

# David Bausch

*A Life Of **Cars And Toys***





▲ Tin toys are one of his passions, and Dave Bausch loves to wind them up and watch them perform.

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## Article and Photos by R. Scudder Smith

**A**llentown, Penn. — “I know each and every piece by heart, and each one has its own story,” the collector said, but those stories are really only a preview to the interesting and fascinating life of David Bausch. A lifelong resident of Allentown, he still lives in the house in which he was born (“I was born in the middle bedroom upstairs”), the son of Dr and Mrs Elmer Bausch, a very prominent and busy general practitioner in those early days and a very caring mother.

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◀ David on the running board of his 1927 Franklin, a Boat Tail Speedster.

A full suit of armor stands guard just outside of the large living room on the second floor. ▶





Dave was the son of Elmer's second wife, Winifred, and he had one brother and one stepbrother, both now deceased. The first Mrs Bausch, her daughter and one son were killed in a tragic accident on October 25, 1925, when gas leaking from the street found its way into their home and exploded, completely



This Model T Ford coupe-pickup, 1924, is currently on exhibit at the America On Wheels Museum in Allentown.

destroying the house, a circa 1890 Victorian frame building, and the one next to it. Another son, Jimmy, was thrown from the house into the branches of a tree puncturing both ear drums. Dr Bausch was in the house at the time and was hospitalized for several months after the accident. Two gas servicemen were in the basement and both survived. The strength of the explosion blew out windows in several of the surrounding homes.

This early dirigible, with passenger, takes its airspace near the ceiling of one of the rooms.



Children's books have not escaped the interest of Dave, and among his collection is *A Trip To The Moon*, a movable picture book printed in 1904. ▶



Dr Bausch built a new home in 1926 on the same site, remarried and started a second family. “My parents were great people, kind to everyone and always there with a helping hand. My mother loved to cook and we always seemed to have someone at the door for a handout, while my father was adored by all of his patients and saw people at all hours of the day and night, often as many as 40 to 50 per day,” Dave said. Toward the end of his career, Dr Bausch worked from a wheelchair, but he would never give in to an electric one. “Just the good old-fashioned one was all he ever wanted.”

His vast toy collection includes a large and rare Roly Poly Santa, along with other holiday related objects. ▶

As a youngster, Dave accompanied his father on many house calls and on one particular day, while his father was treating a patient, he saw an old car, a 1889 Nadig that was made in Allentown, parked in a shed on the property. Some years later the shed had fallen in, the car was rusting apart, but it still came to Dave as a present from the owner.

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