

Buff doesn't just polish antique car

By C.J. RISAK

Has this ever happened to you? Out driving on a bright, sunny, Sunday afternoon when, suddenly, you go past a 1930 Ford that looks so nice and is running so smooth that it makes your 1978 edition look and sound like an antique.

What kind of nut would spend all his spare time working on an antique car when he could be watching a football game or Hogan's Heroes reruns on TV?

Well, you've got to believe there's only two possible answers: money or status. Cars like that get more valuable with time. And, if you have it, you might as well show it off — keep it in top condition and see how many blue ribbons you can get at car shows. That will up the value of the car.

Chandos Bailey of Farmington Hills is an antique car owner. But not for those reasons.

"I look down my nose at anyone that collects antiques for profit, or trawlers his car from show to show and never drives it," Bailey said as he prepared to drive his collector's item to the Greenfield Village Old Car Festival which was held last weekend.

"To me, they aren't appreciating their cars. If you have them, you should drive them. That's the fun part."

Money and status aren't the reasons why Chandos Bailey owns an antique car. Fun is his reason. But to say he is an antique car buff, without including

the rest of the family, would be a mistake.

"I bought this car in 1967," Bailey explained. "At the time, I was playing golf about four times a week. My wife finally said it had to stop. I had a family that I would never see."

So, for Christmas of 1967, Bailey brought home a special present for his family — a 1925 Rickenbacker. But this was no garage piece or Sunday afternoon toy.

In the summer, the entire family piled into the Rickenbacker and joined 300 or so antique car collectors on a Glidden tour to different parts of the country. Through the mountains of West Virginia and Vermont and into the backwoods of Canada — that's how the Bailey family spent their summer vacations.

"The tours are great fun," Bailey stated. "There are some real characters on those tours. We travel throughout the country, on the backroads, all these old cars in one group."

"What's really great is if something goes wrong with your car, there's always help around. Everyone will stop and help you get your car fixed. You wouldn't believe the weird parts that turn up when someone needs something."

And, in a group of cars that large, more than likely Bailey will have the only Rickenbacker.

"As far as we know, there are only 35 or 50 Rickenbackers left in the world," Bailey explained.

The Rickenbacker was produced between 1920 and 1929 in Detroit by a company owned by the World War I ace, Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker. About 55,000 were built in that period of time, but the competition eventually drove them out of business. The cars were known by the top hat in a ring insignia made famous by Rickenbacker in the war.

The Rickenbacker was no average man's car. At the time, Fords were selling for around \$200 to \$400. The Rickenbacker went for \$1,700.

One of its unique features was four wheel brakes. This also was one of the contributing factors to the car's downfall. The larger car companies took out advertisements claiming the four wheel brake system was hazardous (today, many cars are equipped with four wheel brakes).

A year and a half after the Baileys purchased their Rickenbacker they joined with three other Rickenbacker owners to form the Rickenbacker Club. The club's membership is now at about 60.

"Not everyone in the club owns a Rickenbacker," Bailey explained. "Some are past owners, others are looking for one. But it's a good deal if we can share parts and information."

Finding parts for repairs on such a rare car would indeed be a problem. Bailey keeps a stock of parts and buys almost anything he sees or hears about for a Rickenbacker.

"I was at a car show in Indiana a few years ago," he recalled. "An anti-

qu岸 agent from the area saw my car and said he knew a farmer that had a hubcap for a Rickenbacker. So I took me back into this field and, sure enough, there was a Rickenbacker hubcap.

"And you know what the hubcap was connected to? A Rickenbacker wheel — which was connected to a Rickenbacker axle and another wheel. It was the assemblage for an entire front axle. The guy had been using it for a trailer."

Bailey's car has won its share of awards, including a blue, or first, place ribbon and a second place finish at the Greenfield car show, which is considered more of a "fun" meet than serious competition. But the ribbons aren't the important thing to Bailey.

"I was a 'depression baby' he said. "In those days, we just didn't have money to invest in cars to have them fixed. We made due with whatever we had to repair them."

"They were simple machines back then, easy to work on. I couldn't tell you anything about what's under the hood of my Cadillac out there. But the Rickenbacker — well, I love to tinker with it."

Money is not one of Bailey's concerns.

"What I paid for it and what it's worth now really doesn't matter. It's priceless to me. It's like one of the family."

save energy

Keep sunlight out in summertime. Once sunlight comes through a window, it converts to heat. Shutters or awnings are more effective in keeping a house cool than interior shades or draperies are.



478-3800
2355 GRAND RIVER
BLOOMFIELD HILLS
AMERICA'S EXPORT MARKET

echo park school

FALL APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

VISITORS WELCOME
Kindergarten, Pre-School and Mother Toddler Program

646-5590

4275 Echo Park Road
Bloomfield Hills

CLASSES CLASSES

at
Robert L. Kidd Associates
107 Townsend Street
Birmingham, Michigan
642-3838

Weaving
Design
Rya
LatchHook
Knitting
Crochet
OffLoom
Basic and Textured
Needlepoint

robert L. Kidd associates
Classes to Begin Sept. 18th

Candidates will meet with LWV Sept. 20

How does breakfast with the candidates sound?

The West Bloomfield-Farmington Area League of Women Voters is trying something new for the November election. At 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, the LWV will host a Meet the Candidates Morning at the auditorium of the Farmington Community Library, 32757 Twelve Mile.

Democratic and Republican candidates for the 24th, 6th and 65th State House Districts plus candidates for the 8th and 15th State Senate seats have been invited to attend and meet with voters.

A 9:30 a.m. continental breakfast will be served free, providing an opportunity for voters to talk individ-

ually with the candidates. The forum begins promptly at 10 a.m. and will end at noon.

Candidates attending will be state Rep. Richard Fessler (R-West Bloomfield) and his challenger for the 24th House seat, Elizabeth Giese; Rep. Wilbur Brotherton (R-Farmington Hills) and his challenger in the 6th District race, Robert Green; Rep. James DeFebaugh (R-Bloomfield Township) and his opponent in the November election in the 65th District, Thomas Galloway; Sen. Donald Bishop (R-Avon Township) of the 8th District and opponent William Blake; and Republican Marcus Simon and Democrat Doug Ross in the 15th District contest.

INVENTORY CLEARANCE

50% off Everything

Wedding Gowns
Bridesmaids Gowns
Veil & Hats
Evening Wear
Homecoming Gowns
Flower Girl Dresses
Velvet Wraps
Marabou Capes
All Accessories
Lingerie

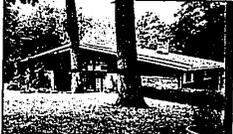
Sale Ends Sept. 30
Come While Selections Last

Mary Darr, Ltd.

Evergreen Just South of 12 Mile
in Evergreen Plaza



PALATIAL in size and elegance! Custom luxury in over 4,000 sq. ft. Spectacular builder's own home. 2-story marble foyer, security systems, Central Air, endless comfort features. Bloomfield Hills schools. 626-9100. \$269,900.



FLOWING STREAM and natural wooded setting plus a Japanese garden enhance this FRANKLIN VILLAGE Contemporary, truly an entertainer's dream. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, multiple other rooms. 557-6700. \$279,000.



PURE NATURAL BEAUTY on a Rochester retreat. Spacious comfort in 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, family and living rooms with fireplaces and in finished, walk-out rec room. Central Air. On private half acre. 651-8850. \$185,000.



LAKE VIEW Contemporary in prime Troy area. Great open plan, cathedral-beamed ceilings, open stairs to "look-down" library. 4 bedrooms, fireplace family room, rec room. Central Air. A custom former model. 689-8900. \$111,900.



EXCELLENCE in fascinating 1975 Quad-level, Bloomfield Hills. Expansive, open floor plan with large 2-story foyer, spectacular family room with large over-hanging balcony area and fireplace shared by library. Plus 2 professionally finished rec rooms and 3 doorwalls opening to meandering wood decks and pool in garden setting. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, Central Air, lawn sprinklers, gas grill. Truly a "House Beautiful". 647-5100. \$179,500.



VALUE-PACKED 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home in West Bloomfield. Enjoy fireplace family room, recreation room plus Central Air, automatic sprinklers, gas grill, garage openers, circle drive. 626-9100. \$109,900.



BE GOOD to yourself. Stately 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath Southfield home on huge lot. First floor laundry, fireplace family room, fun entertainment center, garden house in park-like yard. Superb! 557-6700. \$89,900.



ESTATE ACREAGE with privacy and stately Ranch home. Additional living area in walk-out lower level. 2 fireplaces in 30' x 24' family room (with wet bar) and in living room. 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths, etc., etc. 626-9100. \$124,900.



BETTER-THAN-NEW. Magnificent Troy Ranch offers double doorways off fireplace family room (20' x 15'), complete kitchen serving 20' breakfast nook and dining room. Extra insulation. Immediate Possession. 646-6000. \$83,900.



ENJOY ROCHESTER in this 1977 Colonial with beautiful earth-tone decor. 2 1/2 baths, first floor laundry, thermo windows, marble slits, complete kitchen. 651-8850. \$96,900.



WELL GROOMED grounds with superb West Bloomfield home; double insulation throughout. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, glass-doored fireplace in family room, double gas grill, garage openers, large lot. 851-8100. \$88,900.



ALL THE PLUSSES in this immaculate 4 bedroom home on garden setting. Decorator perfection throughout. Fireplace in family room, complete kitchen with big pantry, Central Air, garage openers. Top Value. 689-8900. \$77,900.



NATURE'S NEIGHBORHOOD. Majestic treed area enhances this lovely SOUTHFIELD home. A positive allurement for informal country living but only 5 minutes from expressway. Lovely to look at! Easy to own! 557-6700. \$47,000.



CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO LOOK. Great Birmingham location with extremely neat and tidy, memorable homestead glowing with warmth. Put some past in your future. 557-6700. \$49,900.



• BIRMINGHAM 646-6000 • BLOOMFIELD HILLS 647-5100 • WEST BLOOMFIELD 851-8100

• FARMINGTON HILLS-FRANKLIN 626-9100 • SOUTHFIELD-LATHRUP VILLAGE 557-6700 • ROCHESTER 651-8850

• TROY 689-8900