

"Time and money spent in helping men to do more for themselves is far better than mere giving."

(Henry Ford)



THIS DATE IN HISTORY *

Feb 1, 1898

Travelers Insurance issues the 1st automobile policy to a driver in Buffalo NY.

Feb 12, 1908

Six cars depart from Times Square at the start of the New York to Paris race.

Feb 2, 1926

E.L. Cord is elected President of the Auburn Automobile Co.

Feb 3, 1948

Packard Board rejects a proposed merger with Nash Motors.

Feb 6, 1954

The Mercedes Benz 300 SL "gullwing coupe" is introduced at the International Motor Sports Show in NYC.

** from "Automobile History Day By Day" by Douglas A. Wick*



BACK AT THE SHOP

Jack finishes the under dash wiring on the 68 Mustang.

SPRING CAR EVENTS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER ...

Even though we are in a deep freeze here in NE Ohio, once the calendar passes Groundhog Day, we start counting the days to Spring Carlisle, the unofficial start of the 2007 Season here. Here's some warm up events to get you in the mood:

February 24 – AACA National Meet in Punta Gorda, FL

March 11 – Amelia Island Concours at Amelia Island, FL

March 15 – 17- Corvette Expo in Knoxville, TN

March 30-31 – NCRS Meet in Auburn, IN

April 19-22 – Spring Carlisle in PA

THE SEARCH CONTINUES ...

Many of you know of our interest in the Wills St. Claire automobile and so I thought I'd share with you how the search for our very own Wills is coming along. (Truth be told, the search is turning out to be almost as fun as having the car.)

In 2005, we located a very nice WSC roadster located in CA. Unfortunately, between the long distance, our own inexperience and bad timing, we decided to pass. (It joins a long list of cars we kick ourselves for not buying.) The experience did have one positive effect: we had learned enough to know we still wanted one.



Luckily for us, Al Ferrara introduced us to Terry & Rita Earnest (Terry is the Director of the WSC Museum in Marysville, MI and the owner of the Roadster pictured). They suggested that since we were club members, we get in touch with other WSC owners to ask them to look out for cars for sale. This I did last Fall with a letter indicating our interest in an early Roadster – preferably an older restoration. I also asked members to contact

me just to share stories of their own WSC (not expecting anyone to actually do so). To my surprise, they did.

One was C.H. Wills' grandson, who is living in AZ with 4 WSC automobiles which unfortunately were not in running condition when last we spoke. He said his father was also a Metallurgical Engineer (like C.H. Wills) and he remembers his Aunt drove a blue Wills. From the sound of it, he has a project on his hands, but I don't think any of us could argue the sentiment that motivates this collector.

Another was a gentleman from Louisiana who has one of the very earliest Wills known (a 1921 model) – but that is not what distinguishes this car. His Wills has never been titled! His father bought the WSC franchise for LA and received this car as a demonstrator. They sold about 17 cars before Wills went into receivership. Reading between the lines, it sounds like the demonstrator was forgotten in the tumult and thus remained in this man's family. It presently resides in a museum in Shreveport with 24,000 miles on the odometer.

I also heard from one of the largest Wills collectors, who is based in California. He had several "project" cars (i.e. pieces parts) that he would part with if we were interested. Now a basket case Corvette is one thing – we've had enough of them apart and together to tackle the job. But restoring a car from pieces that you have never seen together in the first place is another story. So although we're keeping this as an option, our search continues.

Somewhere, there's a nice little roadster looking for a new home in Ohio. We just have to find it. So far, the search has been a rewarding one.

NORTHEAST OHIO BLIZZARD

Book Review Published

Your Editor's review of Beverly Rae Kimes book "Pioneers, Engineers & Scoundrels" was picked up by Old Cars Weekly and appears in the Feb 8 edition. Autographed copies available on request <g>.



Valentine's Day packed a wallop for most of Ohio, especially in Geauga County where we live. Here's some shots from the aftermath. I think we'll have snow piles till June!

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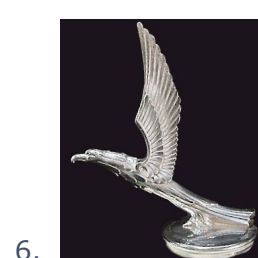
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TRIVIA & TEASERS

A lot of auto manufacturers used a bird for their mascot. Can you name the type of bird and the Marque? Extra credit – How many of these adorn Full Classics®?



Answers to Trivia:

- 1) Hispano Suiza – Stork – Full Classic
- 2) Wills Sainte Claire – Canadian Goose – Full Classic
- 3) Studebaker – Goose – 1931-34 – Only the President
- 4) Cadillac – Heron – 1932 – Full Classic
- 5) Packard – Pelican – 1932-37 – Some, but not all Packards in these years are Full Classics
- 6) Pontiac – Eagle – '32-33 (the only time up through '56 that some form of the Indian head was not used)
- 7) Frontenac (Canada) – (bird not identified) – 1931
- 8) Chevrolet – Eagle – 1935