

The Cabin Fever Car Club

When the planner for car club contacted the museum their group was ready for a break especially from Covid. With the museum being under construction we opted for a different approach, getting the visitors to identify early vehicles in photos from our archives. Projected in a slide show, this proved enjoyable and productive. We gave prizes, the Crackin Good "Georgia Cracker" tins. These were liked as the reverse side of the tin features the Crescent, where they toured the day before with excellent photos taken of their vehicles on the front lawn. Some of the Prize winners are shown **at right**: **Front**: Ed and Pam Prince, now of Cairo, Grady Co., GA. Sandy Ainslee of Brown City, MI, Russ Boyle of Hudson, FL and **Rear**: Milt Roorda of Tarpon Springs, FL. The automobile manufacturing years for this club are 1915 and before. This tour centered in Valdosta the last week of March.



"Motoring" and "Motored" Explained through the Merry Widows Club (photo below ca. 1959)

From within this group a local Motoring Distinction was accomplished by two of the members, Katrina Lane Tayman, **rear far left**, and Martha Cranford Sherman, **rear third from right**. Two others participated but were evidently not yet widows. Born mainly from the early to mid 1890s, the Valdosta Merry Widows individuals saw the first automobiles come to town and would have learned to drive in the year model automobiles of the Cabin Fever Car Club members, those 1915 and earlier. The two ladies' activity was the basis for one of the answers for a Cabin Fever member to win a prize in guessing their motoring achievement.



After projecting the slide of the widows, an unidentified slide of an empty just completed I-75 photo was shown. After several guesses we deemed the answer "they drove on the interstate" sufficient for a prize and then told the distinction. At the museum these are our first known locals to be pulled over by the law **for driving too slow on the interstate**. Needless to say, the visitors were amused. However, Judge Richard Cowart has shared that the "law abiding" ladies were rather taken aback at being stopped by the patrol. Martha Sherman's grandchildren are Tommy Hatcher, Paul, Jr. 'Bud' Hatcher, the late Rusty Hatcher, Brenda Shelley, Judge Richard Cowart and Bill Cowart. (photo ID page 2)



Above is a photograph from the forty page 1926 promotional publication titled *Valdosta, Georgia Up-To-Date* (acquisition 2016-010-010). *Below* is the descriptive text concerning the Pines Camp. Before we had seen the camp listed as opening in 1925. Albert Pendleton always told that that the Pines Camp was the second motel, not hotel, in the state of Georgia. From this booklet we found that it preceded Aldrich's 1925 ownership by 2 or 3 years. The car club members identified the vehicles as probably a Cadillac, Buick and Maxwell, closer inspection needed. This Ashley Street area now contains Langdale Kia, Imperial Auto Sales and other businesses.

PINES TOURIST CAMP

A potent factor in the growth and development of the community of which it forms so component a part, and sharing in the prosperity that Valdosta and Lowndes county are at present enjoying is the Pines Tourist Camp, at 1550 N. Ashley St. This business is owned by J. G. Holtzclaw and H. B. Aldrich. The latter is formerly of New York, but has been in Georgia and Florida for the past eleven years. Although this camp was established about three years ago, Mr. Aldrich has only had charge of it about one year. Since taking over the business he has made extensive improvements at a large outlay of expense and now has a model tourist camp and without doubt one of the best equipped and most popular in this part of the country. The Pines Tourist Camp is provided with all up-to-the-minute requirements, including community hall, shower baths, electric lights, sewerage, etc., and is inside of the city limits and has police protection. They never close, being open both day and night. In connection with the Pines Tourist Camp Mr. Aldrich operates a well-equipped filling station, a well-stocked grocery and provision store, also one of the most modern and sanitary cafes in the city. In the latter he features Mother Murphy's home cooking and serves the best of everything good to eat at popular prices.

Mr. Aldrich and his assistants are courteous and painstaking and make every effort to please the public at all times.

Al Capone Was the Answer

When quizzing the Cabin Fever Car Club members about the identity of the above vehicles they were told that this slide involved a prize. The question was "What notorious gangster stayed at the Pines Camp in the 1920s when traveling between Miami and Chicago?" Instantly Milt Roorda of Tarpon Springs, FL gave the correct answer, "Al Capone." He is in the photograph on page one.

"Northern Cooking"

The Northern Cooking sign in the Pines Camp photo brought laughter and quizzes from the group. We told that Aldrich was always actively promoting his business in varying ways. We still hope to find 1920s information on Mother Murphy food.

SGCCC

The local South Georgia Classic Car Club was primary in assisting the Cabin Fever Car Club with their week long plans. With classic vehicles being a part of local history it was a good opportunity for the museum to learn more about this organization and their participation in worthy projects. We learned that you do not have to own a classic vehicle to be a member of their club. Their informative online newsletter is named the *Driver's Seat*.

Cabin Fever tour organizers, Mike and Audrey Danzig of Ohio and Florida, spoke well of the Classic Car Club and of the museum, thanking us for presenting a tour event that was enjoyable and certainly different from their usual stops.

Valdosta Merry Widows

(identifications for photo on page one)

Top row, left to right: Katrina Lane Tayman, Clyde Conoley McCall, Louie Peoples Dukes, Belle Hunt Finley, Martha Cranford Sherman, Marie Greene Youmans Crockett, and Meta Charles Shaw.

Bottom row, left to right: Greta Dodd, Clarice Knight Hunt, Aline Jones Prewitte, Louelle Strickland Ambler, Evelyn Cranford Baker, and Claudia Davis Ingram.

2022 New & Renewal Memberships

(Received by June 20, 2022)

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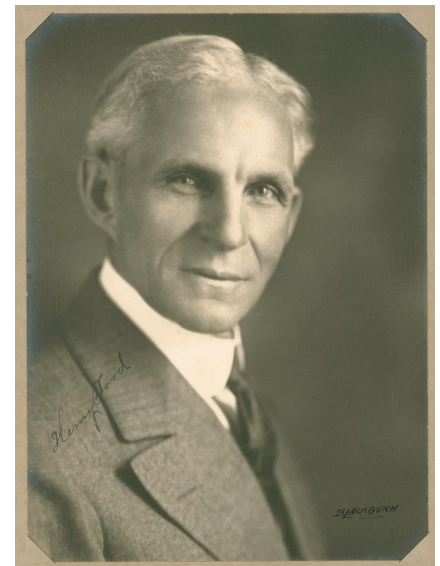


Left: Earliest Manufactured Automobile found in a Local Photograph in the Museum Archives:

When this image was presented in the slide show to members of the Cab-in Fever Car Club they immediately resounded "1903 Oldsmobile." More description provided that it was the Model R, Runabout and also called a Curved Dash Oldsmobile.

The driver/owner in this photo is identified as E. R. Barber known locally for Coca-Cola and his 1912 residence now houses the Valdosta/Lowndes Chamber of Commerce.

This style Oldsmobile was manufactured in 1901 (425 units), 1902 (2,500) and 1903 (near 16,000). It is credited with being the first mass produced automobile, meaning that it was built on an assembly line using interchangeable parts. Oldsmobile became part of General Motors in 1908.



**Henry Ford's Valdosta Photo
Blackburn's Studio
108 W. Central Avenue**

All this narrative was told using visuals and with prize opportunities.

Of keen interest to some was the happenstance of the 1923 Henry Ford portrait taken in Valdosta, the photo shoot occurring just up the street. We also told that the first locomotive engine that brought passengers into Valdosta in 1860 was purchased by Ford. It is now in his museum renamed The President, formerly the Satilla No. 3.

Larry Schramm showed us his annual membership card for the Ford Museum in Detroit and was glad to know of these Valdosta connections.

Above: Larry and Joyce Schramm of Rochester Hills, Michigan with their special passenger, grandson Clay. This photograph with their 1913 Buick was taken in the First Baptist parking lot across Central Avenue from the museum. Larry Schramm readily identified a "most likely" 1913 Buick in a slide. We knew the slide was from Roberts Motors (Buick) but not the year. Vehicles of that era are so similar that closer study is needed for some images. He also knows Buick trucks. They were made through 1922.

Since the group had visited the 1905 courthouse the day before we included it in our plan of presentation. They were informed that Doc Holliday attended the school that was across from the museum, that his Valdosta mayor father planted the early tress on the courthouse square, and that his uncle as County Chairman directed the construction.

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From Year One: 1967 To Year 55: 2022,

Quietly, but always of service to the Lowndes County Historical Society and the preservation and presentation of local and regional history.

When still in private law practice in 1967, Arthur 'Mac' McLane provided pro bono legal services for the establishment of the Lowndes County Historical Society, Inc. Fifty-five years later, in 2022, he was currently an active member of the Society's Board of Trustees.

Many area entities, whether professional, church, civic, educational or fraternal, are thankful to have had his advice and activity.

He served much of his career as Judge of the Superior Court, then Chief Judge.

The Historical Society Trustees and Staff offer our sympathy to his family; Mrs. Jane B. McLane, Paul C. McLane, Mary Cam and Dana Harding, grandchildren and relatives.

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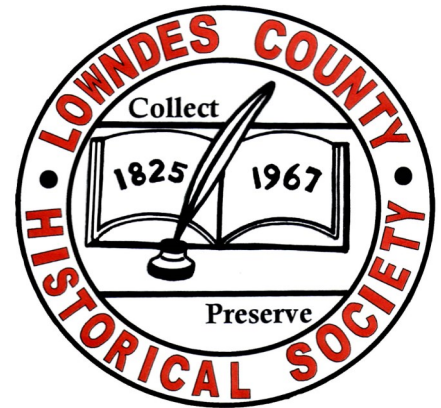
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June 19&20Juneteenth Day & Holiday
 July 4, Monday.....Independence Day
 September 5, Monday.....Labor Day
 May 21—September 6.....A Blue Star Museum
 Mid May into July..... Exterior Repairs to Carnegie
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 The Museum continues to serve researchers and special requests

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