



Photo by Alan Hodge

Ed Aiken of Mount Holly built his 1903 Oldsmobile replica from scratch by himself. Bits and pieces came from places as diverse as a junkyard in Kings Mountain and an old lawn mower.

Aiken creates 'one cool car'!

By Alan Hodge
Alan.bannernews@gmail.com

When 71-year-old Ed Aiken of Mount Holly decided he wanted a cool car, he took matters into his own hands- literally.

A skilled carpenter and all-around handyman, Aiken was hit by an inspiration to construct an automobile. Not just any auto, but a 1903 Oldsmobile replica. So, using a set of sketches as a starting point, he set to work.

"I was looking for a fun project," Aiken said. "It's just something I wanted to tackle."

The first step in Aiken's automobile construction journey was to assemble the materials he needed.

"I went to Kings Mountain and got the aluminum for the fenders," he said. "The wheels and tires are the type that come on a garden cart."

For the frame, Aiken took some square steel tubing and welded it himself. The body of the Olds is made of red oak that Aiken sawed, shaped, fitted together with screws and wooden plugs, then gave a good coat of stain and varnish just like a

piece of fine furniture.

When it came time to choose a suspension system, Aiken turned to old-time technology once again.

"The springs came from an Amish buggy seat," he said.

One especially challenging bit to build for the Olds was the gas tank.

"The tank is made out of sheet copper I bent into a tube," Aiken said. "Then I put caps on the ends and soldered everything together."

The engine on the Olds came from an old lawn tractor that Aiken's neighbor donated for the project. The engine puts out about fifteen horsepower and can propel the Olds at the breakneck speed of about 20 miles per hour.

"I had to rebuild the carburetor but other than that it runs great," Aiken said.

Final drive is by belt, chains and sprockets with a five-speed gearbox. Steering is via a tiller just like in 1903.

Another amenity on the Olds is an antique horn that came from the home of relative Irvin Brendle. The brass still shines, but Aiken had to source a new rubber bulb.

Aiken isn't sure exactly how many hours it took to build the Olds, but the project launched in October 2011 and was unveiled in April 2012. By the way, the Olds has a name- "The Sadie Mobile".

Others have appreciated the skill and hard work it took to get the Olds rolling. The car won a special constructor's plaque at a local show.

Aiken doesn't like to sit still, and has started another project hot on the heels of the Sadie Mobile. This one is a 1931 Model A Ford he and son-in-law Marcus Brendle recently picked up in Piedmont, S.C. Overall, the Model A is already in great shape but the ignition system needs fettling.

"Marcus touched one of the spark plug wires and it knocked the fire out of him," Aiken said.

As for the future of the Olds, Aiken has already made plans to keep Sadie in the family for years to come by passing it on to Marcus' wife, his daughter Penny.

"I never told Penny I would buy her a car when she was a teenager," Aiken said. "So the Olds will be hers."

Need a friend?



This pair of pit-mix dogs were rescued from an abusive home in Lawndale. Their prior owner was convicted of abuse and served jail time. They are now healthy & ready for adoption. Pictured below are volunteer Jennifer Hord and shelter worker Deb Hardin with two of the puppies that are currently available for adoption. All of the pets shown here are healthy, happy and ready for adoption into their 'forever' homes!

Cleveland County Animal Control has many just waiting for a 'forever' home! CCAC partnered with Tractor Supply and Clifford Fund volunteers to hold a pet adoption day last Saturday. The animals were brought from the shelter and were displayed in the parking lot of Tractor Supply on E. Dixon Blvd. in Shelby.

In all 8 dogs and 1 cat were adopted during the event, including Charlie, pictured on the front of today's paper.

Cleveland County commissioner Johnny Hutchins, said the initiative is an attempt to improve adoption rates and prevent pets from having to be euthanized. Hutchins said the shelter plans to have an adoption day each quarter about the time of rabies vaccination clinics.

Contact CCAC to see how you can adopt or foster a pet or to make a donation to their care by calling 704-481-9884.



Success! Alicia Hord and her daughters Natalie and Abby adopted Charlie during Saturday's event.

'A Night with Bob Inman', Oct. 20

Kings Mountain Little Theatre will sponsor "A Night with Bob Inman" October 20.

Tickets are \$25 each and are available at the KMLT box office and at Alliance Bank. Call 704-730-9408 for further information.

The popular newsman, novelist, screenwriter, playwright and retired news anchor, will attend a performance Oct. 20 of his play "Dairy Queen Days" and will meet patrons and sign copies of his books. Coffee and dessert will be served.

Many remember Inman as the longtime news anchor for Channel 3, WBTV, in Charlotte. He retired after 31 years of journalism in 1996 to devote full time to creative writing. He has authored four novels, seven stage plays, and screenplays for six motion pictures for television. Two of these have been Hallmark Hall of Fame Presentations. Many will remember 'Home Fires Burning', a 1989 adaptation of his novel. The other Hallmark production, 'The Summer of

Ben Taylor', won the Writers' Guild of America award as the best original television screenplay of 1997.

In "Dairy Queen Days," Inman weaves a rich and evocative tale of a teenage boy's struggle to forge his own identity beneath the searing Georgia sun. The year is 1979 and the stable moorings of 16-year-old Trout Moseley's life have been torn loose. His mother is in an Atlanta psychiatric hospital for reasons he cannot fathom. His father, a 300-pound Methodist minister who rides a motorcycle, has begun delivering sermons comparing Jesus to Elvis and the Holy Ghost to his college football coach.

Moving back to the small Southern town that bears his family name, Trout is caught between ancestral traditions and the need to create an identity of his own. Through Inman's skillful writing, the characters pulse with life, crackle with energy and leave an ineradicable stamp upon Trout's impressionable soul and he watching audience as well.

Inman is a native of Elba, Alabama, where he began his writing career in junior high school with his hometown weekly newspaper. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Alabama with Bachelor and Masters degrees. He and his wife, Paulette, currently live in Boone and Conover.



At right: Bob Inman

Attorney to answer questions on veterans benefits

Attorney-at-Law Jesse Bone will explain to veterans how to get the benefits they deserve at a meeting Thursday, Oct. 4.

The meeting, which is free of charge and open to any veteran or family member, will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Life Enrichment Center Adult Day Health Service in Shelby.

Life Enrichment Center is located at 110 Life Enrichment Blvd., just off Fallston Road, between Teddy and Meekins Law Office and Cornerstone Dental Associates. Handicap parking is located behind Life Enrichment near the meeting room.

For more information, please call Linda at 704.484.0405 or email: linda@lifeenrichmentcenter.org.

Thanks for reading The Herald!



FAIR DAYS

Are Here Again!

FREE Daily Entertainment...

- Mike Bishop Hypnotist & Comedian. It's the funniest show you'll ever sleep through!
- Doggies of the Wild West. Marshal Rowdy Yo and 'Pooches from the Prairie'!
- Ackmonster's Chain Saw. Top professional chainsaw sculptor!
- Wild World of Animals. Wildlife entertainment & education!
- Pig Racing. Be at piggy speedway as your favorite to crosses the line!
- Petting Zoo/Farm Adventures. Feed them right from your hand!
- Pirates of the Columbian Caribbean. Fantastic aerial highwire show!
- Leon Jacobs Jr. Performing all your musical favorites!
- Fire Fighter's Training Show. Learn important fire safety lessons!
- Ta Da Mobile Robots. Look for them up & down the midway!



11 Big Days!

September 27 thru
October 7, 2012

88th Annual Cleveland County Fair