest service to teach new employees, etc.

My favorite is, "It is helpful to anyone not familiar with all hood mechanisms on the various cars because it provides a chance to study how they are raised while on the passenger's side of the car."

There are still a very few full service service stations out there, but I bet none check your oil unless asked !

Remember When ?



"Pleasures of Reading an Auto Magazine"

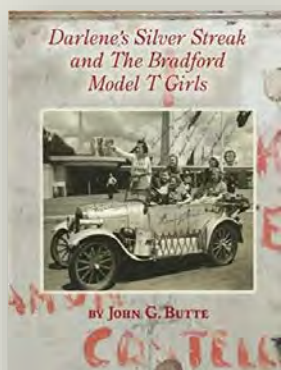
VAE Trivia from Don Tenerowicz

The '50s are arguably the most nostalgic years in U.S. history. The decade was marked by the post-World War II boom, the dawn of the Cold War, and the Civil Rights movement in the United States. The roles within the "ideal" American family were clearly defined. The father was the breadwinner, which supported his wife and their ever-growing family.

On average, gas cost 18 cents per gallon at the start of the 1950s and 25 cents per gallon at the end of the decade. The economy was booming; new cars, suburban houses, and other consumer goods were available to more people than ever before. Car culture took off in the 1950s. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act in June of 1956 to create 41,000 miles of national highways. This made family road trips possible! Televisions became something the average family could afford. The Golden Age of Television was marked by family-friendly shows like I Love Lucy, The Honeymooners, The Twilight Zone and Leave It To Beaver. The 1950s saw the emergence of Rock 'n' Roll, which swept across the nation. The booming prosperity of the 1950s helped to create a widespread sense of stability in the United States. That consensus was a fragile one and would be tested in the following decade. (From 1Funny.com)

President Eisenhower (pictured right) advocated for the highways for the purpose of national defense. In the event of a ground invasion by a foreign power, the U.S. Army would need good highways to be able to transport troops and material across the country efficiently. Following completion of the highways, a cross-country journey that took two months in 1919 was cut down to five days. (Wikipedia)





Hi,

The August 2021 Wheel Tracks issue had an article about the "Bradford Model T Girls." This is a very interesting and fascinating book: "Darlene's Silver Streak and The Bradford Model T Girls."

<https://www.amazon.com > Darlenes-Silver-Streak-Bradford...>

I hope others can enjoy it as well.

Clay Luce, Enosburg



On December 7, four VAEers made the trip to Windsor, VT, the home of the American Precision Museum. Their mission was to present VAE's annual donation to this wonderful piece of Vermont history. Pictured below from left to right are Gary & Nancy Olney, Don Pierce, and Alice Cable and Lisa Yordy from the museum. The fourth VAEer, Gary Fiske, is behind the camera. John Alexander is also off camera but certainly among the helpful museum staff.

Many interesting stories of the museum founder, Edwin Battison, were exchanged, and a request was made by the staff for any and all information on a recent gift to the museum, a Rolls-Royce/Bentley engine. The engine number is X5T, and if anyone has historical information, please send it to a Wheel Tracks editor, and we will pass it on.



The museum combines the atmosphere of an original 19th century factory building with a world-class collection of historic machines. The 1846 armory building, the "Shaping America" exhibition and accompanying programs explore industrial history in the context of innovation, creative problem solving, and the impact of precision manufacturing on American history and culture.

"Remembering Jim Austin" from Fred Gonet

I first met Jim in 1972 when we moved to Proctorsville from Rutland. I started working at Mack Molding, and my boss was Jim Cady. He was a good friend of Jim's and wanted me to meet him, knowing I was very interested in antiques cars. At the time I owned a 1929 Nash sedan. Jim Cady took me up to Lebanon to meet Jim and his friend Gordy Durant. Those two made quite a pair! Jim Austin was quite happy I was that interested in old cars at 22 years old and that I had one. He asked me if I would like to drive his 1923 Dodge. I had never driven a car that old before. Of course I said yes. We went up Daisy Hill Road away, turned around and headed back.....down the hill. The shifting was different for me, and I guess I was going a little fast down the hill. We came to his driveway a little more quickly than I expected when Jim yelled, "Turn in here!" He grabbed the hand brake as I nailed the clutch and the brake, and we stopped just at his garage door. We had landed safely, and I got hooked on early cars that day.

My wife, BJ, had never driven our Locomobile by herself until 1990. She had a birthday party for me, and Jim Austin was there. He "dared" BJ to give him a ride in it. She did and gave many more that day and the years since. It took Jim to get her into the Loco.

Jim will surely be missed by all who knew him.

Wheel Tracks Classifieds



Free to all Enthusiasts

For Sale....

1936/7 Packard body and mechanical parts, plus some hard to find items.

1932 Cadillac intake manifold, original radio with dynamotor, lady mascot, original manual, generator, starter.

1937 Packard block with insides, pan, head and flywheel.

All items are negotiable.

Air actuated bead breaker/tire changer, \$25. Straight bar is missing.

28 LaSalle radiator (good), rusty shell and louvers, splash pans (set), brake arm \$200.

1927 -426 Packard radiator and shell, \$200.

1937 -120 block with crank/pistons/pan/etc., - \$200.

1936- Packard -120 transmissions/hood/grill.

Inquire: Roy Martin

802-862-6374, or roymart@comcast.net.

For Sale.....

My friend passed away a year ago leaving a 1926 Model T Speedster behind. Now the family needs to sell it and is not sure what it's worth. It is complete, don't think it runs. Any ideas on value or where to list it? We have tried local listings, no response. I have pictures I can send to anyone that might be interested.

Dave Massingham

dwmassjr@yahoo.com

For Sale....

1938 Ford Deluxe Coupe

98% rust free, no running gear, many spare parts, will deliver in Vermont for gas.

Price reduced \$5,500/offer.

Text/call Ken Gypson 518-423-7565 or kengypson@yahoo.com

An important message from Charlie Thomson:

Scams... If you encounter a scam or suspected scam, you can report it to the Vermont Attorney General's office at the following website. The website also alerts us to the scams that are being encountered in VT.

<https://ago.vermont.gov/cap/stopping-scams/>

January Bumper Sticker...

**I've got to stop
saying, "How stupid
can you be?"**

**Too many people
are taking it as a
challenge.**

For Sale....Sales brochures for most American and some foreign makes, both pre-war and MANY post-war makes and models. Send e-mail with your interests, and I'll respond with availability and price.

John Emerson, 802-388-7826

jemerson@middlebury.edu

Wanted... 1777-1791 Republic of Vermont license plate. If you have one you would be willing to part with contact Jim.



Free...Miscellaneous dash plaques

packardsu8@netscape.net OR text 802-598-1663

Wanted.... I am trying to locate a Model A that I once owned, that my grandfather purchased new. It is a 4-door sedan with a leather top that goes down around the rear window. It was brown when I sold it. I sold it in 1989 to a man from Brighton, Maine, and I understand it was later sold to a second person. Thank you for any information you can give me.

Philip Allan, Piermont, NH. 603-960-4027

Wanted..... Would you please send me your VAE Roster updates for 2022. Also, if we do not have your email address, you are missing out on John Lavalley's last minute event news and announcements. Please email or mail this information to me. Thanks, Christina McCaffrey
VAEmembership@gmail.com
89 Ledge Rd, Burlington, VT 05401-4140

Wanted.... Choke cover and spring for 1952 to 1956 Cadillac with Carter 4-barrel carburetor. Part number is Carter #170 ac 241s. John Emerson, 802-388-7826, jemerson@middlebury.edu

From front page.....

Tammy Thompson's 1927 Willys Knight Sedan

Written by G. Fiske

Tammy's 70A Willys Knight is a sight to be seen! The lines are great, it was built during the height of the factory's output (140,000 were built that year), and the engineering quality is among the best.



One other small detail is the type of engine that hauls this beauty around. The gent who developed this unique engine is Charles Knight. One requirement of his, if you wanted to use his engine, is that his name had to be added to the vehicle name: thus "Willys Knight". The Knight engine does not use the normal valves we are use to. When he was thirty-two years-old, Mr. Knight purchased a vehicle in 1901 and was very annoyed by the sound of the slapping valve. He found financial backing and developed an engine that was added to a new automobile in 1906, called the "**Silent Knight**". His cure for all that noise was to dump the old valves and add two sleeves inside each cylinder. Each sleeve had built-in holes and when certain holes lined up, the exhaust was allowed to leave. Another set of holes would be lined up when the gas/air mixture needed to get into the cylinder. Tammy's Willys Knight model was built from 1914 through 1933.

Tammy purchased her Sedan about six years ago from a gent in Connecticut. She was influenced, in a small way, from her dad, Charlie Thompson, who has a Whippet, **built by the same company: Willys-Overland**. She fell in love with the brand while joining her dad to a national Willys-Overland gathering. Her car came up for sale and with the help of her dad and other WOKR Club members, she bought it. Beside the brand, the condition and the car's history; there was one other important reason for her purchase.....it was red, her favorite color.

Tammy has become use to the 200-to-300-mile tours that happen when their WOKR club gets together. Asked about the longest distance she has traveled, driving her car, she said the trip from Marietta, Georgia to Jasper, Indiana was the longest. Her son, Ethan, and her dad, Charlie, joined her in the 800-mile round-trip. Except for a small emergency about a half hour at the start the trip, all went very well. The emergency was a fire from a dragging right-rear brake, which happens to be just inches from the gas tank. Ethan could smell smoke and it took a while to convince his mother it was coming from "her" car. A squirt or two from a fire extinguisher, a short wait for everything to cool down and a small adjustment to matched that mechanical brake to the other three, and they were on their way again.

She said her Willys Knight loves to cruise at 43 MPH. The Knight engines are noted for burning oil, and some, putting out lots of tail-pipe smoke while driving down the highway. You can see from the front page, as Tammy was gearing up to entering the highway, that her engine is not a smoker.

The only other mishap was when she had entered a rally race with her Willys Knight. Her navigator had to cancel at the last minute, so she decided to go anyway. All was going very well as she followed a competitor in his speedy little sports car; until "the corner". She said the car requires strong arm steering, and while the little sports car sped around the corner, she went straight. She was very proud that she did not do a "wheelie" like she had done a few years earlier with her dad's Whippet. She recovered and came in sixth place.



(Tammy's definition of a wheelie, in a car, is to have the two tires on the left or the right, off the ground.)



Tammy's next project is a Vermont Willys Knight. A 1928 Model 56 Sport Coupe that had belonged to Gael Boardman from the mid-50s. There is a WOKR gathering in Huntsville, Georgia next June and she hopes to be driving it.

That "Coupe" has lots of VAE club history going back to when Gael was a young man and Pevey Peake was having his old-car adventures. If you do a little Wheel Tracks research, you can find Gael-stories about the coupe. One story he wrote is called "**Takes a Licking, Keeps on Smoking**", where he mentions driving the car over 100,000 miles while he had it. This coupe now has a new life with Tammy and ready to make much more history.

Ain't this old-car stuff fantastic?

Good luck in your travels Tammy. You don't need to be told to have a good time, you have that part exactly right.



Vermont Auto Enthusiasts Membership Application

Membership fee.....\$30 per yr.....\$50 for 2yrs.

Please make payment payable to:
VAE Secretary, Christina McCaffery
89 Ledge Road
Burlington, VT 05401

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email Address _____

We collect old vehicles, tractors, old engines, road maps,
posters, match-box models, tools, gas pumps, antique clothing,
post cards and more. What do you collect?

Check out our member vehicle list on our web site, (vtauto.org).
What old vehicles do you have?

An online application can also be found at vtauto.org.



January 2022

Check the date after your name,
Your VAE Membership
might need to be renewed.



Mary Louise (Pulsifer) Noble March 11, 1940—November 24, 2021

This from Nancy Olney..... What can I say about Mary? She was the kindest, sweetest lady that I ever got to call a dear friend. She was always so welcoming when you visited her and Wendell at their home in Milton. Hospitality at its' best, offering coffee, cookies, a meal or a bed and a glass of port if you were there about 4:30. She made you feel like you were 'just the person she had been wishing would show up'. I never heard any judgements, complaints or any ill of anyone from her. She took a while to slip away but I cherished every moment spent with her knowing that at some point we would say goodbye and she would be missed by so many. The group would include so many that Mary had touched in her quiet, unassuming way. The following list is just a few; birds, cats, neighbors,

crossword puzzle friends, Milton Road Crew, Schwan's, and especially us at the VAE. Thank you for being such a fabulous member (friend) and worker in the club and thanks to you, Mary, many of us, now, must learn to pick up our own coffee cups.

This from Julie Greenia..... The day Mary became active in the VAE, not only did we enjoy the delicious raspberry squares and cookies of all sorts, we were blessed with the nicest, most charitable and kindest person in our midst. She will be greatly missed.

This from Fred Gonet.... For many years, when I would see Mary at car shows, she would always look at my Harley shirt and hat and say "Some day, I would like a ride on a Harley Davidson". This went on for years.

It was in September of 2013, when I came upon Mary at a Chrysler Club gathering near my home in Proctorsville. I asked if she still wanted a ride on a Harley and she said, "of course". I went home and came back with my bike. She was about to get on when a few lady friends came over and asked if she was "really" going to do this. She just smiled, hopped on, and we were off. We road around the back roads for quite a while, checking out the mountain views and other scenery. After noticing it was 5 O'clock and close to dinner time, I said we should be getting back. She replied "do we have to"....then, she agreed we probably should get back. When we returned, the other ladies couldn't believe, "she actually did that".

Mary's reply.... "Why not".