

NO. 04 **April 2024**



The Brass Lamp is published monthly by and for the members of the Genesee Valley Antique Car Society Inc. GVACS is a region of the Antique Automobile Club of America.



Jerry & Nancy Huffman's 1931 Ford Model A Deluxe Roadster

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A Message From Your Editor Judy Keenan

ave you ever been April Fooled by someone asking you to buy blinker fluid? My dad was always trying to trick us kids with this. We all fell for it. I still hear people laughing about this. Well I just learned there was such a thing as blinker fluid! Read on.

The original Dodge Viper had headlights with real blinker fluid. A brief video from YouTube account Four Eyes has revealed some little-known facts about the first-generation Dodge Viper, including that the American supercar's blinker fluid-containing (yes, for real, not the entertaining Volkswagen stuff) headlights were free after BMW passed on them. The information was revealed by Roy Sjoberg, who was the chief engineer for the original Viper.

According to Sjoberg, the headlights in the first-gen Dodge Viper were originally developed for BMW by General Electric (GE) at the cost of the latter company. These units were intended for the quirky BMW Z1, but the Bavarians ultimately passed on them, opting instead for a squarer design. GE had already developed the headlights and all their associ-

ated tooling, so it needed to find a buyer. That buyer ended up being Chrysler.

Sjoberg says that this saved the Viper team a fortune. GE had already invested a pile of money and needed to make some of it back by selling the headlights



to an automaker, which saved Chrysler some \$3.5 million on design and development. The front bumper and hood of the first- and second-gen Viper had to be designed around these headlights, but the resulting look was pretty pleasing.

But what's up with the literal blinker fluid? According to Sjoberg, this is effectively a spirit level that was used to align the headlights at the plant. Sjoberg asked to remove the bubble, but when the manufacturing department came back to him and said it would cost \$1.50 per headlight, he said, "Screw that leave the bubble on."

Blessings, Judy

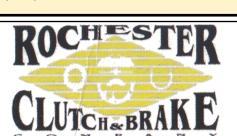
CREDITS TO: CAR BUZZ - APR. 07, 2023 10:03 AM ET-BY SEBASTIAN CENIZO OFFBEAT

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A Message From Your President Don Dear

re you ready for the 2024 Solar Eclipse! Lots of hype in the Rochester area. Several events are welcoming classic cars. Info on the Cobblestone Museum car show and other event happenings at this museum was in the March issue. The museum is near Albion.

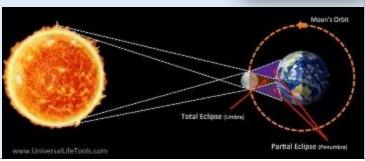
Thanks to the Keenans for hosting the Pancake Run to Cartwright's. Fun outing and delicious pancakes and maple syrup. Pictures coming soon.

Be sure to sign up for the May Brunch Run, hosted by Jerry and Nancy Huffman. A minimum of 40 guests is needed, so sign up now. Spend a fun day with your fellow car friends. Enjoy the ride to the Letchworth area. We still need volunteers for some of our activities! It is YOUR club! Let's get the calendar filled in soon!

Enjoy the ride!

Don





Somewhere Southeast of LaramieBy Myron Smith - 2023 AACA VP Youth Development

omewhere southeast of Laramie....This is an unabashed take off on Ned Jordan's famous 1920's advertisement for his Jordan Playboy roadster—SOMEWHERE WEST OF LARAMIE. I first learned of this slogan as feature writer Tim Howley wrote articles for a publication called "Spoke Wheels" in the early 70's or late 1960's. I believe this was a predecessor publication to "Old Cars Weekly."

Deferred Gratification. In the summer when I was 10, we went on a wonderful summer vacation to Yellowstone in a not very new '59 El Camino. Along the way we stopped at my mother's cousins and I learned there were many more interesting places in Wyoming besides Yellowstone. From the majestic mountains to serene desolation grew the thought that I was one day going to own at least one square inch of land in...Wyoming.

Well, time passes, there were high school and college graduations, car restorations, some funerals,

a wedding, a house remodel and a son to raise. The desire for Wyoming land was dormant but never died. It was not until I was in my 40's that things lined up



and we bought a little place to camp, a place where I go to relax somewhere southeast of Laramie.

What does my childhood musing have to do with now? We may never know what ride we might give, who we let sit in our car, or just engaging in conversation with a youth that will plant in them an idea that may not develop for many years. If we want our hobby to grow, it's up to all of us to work on it.

At one of the youth programs, there was a girl that was totally enamored with a Mercedes Benz roadster. She said, "Someday I'm going to own one like that," and who knows, maybe someday she will.



05 Joyce Drake

07 Steve Lamagna

17 Steven Heald

18 John McAlpin

19 Doug Drake

21 Harry Fisher

21 Sedat Ogultekin

21 George Haynes

24 Paul Kron

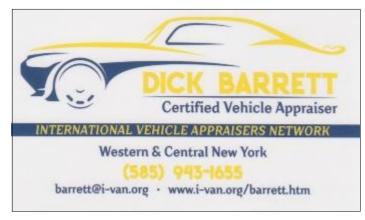
24 JoAnne Stahl

29 Grace Boudway

30 Betty Steeb



| 01 | Roger & Marty Hawkins | 1980 | 44 |
|----|------------------------------|------|----|
| 02 | Martin & Debby Schutt | 1977 | 47 |
| 06 | Don & Christine Dear | 1974 | 50 |
| 07 | Laverne & Joan VanDeWall | 1951 | 73 |
| 12 | Joe Kozloski & Linda Perkins | 1986 | 38 |





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Jerry & Nancy Huffman's 1931 Ford Model A Deluxe Roadster By Nancy Huffman

n early December 2023, we received notice from VMCCA (Vintage Motor Car Club of America) that our 1931 Model A had been nominated to receive an Award at the National

meeting. We didn't know who nominated us and we didn't know what the specific award was. We were simply asked to send a photograph of the car. We were not able to attend the VMCCA National Meeting in February (which was held on a cruise), so it

wasn't until the plaque arrived at the end of February that we found out the award was for the "Best Owner-Restored 1928-1931 Model A Ford".

Being confused by the "Owner-Restored" term, we quickly contacted the President of VMCCA for clarification because the restoration was done by the previous owner, not us. We purchased the Roadster in 2006 and have meticulously cared for it since then. VMCCA responded to our query and assured us that while the owner who restored the car may no longer own the car,

the fact still remains that it was "owner restored" and not restored by a professional restorer. The other criteria for the award was that the car had to

have participated in a VMCCA tour in 2023.

Since 2006, our Model A Deluxe Roadster has participated in 12 Glidden Tours, 5 VMCCA Heritage

Tours (the most recent being the 2023 Heritage Tour in Newport News, VA), GVACS 1000 Mile Tours to Maine, Harper's Ferry, WV, and numerous GVACS local senior living displays, Mystery Tours, local club activities, and GVACS Annual Shows up through 2015.



Our '31 Roadster has brought us and others much joy. We invite children and the "kids" at heart to

climb in or go for a ride. We've taken "seniors" in their '90s on memory rides as they recalled driving their "T"s and "A"s! During the pandemic our Roadster was an outing in fresh air where we didn't have to wear masks!! We participated in a birthday parade for a Club member's grandchild! We also did a drive-by for a Club member who waved to us from his porch. All in all, our Roadster has been a terrific



ride over the past 18 years and we're ready for even more fun yet to come!



Best Owner Restored 1928-1931 Model A

Presented to

Jerry and Nancy Huffman 1931 Model A Roadster

2023



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Graham-Paige at the End

A Murray Stahl Muse

ike most automakers not named General Motors, Graham-Paige came through the

trendsetter design that just wasn't able to save the company.

years badly battered. They didn't help themselves any with their radical "shark nose" of 1938-1939. It's probably a personality defect but I like the nose-heavy-frontend, alas the customer base of the time didn't share my good-taste, the car flopped.

Depression

Graham was founded by three brothers who initially were involved in engineering designs for trucks and soon began building their own trucks. The brothers moved into passenger car production

in 1927 when they purchased Paige, forming Graham-Paige. Peak production was 73,000 units

in 1929- this triumph was followed by the gloom of a worldwide depression.

Car company depression casualties included E.L. Cord's Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg, and with fall of A-C-D, the Gordon Buehrig designed 1937 Cord 810/812 Westchester was no more, it was a





The coffin-nose Cord was such an artful design that it deserved to live on; Hupp and Graham reached for it as drowning men grabbing for a life preserver.

By a circuitous route, the tooling for the Cord Westchester landed first at Hupp and then at Graham-Paige. Using the Westchester tooling, Hupp introduced their Skylark and Graham spun the Hollywood off the same tooling with Graham building the bodies for both makes.

The Graham Hollywood

was powered by a "Continental" flathead, straight six enhanced by a pancake Supercharger that was

designed and built by Graham.



Nothing went right, the Graham dealership family was too weak and the body dies were so poorly made that enormous amounts of finish work was required to mate the roof on the car and (continued on page 9)

Graham-Paige at the End A Murray Stahl Muse

lead in the seams. It was the end, only about 1,378 Chrysler's new low-price car entry, Plymouth. Lat-

were built, 350 of those being 1941 models.

Hupp closed shop in 1940. Graham ended auto production in 1941 ahead of the industry-wide shutdown of civilian auto production in February, 1942 due to World War II. Graham produced items for the war effort. As

Frazer met Henry Kaiser and Kaiser-Frazer

Bank

was born but that's

er, Frazer went to Wil-

lys-Overland. Eventually he tried to buy

Willys but was re-

buffed. In 1944 Frazer

led a hostile takeover

of the bones of Gra-

ham-Paige. Thanks to

a meeting arranged by

founder A.P. Giannini,

America

of

another story.

Waiting in the wings was Joseph Frazer, itching to build his own car. Frazer had been at Maxwell-Chalmers when Walter Chrysler took over and formed Chrysler. It

was Frazer who named

tractors and Rototillers.

GRAMAY

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It was a quick and little noted end of yet another of our innovative little car companies.

Fini - Murray

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World War II ended, Graham was building only

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Winter Picnic at Pineway Ponds Park

















Winter Picnic at Pineway Ponds Park























Cars & Coffee at Johnny D's Family Restaurant



















Welcome to James (Jim) and Kathleen (Kathy) Walsh

The Walsh's have two fun cars, a 1964 Dodge Dart convertible and a 1955 Lancia Aurelia Spider. The drivable Dodge Dart has electronic fuel injection and a repaired air conditioner making it comfortable on hot summer days. The Lancia has been rebuilt, painted and is currently waiting for an engine install. Jim and Kathy have been members of the American Lancia Club (ALC) since 1975.

In addition to their enjoying their antique autos, the Walsh's like road trips and photographing interesting scenery / landmarks.

Hoping to see the Walsh's at one of our upcoming events. Jim and Kathy can be contacted via their email: 1132Jim@gmail.com



Thursday, April 18th @ 9:00 AM

Browncroft Family Restaurant 2501 Browncroft Blvd. Rochester (corner of Blossom Rd.)

Good Food and Good Friends.
See You There!

AACA National Calendar and Other Events

April 4-6, 2024

Southeastern Spring Nationals/Grand Nationals

Charlotte, NC - Hornets Nest Region 704-847-4215

June 9-13, 2024

Eastern Divisional Tour (Up through 1999)

Fredericksburg, VA - Buzzard's Breath Touring Region 407-261-9318

Eastern Spring Nationals

Saratoga Springs, NY - Saratoga Region 518-863-4987

July 10-13, 2024

Western Divisional Tour (Up to 1999)

Big Horn Mt., Wyoming - Nebraska Region 402-475-5563

August 22-24, 2024

Special Fall Nationals

Hampton, VA - Historic Virginia Peninsula Region 757-871-6701

September 2024

12-14 Western Fall Nationals

Loveland, Colorado - Poudre Valley Region 970-686-9291

22-27, 2024

Revival AAA Glidden Tour (Up to 1942)

Fairfield, PA - Sugarloaf Mountain Region 970-686-9291

October 2024

8-11 Eastern Fall Nationals

Hershey, Pennsylvania - Hershey Region 717-566-7720

23-26 Southeastern Fall Nationals

Huntsville, Alabama - North Alabama Region 256-653-4036

February 2025

6-8 Annual Convention (1932 - 1999)

Charlotte, NC - National Headquarters hosted 717-534-1910

April 2025

3-5 Southeastern Spring Nationals

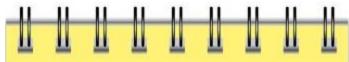
Charlotte, NC - Hornets Nest Region 704-847-4215

May 2025

1-3 Dual Nationals:

Western Spring/Special Annual Grand Nationals

Tucson, Arizona - Tucson Region 704-847-4215



April 2024 Secretary's Report

Dear GVACS Members,

It has taken a long time to get this winter behind us once more, but it now has happened. Spring came 10 days ago to a warm welcome. For the most part it was a pleasant winter and would have been considered an "open winter" by some.

GVACS Activities have begun with a trip to Cartwright's inn on March 27, 2024 and will continue to pick up as the season goes on.

Be sure to watch the Brass Lamp for the schedule of events and then plan to participate. GVACS people are wonderful companions and enjoy the social aspects of the collector car hobby.

We look forward to seeing you this month at one of the scheduled events.

Best Regards,

Jim Day, Secretary



What's It Going to Take

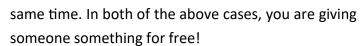
By Dave Anspach, 2023 AACA Secretary/Treasurer

hat's it going to take to get things to change? The membership of the greatest Antique Automobile Club on the planet has been steadily declining for years and nothing that has been tried has changed it. Now don't get me wrong... we aren't in great danger, but if the declining membership doesn't turn around, before long there will be a big problem. There is an answer... it is YOU!

It has probably been stated a thousand times that if every member just got one new member, our membership would double. It's a simple concept. JUST GET ONE NEW MEMBER! Surely every person out there has a family member who isn't an AACA member. Get them a membership for Christmas! Any person with even a little interest in cars will appreciate the fine issues of Antique Automobile with its excellent pictures and articles.

How about a friend or neighbor? There is a car person in your life who would love such a gift! If you don't want to give a membership, how about using a free one from your local region? Every region would love an opportunity to sign up a new member. And let's not forget those free military memberships.

Here is an opportunity not only to give something to those folks who have protected our freedom, but to add to the club membership at the



I will tell you that in both cases, do yourself a favor and fill out the form with the person present and send it in for them. I have lost a lot of prospective members due to forgetfulness.

Finally, don't forget those people you meet at car shows, cruises and on the road! Always have membership materials, promotional items and spare magazines with you. You meet prospective members everywhere! People will see how much you enjoy the hobby and they just might want to join you!

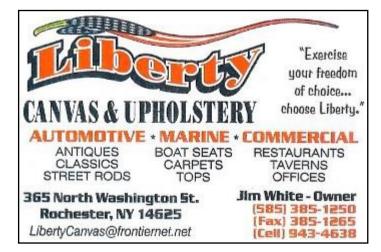
So what's it going to take to get YOU to get a new member? It's YOUR club, it's up to you to make it grow and prosper! It is the responsibility of every member. Got any other ideas on how to grow the club? Contact me or any board member! We all would love to hear what YOU think!

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The Yard of Ale is opening especially for our event and we will be seated in their beautifully decorated restaurant. Because of this, we must have 40 persons attending or we will need to cancel.

Please get your reservations in early.

Buffet Fare will include:

Scrambled Eggs, French toast casserole, Sausage, Chicken Marsala, Oven roasted potatoes, Cucumber-tomato salad, coffee/tea.

Schedule:

9:30 AM: Meet at Lowes Henrietta Parking Lot 10:00 AM: leave Lowes for a springtime drive through the countryside. 11:00 AM: Arrive at The Yard of Ale, Piffard, NY to socialize.

Cash Bar available

11:30 AM: Buffet Brunch is Served

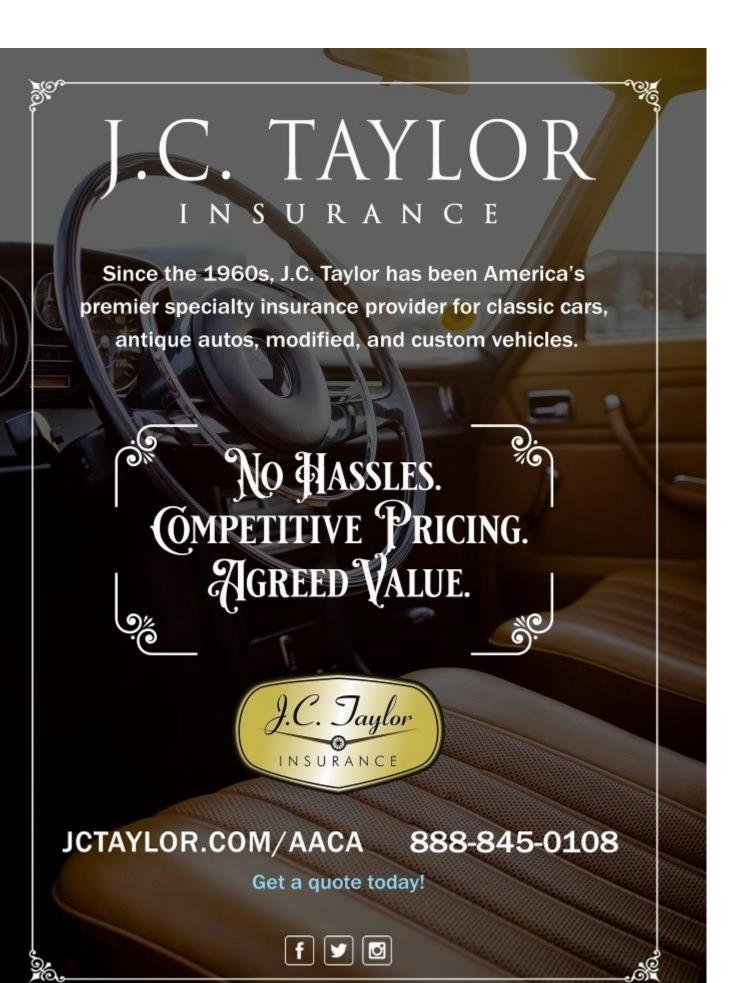
~1:30 PM: leave Piffard and tour to Silver Springs, NY to Dave Phillips' Coca Cola Museum

Reservation deadline Thursday, April 25, 2024

| Clip & send reservation fo | rm to Jerry | & Nancy Huffman | , 601 Stearns Rd., (| Churchville, NY 14428. |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| | / / | 1. 1 | . 014444 | |

| Mak | checks payable to GVACS. | |
|------------------------|---|-----|
| Name(s): | Phone: | |
| Yes, I/we plan to atte | nd the Dust 'em off & Drive 'em Brunch Ru | in |
| Number Attending | × \$29.00 = (Total enclose | .d) |

| GVACS Activities Calendar Updated March 20, 2024 | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Dates 2024 | Activity/Event/Speaker | Organizer/Hosts | | |
| April 6, 2024 | Cobblestone Museum 10am - 3pm 14389 Ridge Rd. W., Albion, NY 14411 See Flyer on page 11 | Need Volunteer(s)/Host Your on your own unless someone volunteers. | | |
| May 5, 2024 | "Dust 'em off & Drive 'em Brunch Run" Lunch at The Yard of Ale, NY & Coca Cola Museum Silver Springs, NY 9:30am Meet at Lowes/Henrietta Parking Lot | Nancy & Jerry Huffman | | |
| June 2024 Event Date TBD | Ice Cream Social | Betty Reilly & Judy & Bob Keenan | | |
| July 2024 Event - Date TBD | National Car Collector Appreciation | Need Volunteer(s)/Host | | |
| August 22, 2024 | Summer Picnic Foreman Park - White House Pavilion 4507 Lake Road, Pultneyville, NY | Joe Kozloski & Linda Perkins | | |
| September 2024 Event Date TBD | ??Ideas?? | Need Volunteer(s)/Host | | |
| October 2024 Event Date TBD | ??Ideas?? ? Fall Run ? | Need Volunteer(s)/Host | | |
| November 8, 2024 | Indoor Meeting - 7PM Annual Meeting and Speaker Lutheran Church of the Resurrection 3736 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester, NY | Need Volunteer(s)/Host | | |
| December 8th | Christmas Party at the Pub On The Green, Ontario Golf Club Ontario, NY | Ann & Joel Neal & Don & Linda Hosenfeld | | |



THE BRASS LAMP

Genesee Valley Antique Car Society Inc.

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Rochester, NY

Celebrating Our 74th Year



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