



MARCELLUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 1

Winter 2002

What in Tar-nation is a Car-Nation?

by Judith Morton

It is a 1913 Car-Nation cycle car that was built in Detroit, Michigan. Two vehicles a two-passenger and a four-passenger were delivered to the Nightingale Brothers of Marcellus NY in the year 1913. The two-passenger has been in this town ever since. In 1999, my husband Ted and I purchased the little car. We have totally restored the car back to the factory specifications. There were hours of work spent on this restoration project, which also includes the hours that I had spent researching articles, books and records about this vehicle, and the manufacturer along with the history from Detroit Michigan to Marcellus New York. I have historical information and facts regarding the car and its company along with interesting stories that explain the life of a beautiful car that was built with very advance technology for the 1913 period. Through our research, we learned that this once beautiful machine was stripped of its dignity, reshaped into a flat bed pick up truck eventually painted bright red and converted into a miniature fire truck and paraded around as a clown car. This car in 1999 was in extremely bad condition; it was nearly an impossible situation to even attempt to restore the vehicle in the condition it was in. A very talented individual, who was determined to preserve this automobile, that person being Ted Morton, changed the impossible to possible. This success story could not have happened if it was not for the storing of historical information. Without the dedication of many individuals throughout the United States and Europe, we would never have been able to bring the Car-Nation back to its original shape, just as it appeared when it rolled off the Detroit assembly line in 1913.

As a member of many automobile organizations and several historical societies, I was able to contact many sources for information and advise. Without the excellent assistance from many researchers,

librarians, and historical aides our purchase of this car in 1999 with the intent to restore it, would not have taken place. We would have ended by sending the sad little vehicle to the recycling center and the metal that once glowed with rich glossy paint and an engine that purred along the roadways of Marcellus would have been sold for scrap. That certainly was not a very happy ending to let happen to this car. But with the dedication of people that appreciate preserving history and compiling information and with our determination, we were able to put the shiny paint back on and make that engine purr once again. One nice day you may very well see this little car cruising the roadways of Marcellus. You will not have to ask what in tarnation was that? Because now you know it is the Car-Nation.

It is important to have individuals in libraries, research centers along with historical societies that give their time to preserve current events. Without their dedication towards saving historical material many projects would never be possible. As an automobile historian researcher and writer, I certainly appreciate their devotion.

Ted and I are very grateful and we thank these special folks that work behind the scenes many times in poorly lit rooms and old buildings for the sake of one day being able to offer their assistance with the facts and knowledge that occurred in another time and another place. I can tell you it is very important to support these organizations for without them, that wealth of knowledge, our history would be lost forever. ~

In Memory of Members who left us in 2001

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| William H. Buffan | Dorothy E. Christensen |
| Charles F. Clark | Ruth F. Crysler |
| Donald R. Gallinger | Charles A. Hopkins |
| Ronald F. Linderman | Edward S. Murray |
| Verna H. Phillips | John P. Stopyro Sr. |

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Sunday, February 10, 2002 2 p.m.

John Curtin:

"The 1905 NYS census and the 1910 Federal census for the town of Marcellus" - their reproduction in notebook form and their significance to us today.

Sunday, March 10, 2002 2 p.m.

Tom Reagan:

"Video and documentary on the rebuilding of the Falls Bridge during the fall of 2001".

Sunday, April 14, 2002 2 p.m.

To be Announced.

Meetings are open to anyone and are held at the Marcellus Fire Station unless indicated otherwise. A short business meeting will precede each program.

Historical Society Officers for 2002

President: Peg Nolan..... 673-1765
E-mail: pegenolan@hotmail.com
Vice President: Bruce Widger 673-9142
E-mail: drbwwidger@aol.com
Treasurer: Hollis Abbott..... 673-1753
E-mail: habbott1@twcny.rr.com
Secretary: Joyce Murphy..... 673-2528

Trustees and Term End

Mary Jane Domurat (2002)..... 673-4896
Dick Smith (2002) 673-1532
John Curtin (2003)..... 673-3660
E-mail: jcurtin2@twcny.rr.com
Mary Tuthill (2003) 673-2990
Tom Leonard (2004)..... 673-4273
E-mail: jowellstl@msn.com
(Open)(2004)

The Marcellus Historical Society,
P.O. Box 165, Marcellus, NY 13108,
publishes this newsletter and mails it quarterly
to its members and advertisers.

Renewed Members

The following people have renewed their membership since our last newsletter:

Brian & Debi Abbott & Family, Mark & Lynn Abbott & Family, Hollis & Nancy Abbott, Blanche Adkins, Margaret Aherin, Carol Armstrong, Timothy & Kathryn Barstow & Family, Louise Berry, Lois Clay, Lucille Culotti, Catherine D'Angelo, Donald E. Fish, Sara H. Fogarty, Elizabeth Foster, James & Cheryl Gonzalez & Family, Doris Hagggett, James Hamilton, Dick & Barbara Hildreth, Helen Hopkins, Phyllis Huckle, Frank & Doris Kelly, Elizabeth Lathrop, Alice MacDonald, Robert & Alice Mahan, Helen Mohn, Pierre & Mary Montague, James Sr. & Joyce Murphy, Peg & Joe Nolan, Mary Orzesek, Robert L. Post, Carrie Beth Pottinger, Florence Pottinger, Fran Randall, Robert & Pauline Reynolds, Lisa Rigge, Jim Sawtell, Lewis L. & Elizabeth C. Selover, Kathy P. Smiley, Richard & Frances Smith, Laurel Springstead, Leda Stopyro, Robert Sweet, Francis Vile, Dr. Bruce & Mary Widger, Leona Wilcox ~

Museum Fund Donors

We are grateful to the following people who have contributed to our Museum Fund:

Hollis & Nancy Abbott, Carol Armstrong, Daphne Bedford-Goldacker, Louise Berry, Elizabeth & Ronald Bond, Robert J. Burns, Dr. John F. Calvert, John H. & Elsa Church, Paul W. Costello, James & Vera Costello, Hugh C. Dawson, Frank & Janis DeBevic, James A. & Laura M. Duncan, Roger & Joan Field, First Presbyterian Church, Jean Forster, Mark Friske, Eleanor M. Grinnell, Raymond & Christine Heer, Phil Hettinger, Sterling & Ruth Jansen, Frank & Doris Kelly, Bob & Betty Kenyon, Al & Kay Kerr, Kay Kershaw, John & Nancy Knowlton, Tom & Sue Leonard, John & Carolyn Longuil, Robert & Alice Mahan, Anne K. McCarthy, James & Peggy McNally, Jodell Z. McVey, Jack & Ann Mitchell, Peg & Joe Nolan, Ruth B. Oliver, Doris Phillips, Shirley Pierik, Richard & Kathleen Powell, James & Donna Quinn & Family, Ron & Joyce Ramsden, Evlyn Ramsden, Jim & Jean Reagan, John R. Roland, George & Bev Schmidt, Arthur J. Scotti, Lewis L. & Elizabeth C. Selover, Kurt Sherman, Peg Shields, Joy Siersma, Lucinda Skinner, Wilson A. Stevens, Richard & Diane Thompson, Mary Tuthill, Richard & Norma Tuttle, Elizabeth Utzman, West Lake Conservators, Dr. Bruce & Mary Widger, Bob & Kay Wilson, Eleanor Winslow, Jana Carey & Ben Yuhas. ~

Museum

The museum will not be open on Tuesday evenings during the winter. Call Hollis or Bruce to make an appointment to visit. Peg will be in Florida until April and can be reached via e-mail. ~

From The President ...

An enjoyable time was had at our Holiday Dinner on Dec. 9th with thirty-nine people attending. Bruce has scheduled some interesting programs in the coming months and we hope you will attend.

We want to thank everyone who has supported our Museum Fund. Regrettably we did not raise sufficient funds to purchase a building but we will continue to save for a building and use some of the money for needed work at the present museum. The purpose of our organization is to collect, preserve and display Marcellus history. For us to do this and protect our collection, we need to control the climate at our present location and make it handicapped accessible. The first step is to have electrical wiring and plugs added and then climate control units installed. The board has received a proposal from Myriad Construction Co., a firm that does the work for Marcellus Village. The cost to put in new wiring and electrical outlets is \$2350. (there are presently three electrical outlets in the museum). The second item is to replace the present light fixtures (which are very hard on the eyes) with new wrap around light fixtures at a cost of \$1780. We can then look for an appropriate stair-chair. At the present time, we cannot accept any large items for the museum as we have no place to put them. In the future we could possibly add on to the building for needed space.

A pencil sketch drawing of Marcellus done by Margaret Parsons in 1840 is being restored by Westlake Conservators in Skaneateles. In addition, a banner used by the Marcellus Fire Dept. in the 1920's is also being appraised for restoration. We have applied for a grant to cover these projects.

John Curtin has just completed five hundred hours of work copying and transcribing the Marcellus Census for 1905 and 1910. A big "Thank You" to John for this valuable resource. We now have Census records from 1800-1910.

Joyce Murphy, and I have completed three more scrapbooks and Hollis Abbott did the work on our new note paper which contains ten notes and envelopes with pictures of Marcellus.

During the winter months we are working on organizing old clippings and obituaries and beginning to transcribe the many journals and sermons of Levi Parsons.

Many volunteer hours were spent this past year working on a number of projects and we want to thank all of you who participated.

Peg Nolan ~

Charlie E. Jones.

...Contributed by Peg Nolan

Charlie E. Jones was born June 22, 1870, son of Henry S. and Emma Hooper Jones. At an early age he learned the paper hanging and painting trade with James Woodbridge. In the coming years his father took him into business and Charlie became an undertaker and embalmer. At this time Henry had a furniture store and undertaking business in the Observer Building, using the entire south side of the building.

Charlie was musically gifted - both in voice and instrumental. He was a member of the Marcellus Band and later became its Director. For many years he sang at the Methodist Church where he was a member. He also sang with various musical groups. He married Alice Pearce of New Hartford in 1896 and they had two daughters.

For several years he worked as Town Clerk and later became President of Marcellus, a position he held for fifteen years. Charlie was Master of Morning Star Lodge F.&A.M. and was also affiliated with the Odd Fellows and at one time was High Priest of Charles Platt Chapter of Royal Arch masons of Skaneateles. He served on the Board of Education, was Director of the First National Bank of Marcellus, Director of the Automobile Club and the Onondaga County Undertakers Association. His passing April 27th, 1935 was a great loss to this community. ~

Recent Acquisitions

We wish to thank the following people for donating items to the museum collection:

Laurel Springstead for pen given to Dorothy Springstead from The First National Bank of Marcellus in 1942; **Bruce Widger** for telephone list from 1920; **Leda Stopyro in memory of John Stopyro** for wool shirt & pants made from Crown Mill wool; **Shirley Pierik** for pictures of Nine-mile Creek pollution taken at Sagamore Pulp Corp.; **John Curtin** for Wheaties box with picture of Chris Bailey and Olympic Women's Ice Hockey Team, **Margaret Aherin** for a photograph of the Marcellus Falls Plaster Mill taken in 1909. ~

Remember When

The bowling alleys were in St. Francis Hall and St. John's Parish House. Many local boys set the bowling pins by hand. ~

Walker's Plaster Mill in Marcellus Falls - 1909



Photo courtesy of Margaret Aherin

The following is one of a series of articles by Rev. Mr. A. Roe (Pastor of the Methodist Church 1885-1887) which appeared in the Marcellus Observer in July 1894 about the mills in Marcellus:

"The present plaster mill site and land connected with it, was bought in parcels of several different parties viz. Sidney H. Cook, Dunham Bessey, Asa Wilcox, Fordice Mills, Wm. Rhodes and Perage Austin, by Warren S. Walker between 1845 and 1850. There were many obstacles in his way in getting a water power but by perseverance and much hard work he got a dam built and put up a wooden building and got in his machinery and commenced grinding plaster about 1856. He procured his gypsum stone or plaster mainly from Nose Hill and drew it to the mill and ground a large amount of plaster each year. Sometimes he could grind ten to fifteen tons in a day. The plaster was of excellent quality, and the farmers came here from ten to twenty miles distant for it. It was in good demand thirty or forty years ago, and during war times sold as high as \$4.00 per ton but generally the price has been about \$3.00 per ton. Mr. Walker has sold as much as thirty tons a day at times. Latterly there has not been so much demand for it, phosphate having taken the place to a considerable extent. It is however used more or less yet by some farmers, and for various purposes. About 1869 Mr. Walker enlarged and improved the mill and built on the front or stone part. About 1855 he also commenced burning lime, first quick lime, then water lime, on the bank east of the plaster mill. Indeed there has been one or two other kilns beside the present one on that side. The stone are obtained near the top of the hill, and by an ingenious method devised by Walker, they are let down to the kiln and

there burned, and the water lime is there drawn to the plaster mill and then ground. This lime is of fine quality, and in very general use still all about here. It has superceded quick lime largely for building purposes. This plaster mill property includes several acres with the site and the hills where the plaster and water lime material is found, and has changed hands several times for short periods, through financial embarrassment, and has again been regained by Mr. Walker. The last time it came into the hands of the late L. D. Sherman, about 1877, when sold under foreclosure, but Mr. Walker continued to run the business until about 1884 after which time Mr. Sherman managed it until his death in 1893. Recently in the settling up of his estate it has been redeemed or purchased back by a member of the Walker family. The material on hand is being worked up and disposed of by Charles Garvey, a nephew of Mr. Sherman.

The mill will probably continue to be run by some one of the Walker family. Before he built the plaster mill, or about 1840, he had a small building near what is known as the cave, where he drew lead pipe and made hand rakes, wooden pumps, pitch-fork handles, etc., using water from Lawless' spring, carried in logs. About 1845 he built a larger building a little south of this one where he continued to draw lead pipe, made cider and one or two years, spearmint and peppermint oil also. He used water from the same spring, but from a dam on the hill near his house, brought down on large overshot and undershot wheels, getting a great power from a small quantity of water. Mr. Walker was full of ingenuity and prolific in resources. Mr. Walker is still vigorous in mind, though infirm and lame, and is in his 87th year, the oldest person about the Falls, where he has lived over fifty years."

From the Marriage notes of Rev. Levi Parsons of Marcellus:

"Walker, Warren S. - married at the house of Benjamin Baker, Warren S. Walker, late of Greenwich Mass (age) 30, to Roxanne Baker of Marcellus (age) 23 19 Apr 1838 \$5."

Their children were: William, Elizabeth, Mary, Anna, Sarah, Laura, John, DeEtte and James. Warren Smith Walker died 10 Jul 1900 at age 92 and Roxcena Arley Baker Walker died 17 Oct 1881 at age 66. They are buried in the Village Cemetery.

...Submitted by Hollis Abbott ~.

Business Member Directory
Please Patronize These Businesses

APPLIANCE REPAIR**JOBS UNLIMITED**

Appliance repair and more, Mike Johnson, Owner.
 1 Maple Street, Marcellus 673-2747

AUTOMOTIVE**WARNER'S AUTO BODY**

All mechanical & body work, NYS Inspection Station, AAA towing,
 24-hour towing, Bob Warner, Owner.
 2650 Pleasant Valley Road, Marcellus 673-3521

BOOK BINDING**MEYER BOOKBINDING CO.**

Bigger & Better! Come visit us.
 New Bindings up to 1,000 books. Yes, we do restorations too.
 www.meyerbookbinding.com
 26 Osborne St., Auburn 258-3930

BUSINESS MARKETING**STRATEGIC BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL CORP.**

Global market intelligence for manufacturing companies,
 Thomas W. Sopchak, President, e-mail: Mail@StrategicBusiness.Net
 PO Box 248, Marcellus (FAX 673-4877)..... 673-3900

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES**MCCLURG ASSOCIATES**

Custom Homes, Remodeling and Home Care and Repair Services.
 60 East Main Street, Marcellus 673-2051

W. F. SAUNDERS & SONS INC.

All types of sand, gravel, stone and transit & mixed concrete,
 Over 100 years of service, NYS approved materials.
 P.O. Box A, Nedrow 13120 469-3217

DENTAL SERVICES**EDWARD M. KANTOR, DDS**

Comprehensive dental services.
 28 1/2 East Main Street, Marcellus (FAX...673-2252)..... 673-3102

FIRE, SMOKE & WATER CLEANUP**LOSS RECOVERY SYSTEMS, INC.**

Cleanup after any type of insured property loss,
 Estimates prepared and work performed by staff personnel,
 Leonard J. Paradise, CEO. Member MFD.
 10 Dwight Park Dr., Syracuse 13209 451-9111

FLORIST**IVY & LACE FLORIST**

Full service florist, beautiful custom designs, fruit and gift baskets,
 balloons, unique garden and gift items.
 1 North St., Marcellus 673-4923

FUNERAL SERVICES**BURANICH FUNERAL HOME, INC.**

Visit us at our website: www.BuranichFuneralHome.com.
 5431 W. Genesee St., Camillus 487-2412

NORRIS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

Completely remodeled, handicapped accessible, casket selection room
 on premises, Over 100 years of service to the families of Marcellus.
 33 North Street, Marcellus 673-2017

RYAN FUNERAL HOME

Serving all faiths ~ Pre-Arrangements ~ Family owned.
 44 East Main Street, Marcellus 673-2345

GIFTS / CRAFTS**ANGEL HEARTS GIFTS**

Unique fine gifts for weddings, showers & birthdays,
 Large assortment of greeting cards.
 16 East Main Street, Marcellus 673-9457

INSURANCE**REAGAN AGENCY, INC.**

Complete line of Personal and Business Insurance,
 Bonding & Financial Planning. Hours M-F 9-5.
 8-12 Main Street, Marcellus (FAX 673-4866)..... 673-2094

LEGAL SERVICES**REAGAN & DAILEY, ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

Bernard L. Reagan & Mary Reagan Dailey
 18 East Main Street, P.O. Box 196, Marcellus 673-4864
 (FAX 673-3438)

PAPER COMPANY**MARTISCO PAPER CO., INC.**

P.O. Box 198, Marcellus 673-2071

PLUMBING**DANIEL M. ROCHE PLUMBING**

2 East Main Street, Marcellus 673-2000

REAL ESTATE**GALLINGER/GMAC REAL ESTATE**

Land and Residential Sales, Serving the Marcellus area
 for over 40 years, Wm. Lang, Broker.
 8 West Main Street, Marcellus 674-2041

RECREATION**THE LINKS AT SUNSET RIDGE**

2814 West Seneca Turnpike, Marcellus 673-2255

RESTAURANTS**VALLEY INN**

2574 US Route 20, Marcellus 673-9045

TENTS & PARTY RENTALS**MARCELLUS TENT & PARTY RENTAL**

Graduation Party? Wedding Reception? Family Reunion?
 MAKE YOUR NEXT EVENT SPECIAL!
 4634 Cranapple Dr., Marcellus 673-3339

VETERINARY & PET SERVICES**LAKE COUNTRY VETERINARY CLINIC**

Servicing your large and small animals, 24 hour emergency service.
 Wayne Beilman, DVM; Kerriane Otto, DVM; Susan Hackett, DVM;
 Julie Santagata, DVM.
 2527 Cherry Valley Tpk., Marcellus 673-4858

Marcellus Note Paper:

The Marcellus Note paper is available at the
 Marcellus Village Office for \$5. Each set has ten
 different views of Marcellus buildings - past and
 present - and includes envelopes. ~

Marcellus Historical Society
P.O. Box 165
Marcellus, NY 13108

Non-Profit Organization
 U. S. Postage Paid
 Marcellus, NY 13108
 Permit Number 18

**TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP
 IF THE LABEL READS "2001"**

INSIDE:

- * *The Car-Nation !*
- * *Museum Fund Donors*
- * *Plans for the Museum*
- * *Charlie E. Jones*
- * *The Plaster Mill*

Postal Customer
 Local

(The date on the label is the
 Year your dues are paid through.)

~ GIFT SHOP & MEMBERSHIP ORDER FORM ~

Please use this form or a copy of it to join the society and to order our historic collectibles.

Join Our Society Today!

\$5/Person ~ \$4/Senior ~ \$12/Family ~ \$25/Patron
 Basic Membership = 1 yr.. ~ Sustaining = 5 yr.
 (Multiply dues by 5 for sustaining membership)
 Number Joining? New Members?

Available Collectibles

- Official Marcellus Afghans: green, cranberry, blue; \$45
- Centennial History of the Town of Marcellus..... \$15
- Images of America, Otisco Lake Community..... \$17
- Pictorial History of Early Marcellus..... \$ 5
- Marcellus, When Wool Was King, Pictorial..... \$ 5
- Marcellus Through the Years; Chronology, photos \$ 5
- Index to Nine Mile Country; Names and more \$ 5
- Marcellus Bicentennial Mugs..... \$ 4
- Postcards(5), 1960's B&W, 4 churches, post office \$ 1
- Package of 10 note-cards picturing Marcellus \$ 5
- Colored 8 x 10 picture of Driver Middle School..... \$ 8

1874 Marcellus Painting

Matted: 8x10, \$10; 11x14, \$22; 16x20, \$50; 18x24, \$75
 T-Shirts: Child, \$8; Adult, \$9 (2X, \$11) Specify Size
 Sweatshirts: Adult; S,M,L, \$16 (2X, \$18) Specify Size
 Hats, \$10; Mugs, \$8; Mouse Pads, \$7; Tote Bags, \$9
 Shipping: \$2 per book/ mug, \$4 other

Name: _____

Addr: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Order Form

| Quantity | Item Description | Cost Ea | Total |
|----------|------------------|---------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Make Checks Payable to: **Total** \$ _____
Marcellus Historical Society **Shipping** \$ _____
PO Box 165 **Dues** \$ _____
Marcellus, NY 13108 **Total Enclosed** \$ _____