

SHOP TALK

GLOBAL ISSUE—SPRING 2009 Vol 16 Issue 2

Two Special Hudsons

About three years ago, we met a gentleman at the Classic Car Auction in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He and several of his friends have owned a 1934 Railton Fairmile for many years and he expressed an interest in having the car restored. The Hudson straight 8 engine and chassis had been recently restored, and the body, what was left of it, was mounted on a 4X4 dolly to hold it together. Quite a bit of the wood was rotted away and the right door was missing!

But first a little history about the Railton: Noel Macklin was the driving force behind the Railton car as he saw the possibilities in using an American chassis with light-weight British-style bodywork. Macklin consulted Reid Railton, who had made his name designing World Land Speed Record cars and sports cars. Using the Railton name would help to promote and hopefully sell the image of a fast and sporting car.



The Railton was the combined product of the best of English and American engineering and workmanship, the main components being the famous Straight 8 Hudson Engine & Chassis, lowered and given a stiffer suspension. The coachwork was in the British style with a rectangular bonnet with rivets along its edges.

In a contemporary road test *Autocar Magazine* said; "The car is capable of 100 mph, while a standing start to 70 mph took just 16 seconds. In a comparatively short time a tremendous reputation has been acquired by the Railton for its performance. The Railton has been shown to possess superior performance as regards all round acceleration to that of any other production car tested by *Autocar*."

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Ragtops & Roadster's 15th Annual Open House is **Saturday, May 30th 2009**, 9am to 4pm. We hope that you are able to come out and participate in this wonderful antique automotive and local community event.

Parking in the street out front of the shop is limited to only classic cars and, after you check out the various jobs in the shop, Perkasio Olde Towne Association invites you to the "Hot Ribs & Cool Music Festival" featuring jazz performances under the big tent, a hot ribs cooking competition and sampling, a pie-cooking contest, salsa dancing lessons, wagon rides with historic tours, children's activities including rides, clowns, and kids cooking classes.



For more information call 215-257-4989 or visit w.perkasiooldetowne.org.

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Back to our restoration projects. We started the much needed body restoration and preservation work. The body is typical lightweight pre-war construction alloy, over white ash. The necessary materials were obtained and the project was under way. First, all parts were photographed and cataloged to identify any missing coachwork. The alloy panels were carefully stripped by hand so as to not create any panel distortion that can potentially come from a heavy hand using media blast. Heavy gauge metal panels were media blasted and a rough fit was completed.



Fortunately, what was missing on the one side of this rare hand-built car was intact on the other side. The first major challenge was to build a right-side driver's door from scratch. Using the left-side passenger door as a template, the patterns were reversed and served as a template to build a "new" driver's door. The door was skinned with the proper thickness aluminum and fitted to the body. Hinges were obtained from the UK and soon the latch was fitted. The

boot lid was the next challenge, as a good bit of the metal had rusted away where the spare tyre is mounted to the car on the outside of the lid. Some of the wood frame was replaced and new steel was fabricated for the lid. The left side sill plate was so severely rotted it was replaced. All metal panels were reworked and fitted to the repaired body. The car is now in the process of being painted. Panels have been smoothed and primer has been applied. Soon the two tone, dark blue with black wings finish paint will be sprayed and the motorcar will soon return to its former glory!

Late last summer another long-time client, Charles Becht, brought us a 1935 Hudson Terraplane for restoration. His passion for the Terraplane began soon after he left the Navy in 1946. As a young man of 20, while shopping for a car at a used car lot he found his love. It was a 1935 Hudson Terraplane Coupe. It struck him as the sexiest car he had ever seen! After driving off (without second gear) he enjoyed the car for some time as he learned to drive. After a couple of close calls and a fender bender or two, he soon realized that maybe he might be better off



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parting ways with the Terraplane as he felt the car might be more than he could handle. He brought the car back to the used car lot and the dealer bought the car back! But the Terraplane never left his heart as during the mid-eighties he bought another Terraplane from Robbie Williams. After the local garage did some work on the car he enjoyed driving a Terraplane once again. It was not long after that the local garage went out of business, his life got busy and so this Terraplane was headed out of his garage. Fast-forward a decade or so to the mid-nineties, while at the Auburn National Meet he spotted a 1935 Hudson Terraplane Brougham coming in on a trailer driven by none other than Robbie Williams! After some negotiation, his third Terraplane was once again headed to his garage! This one was going to stay!

Charlie made the decision to have the car restored and we started by photographing and carefully removing the interior. Years of mildew build-up was cleaned from the interior trim and seat frames. Old, poor metal repairs have been corrected and the burned valves have been repaired. The frame and body mounts were inspected and determined to be in good shape. New interior panels, carpeting, seats, and headliner will be reproduced from the original panels with new original materials. Suspensions have been gone over, new tie rod



ends installed, new brakes and a tube shock conversion has also been fitted. The engine bay has been detailed, wiring harness cleaned up, new rubber has been ordered. The car is soon headed to the paint shop for wood graining of the dash and a full paint re-spray. After the paint work is completed we will install all of the refinished chrome and fit the new interior. This will be a very handsome car when this project is completed.

While neither of these Hudsons will make it to this year's Centennial Celebration in Pontiac, Michigan, their spirit will be present. If you enjoy the Hudson automobiles this year's meet is one to attend. I am told by Jack Miller of the

Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum that the H-E-T Club is expecting over 300 cars for this year's event! Jack looks after "The Last Hudson Dealership" in the US and also runs a very successful Orphan Car show each summer. Be sure to look him up at www.ypsiautoheritage.org. Information regarding the H-E-T Clubs Fiftieth Meet and the Hudson Centennial can be found at www.hudsonclub.org. This is a four-day event starting on July 13, 2009 should have everything for a true Hudson enthusiast. I am sure Charlie will be there...

1961 Chrysler 300 G

By David Hutchison

Late last summer a commercial transporter was headed out on the Interstate for a routine day of pick up and delivery of collector cars. On board was a 1961 Chrysler 300 G that was returning from a successful run up Pike's Peak, one of the driving events held in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Concours. It was not to be an average day. After a couple of routine stops, a herd of deer ran out on the highway; with little time to react the transport driver hit the brakes...HARD. While missing the deer there was a loud thump that resonated from the transport trailer. Upon inspection it was found that a 1957 Turnpike Cruiser Convertible Pace Car had broken loose from its tie downs and ran into the back of the Chrysler 300 G. Not much damage was apparent on the nose of the Cruiser, however, the 300 G was hit hard in the rear and the force pushed it into the nose of the transport trailer. The corners of the front bumper were bent inward, buckling the front fenders and damaging the valance. The rear damage was also extensive as the rear panel was distorted and the trunk opening was compromised. This is a recently restored car, purchased at the 2005 Barrett-Jackson auction for the Gateway Colorado Auto Museum www.gatewayautomuseum.com. The car was a recent addition to this already impressive collection and it was headed home from a weekend Concours Event.

The Chrysler "letter series cars", as they have become known, were high performance cars built in limited numbers by the Chrysler Corporation from 1955 to 1965. The visionary designer, Virgil Exner was responsible for it's futuristic styling, jet inspired dash design cues, and the 300 G was the last in the series to sport the never-ending tail fins. Under the hood is a 413 cubic inch wedge head V8 capable of producing 375 horsepower! This is one of the 337 produced and one of three equipped with a three speed manual transmission as it was built for a Chrysler executive and finished in Pinehurst Green. Yes, its color was named after the golf course! A very desirable and rare car.

After the car's arrival at Pollock Auto Restoration, careful examination determined that a "proper repair" meant a total re-spray as the damage was extensive at both ends of the car and paint blending would not be acceptable. To make the necessary metal repairs and to prepare the car for paint all of the chrome had to be removed. At the time of writing, most of the metal repairs have been completed and the chrome is out for re-plating. Some additional work is planned as we found evidence of some "filler repairs" that cracked out upon impact. Soon the car will be headed for our paint booth and the refinished chrome will be installed. The car will be repaired to the highest standards, as it will once again be a true museum piece. Look for this car to be back in the Gateway Colorado Auto Museum later this summer and finished photos of the project to be in our Portfolio section of our website.



2009 Antique Car Events Calendar

- 5/1-5/3 Rhinebeck Car Show, Rhinebeck, NY www.rhinebeckcarshow.com
5/2 Nostalgia Nights, Pottstown, PA www.pottstownclassics.com
5/3 Artistry in Motion, Lancaster, PA www.artistryinmotion.org
5/9-5/10 50th Apple Blossom Meet, Martinsburg, WV www.aaca.org
5/13-5/16 Chrysler 300 39th Annual Spring Meet, Lancaster, PA
5/17 HCCP Spring Meet and Flea Market, Media, PA www.historicalcarclub.org
5/17-5/22 New England 1000, Woodstock, VT www.vintagerallies.com
5/18-5/21 7th Annual HCCP Brass in Bucks County, Quakertown, PA www.hcca.org
5/24 Chester County Car Show, Kimberton, PA <http://clubs.hemmings.com/clubsites>
5/28-5/30 AACA Eastern Spring Meet, Gettysburg, PA www.aaca.org
5/29-5/31 Eastern US Concours, Bethlehem, PA www.concourseast.org
5/31 Newport Concours de' Elegance, Newport, RI www.newportconcours.org
- 6/3 Motorcars Under the Stars, Philadelphia, PA www.ucpphila.org
6/5-6/7 All Ford Nationals, Carlisle, PA www.carlisleevents.com
6/6 Nostalgia Nights, Pottstown, PA www.pottstownclassics.com
6/6 DVT/DVJ "Cars of England", Westtown, PA www.delvaltrs.org
6/6-6/7 Greenwich Concours, Greenwich, CT www.greenwichconcours.com
6/6-6/7 CCCA Experience, CCCA Museum, Hickory Corners, MI www.classiccarclub.org
6/10-6/14 Gathering of the Faithful GOF 85, Concord, NH www.nemgrtr.org
6/14 Springfield, Ford, Lincoln and Mercury Show, Springfield, PA www.historicalcarclub.org
6/14 Philadelphia Italian Car Show, Philadelphia, PA www.flu.org
6/14 Ault Park Concours, Cincinnati, OH www.ohioconcours.com
6/15-6/21 58th Rolls Royce Annual Meet, New Orleans, LA www.rroc.org
6/19-6/20 Le Bella Machina d'Italia, Skytop, PA www.italiancarsatpocono.com
6/21-6/25 Pierce-Arrow Society National Meet, Temecula, CA www.pierce-arrow.org
6/22-6-26 Packard National Meet, Branson, MO www.packardclub.org
6/24 Ted Maurers Antique Auto Picnic, Pottstown, PA www.maurerail.com
6/26-6/28 All GM Nationals, Carlisle, PA www.carsatcarlisle.com
6/26-6/28 SVRA Vintage Grand Prix, Lexington, OH www.midohio.com
6/30-7/4 Buick Club Of America National Meet, Colorado Springs, CO www.buickclub.org
- 7/4 Nostalgia Nights, Pottstown, PA www.pottstownclassics.com
7/7 13th Annual Orphan Car Show, Ypsilanti, MI www.ypsiautoheritage.org
7/10-7/19 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, Pittsburgh, PA www.pittsburghvintagegrandprix.com
7/11-7/12 Giants Despair Hillclimb, Laurel Run, PA www.pahillclimb.org
7/11-7/12 Mercer Automobile Centennial Reunion, Roebling, NJ www.roeblingmuseum.org
7/13-7/17 Hudson Centennial Anniversary Pontiac, MI www.hudsonclub.org
7/17-7/19 Aston Martin Meet, Lime Rock Park, Lakeville, CT www.amoc-na.org
7/17-7/19 Hemmings Concours, Stratton Mountain, VT www.hemmings.com
7/21-7/25 40th Annual WPC Club Annual Meet, Sacramento, CA www.chryslerclub.org
7/22-7/26 DeSoto 24th Desoto Club National, St. Josephs, MI www.desoto.org
7/31-8/2 Das Awkscht Fescht, Macungie, PA www.awkscht.com

- 8/1 Nostalgia Nights, Pottstown, PA www.pottstownclassics.com
- 8/2 Meadowbrook Concours, Troy, MI www.meadowbrookconcours.org
- ??? Hemmings Classic Car Show, Saratoga, NY www.hemmings.com
- 8/8-8/9 New Hope Auto Show, New Hope, PA www.newhopeautoshow.com
- 8/11-8/15 Cadillac Driving Tour “Capitol Cruising”, Dulles, VA www.clcpotomacregion.org
- 8/16 Pebble Beach Concours, Pebble Beach, CA www.pebblebeachconcours.net
- 8/23-8/23 Mt Equinox Hillclimb, Manchester, VT www.vscca.org
- 8/23 DVR “Day on the Farm” AACA, Worcester, PA www.aaca.org/dvraaca
- 8/23 Vanderbilt Invitational Concours, Centerport, NY <http://www.limeny.org>
- 8/28-8/30 British Marque Car Club News Triathlon VIII, Hancock, MA www.britishmarque.com
- 9/4-9/6 Auburn Cord Duesenberg National Reunion, Auburn, IN www.acdclub.org
- 9/4-9/7 SVRA Rolex Vintage Festival, Lime Rock Park, Lakeville, CT www.limerock.com
- 9/5 Duryea Days, Boyertown, PA www.boyertownmuseum.org
- 9/11-9/13 SVRA Zippo Vintage Festival, Watkins Glen, NY www.grandprixfestival.com
- 9/11-9/13 Radnor Hunt Concours, Edgemont, PA www.radnorconcours.org
- 9/18-9/20 Glenmore Gathering Canton, OH www.glenmoorgathering.com
- 9/18-9/20 The British Invasion, Stowe, VT www.britishinvasion.com
- 9/19 “York on Wheels” York, PA www.yorkheritage.org
- 9/20 Buckingham Concours, Buckingham, PA www.buckinghamautoshow.org
- 9/20 Hagley Antique Car Show, Wilmington, DE. www.hagley.lib.de.us
- 9/25-9/26 VSCCA Lime Rock Finale, Lime Rock Park, Lakeville CT www.vscca.org
- 10/3-10/4 5th Annual Festa de’ Ferrari, Stamford, CT www.ferrariclubofamerica.org
- 10/7-10/10 AACA Eastern National Meet, Hershey, PA www.aaca.org
- 10/11 Hunt Country Classic, Middleburg, VA www.mgcarclubdc.com
- 10/16-10/18 Euro Auto Festival, Spartensburg, SC www.euroautofestival.com
- 10/18 HCCP Fall Meet and Flea Market, Media, PA www.historicalcarclub.org
- 10/30-11/1 Hilton Head Concours, Hilton Head, SC www.hhiconcours.com
- 11/22 Before we Put ’Em Away for the Winter, Bentley Drivers Club, PA www.classiccarclub.org

This is a web-based calendar of mostly Antique Car Events for the 2009 northeast driving season. We have included most major Car Marques and their websites. We suggest that you explore many other events that are listed on each individual website. If we have missed listing your event please let us know so we may include it next years, calendar! Concours shows, overseas events, local, regional, national shows, rallies, vintage races, hillclimbs, and even Sunday drives, are also listed.

Have Fun and Happy Motoring!

Dave

Volunteers Wanted at the Boyertown Museum

Volunteers are an important part of most organizations and the Boyertown Museum is no exception. We have many projects to tackle and without volunteers who give their time and talent we could not function.



One project we will need help with is completing Phase II of the Jeremiah Sweinhart Carriage Shop restoration. This project will be done this summer. There are ten trailers of equipment and tools that will need to be unloaded. Everything will have to be cleaned, painted, and moved into the carriage shop. Volunteers with a variety of skills, such as carpentry, painting, and mechanical, would be much appreciated to help with this project. Sometimes all that is needed is just two more hands.

The Boyertown trolley which is currently undergoing extensive renovations, will soon be returning to the museum. It will need to be cleaned up upon its return, as well as have seats and windows installed. It is our hope that both the Jeremiah Sweinhart Carriage Shop and trolley will be done by this year's Duryea Day on September 5th.

Pollock Auto Restoration is volunteering their time and resources to bring our 1912 S.G.V. back to life. Servicing the engine and fuel system, checking all mechanicals, rebuilding the magneto and performing some much needed cosmetic repairs. This car will be displayed at many local area car events during the 2009 season then will return to the museum.



There is always a need for help with on-going, day-to-day tasks, such as cleaning, dusting, moving cars, building displays, mowing grass, snow removal, and setting up the meeting rooms. Need a less physical job? Filing, stuffing envelopes, doing research, or being a docent for tours are some of the possibilities. The museum will likely be setting up a major exhibit of vehicles again this year at the Kutztown Folk Festival in July. Volunteers are needed to greet festival visitors and talk to them about the vehicles and the museum.

These are some of the many projects we will do during the upcoming year. If you have some time to spare—a couple of hours, a day, a weekend—whatever you can give will be an important aid to the museum's activities. As our volunteer base builds, we will need Team Leaders to supervise their activities, so none of these volunteer positions are dead-end jobs. Come join the museum team!

Joe Alackness
Project Manager
Boyertown Museum of Historical Vehicle's
610-367-2090 / 610-948-9077 cell

POLLOCK AUTO RESTORATION

a division of RAGTOPS & ROADSTERS, Inc.
70 SOUTH FRANKLIN STREET
POTTSTOWN, PA 19464
610-323-7108

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



610-323-7108 • FAX 484-941-6605 • www.pollockauto.com • info@pollockauto.com
215-257-1202 • FAX 215-257-2688 • www.ragtops.com • info@ragtops.com

You're sure to enjoy viewing www.pollockauto.com as we have added many photos of past and present automotive restoration projects, articles and other useful information. We've also included a short retrospective on Bill Pollock's Auto Showcase.

Also view www.ragtops.com

