

*"You can't learn in school what the world is going to do next year."
(Henry Ford)*



THIS DATE IN HISTORY *

- May 2, 1918**
General Motors Corp acquires Chevrolet Motor Co.
- May 8, 1879**
George Selden applies for the famous Patent.
- May 10, 1960**
Erwin "Cannon Ball" Baker dies in Indianapolis, IN at age 78.
- May 11, 1927**
Packard enters the custom-bodied market at the NYC exhibit.
- May 18, 1916**
The Libbey-Owens Glass Co is organized in Ohio.
- May 31, 1927**
The Willys-Knight "Knight with Lance" mascot of patented by designer F.C. Ruppel.

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



Chuck & Al discussing the Caddy's finer points.

NEW ADDITION

1936 Cadillac Convertible Coupe joins the CK Garage.



Finding, buying and learning about a new old car is a process we have all gone through. It is equal parts fun, frustrating, nerve racking, and full of surprises, but in the end of the process, the car really becomes your car. We just went through it with our latest acquisition.

Our story starts with an email. A son is looking to sell his Dad's old car from the estate and reaches out to the local CLC club. The email arrives in late-January and says simply that it is a '36 Cadillac and it needs a water pump. So I contact the son, who resides in PGH and we exchange information & pictures of the car. To our delight we find out that it is a convertible coupe and a rare one at that – a Series 70 and a Full Classic®. So we turn to our in-house expert and ask **Al Ferrara** whether this car is any good. Al says it has nice fenders and is "not too modern looking" which we take as approval and so we arrange to look at the car. In the mean time, we pull all our Cadillac reference materials and search for info on the '36. We are assisted by Cadillac expert **Jack Basom** who helps us out with things to look for when we see the car.

Now if you recall, by January, Mother Nature was making up for the mild winter we had experienced thus far. We went over to see the car, not far from our home, on a Saturday morning with the temperature about 5 degrees and about a foot of snow on the ground. The car was reasonably stored but showing definite signs of moisture exposure on the chrome and interior. The son had put in a fresh battery and although it turned over, it wouldn't start. (Taking a test drive was out of the question – their 1/4mi winding driveway was all ice.)

Looking over the car as best we could in the cold, it appeared to be a high quality restoration – maybe 10 yrs old or more. The son was able to show us some of the trophies from Car Shows his father attended from '98-02, so we got a feeling for how much it was driven. We also took lots of pictures, including the CCCA badge attached to the body. We had come prepared to purchase the car if we liked it – which we did, so we worked out a deal that satisfied us both – including being able to leave the car there till the ice melted off the driveway.

Two months later, we were finally able to pick up the car. What would we find when we really looked it over? Had we made a good purchase? Would it run? Would the chrome clean up or would it need replating? These and a hundred other questions went thru our minds. We had to winch it onto the trailer, but shortly after getting it to the shop, she fired right up. After a quick test drive, we went about getting the Caddy back in running shape: water pump, brake master, wheel cylinders, 2 new tires and a great deal of cleaning. (The more we cleaned, the better she looked.) We found that all the gauges work – and even the radio works (although we do need to find a correct "running board" antenna).



A couple other lucky encounters filled out more of the history of the car. The first was talking with fellow CLC club members, who knew the car, and asked "Isn't that the guy who lost his wheel driving in downtown Cleveland?" Gulp. Hearing of this kind of accident causes a shudder in any old car owner - but we were now the owners! How come we saw no evidence of this accident? Luckily in talking with **Jim Capaldi** about rebuilding the water pump for us, we found out he did the repairs and was able to tell us what he did. Jim does a 1st class job so any fears about the repair were

allayed. He was even able to give us the paint color codes. We obtained further history from the CCCA. I sent an email with the badge number on the car and they were able to tell me that the car was a 100 point CCCA Senior car in 1991-2, along with the name of the owner who showed the car. Wow, the car looks good, runs great, and has a pedigree. We're feeling pretty good about our Caddy!

We've also discovered some delightful and unexpected details about the '36. For example, the car has a trip odometer, interior door locks, a "passing" beam that cuts out the RH headlamp, and as you can see from the pictures – both a trunk and a rumble seat. A very interesting mix of forward and backward looking features, don't you think?

So with the car running and looking good, it was time to sign up for a Car Show or two. Stop over to visit at the Grand Experience at Hickory Corners (June 3); the Annual Father's Day Show at Stan Hywet (June 17) or the MI Grand Classic at the Dearborn Inn (July 14).

BACK AT THE SHOP

Interiors are being installed as both Mustang projects near completion and their owners itch to get them on the road.



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More Pictures from the Shop



Jennifer touches up the Cameo Pickup after installing a new wiring harness.



Ed installs the radio in the '68 Mustang.



Chuck sands headlight buckets for the '36 Caddy,

GARAGE TOUR REDUX



after a morning stop at Patterson's Fruit Farm. After seeing the cars and holding a brief business meeting out on the lawn, they departed for lunch at the Tavern at Fowler's Mill. More pictures of the CK Garage and Club members cars are on-line at: <http://ckautollc.photosite.com/CarCollection/Garage/>.

On May 19, we hosted our second Garage Tour, attended by members of the **Western Reserve Region AACA**. Unlike our first tour last year, the weather was beautiful – cool, sunny and perfect for cruising in old cars. The 46 members & guests arrived



BOOK REVIEW

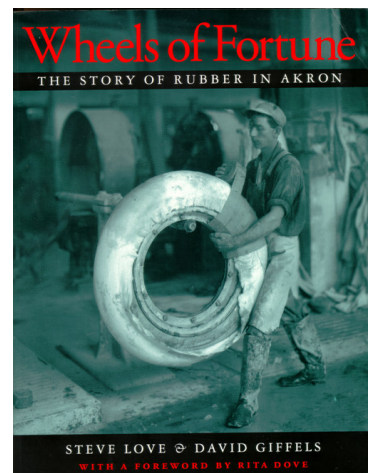
**Wheels of Fortune:
The Story of Rubber in Akron
by Steve Love & David Giffels**

This is a book that chronicles the rise and fall of the Rubber Industry and with it, Akron, OH, where the Industry was founded in 1870. It is a story no doubt repeated in steel-towns, textile towns and chemical towns throughout the United States, yet I was interested because the town in question is our next-door neighbor.

The Rubber Industry in Akron started in 1870 when Benjamin Franklin Goodrich moved his business from Melrose, NY to Akron in search of investment capital (Cleveland turned him down, but the Akron Board of Trade came up with \$13,600 – about \$250,000 in today's money). The industry quickly grew into the "Big 4": Goodrich, Goodyear (1898), Firestone (1900) and General (1915), but also supported hundreds of smaller tire-making enterprises like Monarch, Seiberling, Mohawk, Cooper & Falls Rubber.

Prior to WWII all tires were made of natural rubber by hand by skilled tire makers – who earned a great wage for this difficult and dirty work. The chapter dealing with the development of synthetic rubber (in response to Japan's occupation of the rubber-producing regions of the Far East) shows the best of Akron's Rubber expertise. Over a period of just 3 years starting in 1942, production of synthetic rubber went from nothing, to 230,000 tons in 1943 to 750,000 tons in 1944. An R&D effort of uncommon speed and credited as a key component of the Allied victory. This part of the story was one I'd never heard before.

Unfortunately much of the rest of the story is all too common: Management and unions at odds over hours, wages and work rules. Lack of re-investment by companies in their aging infrastructure (the last new tire plant build in Akron was in 1927!) and coordinated resistance to the new technology (Radial tires developed in Europe) all spelled the death knell of the Akron Tire Industry. Today, with the exception of Goodyear, Akron's rich history lies mainly in the hands of overseas concerns. Overall, the book gives a balanced and objective account of the Industry and its role in the City that gave it birth.



CK
CK AUTO, LLC

In appreciation to the Ohio Region of the Classic Car Club of America for 50 years of Father's Day memories.

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