

# HUDSON TRIANGLE



*Journal of the Hudson Essex Terraplane Historical Society Dedicated to Preserving the History and Products of the Hudson Motor Car Company*

Volume 10 Issue 2

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## **33, Serendipity or just 'The 12'?**

By Dave Stevens

You've probably noticed that some people name their cars, but others don't. We tend to vacillate back and forth. The '47 Hudson sedan is Hubert while the '47 Hudson pickup is 'pickup'. The 9 convertible might well be called Commodore, but it's always just 'The 49'. Our 1936 Pierce-Arrow is Pery while the 1933 V-12 rates only 'The 33'. The 1941 Cadillac changes with some frequency between 'The 41' and 'The car from

Hell'. The '56 Imperial is in the middle ground not meriting a personal name but rather being simply 'Imperial'.

The acquisition last spring of our 1912 Model 33 Torpedo Touring really has us wondering what we should call it. It is currently our favorite car as is often the case with the newest toy. So far it has been 'The

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## The Hudson-Essex-Terraplane Historical Society, Inc.

### **Officers:**

**President: Sue Figert Kennedy**  
342 Massachusetts Ave., #500  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2161  
(317) 860-2903 / E-mail: [SUE@rubin-levin.net](mailto:SUE@rubin-levin.net)

**Vice-President: Mike Cherry**  
3 Silver Queen Court  
Park City, UT 84060  
(435) 657-0443 / E-mail: [fairmont@fiber.net](mailto:fairmont@fiber.net)

**Assistant Vice-President: Larry Kennedy**  
9350 Vandergriff Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46239  
(317) 862-2020 / E-mail: [indyhudson@comcast.net](mailto:indyhudson@comcast.net)

**Treasurer: Richard Burgdorf**  
3456 Judith Ridge Road  
Imperial, MO 63052-3910  
(636) 942-2500 / E-Mail: [rpburgdorf@att.net](mailto:rpburgdorf@att.net)

**Secretary: Park Waldrop**  
1404 Ridgewood Drive  
Rock Hill, SC 29732  
(803) 327-3929 / E-Mail: [pwald@comporium.net](mailto:pwald@comporium.net)

### **Membership:**

**Carmen LaFlamme**  
111 Besaw Rd.  
Richmond, VT. 05477-9363  
(802) 434- 4155 / E-Mail: [cwlaf@gmavt.net](mailto:cwlaf@gmavt.net)



### **Librarian:**

**Larry Kennedy**  
9350 Vandergriff Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46239  
(317) 862-2020 / E-mail: [indyhudson@comcast.net](mailto:indyhudson@comcast.net)

### **Triangle Editors:**

**Laurie Fromm**  
132 Creighton Lane  
Rochester, NY 14612  
(585) 723-8669 / E-mail: [LaurieF@Wyble.org](mailto:LaurieF@Wyble.org)

**Park Waldrop**  
1404 Ridgewood Drive  
Rock Hill, SC 29732  
(803) 327-3929 / E-Mail: [pwald@comporium.net](mailto:pwald@comporium.net)

### **Board of Directors:**

**Audrey L. Charbonneau** (Term: 2007-2010)  
P. O. Box 313 (860) 274-2774  
Watertown, CT 06795-0313  
E-mail: [audrey.c@mymailstation.com](mailto:audrey.c@mymailstation.com)

**Dennis Flint** (Term: 2008-2011)  
P. O. Box 1967 (916) 332-1535  
North Highlands, CA 95660-9067  
E-mail: [dennisflint@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dennisflint@sbcglobal.net)

**Alan Jones** (Term: for LaFlamme) 2009-2010)  
13th St. Johns Ave.  
Waterlooville, PO7 5PJ, UK  
011 02 392 64 0009  
E-mail: [Alanshijones@aol.com.uk](mailto:Alanshijones@aol.com.uk)

**Larry Kennedy** (Term: 2008-2011)  
9350 Vandergriff Road (317) 862-2020  
Indianapolis, IN 46239  
E-mail: [indyhudson@comcast.net](mailto:indyhudson@comcast.net)

**Charlie Nau** (Term: 2009 - 2012)  
8605 Pheasant Drive (406) 721-4383  
Missoula, MT 59808-1010  
E-mail: [cnau@centric.net](mailto:cnau@centric.net)

**Bruce J. Smith** (Term: 2009 - 2012)  
42 Gilligan Road (518) 477-9740  
East Greenbush, NY 12061-1713  
E-mail: [Bsmith4777@aol.com](mailto:Bsmith4777@aol.com)

**David Stevens** (Term: 2007-2010)  
4622 Bluff Rd. (231) 894-2281  
Whitehall, MI 49461  
E-mail: [davenstevens@msn.com](mailto:davenstevens@msn.com)

**Hal Waddell** (Term: 2008-2011)  
508 Ruth Circle (321) 676-1659  
West Melbourne, FL 32904  
E-mail: [halshet@aol.com](mailto:halshet@aol.com)

**Park Waldrop** (Term: 2009-2012)  
1404 Ridgewood Dr. (803) 327-3929  
Rock Hill, SC 29732-9645  
E-mail: [pwald@comporium.net](mailto:pwald@comporium.net)

**Mike Cherry** President, HET Club  
3 Silver Queen Court (435) 657-0443  
Park City, UT 84060  
E-mail: [fairmont@fiber.net](mailto:fairmont@fiber.net)

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hudson Homecoming

Gear up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hudson Homecoming happening May 13-15, 2010 at Hostetler's Hudson Auto Museum in Shipshewana, Indiana. Join the museum in celebrating Hudson cars and owners. Kick off cruise-in on Thursday in conjunction with Das Dutchman Essenhaus in Middlebury, Indiana. Stay tuned for more details about featured car, cruise-in, BBQ, banquet and more.

Contact: Heidi Gayheart

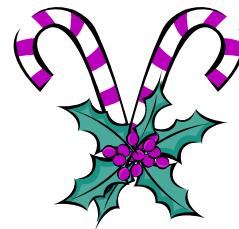
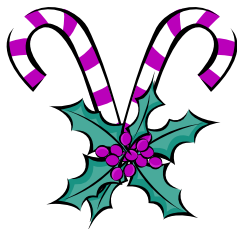
[hgayheart@shipshewanatowncenter.com](mailto:hgayheart@shipshewanatowncenter.com)

**Our Very Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday  
Season to you and your family!**

*Merry Christmas*

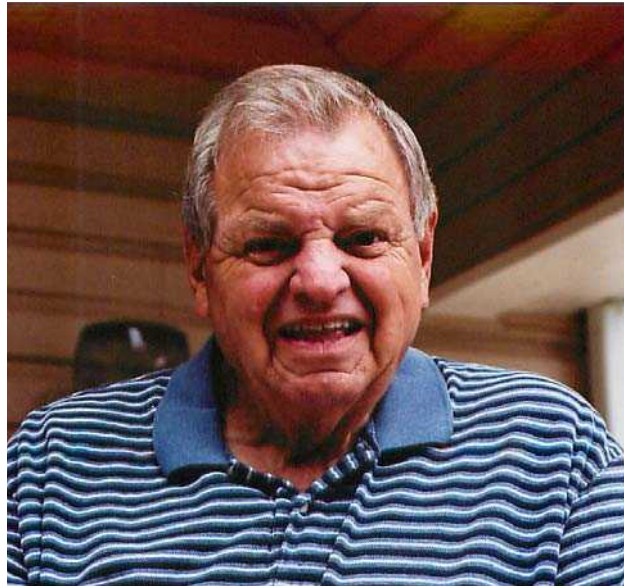
*Happy Kwanzaa*

*Happy Hanukkah*



## Historical Society Library Moves to Shipshewana

In 1998, Ralph Rochon was appointed the Historical Society Librarian. Little did he know the monumental task which he and his wife Corinne were undertaking. The original basis for the HET Historical Society Library was a substantial donation from the Phil Roskie Estate in 1995. These materials were in storage until September, 1998 when a full size van delivered the many boxes to Ralph Rochon's



Ralph Rochon, former HETHS Librarian



Paul Meyer, Larry Kennedy, John and Jack Pontius with Ralph and Corinne Rochon—moving the HET Historical Society Library from Canton Michigan

home in Canton, Michigan. He has categorized and organized all of the items and the many other donations which we have received. Some of the items which were not of historic value or not intended for museum purposes have been sold at Historical Society auctions in order to raise funds. Ralph Rochon has worked countless hours. He recently submitted his

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## Historical Society Library Moves to Shipshewana (con't)

resignation as librarian, and we are grateful for his devotion to the Historical Society.

On August 22, 2009, we transported the library from Canton, MI to the Hudson Historical Society Offices on the second floor of the Hostetler Hudson Museum in Shipshewana, IN. Those helping with the move were John and Jack Pontius, Paul Meyer, Larry and Sue Kennedy. Thanks to their help, all of the items have been safely moved to Shipshewana. Larry Kennedy has been appointed the new librarian.

Thank you Ralph and Corinne!



Cathy Forbes, Hostetler Hudson Museum



## Doc Hudson Project

The Hudson Historical Society Board of Directors approved a mock “Doc Hudson” project. This Hudson will eventually be displayed at the Hostetler Hudson Museum in Shipshewana, Indiana. It will be a Hudson exhibit that visitors and children may touch, open the doors, sit in it, and pretend to drive.



Two years ago, a 1951 Hudson Pacemaker Sedan was donated to the Hudson Historical Society by the late Harry Bong. This '51 Hudson needs a complete restoration. It will be a truly, charitable project for our organization. While the materials will be paid for by the Hudson Historical Society, the work and labor will be donated by high schools or other educational institutions which

need such projects for their educational classes.

The '51 Pacemaker on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, made its first journey to the high school shop class of Brian VanBuskirk, Martinsville High School, Martinsville, Indiana. Brian owns a 1950 Hudson, and has been a member of the Hudson Club for many years. Brian has a master's degree in education and has held his teaching license for many years. However, until recently, he was employed as a transmission technician at various Chrysler dealerships. He has now changed careers and assumed a teaching position which his now retired father held for many years at Martinsville High School. The mock Doc Hudson project provides an ideal car for his class, as the engine is simple and should need little restoration work. Brian's class will do the brakes and any other mechanical type work needed to make Doc Hudson a running, driving car.

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## Doc Hudson Project (con't)

Doc Hudson will then be looking for a school which does paint and body work in the Indianapolis, IN vicinity.

Donations for this project are being accepted by the Hudson Historical Society. Be sure to mark on your donations that it is dedicated to the Doc Hudson Museum Project. Mail your dedicated donations to the following address: Richard Burgdorf, Treasurer, 3456 Judith Ridge Road, Imperial, MO 63052-3910.

## Thank You Kaylene Spring!

Kaylene Spring made a beautiful quilt which the HET Historical Society agreed to raffle with one-half of the proceeds going to the Bill Albright Award account. Net proceeds of \$606.00 were sent to the Albright Award account. The remaining money went to the HET Historical Society. Thank you Kaylene for your wonderful donation. The lucky winner of the quilt was Jack Stewart from Janesville, WI.



## Another Fabulous Historical Society Auction

The Hudson Historical Society Auction held in Pontiac, Michigan was another great success. The 100 year anniversary of the Hudson Motor Car Company brought bountiful donations to the Historical Society Auction, including a fabulous print donated by Mike Cherry. Thank you to everyone who made donations to the auction. Thanks to Paul Schuster who was the auctioneer and Susan Crawley and Lorrie Pontius who meticulously recorded the sale results for each item sold. We are also grateful to Dick and Edith Burgdorf who collect the monies and report the results of the auction. Total auction proceeds were \$4,223.00. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Susan Crawley and  
Paul Schuster



Rick Crawley and  
John Pontius



## The HETHS 2009 Auction

Chuck Gleydura  
toasts the auc-



John Sherlock and Al Lewis

The whole family enjoyed  
the auction:

Jack Pontius, XXX, Larry  
Kennedy, and D.J. Kava



Edith and Dick  
Burgdorf tallying  
results

### 33, Serendipity or just 'The 12'? — (con't)



Ten collector cars is more than any sane person should want. When I added the '47 Hudson pickup a while back, Diana put her foot down and said eleven was too much, so something would have to go. When it took me more than 2 years to sell the selected '75 Mercedes she adopted the unreasonable attitude that before the next car, I'd have to sell one first. Naturally this has been a difficult rule for me to live with, espe-

12' which causes some confusion in conversation as some think the reference is to the Pierce V-12. Using 'The 33' probably cause the same confusion. The circumstances leading up to the purchase have given rise to the option of 'Serendipity'. It doesn't roll off the lips easily quite yet, but it has a very valid argument in it's favor.



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### 33, Serendipity or just 'The 12'? — (con't)

cially since I've been coveting a brass era car for some time. I proceeded to try wearing her down with a variety of appeals.

None worked at first, but then I came up with a subtle and sneaky approach that ultimately did the job. I began trolling her past brass car activities and getting occasional rides with friends. Last winter I stepped it up by going on a week-



long brass tour in Florida. Eschewing ride offers from friends, I contacted the Tour Chairman and found out who would be driving Hudsons that might be willing to take strangers on as passengers. This led me to Mac Wilson who has toured many thousands of miles in his 1912 Model 33 Torpedo Touring.

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### 33, Serendipity or just 'The 12'? — (con't)



with early car experience like Dave Kostansek, Carl Weber and Bill Cohen. I got lots of great advice and leads on cars way out of my budget range, but no perfect Hudson. Somebody suggested posting an online wanted ad on the Horseless Carriage Club website which I

We were able to arrange to join him and Beverly on the tour. Diana had so much fun with Beverly that the wonderful car seemed to be riding on a cloud all week. Indeed, maybe it was. At the end of the week she commented that "IF" we ever got another car, it would have to be a brass era Hudson. Kaching - door open!

When we got back to Michigan in March I began calling Hud-nuts

did one day. I just asked for an affordable older restoration in the



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### 33, Serendipity or just 'The 12'? — (con't)

1912-15 era, preferably a Hudson. The next day, serendipity intervened as I was driving down the expressway in my modern truck. A nice chap from Canada named Terry called my cell and said, "I have a car that might meet your needs, but I haven't decided for sure if I want to sell it. Let me tell you about it and see if you'd be interested". Terry then began to describe it. A 1912 Model 33 Torpedo Touring just like Mac's car that I had fallen in love with, a pretty reliable tour car, but with a very old paint job. I had a hard time staying on the road as the discussion ensued. He asked if this

was the kind of vehicle I would be interested in. I tried to avoid shouting "I must have your car!" Ultimately I just said that I would be interested at the right price if he eventually decided to sell.

Over the next few days we slowly gravitated toward an agreement that I'd purchase the car at the end of the 2008 season. Meanwhile I'd talked to several friends who knew both him and the car and determined that it was just what I'd hoped for. After I sent him a deposit, he relented to proceeding with the sale now since I was so enthused. Before we picked it

up



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### 33, Serendipity or just 'The 12'? — (con't)

Terry had proceeded to make repairs to the car at his own expense, including a new axle shaft. His desire to deliver a fully satisfactory vehicle meant that we had acquired not only a great car, but also a great friend. It seemed that like serendipity, this purchase was just meant to be!

Diana and I had a ball touring with the 1912 from May through October, putting over 1,600 miles on with only three failures to proceed. First, after getting it home I couldn't get the hang of crank starting it for almost a week. Once proper technique was learned, it was easy and no longer an issue.

Turns out that it is one of the easiest starting early cars most of our friends have ever experienced. Second, on a very hot July day the magneto quit sparking. After cooling down it started right up and we've since had it rebuilt. Third, I ran out of gas. We even got to return the favor to Mac & Beverly Wilson when they met and rode with us on a tour in Tennessee. What an inaugural year with a fabulous 96 year old Hudson!

We brought the car to Pontiac in July and spent the week giving people rides around the parking lot and

nearby streets in return for a donation to the Hudson Essex Terraplane Historical Society. We had a great time and raised \$400 for HETHS in donations and memberships. We were honored that our passengers included the Chapin family. The one time we ventured the furthest away on these many trips, naturally I ran out of gas...fortunately not with the Chapins on board...serendipity? We asked some passengers to help us decide on the naming question. Would it be '33', Serendipity, or just 'The 12'? Or maybe since it is giving us so many smiles we should go with a cartoonish connection and call it "Homer". By the end of the meet I was the chubby old guy with the biggest smile in the lot driving a somewhat shabby looking red & black 1912 Hudson Model 33 Torpedo Touring now officially named "SERENDIPITY-The 12".



**HET Historical Society - Income Statement**  
**7/1/2008 Through 6/30/2009**

**INCOME**

300 Membership	
301 Life	1,000.00
302 Contributing	2,300.00
303 Associate	350.00
TOTAL 300 Membership	3,650.00
308 Reserve for Membership Drawing	900.00
309 Miscellaneous	100.00
310 Museum	
311 Wisconsin Auto Museum	250.00
TOTAL 310 Museum	250.00
320 Donations	
322 Memorials & Celebrations	1,225.00
325 General	75.00
TOTAL 320 Donations	1,300.00
330 Quilt Raffle	566.00
350 Interest	5,319.72
370 Fund Raising	
371 Auctions	2,531.00
TOTAL 370 Fund Raising	2,531.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>14,616.72</b>

**EXPENSES**

500 Administrative Expense	109.83
503 Maintenance	46.75
504 Car Maintenance	82.00
508 Plaques & Name Plates	378.04
509 Advertising	38.82
511 Insurance	1,435.00
512 Memorabilia Acquisition	645.92
513 Quilt Sale	66.20
520 Newsletter	296.27
521 Equipment	-82.43
540 Museum Exhibits	
541 California Auto Museum	500.00
542 Hartford Heritage Museum	350.00
543 NATMUS	600.00
TOTAL 540 Museum Exhibits	1,450.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,466.40</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>10150.32</b>

HUDSON-ESSEX-TERRAPLANE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting  
Pontiac, Michigan  
July 16, 2009

- I. President Sue Figert Meyer Kennedy called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Officers were introduced: President Sue Figert Kennedy, V-P Mike Cherry, Ass't V-P Larry Kennedy, Secretary Carmen LaFlamme, Treasurer Dick Burgdorf. Directors were introduced: Audrey Charbonneau, Mike Cherry, Dennis Flint, Larry Kennedy, Carmen LaFlamme, Charlie Nau, Hal Waddell, Clinton Webb. Absent: Bruce Smith, Dave Stevens.
- II. Minutes of 2008 meeting.  
*Motion to accept minutes as published.*  
A. Charbonneau; Dick Cashion second. Motion passed
- III. Treasurer's report. Dick Burgdorf
- IV. President's Report. Sue reviewed the past years activities, accomplishments and ongoing interests. Key items:
  - A. Lifetime Membership drawing to be held at the Friday banquet
  - B. Raffle of Kaylene Spring's Hudson-theme quilt. Half proceeds to Albright Award fund, half to Historical Society.
  - C. Time and location of this year's benefit auction at the HET National Meet.
- V. Museum Report. President Sue reported on the society's activities in several museums.
  - A. Four Hudsons remain on display at the NATMUS Museum; three at the Hartford, Wisconsin, facility, and Dennis Flint's '40 coach at the Sacramento, CA, museum.
  - B. The Society maintains a significant collection of literature and memorabilia at the Hostetler Museum in Shipshewana, IN
  - C. Ralph Rochon has resigned as HS Librarian; Larry Kennedy has been appointed to succeed him. Sue extended thanks to Ralph for his service as Librarian. The extensive Roskie collection will be moved from Ralph's home to Shipshewana.

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## Minutes of the General Membership Meeting (con't)

- D. Sue discussed a proposal for the HS to provide a "Doc Hudson" type car at Shipshewana as a hands-on experience for children. The car would be purchased by the HS, and would be renovated and prepared for exhibit by high school shop classes. \$4,000 approved for this project.
- E. The 2010 Hudson Homecoming celebration at Shipshewana will be on May 14-15.
- F. Triangle Magazine — Need more articles by members.

### VI. Audience/Officer/Director comments, questions.

- A. Preston Stevens discussed search for documentation of Dutch Queen Wilhelmina's ownership of a large block of Hudson stock.
- B. Dick Cashion encouraged the HS leadership to try to schedule the membership meeting to minimize conflict with tours and other activities at the meets. He also recommended members visit Robert Blake's museum in Allentown, PA; the building was once a Maxwell dealership.
- C. Regarding the Shipshewana "hands on" project, Elliot Myerson recommended a "cockpit simulator" type exhibit — front end of car, with windshield, dashboard, steering wheel.
- D. Elliott Myerson suggested consideration of having the HS video converted to DVD format for future distribution.
- E. John Clement offered ideas on attracting new members by making our cars more visible to the public. Suggested participate in orphan car meets, interact with attendees, take people rides. Several other attendees offered suggestions on this same topic.

### VII. Election of Directors. Sue reviewed the situation on Director vacancies to be filled: Clinton Webb is not running again; Charlie Nau and Bruce Smith wish to continue.

#### *Nomination of Park Waldrop*

Alan Jones, Mike Cherry second.

#### *Motion for nominations to be closed.*

Mike Cherry; Preston Stevens second.

Motion passed

#### *Motion to elect Charlie Nau, Bruce Smith and Park Waldrop*

Nominees were elected by acclamation.

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## Minutes of the General Membership Meeting (con't)

Carmen LaFlamme was elected Secretary by the BOD, and wishes to vacate her remaining one year term as Director.

*Nomination of Alan Jones to serve Carmen's remaining one year term.*

Mike Cherry; Charlie Nau second.

*Motion to close nominations.*

Hal Waddell; Dick Cashion second.

Motion passed

Nominee elected by acclamation.

### VIII. Adjournment

*Motion to Adjourn, 9:45 AM.*

Charlie Nau; Irene Williams second.

Motion passed

Respectfully submitted,



PARK WALDROP, Secretary



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*Hudson Essex Terraplane Historical Society, Inc.*



***The Hudson Essex Terraplane Historical Society offers three types of memberships along with the ability to accept other donations and bequests of any amount. All Donations are tax deductible. They are most welcome and very much appreciated.***

**LIFE Membership** ~ A one time tax-deductible contribution of \$1,000.00 or more. Recognition will be by Certificate, Gold Lapel Pin and membership card. The membership includes voting privileges at Membership Meetings.

**CONTRIBUTING Membership** ~ A tax-deductible contribution of \$100.00 per year for ten (10) consecutive years will result in a full LIFE membership. Member will receive Silver Lapel Pin for initial membership and membership card. (Only one pin will be issued until LIFE membership is attained.) This membership includes voting privileges at Membership Meetings.

**ASSOCIATE Membership** ~ A contribution \$25.00 for one year. This may be renewed as many times as one wishes. This is a non-voting membership and may not be used to accumulate credit towards other memberships.

***Yes, I would like to become a member of the Hudson-Essex-Terraplane Historical Society as indicated:***

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ LIFE Membership \$1,000.00 or more.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ CONTRIBUTING Membership \$100.00 per year.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ ASSOCIATE Membership \$25.00 each year (Non-voting member).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ GIFT in Honor or in Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ General Donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL funds enclosed.

**Please make payment by cash, check, or money order payable to the HET Historical Society, Inc., in US Dollars, and mail to:**

**Mrs. Carmen LaFlamme  
111 Besaw Road  
Richmond, Vermont  
(802) 434-4155**

## N-O-T-I-C-E

Do you have a neighbor who might be interested in your HUDSON  
vehicles? Tell him about the Society!

Explain the different types of Memberships we offer!

Ask him to join with us!

We're interested in preserving the

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