

The Wayne Drumlins Antique Auto Region



Headliner



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President's Message **May 2017**

Greetings Folks,

This month we have an interesting story by Dave Simmering, president of one of our sister clubs, the Davy Crockett Region in Tennessee. Dave was kind enough to grant us permission to use his story about the restoration of his 1911 Selden Varsity Roadster. The story is of interest in that the Selden was built here in Rochester, NY.

Anyone who is a student of early automobile history knows of George Baldwin Selden and the Selden Patent but that is only a small part of the Selden story. Few people are aware that Selden also manufactured automobiles and trucks. The Selden Motor Vehicle Company was formed in 1906 and the first Selden automobile hit the road in June, 1907. The Seldens were high priced cars with a limited production peaking just over 1,600 units in 1911. The last automobile rolled out the door in 1914. However this was not the end of the Selden name. During WW1 Selden joined several other manufacturers building the standard government spec class B heavy truck, commonly known as Liberty Trucks. Truck production continued with considerable success until 1930 when the business was sold to the Bethlehem Truck Company. .

When the doors finally closed, the factory remained. It was located along the north side of University Ave. just west of Winton Rd. in the city of Rochester and to this day, the buildings remain. They are in good repair and fully functional. The sign out front now reads Harris R F Communications. I have read that there still exists a doorway in that complex the lentil beam of which proudly proclaims **Selden**.

Next time you travel out to the east end of University Ave., take a look as you drive by and think about Rochester's contributions to automotive history.

Dick Stearns

Secretary's Minutes

APRIL 2017 MINUTES

The April 19, 2017 meeting was held at the Phelps Community Center. It was opened at 7:30PM by our President Dick Stearns and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. 21 members were present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - A motion was made by Charlie Bauder to accept the February minutes. Seconded by Stan Herdman. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Ann Neal, Treasurer, reported on our accounts. There were a couple of adjustments during the Audit. We had a slight loss last year due to the bad weather during the Car Show.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT - None as Matt Canavan is out of town.

SHOW COMMITTEE - Steve Heald reported that we are getting in high gear next month. He has conversed with Pete Empson in regards to the trophies. Everything is on schedule so far.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - Jean Empson, Chairman, has the first draft of the 2017 Roster. Check it out after the meeting and make any corrections there may be. We have a new member, Norm Waterman.

CONCERNS FOR MEMBERS AND ANY CORRESPONDENCES RECEIVED - Phil Mendola is cancer free/in remission. Rusty Smith had been hospitalized in Albany. Donna Goellner has a bad sprain and is wearing a huge, balky boot until she goes back to the doctor on May 8th.

BUY SELL OR TRADE - Joel Neal has some pedal cars to sell.

OLD BUSINESS - It had been discussed at a previous meeting to check out other places to hold our meetings. The location in Newark has parking at a distance. The American Legion in Phelps charges \$100.00 per meeting to use the upstairs room and \$50.00 per meeting to use the downstairs room. President Dick reported that he could pick up the box coffee at Dunkin Donuts.

NEW BUSINESS - Friday, June 9th, will be a wine tour in Naples. We will have lunch first. The May 6th event will be cancelled. Bill VanDeWeghe brought in the Finger Lakes Magazine, Livingston County edition. There are quite a variety of events listed in it if anyone wants to host a day tour for the membership.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2017: To be listed in the Headliner.

President Dick thanked Hank and Donna Goellner for hosting the dinner before the meeting at the Blue Ribbon Smokehouse Restaurant. There were 14 present. There were no refreshments before the meeting.

Refreshments for the next meeting on May 17th will be Joel/Ann Neal and Charlie Bauder to be held at Phelps Community Center.

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The Wayne Drumlins Antique Auto Region
The purpose of this Region shall be to supplement the activities of the
Antique Automobile Club of America and to provide mutual enjoyment
for members

WAYNE DRUMLINS ANTIQUE AUTO REGION CALENDAR FOR 2017

DATE	ACTIVITY	PLACE	TIME	HOSTS
17-May	Monthly Meeting	Phelps Community Center	7pm	
3-Jun	Sulphur Springs Car Show	Main Street Clofton Springs	10am-2pm	
9-Jun Friday	Wine Tour	Lunch at Bob & Ruth's Restaurant, Naples NY and Wine Tour		Joel & Ann Neal
11-Jun	Lake Erie Region, AACA 65th annual car show	Elma Greens Park 3007 Bowen Road, Elma, NY	9am-4pm	
17-Jun	Car Show	Wayne County Nursing Home	11am-2pm	
18-Jun	Sonnenberg Gardens Car Show	Canandaigua		
21-Jun	Monthly Meeting	Phelps Community Center	7pm	
13-15 Jul	John Deere Two Cylinder Expo	Pageant of Steam grounds Gehan Rd. Hopewell NY	7am-9pm	
15-Jul	Pultneyville Homecoming Car Show			
19-Jul	Ice Cream Social and Monthly Meeting	Pete & Jean Empson's Home	7pm	Pete & Jean Empson
9-12 Aug	57th annual Pageant of Steam	Pageant of Steam grounds Gehan Rd. Hopewell NY	8am-8pm	
13-Aug	Wallington Car Show	Wallington, NY		Steve & Pam Heald
9-Aug	Monthly Meeting	Phelps Community Center	7pm	
19-Aug	Show Set-up	Marion Town Park		
20-Aug	40th Annual Car Show	Marion Town Park		
16-Sep	Canaltown Days Car Show (rain day 17-Sep.)	Palmyra		Gone Cruisin' Car Club
16-Sep	Annual Williamson-Pultneyville Community Garage Sale	Centennial Park, Pultneyville	9am-4pm	
20-Sep	Monthly Meeting	Phelps Community Center	7pm	
23-Sep	President's Picnic	Dick & Brenda Stearns' Home	1pm	Dick & Brenda Stearns
18-Oct	Monthly Meeting	Phelps Community Center	7pm	
15-Nov	Ham Dinner & Elections	Marion Masonic Hall	6pm	Amy Ressue
TBD Dec	Nursing Home Christmas Party	TBD		

Get Well Wishes to:

Donna Goellner who is dealing with a severely sprained ankle.

Rusty Smith who was hospitalized with a bad case of two different viral infections. She is home and on the mend now.

Phil Mendola who continues his recovery at home. His doctors say the mass is gone but he will have ongoing check-ups every three months. Other than being weak and tiring easily, he is in good spirits and coming along well.

Secretary's Minutes continued

The Door Prize winner was Norma Herendeen and Dave Lentz. The 50/50 winner was our President Dick.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM by a motion from Brenda Stearns and seconded by Stan Herdman.

Respectfully submitted by:
Donna Goellner, Secretary

June 9th Wine Tasting Tour Update

The Neal's have been busy making phone calls and gathering information to determine what will be feasible for our wine tasting tour. Tentatively we are thinking that lunch at Bob & Ruth's, a visit to a Naples winery (possibly Hazlitt's or Inspire Moore), a stop at Monica's Pies (of course) and two more wineries (Arbor Hill and Heron Hill) will fill an afternoon. Be aware that there is a charge of \$5.00 per person for most tastings. Arbor Hill also has beer tastings for \$5.50 a flight.

The tour officially ends after Heron Hill, however for those who wish, we can continue on to the New York Wine and Culinary Center in Canandaigua where one will be free to indulge in more tastings and also dinner if desired. Who wants to go home and cook dinner after such a busy day.

Because reservations are need for some of our stops, please let us know as soon as possible via email (aaneal@rochester.rr.com) or phone 315-597-6623 if you are planning to attend. This will allow us to make reservations early enough to ensure admittance. **A final count is needed by the May meeting at the latest.** Also, if you are planning to continue on to the New York Wine & Culinary Center, please make that clear in your response as it is a well-liked venue and early reservations are an absolute must have.

Ann



Happy Birthday to:

Rusty Smith 5/11
Anne Canne 5/11
Nancy Bauder 5/16



Happy Anniversary to:

Brenda & Dick Stearns 5/2
Nancy & Richard Dierks 5/10
Betty & Marty Reilly 5/14

1911 Selden Varsity Roadster

Dave Simmering

In the late 1980's I did a partial restoration on a 1911 Model T Ford torpedo runabout. The owner, a mathematics professor for a local preparatory school, said that he also had a Selden. I had thought that Selden only made trucks. He explained that he had had the car since before W.W.II and had it in storage for a long time. He had moved the car to Cape Cod, MA where he had a vacation home, and had begun disassembly. He wanted me to restore it for him. Unfortunately he developed a brain tumor and passed away before I could start. The last time that I saw him he was very concerned that I could not put it all back together, but that he wanted me to have the car. The car was purchased from his estate in 1991.

George Baldwin Selden (1846-1922) applied for a patent for an automobile engine in mid-1879. After a long series of amendments, he finally received the patent in 1895 and subsequently sold his rights to an organization that collected royalties from motor vehicle manufacturers. Henry Ford's refusal to pay royalties culminated in two multi-million dollar lawsuits, the first of which was won by Selden, and in the second, Henry Ford prevailed, 1 year before the patent was due to expire. (The above is a very brief outline of a very involved process).

George Selden began manufacture of the Selden automobile in 1908. His cars were assembled cars, which means that all or most of the major components were purchased from other manufacturers and were assembled in George Selden's factory into a car of his design. By the year 1911, the best available components were used and the roadster commanded a price of \$2500. (In comparison, a 1911 Ford Model T Touring car cost in the mid \$700s).

Selden called our car a Varsity Roadster, designated for the wealthy country club set. It has a 4-cylinder engine, 3-speed transmission on a 125 inch wheelbase. It has double ignition, with each cylinder having 2 spark plugs. One set of plugs works with the battery coil system (a vibrator coil for each cylinder) and the engine is started with this system. After starting, the engine can be switched to an external Bosch magneto system which uses the second set of plugs. The Model T Ford uses a very similar system except that the Ford has an internal magneto and only one set of plugs.

There is only one other car like ours known. When I listed our 1911 Selden Roadster in the Horseless Carriage Club roster, I was contacted by an excited restorer near Rochester NY (the Selden's birthplace). He had the same car but was missing most of the body. He visited us in New Hampshire and copied the body of my car. He completed a restoration that won many awards, including AACA Senior and Grand National, and was shown at Pebble Beach and Amelia Island.

When Karen and I lived in New Hampshire, the chassis was completely stripped, sand blasted, primed and painted in the dark green color that I found on the differential, body and even the upholstery. There was a fine carmine red stripe, which will be replaced. The upholstery is original, however I had the seat cushions redone in matching leather. Every part was cleaned, sandblasted and reassembled on the chassis. A machinist friend helped me in replacing the front wheel bearings with sealed bearings. He also helped me make a muffler in his shop. The engine was examined and found to be in excellent condition, and so did not need rebuilding. Also I could find no wear on any of the other parts. The body and fenders were stripped to bare metal and primed. Dents were repaired and many hours were spent filling and sanding. The car had correct headlights, which needed restoration, but the correct sidelights, tail light and horn were missing. I was able to find all of the correct original brass lights and horn, all of which I restored. It took over two sets of headlights to make two acceptable ones.

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1911 Selden Varsity Roadster

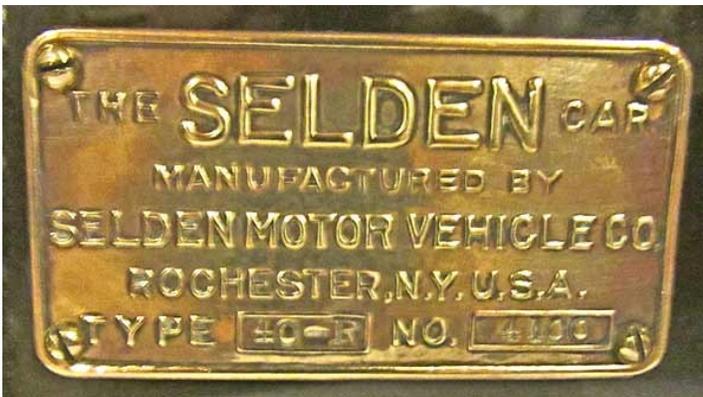
The chassis was pretty much done when we moved to Tennessee in 2006. The car has been neglected for 10 years while I worked on Model T's, Model A's, and various other Fords. Finally in early 2016 I began the Selden's completion: more painting, dent repairing, sanding and filling. A few months ago, a friend helped me put the painted body on the frame. That allowed me to install the coil box and complete all the wiring of the plugs, magneto, and coil box. I have been able to install most of the parts that I restored and packed away in boxes 25 years ago. It's not done yet, but by spring, after some touch-up work, I hope to have it running for the first time since 1956!

Dave

Photos and article courtesy of Dave Simmering, President of the Davy Crockett Region, shared with permission by Jim Bollman Editor, Bear Treads, the Davy Crockett Region newsletter.

Many thanks.

Dick





On Wednesday April 19th members enjoyed dinner at the Blue Ribbon Restaurant before the monthly meeting. As always, the food was excellent.

Our thanks go to Hank and Donna Goellner for hosting this annual event.

Cover photo

Three years ago while perusing Craig's List looking for just the right "driver," I came across an ad for a 1947 Mercury coupe that happened to be in Pittsford. Since I've always had a soft spot for this particular car, I immediately spoke with the seller, viewed the car, kicked the tires and I decided it had to be mine. We noticed that the car had an odd smell but dismissed it with an "it's been a long time in storage." The car was flat bedded to the Marion Service Center for a brake check and I should have guessed there might be other issues when Tom mentioned a mouse was sitting on the flatbed under the car. It was then that we discovered there must have been a Mouse Hotel, Vacancy sign hanging on the tail pipe as multiple nests were found in all sorts of places and "dinner out" meant chewing on the wiring harness. Long story short, all mice have been eradicated, all known problems fixed, replaced or otherwise corrected leaving me with a great driver car. Ann and I have enjoyed our outings in the Merc and are looking forward to a fun summer.

Joel

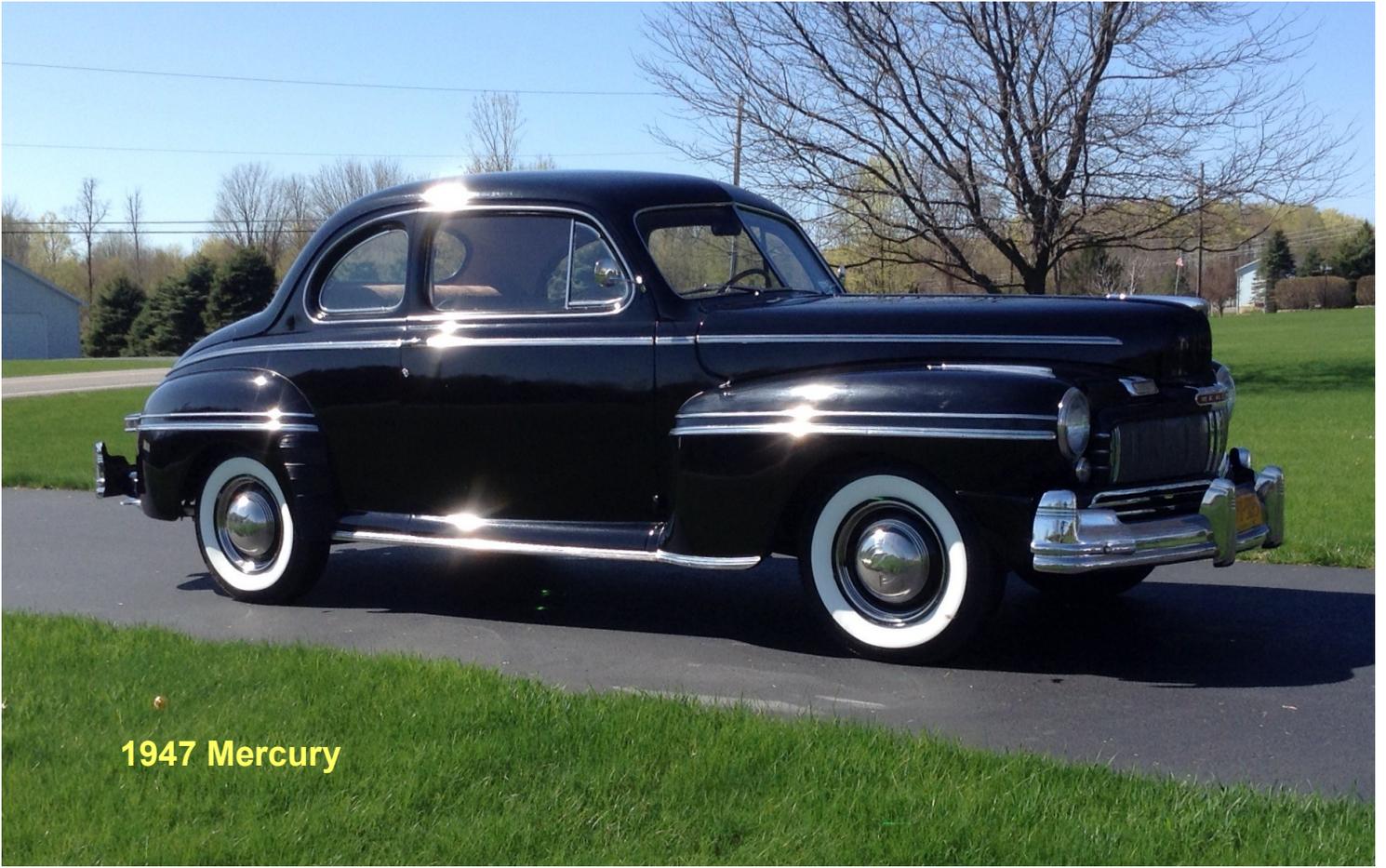
Editor's note:

Once again I need to ask. I need the support of our members for pictures of your special cars to use on our cover page. I will work with you if you need to get a picture or if you have a good print I can scan it and return it to you. How about sharing your pride and joy for everyone to see and enjoy. It only takes a few minutes and there is no charge.

At our dinner before the April meeting someone suggested perhaps I could do a collage of member's favorite four legged family members, be they cats, dogs, horses, or ???. I would be happy to try this idea but, again, I need the help from members for the pictures with a one line (or more) description i.e. owner's name. The pet's name or information if you are willing to share would be helpful but not necessary.

Help us maintain our status as an award winning newsletter.

Dick



1947 Mercury



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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