



# The BRASS LAMP

www.GVACS1.COM

Rochester, New York

*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.*

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## A Message From Your President Don Dear



Ringing in 2026 with warm (yes, it's Rochester, NY) wishes and a fun filled year for our GVACS members and friends. Our calendar for this year has many openings for new activities. Sign up now. Contact any Board member.

Thanks to the Dears for planning our Christmas luncheon at Johnny D's Restaurant in Spencerport. There were over 40 attendees. The food was delicious and the portions very generous. THANK YOU to all the members who brought personal items for the Hilton Food Shelf. Sharon and Paul Kron delivered over 10 boxes/bags to them. The Hilton Food Shelf is most appreciative for this. Pictures are in this issue.

AACA sends our club four free AACA memberships for first time members. If you know someone who would like to join AACA and GVACS, contact Ann Neal for the membership forms. GVACS also comps the new member for the first year.

Your special rides are all tucked in for the winter. Now is the time to start checking out the touring possibilities for this year. AACA, VMCCA, Model A Club and more clubs have touring opportunities. Touring is a great way to make new friends, see new places and chat about your cars.

Enjoy the ride! Don

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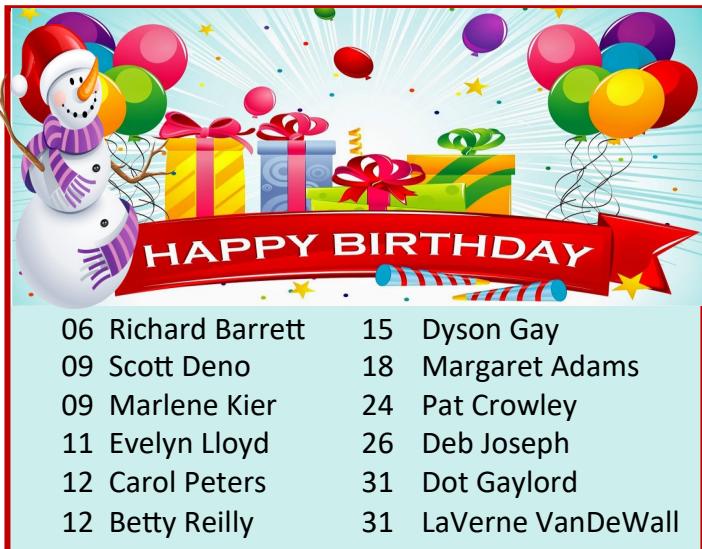


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09 Marlene Kier	24 Pat Crowley
11 Evelyn Lloyd	26 Deb Joseph
12 Carol Peters	31 Dot Gaylord
12 Betty Reilly	31 LaVerne VanDeWall

### Trivia Question

What folks do when eating at the capital of West Virginia?

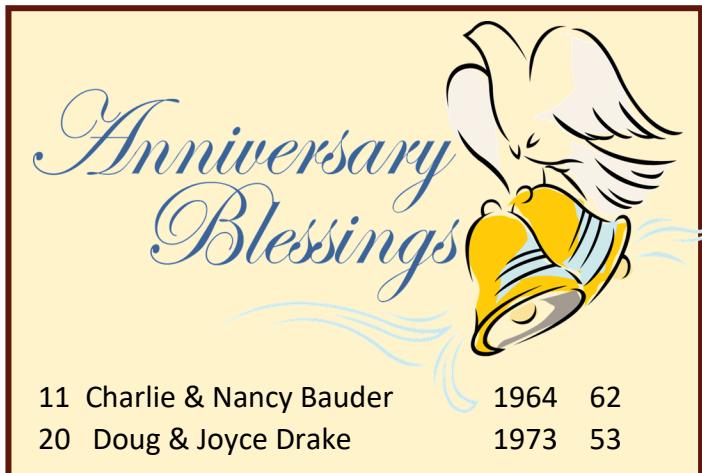
ANSWER: CHARLESTON CHEW



### Our Deepest Sympathy

Sadly we have lost another longtime member. Nancy Johnson, wife of Anson Johnson passed away Friday, December 5th in Fairport at the age of 88. Our deepest condolences goes out to Anson and his family.

Anson is currently residing at the Fairport Rehab & Nursing Center (previously the Fairport Baptist Home) and is a 50-year member.



11 Charlie & Nancy Bauder	1964	62
20 Doug & Joyce Drake	1973	53

### Sunshine Report

Sending caring thoughts to  
Jim Day, Joan VanDeWall

& Louie Buccini who had a stroke.

Hoping that all the well wishes from your friends from GVACS are making you feel a little bit better while you focus on your recoveries.

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## THE BRASS LAMP - JANUARY 2026

### GVACS Christmas Party at Johnny D's



## THE BRASS LAMP - JANUARY 2026

### GVACS Christmas Party at Johnny D's



## THE BRASS LAMP - JANUARY 2026

## A Do-It-Yourself Fire Truck - By Jim Burlingame

**W**hen you want to own a fire truck, an antique fire truck that is, you first go out

and find one. This I did back in 1965 and succeeded in locating an attractive and most desirable one, a 1925 American La France Type 75. Pumper.

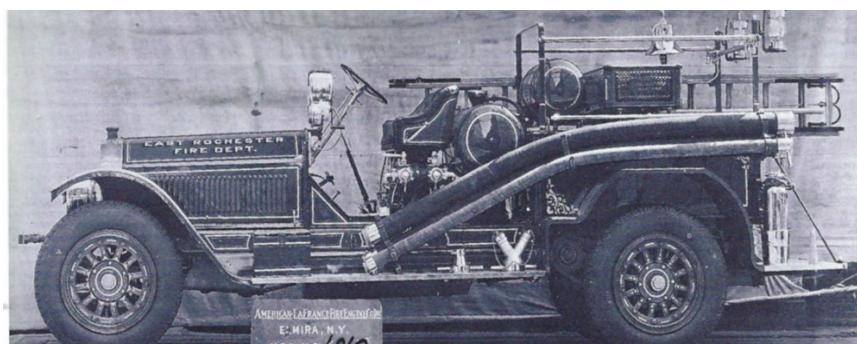
The truck was the first commercial fire truck purchased by the Village of East Rochester, New York in the spring of 1925. It cost the village of East Rochester, NY \$12,500 in 1925 when a Model T Ford was only \$450. It also took five months to build and ship in a boxcar to East Rochester. It was then unloaded at a railroad siding in the village.

When I acquired the truck, it had been residing in a field for more than a year after having been retired by the Fishers fire department which had purchased it from East Rochester in 1960. Much of the body had been

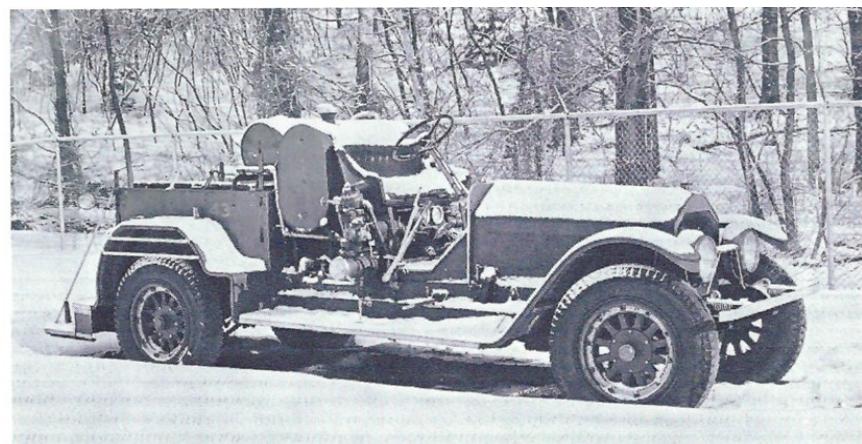
rusted and all the accessories; siren, grab rails, spotlight, hose, etc. had long before been stripped by vandals.

To add more problems to the damage, the truck had been altered to use as a tournament rig for local firemen's pumping contest. After much research into American LaFrance records, I came up with an original delivery photograph of the truck, plus all the original purchase papers and even the original bid proposal sheets. With this information plus data from original American LaFrance catalogs and specification sheets, restoration was begun in the spring and lasted two years.

The first project was to tow the truck to my father's garage, which was found to be too small. After rebuilding the garage, the truck was moved



*This is the original delivery photograph taken by American La France when they delivered the new Type 75 Pumper to East Rochester, New York in 1925.*



*When author James Burlingame found his fire engine, it was rusting away in a field under a pile of snow.*

father's garage, which was found to be too small. After rebuilding the garage, the truck was moved

*Continued on page 7*

## A Do-It-Yourself Fire Truck - By Jim Burlingame

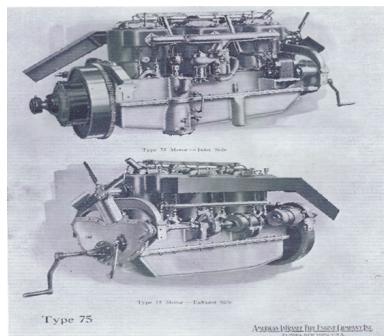
inside and stripped down to the chassis and motor. When the truck was completely dismantled and closely inspected, it was decided to find a similar truck to be used for parts as many were too worn to be repaired. Another old truck was in a junkyard in Geneva; it was purchased and moved to a lot closer to my home in East Rochester.

Many of the missing parts were fortunately on this truck and others were procured by purchasing another truck from Bellona NY near Lyons, and by much letter writing and advertising in various antique publications. With this information plus data from original American LaFrance catalogs and specification sheets, restoration was begun in spring 1966 and was to last two years.

Once dismantled, all parts were sandblasted, filled, primed, and stored in various places around the author's and friends' garages awaiting final assembly. The

engine was only partially dismantled due to extreme size and weight. A complete motor overhaul was not done. I ran a compression check and all was ok. The starter, generator, magneto, and clutch were all rebuilt, and all new wiring was installed. All wiring except the ignition wire is single conductor armored cable. This truck has a

double 6-volt ignition system with two sets of spark plugs for each of the six cylinders. One set is fired by a Magneto, the other set by a coil and distributor, if one fails, the other

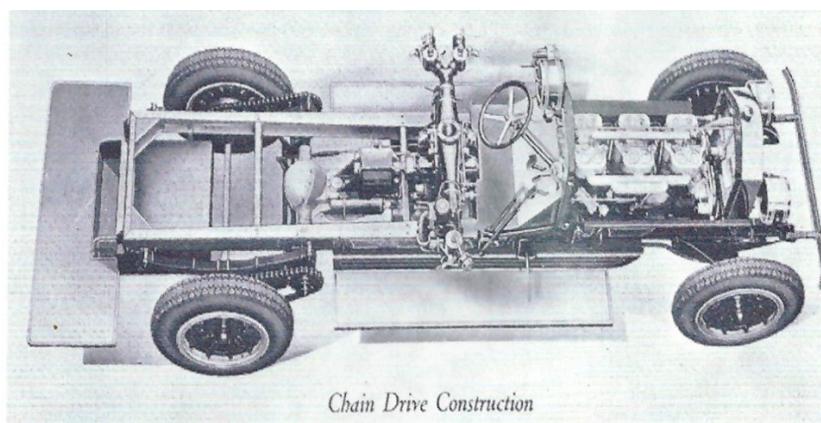


### Specifications

No. of Cylinders—6  
Horse Power—105  
Bore—5½"  
Stroke—6"  
Wheelbase—156½"  
Approx. Weight—10,000 lbs.  
Cost in 1925—\$12,500  
Gas Capacity—30 gal.  
Miles Per Gal.—5  
Tire Size—40x8 or 900x24  
Pump Size—750 gal. per min.  
Radiator Capacity—10½ gal.

keeps the rig going.

Most of the original dash equipment was missing and had to be replaced. The original gas tank and water booster tank were also changed somewhere along the line. An original gas tank was found holding about 40 gallons. A chemical tank was substituted for the water tank. This was a



A 1925 catalog photograph of the Type 75 chassis. The T-head motor construction and rear axle chain drive are clearly shown in this view.

A Do-It-Yourself Fire Truck - *By Jim Burlingame*

factory option at the time. The wooden spoke wheels were in good condition and required only a good sanding and some filling. Four good tires were obtained between the two trucks. This was a must as new 40x8 or 900x24 tires are by no means cheap.

In July 1967, reassembly began. The truck was given its initial road test using a 5 gallon can for a gas tank, as the rear body which supports the original gas tank was not yet installed. When the body was assembled prior to a final painting, the truck was sent to a body shop in Fairport to have over two dozen bolt holes filled. These holes were drilled in various places over the years to hold non original pieces of firefighting equipment. The truck was then painted with three coats of primer and three coats of blood

red enamel. After this, the most difficult job began, striping and lettering. More than 75 feet of twenty-four karat gold leaf was used. By referring to different photos of other trucks along with the

original delivery photo of the truck, the striping and

lettering was done as close to the original design as possible.

Finally, in spring 1968, with the installation of all the various chromed bright work, which had been ground and buffed, the job was complete. The truck was now ready to take part in volunteer firemen's parades and antique auto shows in Western and Central New York. In September of 1968 it was featured in the national magazine "Antique Automobile" and after a short while it was also featured on the cover of Hemmings magazine.

My father had to move from his house to a apartment in 1980 so I lost storage and ended up donating it to the original owners, the East Rochester Fire Department where I was a thirty-year

member and fire chief from 1975 to 1976. They built a special attachment to the firehall to display it, and it is still there today.



*Last used at a fire scene at Bushnell's Basin 1959*

## GVACS "South" Winter Picnic



Marge Thurley will be hosting a winter picnic for those in sunny Florida. The fun will start at 11am on Sunday, February 15th. We will gather at her son's home at 217 Rotunda Blvd. North, Rotunda West, Florida 33947. Please let Marge know if you will be in Florida and will be attending. Her cell is (585) 506-2486. Call or text!

Please bring your drinks and a dish to pass. Hamburgers will be served. Come for a swim in their heated pool. Enjoy an afternoon in the sun with your fellow car friends.

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## **THE BRASS LAMP - JANUARY 2026**

### **GVACS Activities Calendar Updated December 20, 2025**

<b>Dates 2026</b>	<b>Activity/Event/Speaker</b>	<b>Organizer/Hosts</b>
January 2026	Cars & Coffee 2501 Browncroft Blvd. Rochester	Marlene & Jerry Kier
February , 2026 Date TBD	? Topic/Speaker ?	Need Volunteer Organizer/Hosts
March 2026 Date TBD	? Pancake Run ?	Need Volunteer Organizer/Hosts
April 2026 Date TBD	? Topic/Speaker ?	Need Volunteer Organizer/Hosts
May 18, 2026 Tentative	? Topic/Speaker ?	Need Volunteer Organizer/Hosts
June 2026 Date TBD	? Ice Cream Social ?	Need Volunteer Organizer/Hosts
July 2026 Date TBD	National Car Collector Appreciation Day	Need Volunteer Organizer/Hosts
August 2026 Date TBD	Summer Picnic	Joe Kozloski & Linda Perkins
September 2026 Date TBD	? Topic/Speaker ?	Need Volunteer Organizer/Hosts
October 2026 Date TBD	? Topic/Speaker ?	Need Volunteer Organizer/Hosts
November 2026 Date TBD	Annual Mtg & Election of Officers	Need Volunteer Organizer/Hosts
December 2026 Date TBD	? Christmas Party ?	Need Volunteer Organizer/Hosts

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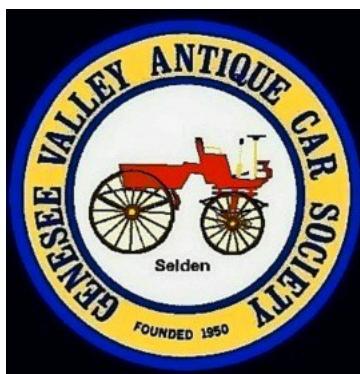
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# HAPPY NEW YEAR

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*Celebrating Our 75th Year!*



Receiver Of The  
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