

# THE PRAIRIE LADY

Rolls-Royce Owners Club - Can-Am Prairie Region

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Photograph: the editor

John Lennon's 1965 Phantom V Mulliner Park Ward Limousine, 5VD73, on display at the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria B.C.

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Newsletter January – March 2005

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Members are encouraged to contribute articles and photographs. Any submissions for publication should be sent to the editor. Please identify individuals and quote the serial number of any car in a photograph.

Advertisements for Rolls-Royce and BENTLEY sales, wants or parts will be published for members at no charge. For car sales please include chassis number and price.

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## **Chairman's Ramblings**

Hope you all had a good holiday season, and that your New Year's resolution includes getting the car out and driving it!

First, I want to thank Terry Murphy for his work of the last two years as Chairman, and Francis Chan for looking after the treasury for the last 10 years. Terry and Marianne have moved to doing social events with Darcy and Dawn Collings. Maurice Tims is taking over as Treasurer and Membership. We have a new Editor, Christopher McAviney who has several great ideas regarding the Prairie Lady.

We are currently working on the calendar for 2005, but I wanted you to be aware of two events:

The first is a Technical Session with Ralph Curzon is scheduled for the weekend of April 16-17 at the Doyle's in Olds, Alberta. I have received a number of suggestions for topics to cover, if you have any suggestions as to topics we could cover, or work you need done at the session please phone me at 403- . Ralph has indicated he could stay on after the session to work on cars if there is any interest. As you are aware there is a dearth of people trained to work on these cars locally.

The second event is the BC and Pacific Northwest regions are having an Inter-Regional weeklong tour in Washington and BC. The dates are September 17<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> 2005. This is the closest Nationally sanctioned event there will be for a few years so please call Bob Wadden at 604 if you are interested. Space is limited to 30 cars and is filling up fast. I will be going if anyone wants to convoy or come along as a passenger.

We are a small region and we need to encourage people with Rolls Royce or Bentley cars to join both the RROC and the Region. Remember new RROC members get the first year of Prairie Can AM at no cost to them!! If you know anyone not a member who is interested in the cars, remember they don't need to own one, please invite them to a meet. We need new people and we need to spread the word that we are here and are having fun around and with the cars.

Lastly I hope you will feel able to call me at any time if you need help with your cars. Having been to all the Annual Meets for the last 10 years I know most of the experts on these cars personally as well as most of the spare part people in the UK and North America. As your Chairman I expect you to use me as a resource to keep your cars on the road.

Rob Manderson

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## **Editors Notes**

Firstly, I would be remiss if I did not extend thanks to Darcy Collings on behalf of all of the Region's members for his excellent work over the past years in editing the Prairie Lady. After producing this issue of the Lady I can attest to the effort and time that Darcy has contributed during his years as editor.

Next, allow me to introduce myself to those who do not know me. I am the caretaker of GCJ17 a 1935 20/25 Barker four light saloon in un-restored driving condition. I have been a member of the RROC on and off for a number of years and relocated to Calgary from Ottawa four years ago at which time I joined the Can-Am Region. It is now time to give something back to the club by way of taking on the position of editor of the Prairie Lady. This is my first attempt at editing a newsletter so I ask that you bear with me.

As Rob mentioned I have some ideas for the Prairie Lady. Those ideas will require some assistance from you the readers. My plan is to put the Prairie Lady out on a quarterly basis with a similar layout as this current edition; a general interest article and a local interest article. Initially I would like to cover all the member's cars in the region with each edition covering one of the older cars and one of the newer cars. The membership list includes a list of each member's cars and I intend to contact each of you requesting a good quality photograph (preferably digital) of your car with some information about the car particularly pointing out any unusual features.

I invite any suggestions for articles of a more general nature be they technical, social or anything else so long as they relate to Rolls-Royce or BENTLEY automobiles. Please keep in mind that any suggestions for the next issue should be forwarded as soon as possible. I underestimated the time and effort in producing this, my first edition and I am hoping the next one will be a little easier.

Christopher M<sup>c</sup>Aviney

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **2005 RROC Fall Tour.**

This September 17<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup> tour will commence in LaConner, Washington with a tour kickoff gala then meander east through Washington State's North Cascades mountains and north into British Columbia through Osoyoos and Kelowna taking in the Okanagan valley and lakes country. Then west through Kamloops to the Whistler mountain resort. From there the tour heads south to Vancouver for some exploring and a farewell dinner. This tour promises some spectacular scenery, shopping, art tours, and pampering at a world class destination resort, and more. Those mechanically minded will enjoy the British Columbia Region's traditional handicapped fuel economy run.

Guests and passengers are encouraged to attend, airport/hotel pickups in Seattle and Vancouver will be arranged by the event co-sponsors; the British Columbia and Pacific Northwest Regions of the RROC. Luggage van, lifeboat trailer, and mechanical assistance are planned. Expenses for this 900 mile, 7 day tour will be moderate.

There is a limit of 30 cars, and currently (as of February 19) there are 22 registered. This leaves 8 spots. HQ is taking registrations; see the website at <http://www.rroc.org> or call RROC directly at 1-800-879-7762.

## Technical Session with Ralph Curzon.

John and Kathy Doyle's have graciously offered facilities at their workshop in Olds for this technical session that will take place on April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005, commencing at 9:00 am both days. Those who will be attending please contact Rob Manderson at 403- to let him know how many will be attending and to make suggestions on areas they would like to see Ralph cover. Accommodations are limited in Olds and John Doyle has suggested the following: The Sportsman Inn Motel at 5610-46<sup>th</sup> Street Olds, telephone: 403-556-3315. You can also try the Best Western Hotel at 4520 - 46th Street Box 4140, Olds, telephone: 403-556-5900, or online at [www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com) and follow the links.

Directions to the Doyle's: From Highway #2 turn West on the overpass to Highway 27 into Olds. Continue West through Olds until you reach the Ford dealership on the right hand side, turn right and go miles North out of town, turn left and go miles West and then North into the yard.

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## Regional Christmas Party – December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Thank you to Walker and Rob Manderson for opening their home to the region's Christmas festivities. I extend my apologies for not including photographs of everyone here, I had to rely on the expertise of Terry Murphy and Marianne Maurier for the photographs. I have now learned the importance of taking my camera to each regional club function that I attend. In any event a good time was had by all.



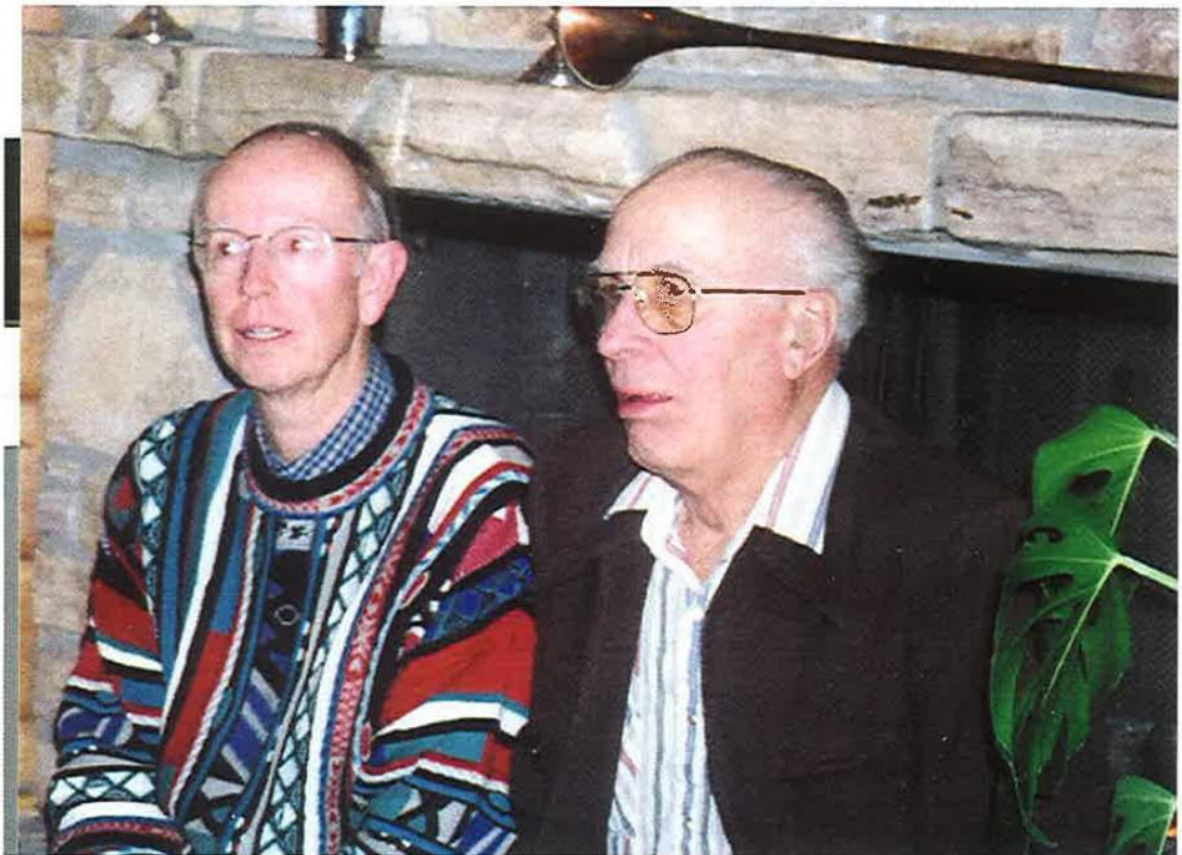
Walker and Robert Manderson



Kathy Dole



Standing: Howard Lengert, Christopher M<sup>c</sup>Aviney. Seated: Marie Baer, Zelma Kiss, Dawn Collings.



David Baer and Ted Carswell.

**Some of the cars at the Can-Am Region Technical Session in April 2004**



G CJ17 20/25 Barker four light saloon.

Owner: Christopher McAviney



GAR12 1937 25/30 Windovers Limousine

Owner: Howard Lengert



67GN 1930 Phantom II Park Ward Limousine

Owner: Robert Manderson



3DL188 1938 Phantom III Hooper Sedan de ville

Owners: Maurice & Bernice Tims

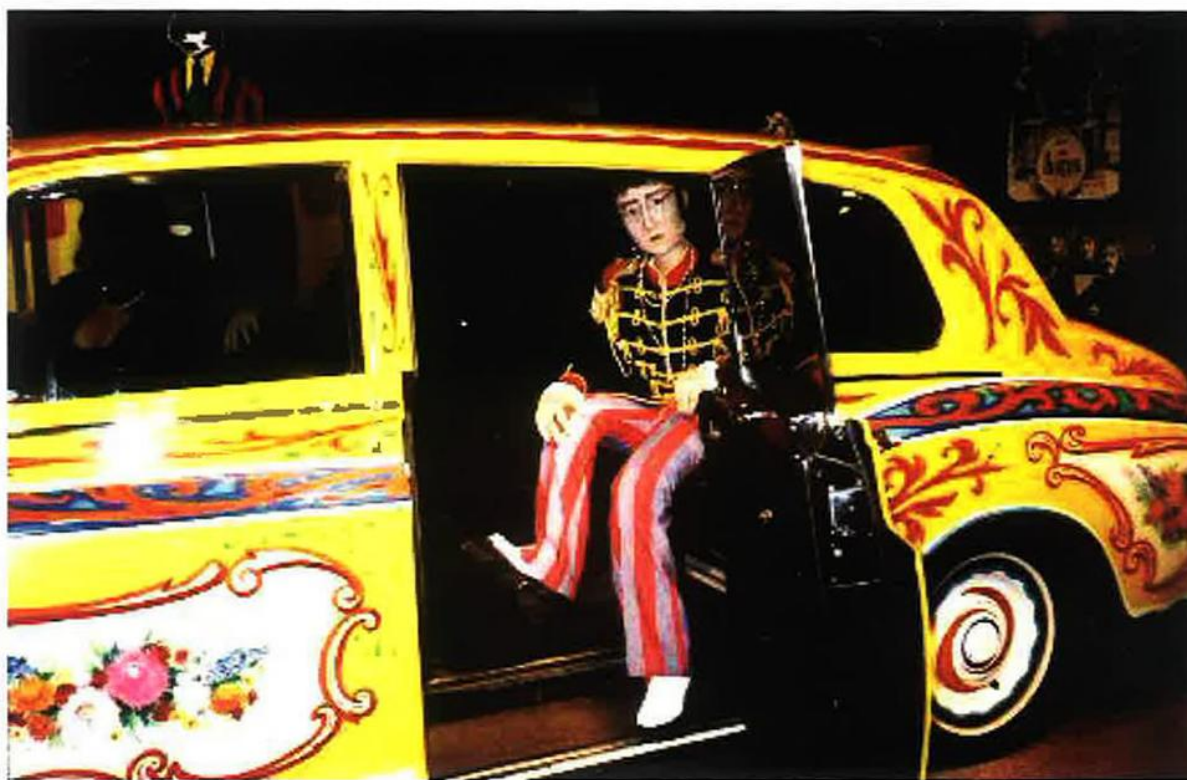
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### John Lennon's Phantom V, 5VD73

The car was built in 1965 by the Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited at Crewe. It is fitted with a limousine body by Mulliner Park Ward and was originally finished in Valentines Black. It was delivered to John Lennon on June 3, 1965 with the license plate number being FJB111C, and a guarantee issued on 10 June 1965. The car is nineteen feet long and weighs three tons.

In 1966, the John had the rear seat modified to convert to a double bed. A custom interior/exterior sound system was installed along with a "loud hailer." Other features installed at this time were a Sony television, telephone and a portable refrigerator. On January 7, 1966 the car went in to Rolls Royce for a mileage check and the odometer reading was 6,673 miles. By February 4, 1967, the reading was 29,283 miles.

In 1966 John had his chauffeur and the car sent to Spain while he was filming "How I Won the War" and it was reported that the car was painted a matt black overall, including the radiator and chrome trim.



Editor's note: while looking at the car, and without passing comment on the colour scheme, I was surprised at the lack of a proper finish to the paint work. The paint was dull, uneven and, in my opinion, not befitting the car it is applied to

In April of 1967, John visited J.P. Fallon Limited, a coachworks company located in Surrey, he apparently had in mind the idea of having the car painted "psychedelic". After discussing the idea, J.P. Fallon Limited commissioned "The Fool", a Dutch team of gypsy artists, to do the work. They designed and painted a pattern of scrolls and flowers on the car.

Apparently, John's newly painted psychedelic car drew some public outrage when an elderly woman in central London attacked the car using her umbrella yelling: "You swine, you swine! How dare you do this to a Rolls-Royce."

In 1970, John Lennon and Yoko Ono had the car shipped to the United States and it was subsequently loaned out to several rock stars such as the Rolling Stones, the Moody Blues, and Bob Dylan. The Lenon's seldom used the car and so consideration was given to sell it to an American buyer. A deal never materialized and as a result, the car was put into storage in New York City.

In December, 1977, John and Yoko had problems with the United States Internal Revenue Service. They worked out a deal where the car was donated to the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York City, a part of the Smithsonian Institute, for a \$225,000 tax credit.



From October 3, 1978 to January 7, 1979, the car was put on public display at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum and then returned to storage. On June 29, 1985, the car was auctioned off. Before auction, the car was estimated to be worth between \$200,000 and \$300,000 (U.S.) but car sold for a surprising \$2,299,000 (U.S.) to Ripley International Inc., of South Carolina for exhibition at Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" museum. The car was loaned to Expo '86 in Vancouver for exhibition. The American title was transferred from Ripley International Inc. to Jim Pattison Industries Ltd., in Canada.

In 1987, Mr. Pattison presented the car as a gift to Her Majesty in Right of the Province of British Columbia and it was displayed in the Transportation Museum of British Columbia at Cloverdale (near Vancouver).

In 1993, the car was transferred from the Transportation Museum to the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria, British Columbia. Here the car would be kept for secure storage, displayed only for fund-raising and occasional use.

From March 9, 1996, to September 15, 1996, the car was on display at the National Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa.





GRC72 1934 20/25 Hooper Saloon.

Owner: Howard Lengert