

Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum spotlights Alaska's first car

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FAIRBANKS — The Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum plans to host a reception at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday to celebrate the first car in Alaska.

The Bobby Sheldon car, now on loan to the auto museum from the University of Alaska Museum of the North, was built in 1905 by Sheldon.

He built the car out of a two-cycle boat engine and various other parts

he scrounged in Skagway in 1905. Since he had never seen a car before, he had to work off magazine drawings. The feat earned him a place in "Ripley's Believe it or Not."

He gave the car to the University of Alaska in the 1930s, and it was on display at the museum for many decades.

Sheldon went on to a long career in transportation, business and politics in Alaska. Among his other accomplishments, he was the first person to drive from Fairbanks to Valdez.

Members of the Sheldon family plan to attend the reception, along with a variety of other folks. Admission to the museum, located on the grounds of the Wedgewood Resort, is \$8. It is open until 10 p.m.