



THE BELLTOWN BULLETIN

Belltown Antique Car Club - P.O. Box 211, East Hampton, CT 06424

February, 2015

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the East Hampton Library

*Note: Our semi-annual Pot Luck Supper has been **postponed** to the March meeting.*

FUEL FOR THOUGHT

“The automobile is a phenomenon of our time. At no other period in history was any object or device so important to the culture within which it existed. The car is a remarkable artifact which can be enjoyed as a work of art even while not in motion. It can display the results of all the skills which the human mind and hand have learned since man first cut a log into slices to make himself wheels. But besides being a beautiful, stationary object whose shape and mechanical perfection please our eyes, this sculptured entity has another life - its life on the road, its only real reason for being. Both of these facets of its existence are important to the lover of the automobile.”

- Ralph Stein, Westbrook, Connecticut; from his book The World of the Automobile, 1973.

CLUB NOTES

It's that time of year to renew your BACC membership! Enclosed with this earlier-than-normal issue of the newsletter is a 2015 Membership Application/Renewal Form. Please complete and return it with your dues by March 1. In order to properly run the Club we need both an accurate roster and the means to contact you when necessary. So, be sure to fill in all requested information and print clearly. Also, we'd like you to list your current antique and special interest vehicles on p. 2, even if you have done so before. The information on the lower part of p. 2 is optional, but would be appreciated. Mail your renewal to BACC, P.O. Box 211, East Hampton, CT 06424, or bring it to the February meeting. Do not mail cash!

The December/January issue of The Belltown Bulletin was Bob Hellstrom's last as editor, after 25 years of dedicated service in that capacity. I have invited Bob to continue to contribute to the newsletter whenever he feels compelled to, and especially when it comes to news about long-time BACC members. As if I won't have a hard enough time just filling Bob's shoes, I intend to keep improving the newsletter as well. You will notice some tinkering already with this issue. One thing I want to accomplish this year is to get more member involvement in the newsletter, including reports from tours, museum visits, etc.

At the January 7th Club meeting, Bob Hellstrom spoke about the valuable service that Steve Mierz provides - at his own expense - to local car enthusiasts via his Shoreline Antique Auto Connection newsletter. A proposal was made and approved for the Club to donate a roll of Forever postage stamps to Steve to show the Club's appreciation and support.

WHAT'S NEW ON THE CLUB WEB SITE

Ralph Phil reported at the January 7th meeting that, due to hosting and technical problems, the BACC site is currently down. His goal is to rebuild the site and re-launch it well before the Spring Engine Show.

THE "STRAIGHT SIX"

The Bulletin interviewed Bob Sutton, BACC President for 2015

Q1 - How long have you been a BACC member? Bob - At least 20 years!

Q2 - What interests you most about old cars? Bob - I grew up on a farm and as a boy learned to drive around the fields in a Model A converted to a hay wagon. From the time I built my first car, a hot rod based on the frame of another A found in a neighbor's field and the running gear from a rusted-out '39 Tudor, I've had fun working on old cars. I appreciate that you actually can work on them yourself.

Q3 - Do you have a favorite make, era or type of car? Bob - I like post-war Fords and Mercurys in particular, especially convertibles. *[Editor's note: Bob owns a 1955 Ford Thunderbird, a 1930 Ford Model A pickup and a couple of "languishing" non-Ford project trucks.]*

Q4 - In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge facing the old car hobby? Bob - Getting people interested in working on old cars. Nowadays people have gotten out of it as cars have become more complex, or, they have never done it at all. High schools for the most part don't have shop classes anymore. Encouraging kids' interest early on, for example by attending car shows with their parents, is a way to start.

Q5 - What is the most important thing the Belltown Club needs to do to remain vital? Bob - We've got to try to attract younger people. I don't have the answer as to how, but we need to solicit ideas from our members, particularly the younger ones we do have. And, we have to get them to be more active in our meetings and the running of our shows. To achieve that we are all going to have to work at it.

Q6 - Name someone in automotive history whose accomplishments you regard highly. Bob - Henry Ford has been my idol ever since I chose him to be the subject of a report I had to write on a famous person back in high school. Admittedly, he was a complicated person with some controversial opinions!

MEMBER MILESTONES

Happy Birthday to:	Barbara Borbas	February 2nd
	Carol Petras	February 6th
	Robert Hagan	February 7th
	Barbara Michael	February 11th
	Audrey Brookes	February 23rd
	Katherine A. Fernet	February 23rd
	Bruce MacMillian	February 25th
Happy Anniversary to:	Jon & Elaine Grant	February 14th
	Dick & Mary Everett	February 23rd

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 1 (also Sunday, March 1) - Model A Ford Club's Flea Market at Power Mill Barn, 32 South Maple St., Enfield, CT. 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Contact Jim Way for details, 860-267-4626.

Wednesday, February 4 - BACC monthly meeting at the East Hampton Library at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4 - BACC monthly meeting at the East Hampton Library, beginning with a Pot Luck Supper at 6:30 p.m. (postponed from the February meeting).

Saturday, March 14 - "Essex Go Bragh" Irish Festival. Parade forms up behind the Essex Town Hall at 10:30 a.m. Contact Mary Ellen Barnes, Essex Park & Rec at 860-767-4340, ext. 110, for details.

BELLTOWN CLASSIFIEDS

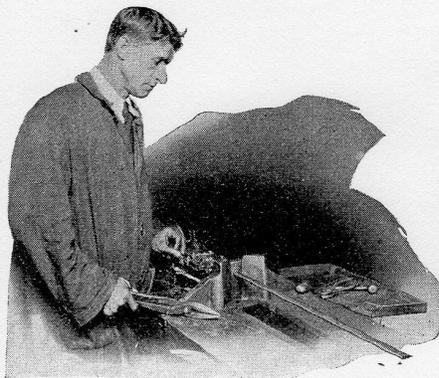
Send your for sale / wanted ads for cars, parts and hobby-related services to dan12david@yahoo.com. There is no charge to members.

Services Offered – Antique engine rebuilding and preservation. Babbitt bearings are my specialty. Connecticut Antique Engine Restoration LLC, North Franklin, CT. Contact George King at 860-642-7103 or caer@rcn.com. Web site: www.engine restoration.com.

CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA

From the Steven Rossi Collection

BUSH RADIATORS
FOR TRUCKS, TRACTORS AND AEROPLANES
"BUILT TO ENDURE"



Drawing Our Flat Double-Locked Seam Tube.

This Tube Provides Ample Water Passages and, being only one-eighth of an inch across, allows the maximum amount of air circulation through the CORE.

THE BUSH MANUFACTURING COMPANY
HARTFORD, CONN.

Editor's note: This month's CT Automobilia selection was made on its own merits. The timing relative to the announced 2016 presidential ambitions of a fellow of the same last name is purely coincidental!

AD-DENDUM

Challenge your brand recognition IQ with this Madison Avenue classic:

“Ask The Man Who Owns One”

Which one of these automakers had the confidence to put that in their print advertising?

- a.) Pierce-Arrow
- b.) Packard
- c.) Bentley

NEXT ISSUE

Read any good automotive books lately? Doing anything special with your old car over the winter that you'd like to share with fellow club members? Got suggestions for the Club in general or the newsletter? Send an email to your editor and the subject matter will be considered for publication. Photos welcome.

The copy and classified ad deadline for the March issue of The Belltown Bulletin is February 19, 2015. The planned printing date is February 23.

BELLTOWN ANTIQUE CAR CLUB

President - Bob Sutton

Vice President - Phil Guertin

Secretary - Peter Christianson

Treasurer - Maureen Hartzell

Directors - Scott MacGregor & Mark Hoydilla

Sunshine Chairperson - Polly Beckwith (860-345-4256)

Newsletter Editor - Dan David (dan12david@yahoo.com)

Editor Emeritus - Bob Hellstrom

Club website - www.belltownantiquecarclub.org

Club e-mail address - belltowncarclub@gmail.com

Club mailing address - BACC, P.O. Box 211, East Hampton, CT 06424

Enclosure: 2015 BACC Membership Application/Renewal Form