

shed

ANTIQUE AND RESTORED VEHICLES

Major surgery for autos

Olds fuel pumps for every make and model

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BERNADETTE WARD

itary issue. The piece is still in its original waxy wrapping.

The shop is deceptive in size, small in the front, but substantial in the back and it houses many more parts including 3,000 fuel pump cores, some of which are worth nearly \$1,000 each.

"You just can't find them; they just do not exist," says Kiernan.

As the tour moves farther into Kiernan's shop, it also moves away from his fuel pump inventory and towards his prized possessions, the 1930 Nash and a Lush Green, 1929 Chevrolet.

Parked in the pristine garage and surrounded by auto memorabilia including an extensive collection of antique hubcaps, the cars sport a glow that clearly comes from tender love and care.

Kiernan, a member of the Historic Automobile Society of Canada is happy to share the history surrounding his cars and points out the aspects that make them valuable - the Chevy's a four-door convertible, not all that common for the time period and the fact that the cars were built on a wooden frame and not many survived.

It is a touring car and although it has no windows, there are side curtains. It has its original engine; a six-cylinder nicknamed the 'stove-bolt six' or the 'cast-iron wonder'.

"This engine would go forever," says Kiernan.

The Nash, a rumble seat coupe with wooden wheels, original mohair seat fabric and Art Deco interior is one of only five left in the world and Kiernan had to wait 15 years for it to be sold to him.

From its sixteen spark plug, 298 cubic foot, 100-horsepower engine to the fourteen-point 'Bijur' lubrication system used to keep things well oiled, there is no aspect of the car that Kiernan is not familiar with.

Given the cars' rarity, one could be forgiven for thinking that they

never left the garage, but both Kiernan and Wendy drive them on a regular basis, even for grocery shopping.

The cars are also driven on tours and to gatherings with other historic car buffs such as the recent gathering in Ingersoll.

Not only are the cars a pleasure to drive, but also the Kiernan's tend to see more of the countryside because they drive the back roads. As well, the cars, especially the Nash, tend to generate a lot of interest, leaving them with no shortage of new people to meet and pass on a little automotive history.

"People have never seen a car like this," says Kiernan.

For more information about the Kiernan fuel pump business - A & W Enterprises, call 905-878-1837



Laid out in a typically tidy manner, Al Kiernan discusses the state of some of the fuel pumps that A&W Enterprises cleans and repairs.

Kiernan is set between his two stunning pieces of automotive history with his hub cap collection for a backdrop.



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DAVE REDINGER

ASK THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MECHANIC

As gas prices continue to soar here's a tip that will save needless repair. Don't overfill your tank when prices are down. Sealed tanks need air internally so that they can vent. Venting is through a charcoal canister. Over filling will damage these venting components.

When the nozzle clicks off... you're full...

Hello Dave

I have an Olds Cutlass Ciera '89. A few months ago I started feeling a rattling in my steering. I had the car test-driven and was told that my alignment was bad and that I needed to change the bottom bearings. I had the alignment and bearings done. I still have a shimmy and now the tires started wearing. Could alignment be causing the shimmy?

Dorothy

There is a possibility here that the original problem was never resolved...

Sounds as if the tires are the failing....Bad tires can cause premature wear in front end components. Even though the damage has been repaired, have the tires and wheels inspected... If possible rotate them to the back and see if the vehicle performs better. If it does... replace the tires.

Dave

The "Check Engine Soon" signal light on my '98 Plymouth Neon has been turned on permanently. Replacing: EGR, downstream and upstream oxygen sensors turned off this signal. The service engine light has come back again. I have spent a lot of money for this trouble light, especially for the cost of using the On Board Diagnosis (OBD) system.

Should I ignore the light or continue to refix the same problem?

Lu

The car will not operate properly with the light on... the vehicle is running on backup mode and will not react to the environment. The service "engine soon light" is a reminder that one of the sensors that operate the cars electronic fuel injection system have gone out of range or have failed completely. You should fix the problem to ensure the longevity of the engine.

Dave Redinger, a mechanic with over 40 yrs of experience, has operated his shop "DOCTOR H HONDA SPECIALISTS" in Toronto for the last 24 years.

Email your questions to: stikky@ca.inter.net or AM740.ca

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