

Around the Bend



A Publication of
The Maine Region AACA
December 2020



<https://maineregionaaca.com>
www.facebook.com/AACAME



and a Very Happy New Year!

(Early card shows Santa with this car promoted to be a Model T)



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hi All

I hope you are all well. I don't have a lot of news to share this issue. I've been busy in the shop with my old gas pumps and am looking forward to driving less and working in the shop more now that winter has arrived. My plan this summer was to stockpile some old pumps so I could avoid driving through ice and snow this winter. I should have plenty to keep me busy. I bring this up in hopes of seeing what you are working on this winter. Barbara can always use your input and the newsletter remains our best bet for staying in contact with each other. Please send pictures and a write up to Barbara. We'd all love to see what you're working on. Tell a story and Barbara will edit as necessary for story length etc. Pictures if possible will add a lot. We're car people so this invitation extends to you car hobbyist or restorers too. Whatcha workin on?

As most of you know my dad, Dale Watson, passed away recently. I'll write something up telling bits of his car story at a later time. I had hoped to get some pictures and a write up for this issue but the deadline is here and I want more time to put my thoughts together. Thank you for all the cards and notes of sympathy. My family very much appreciates it. One of our new members is my sister and



Watson of Skowhegan displays his "Model Tree" car on the lawn of his Jewett Street home, decorated in an appropriate festive fashion.

(Mike Lange)

brother in law Jane and Don Davis from Madison. You can expect to meet them as we (hopefully) resume more normal club activity in 2021 and they'll likely be driving some of dad's cars familiar to all of us. Some of dad's cars were "keepers" and some were "inventory" and Jane and I are working on what stays and what goes. They already own a 1929 Model A coupe that our aunt and uncle bought from the original owner in the 1950's and a 1975 Buick that our grandmother bought new in 1975 and I'm looking forward to getting out and doing some touring with them and with our other new members.

We are planning a car related celebration of life in Smithfield this coming summer at dad's fire station/Fairview Grange/North Pond. So there is at least 1 planned event for our club. Dad was a 50 year member of the AACA and a founding member of The Maine Region AACA and while a member of a lot of clubs always considered the AACA his favorite.

In closing, stay well, stay in touch and have a wonderful Christmas and New Years.

Best regards,

Rick Watson

By the Bay LIGHTHOUSES
207-548-0920 for Sale

RT1 SEARSPORT, MAINE



Dale S. Watson

When grandchildren and great-grandchildren came along he loved taking them along on adventures too. He especially loved them.

Dale leaves behind his son Rick Watson and wife Karie, grandchildren Shelby and Tucker, his daughter Jane Davis and husband Donald, granddaughter Jade Anderson and husband Jeff, his great-granddaughter Raven; life partner of over 40 years, Nancy Moll, her children Steve and Robyn Moll, Brad and Melanie Moll and grandchildren Emma and Ben. He also leaves his sister Hazel Grove; and several nephews and a niece. Dale was predeceased by his parents; brother-in-law Robert Gilman, and sister Maravene Gilman.

A private graveside service will be held at the convenience of the family. A celebration of life will take place in the Spring or Summer of 2021.

The family would like to thank Dad's many friends for comforting and visiting with him these last few months and weeks. A special thanks also to Dr. Edmund Ervin, MD for his care and conversations with dad, and the entire hospice team – but especially Sandra, Michelle, and Casey for their compassion and care, both to dad and to our family as well.

Dad was a quiet supporter of the Grange and very much enjoyed the weekly dinners and catching up with people from around the lake and seeing the Grange's improvements over the last few years. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Fairview Grange #342 c/o Sharon Wood, 709 Village Road, Smithfield, ME 04978. Anyone who wishes to leave the family messages can do so on our website at <http://www.smartandedwardsfh.com>

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of our father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and life partner Dale Watson. Dale was born on June 6, 1935 in the family home to Charles and Thelma (Berle) Watson and passed in the same family home, as was his wish at the age of 85, on Nov. 19, 2020. He spent every summer on North Pond, and Smithfield was always considered home in the summer.

He kept his sense of humor until the end, surprising all around him with his continued and almost legendary sharp wit.

His passion for antique cars began at an early age, probably high school or earlier, and he liked to tell a story of proudly bringing home a car, to which his father said "the idea is to see how NICE a car you can get." He was encouraged to make it go away. He no doubt made a profit and decades of buying, selling and collecting old cars followed. He passed this passion onto his son and grandson and together they spent many hours tinkering, buying, selling all things cars.

Dale had many different careers – He was the owner of Watson Hardware In Norridgewock, Western Auto in Skowhegan, Town Manager of Skowhegan, and for many years worked for the Hight family overseeing their auto parts stores and many of their real estate endeavors.

Dale served as Chairman of the Board at Skowhegan Savings Bank, Treasurer of Skowhegan State Fair, member of the Smithfield Grange, the North Pond Association, a 50 year member of the Kora Shriners, Masons, a life member of the Skowhegan History House, Coburn Park Commissioner, and while his antique car club affiliations are too numerous to list he was especially fond of the Antique Automobile Club of America and recently received recognition for his 50 year membership. It was through this club that the annual trips to Hershey started. Every October since the 1960's he'd make the trek. Those stories are for another time.

In the 1970's, the cute gal with the big smile in the office at C. E. Noyes caught his eye. Soon, he and Nancy were an item and over the next 40 years travelled the US by car, truck, motor home, airplane, or even helicopter on all sorts of adventures. He was especially proud to see how Nancy's boys turned out and took satisfaction in having a part in it.

Three generations of "car guys at work." Dale, Rick, Tucker.



MOLES OR MOALS?

Homophones: Pairs of words that sound the same but have distinctly different meanings and different spellings.

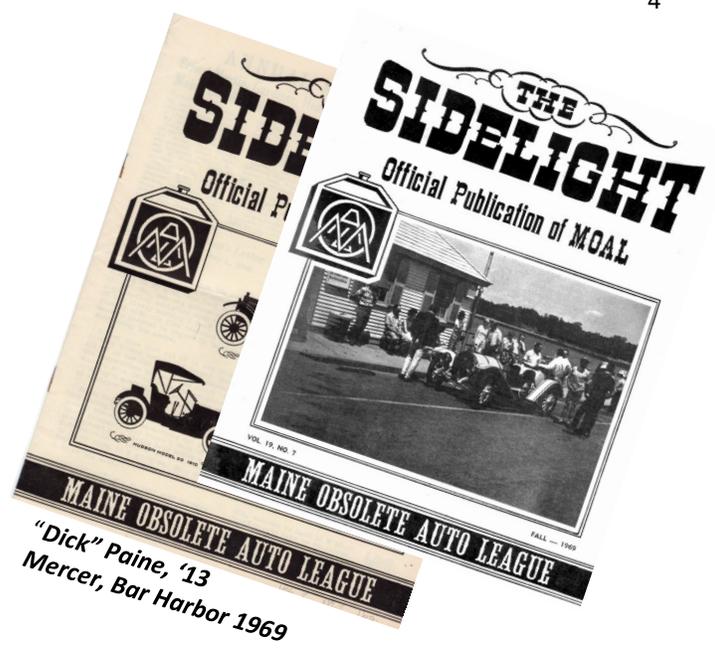
During this pandemic, I felt like both the “solitary animal that spend their whole lives in a burrow,” and “the spy within an organization who passes on information.” I learned some of our members are MOALS!

Being the editor of a car club newsletter normally entails writing about what fun events are in the planning stages, showing pictures of what has happened, and sharing what your member’s are up to.

2020 stole this from us, but it gave me an opportunity to read the history of another early car club that is still in existence. It seems Rick Watson not only collects gas pumps, he has an envious collection of other nostalgia. Among it was a box containing all the publications of The Maine Obsolete Automobile League, (MOAL) going back to it’s organization in 1949. I was honored to borrow it, and surprised to see how it pulled many of my own interests together.

Confession time? I am a MOAL, and I have two other car connections. I am the National Historian for the VMCCA, and a Member and Past President of Board of Directors for the Seal Cove Auto Museum. Oh what I learned about all of them.

When the MOAL was formed, in 1949, the guest speaker was none other than Dick Merrill from the VMCCA (Veteran Motor Car Club of America.) He offered to have them join as the Maine Region of their club. Another early member was Dean Fales, the first President of the VMCCA. Fales, recommended against becoming a region suggesting that instead



“the MOALS stay calm, informal and inexpensive!” More Surprising, Fales did not even own an antique car at that point, and when he got one, he was “quite the hotrodder!”

For years the MOALS frequently went to Buckfield to see the ‘Foster Cars’ “. . .four antiques pushed aside in a huge barn—the biggest of these, a Winton. . . then they disappeared, not everyone knew where they went. Suffice to say, they’re still in the state, thanks to “Dick” Paine.”

Dick, a long-time MOAL member, had already started collecting cars that would become the Seal Cove Auto Museum. In 1968 and 1969, the MOALS came to Bar Harbor for a Rallye and had a “sneak preview” of the “not-yet-officially open Museum.” They were not allowed to take pictures. It appears they may have been the first car club to visit the collection!

You will probably hear more about these MOALS in the future!
Barbara D. Fox, Ed.

Christmas Poem written for the MOALS, in 1966

While poor old Santa Claus is emptying his bag
I'm afraid we've let our treasury lag.
The special Christmas *Sidelight* that was sent to you
Will make our deposits slightly overdue.

So fill out the cards and mail back today
So Treasurer Watson will have some hay.
Let your wife in on all the fun
It's a good Christmas present for only 1 (\$)

Included is a card to describe all your fame,
If you have more than one, make more of the same.
In closing, a small word of humor –
It must be true, and not a rumor

That the real workhorse on Christmas eve
(I'm sure that we all can conceive)
Is that dependable coach-Santa's sleigh
It really must be a “Model A!”

Best wishes for a better and happier MOAL year
Bob + Irene Cushing

Ray and Brenda Morrow are

WISHING GOODBYE to 2020!

This year has certainly been one for the history books. What with a virus, a pandemic, lockdowns, shut-downs, school openings and closings, election year and vaccines on the way.

We started off like we always do, closing the books and getting ready for our favorite meeting of the year – our accountant! Am grateful that was completed in February as everything changed after that.

Like everyone else, we began hearing stories of something coming our way – a virus? - a pandemic? Unfortunately, the information was not at all consistent and at times so opposite that one had to wonder if they were even discussing the same thing. So, as is usually the case with no consistent data, people make up their own minds and go with the info that more closely matches their set of beliefs.

Since we are considered an essential business, we never had to shut down, but we did have to follow guidelines and take precautions. For some time, we were by appointment only with no one allowed inside. Then as the weather got warmer, it became more difficult as garage doors were open and folks would come in that way. We had the doors cordoned off as well as the counter. It worked just so-so and we had to adjust and make do as best we could.

It has been an interesting study of the human psyche. As the virus spread increased and the elections got closer, people were getting more tense with each passing day. Some customers felt it was their civic duty to educate the masses on how wearing masks is not only unnecessary but downright dangerous as it will make you sick and will not protect you or anyone else from anything, it is simply a form of mind control. And if President Trump does not win this election, we are surely doomed! Next customer who comes in is covered head to toe and needs to educate the masses as well. If we do not wear a mask, gloves, face shield, keep our distance, and wash our hands often, the virus will get us. Schools and businesses need to be shut down or on lockdown, (except for essential businesses,



Maine AACA visit 2018

**Morrow's Garage: 818 Village Road Smithfield, ME
Tel. (207) 362-4161**

of course). And if Mr. Biden does not win this election, we are all surely doomed! Mmmm, wonder what would happen if we made both of these viewpoints an appointment for the same time – we would surely be doomed! We would never do this of course, we value our customers too much for that and we firmly believe that each person's point of view deserves to be heard without prejudice.

After much consideration, we decided to apply for the PPP (payroll protection plan) through the CARES act. It was a lot of effort as bank after bank told us they were out of funds. Then Camden National called and told us Machias Savings had openings. Since all documentation had already been prepared, it just a matter on going on their site and upload the documents. Because we were only applying for the payroll and nothing else, it cut down a lot on the paperwork. We were approved within the week. Now it's just a matter of wait and see if our loan has been forgiven. I am happy we did not apply for the EIDL (economic injury disaster loan) as it seems there is a glitch in the way it was written and may not be forgiven. This has taken a lot of small businesses by surprise and is causing a lot of stress.

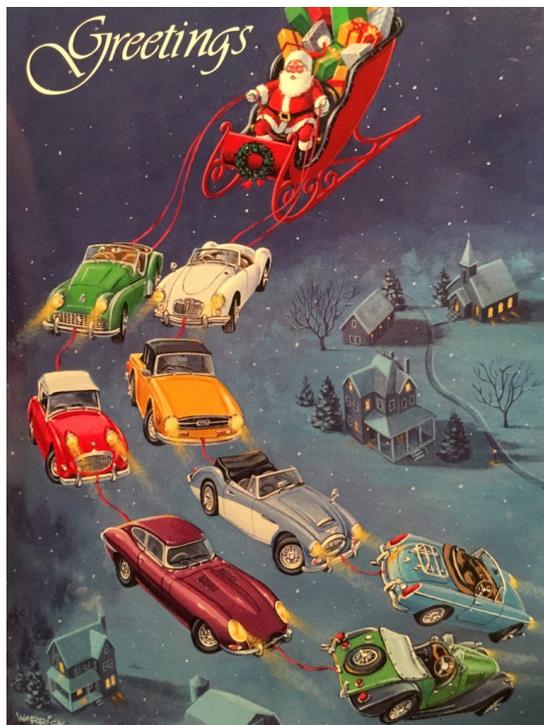
It's been an interesting year for sure – don't know what 2021 will bring, but we are hoping for the best.

In ending, we would like to offer our deepest sympathies to the families of members lost in 2020.

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe 2020.

The Morrows

Twas The Night Before The Car Show



Twas the night before the car show, but I was out in the shed.
My car wasn't budging – the dangd thing was dead.
The battery and petrol had been checked twice with care,
The tires kicked too, to make sure they held air.

The plugs were all snugged up, tight on their leads,
While shop towels betrayed how much knuckles can bleed.
Once more I inspected the rotor and cap,
But that car was intent on a long freakin' nap.

When out in the street there arose such a clatter,
I sat up far too fast to see what was the matter.
Into the sump my head slammed with a bash,
Crunched back to the floor – I grew faint with the crash.

The lump on my forehead and ringing in ears,
Gave an aura of migraine, while nausea grew near.
But then what to my watering eyes should appear?
Why an old Morris tow truck with harsh grinding of gears!

There was a little old driver, so crazy and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be Dip Stick.
More bewildered than brilliant his mechanics they came,
And he laughed and he hollered, and called them by name!

“Now Austin! Now Triumph! Now MG and Jaguar!
On Healey! On Mini! On Morgan and Rover!

Get that car off the lift, and watch out for that wall!
Now back away! Back away! Back away all!”

As good money before a long shop visit flies,
And when met with a rebuild, bills mount to the sky.
So up to his full height sir Dip Stick he grew,
Despite a kink in his back, and I believe his leg too.

And then, in a fuse flash, I heard under breath
The swearing and calling for previous owner's death.
As I bandaged my head, and was fumbling around,
Down the first Castrol can came with a bound.

He was dressed all in Dickies, from his pants to his shirt,
And his clothes were adorned with gas, oil and dirt.
A couple of rags he had stuck in his belt,
And he left stains on the concrete wherever he knelt.

His eyes-how demented, his pupils how twitchy.
I offered to help him, but he laughed out of pity.
His crusty old mouth, twisted up like a bow,
And the stubble he wore had a good three days growth.

A slow burning cigar he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face and a nicely round belly,
You could tell he liked his chair right in front of the telly!

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself!
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke very few words as he turned to his work,
And after tuning the SUs, he turned with a jerk.
Then he turned the key on and hit the starter,
Wow, she started right up as he hit the gas harder!

He sprang to his truck, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all zoomed, like shot out of a missile.
But I heard him call out, over a backfiring blast,
“Happy car show to all, and to all safety fast!”

Good News!

A young man with a wealth of knowledge and experience has opened shop in Maine!

By John Harris,
Maine Region AACA member



At a time when experienced and knowledgeable technicians are leaving the trade and making it more difficult to get our classic cars serviced, restored and repaired—a new shop is open.

Phillip Reinhardt is the owner and operator of this new business which opened last March in St. George. As a young boy, Philip loved everything mechanical- took apart lawn mowers and chain saws he found around the family farm.

When Phillip was eleven his father introduced him to Charlie Chiarchiaro, then Executive Director of the Owls Head Transportation Museum, who invited him to volunteer in the Auto Shop and at museum events. Speaking of his early experiences at Owls Head Phillip said, “The older volunteers took me under their wings and mentored me. At OHTM I got an exposure to a wealth of knowledge that not many kids my age got to experience.”

The Humble Farmer, a Maine Humorist, and also Phillip’s Uncle, gave him a wreck of a Model T Ford when he was a teenager. Phillip got it running and drove it to shows at Owls Head and other car events’

Phillip graduated from Oceanside High School in Rockland in 2015. He went on to McPherson College in McPherson, Kansas where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Antique Automotive Restoration Technology. At age 20 he earned his Captain’s License and still captains the Elizabeth Ann and Laura B for the Monhegan Boat Line out of Port Clyde.

After graduating from McPherson in 2019, Phillip went to work for Paul Russel and Co. of Essex, Massachusetts, a high end restoration shop of classic sports cars. However — to our benefit —he missed the coast of Maine so returned to St George to open his own business, Mechanical Arts. We, in the hobby, are fortunate to have Phillip as a resource.

Philip has already worked on three cars of mine, He corrected some issues on our 1912 Model T Torpedo. My Model A Victoria had been sitting for sometime. With a tune-up from Phillip, it is now purring.

Most recently he has made our 1931 REO Royale reproduction Indianapolis racer road legal and running like a clock. If we are accepted for the 2022 Great Race, Phillip will tweak it some more.



“— Just finished up this 1970 Corvette! It received a completely rebuilt braking system, u joints all around, ignition tune up, some small carburetor work and adjustments, assorted gaskets and seals, new tires, and the vacuum headlight



doors and wiper door put back in order. “



MG TF gets ready for the summer driving.

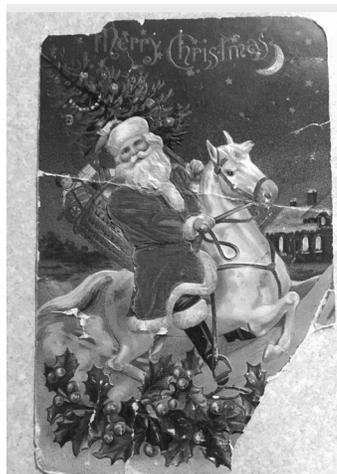


John Harris’ 1931 REO “OLD 28”
Story in May/June 2018 *Around the Bend*



Loaded with Christmas Gifts

This was taken on the Willard property on the end of Deake Street in South Portland. In the foreground is a Model T Ford loaded with Christmas gifts.



Cards produced in Germany were popular very early.

On February 27, 1861, the US Congress passed an act that allowed privately printed cards, weighing one ounce or under, to be sent in the mail. That same year John P. Charlton (other places seen as Carlton) copyrighted the first postcard in America.

Christmas cards were imported from England and Germany to America. Many of the colorful Christmas cards showed various forms of transportation to get Santa around the world, so the use of the newly developing vehicles was a natural choice for many cards.

Around 1874, printer and lithographer Louis Prang printed the first American holiday greeting cards in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

The modern Christmas Card industry in the US arguably began in 1915, when a Kansas City-based fledgling postcard printing company started by Joyce Hall, later to be joined by his brothers Rollie and William, published its first holiday card. Old holiday cards are collectible today.



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 Manchester, ME 04351

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 Houlton, ME 04730

Richard & Judith Maguire
 165 Bluff Circle
 New Gloucester, ME 04260

Mark Robichaud & Susan Abel
 76 Pleasant Ridge Road
 Dexter, ME 04930

Donald & Jane Davis
 13 Henderson Street
 Madison, ME 04950

Mario G. Binette
 dba Champion Auto Sales,
 Inc.
 1621 Portland Road
 Arundel, Maine 04046



Won't you join us? Membership includes the chance to meet, talk, eat, and tour around Maine with your fellow car lovers. Plus, the AROUND THE BEND will be sent to you bi-monthly!



Application for Maine Region Membership
Peter Hanson, Secretary
21 Norway Drive, Chelsea, ME 04330-1023

Dues are billed annually

First Name	M.I.	Last Name	— Spouse/Partner	First Name	M.I.	Last Name	Date
Address							
City		State/Province		Zip Code		Country	
Signature		Email Address			Telephone #		

I am a member of National AACA, and my membership # _____ (National Membership is required to join the Maine Region.) I am enclosing a check payable to the Maine Region AACA for **__\$15 -__** (Send to address above)

Ownership of an antique vehicle is not required for membership, but we would love to hear about your cars and related interests.

Comments:

NATIONAL Antique Automobile Club of America Membership
501 W. Governor Road, P. O. Box 417, Hershey, PA 17033 Tel. 717-534-1910

If you are not a member of National AACA, Please fill out the application below and enclose a separate check for \$40 payable to **AACA.** The Maine Region will forward the application to the Hershey, PA office. Enjoys voting privileges, receive the bi-monthly issues of ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE magazine, is eligible to join an AACA region and/or chapter and is eligible to exhibit cars and compete for national prizes and annual awards. Membership entitles you and your spouse/partner to limited free research in the AACA Library & Research Center. (Dues are billed annually. Ownership of an antique vehicle is not required for members)

First Name	M.I.	Last Name	Spouse/Partner	First Name	M.I.	Last Name	Date
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City		State/Province		Zip Code		Country	
Signature		Email Address			Telephone #		

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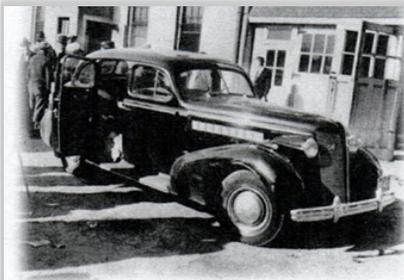


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CARS for SALE

Rare, 1928 4dr. Model Q Sedan was the first model introduced by the Plymouth brand. The Model Q was a short lived car, ending production in 1929. It is one of 67 4dr sedans known to exist. Painted in late 1990's along with new upholstery and interior. It has a recent machine shop motor rebuild. A number of spare parts are available including 2 transmissions, steering column, spare motor, etc. **Asking \$23,000. Harry Burns 1720 Route 2, Rumford, ME 04276; 207-364-7683; Email rumburns@roadrunner.com**



1937 Buick Model 41
Used as tour car. 82,000 miles. Believed to be the car involved in Doctor Littlefield and wife's murder in 1937 in South Paris, ME. The car was used to transported the bodies to NJ. Needs body and interior work to be a

show car. **Asking \$20,000. Harry Burns 1720 Route 2, Rumford, ME 04276; 207-364-7683; Email rumburns@roadrunner.com**

1925 Rickenbacker Brougham 4 door sedan. Beautifully restored to original condition by Ken Clark. Presently on display at Larz Anderson Museum in Brookline, Mass. \$40,000. **Dave Ault, Wayne, ME 04284; 207-685-4578. Email drault58@myfairpoint.net**



1934 Chevrolet Coupe



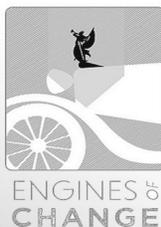
w/Chevy radio, spot light, skirts, Great Car, Drive it away. \$25,995 Skowhegan, Me 04976, **Contact: Rick Watson 207-313-7317 Email: northpondpres@gmail.net**



See 1941 Merc sale info on back page !



Our new exhibit, Engines of Change - A Suffrage Centennial is **now open!**



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207-244-9242 By appointment only until

sealcoveautomuseum.org



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The Maine Region AACA

Peter Hanson-Secretary
21 Norway Drive
Chelsea, ME 04330-1023



'41 Mercury for Sale

- * V8 engine
 - * Columbia 2 speed rear end
 - * Fog lights
 - * Back up light
 - * Deluxe Bumper guards
 - * Dual exhaust system
 - * Nice car for touring - runs nicely
 - * hidden electric fuel pump for easy starting
 - * hidden battery cutoff switch
 - * heater
 - * AM radio
 - * WSW tires
- Kept in air conditioned /humidity controlled building {my museum in FL} Contact: [386]283-0088
chriskoeh6565@gmail.com with questions or more pictures.
Price: \$37,500. Car is in northern FL. Cost \$1,800 to ship to ME in an enclosed trailer.



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Mystery Car Challenge

Don't forget to send in your answer! This is #6.

Last chance to impress George with your sharp eye!

Win a year of Club Membership!

Enter your guess for each issue of *Around the Bend* for 2020

Write, call or email your answers to:

George/Jane Enman

13 Mitchell Dr.

Charlotte, ME 04666

packardvern@gmail.com 207-592-4126

Can you guess the year, make and model?!