

SKINNED KNUCKLES

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In the following index, which covers Volume 25 of *Skinned Knuckles*, each subject listing is followed by three numbers (for a single listing) or a series of three numbers (for multiple listings). In every case, the first number is the Roman numeral XXV, which designates Volume 25; the second number indicates the issue number; and the third number is page number. Example: VINYL TOPS, XXV-6-19. The subject or topic is "Vinyl Tops," and information on this subject can be found in Volume 25, issue 6, on page 19. Subjects listed include feature articles and major topics covered in various columns such as "Restoration Forum," etc.

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had thoughtfully purchased were beginning to show some deterioration. While I will admit to the major responsibility for this wear and tear, I feel it only fair to note that I saw my father taking more interest in that particular issue of *Life* than he ever had in the other issues of *Life* that passed through our possession. Noting the attention that this magazine was getting from the two of us, my mother finally thumbed through it. Then it quickly disappeared, forever. There was one particular photo of Ms. Bardot playing a guitar . . . never mind.

On the last leg of the tour, the day before the judging, it rained terribly. A fellow named Baker, from Massachusetts, broke down. I don't remember what he was driving, but it was very old. I believe that he was having magneto problems. My father stopped a couple of miles short of our motel for the night and spent better than two hours helping Mr. Baker, in the rain.

And while he was getting that sputtering car to run, my beautifully polished brass was molting in the

downpour. I was furious. I begged him to let Mr. Baker fend for himself and preserve my work by beating it to cover at our motel. My pleas went unanswered.

The next day the sun rose on a very water-spotted 1913 Locomobile. It sported some very tarnished brass. Since fury hadn't worked, I decided to give the old man the ice treatment. After a few hours he asked me what the problem was, so I told him.

He reasoned with me. You could be helpful, as he had been, or you could be like Sam Schere's chauffeur. I got the point, instantly. I will admit to a few lapses over the years, but for the most part, I think that I have remembered that lesson.

My father sold our Locomobile many years ago. I never went back to New Hampshire to pursue the Duryea. Oh, I've thumbed through stacks of *Life* in antique stores and at swap meets, but that issue is always mysteriously missing from such collections. In the end, it is the lesson about being available to help others, even when it is inconvenient to do so, that I remember.