

**Merry Christmas**

**Merry Christmas**

# Person of the Year Ballot

*Vote for person of the year 2023*

member 1 \_\_\_\_\_

member 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to or email [pbts114@gmail.com](mailto:pbts114@gmail.com) the person you choose.

**Pat Swigart**  
2101 Ellis Ave.  
Huntingdon, PA 16652



**We wish you a Merry Christmas!!**

# Annual Membership Renewal

Membership **\$10.00** (Individual or Joint) if renewed by December 31, 2023.

Membership renewal \$15.00 if renewed after January 1, 2024.

Please complete the entire renewal form to help keep our membership records updated.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

AACA # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Vapor Locks

Allegheny Mountain Region, AACA

Official Publication



Gladys Guyer, Editor  
11800 Guyer Rd.  
Huntingdon, PA 16652



November-December 2023

Vol. 72 Number 6



1918 Cadillac

Owned by Scott and Ellen Deno

*The Deno's Cadillac received the  
"People's Choice Award" at the 2023 Swigart Meet.*

**Allegheny Mountain Region, AACA**

**1951 – 2023**

**2023 OFFICERS**

**President** Scott Deno ..... 135 Watson Rd. State College, PA 16801  
.....(814) 238-4031 nsdeds@hotmail.com

**Vice President** Randy Clemens .....2402 18th St. Altoona, PA 16601  
.....(814) 943-8626 ras7595@verizon.net

**Secretary:** Patricia Swigart ..... 2101 Ellis Ave., Huntingdon, PA 16652  
.....(814) 251-2299 pbts114@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Gladys Guyer ..... 11800 Guyer Rd. Huntingdon, PA 16652  
.....(814) 667-3796 gladys\_guyer@yahoo.com

**ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**2021 – 2022 - 2023**

**Lloy Blattenberger** – 814-793-2756 ..... lloyandbetty@embarqmail.com  
**Jim Burke** - 814-224-2242 ..... cjmickey67@embarqmail.com  
**Zach Boring** - 814-942-3373 .....  
**Scott Deno** - 814-238-4031 ..... nsdeds@hotmail.com

**2022 – 2023 - 2024**

**Randy Clemens** - 814-943-8626 .....ras7595@verizon.net  
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**Bill Guyer** 814-667-3796 ..... gladys\_guyer@yahoo.com

**2023 – 2024 - 2025**

**Jackie Forsht** – 814-251-7045 ..... setter4@hotmail.com  
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Gladys Guyer, 11800 Guyer Rd. Huntingdon, PA 16652 814-667-3796.... gladys\_guyer@yahoo.com

Nominating Committee: Pat Swigart and Randy Clemens

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**Webmaster:** Scott Deno, 135 Watson Rd. State College 16801  
814-238-4031 nsdeds@hotmail.com

**Assistant webmaster:** Amber Boring, 439 Lotz Ave, Apt 204, Altoona, PA 16602  
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# COOK'S CORNER

## Apple Mocktail

1 apple sliced thin.  
3/4 cup apple juice  
1/2 cup sparkling water (apple or berry flavor)  
Juice from a 1/2 lemon or 1 T bottled real lemon juice.  
1 tsp. grenadine  
Ice

Put ice in your favorite mocktail glasses. Add the grenadine, apple juice, sparkling water, and lemon juice. Garnish with apple slices.

*You can adjust the amount of apple juice and sparking water to the size of your glasses and your taste.*



## Kickin' Spinach Cheese Bites

1 box (9 oz.) frozen spinach  
1 pk (8 oz.) cream cheese softened.  
1/4 cup ricotta cheese  
6 oz. (1 1/2 c.) shredded provolone cheese.  
1/4 c. finely chopped pickled jalapeno slices, drained  
2 (8oz.) cans refrigerated crescent roll dough

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly spray 48 mini muffin cups with nonstick spray. Microwave frozen spinach as directed on box. Squeeze dry with paper towels.

In medium bowl, beat cream cheese and ricotta cheese until well blended. Stir in spinach, cheese, and jalapenos until well blended. Unroll 1 dough sheet: press into 12x8 inch rectangle. Cut dough into 24 squares. Press 1 square on the bottom and up sides of each mini muffin cup. Spoon 1 rounded tsp. spinach mixture into each cup. Bake 8 to 12 minutes or until the edges of dough are golden brown. Remove from oven and cool for 5 minutes. Delicious served warm.

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

AACA NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS HERSHEY, PA      [www.aaca.org](http://www.aaca.org)  
501 West Governor R. Hershey, PA 17031 – Phone 717-534-1910

## 1951 Founding Officers

Regional Director – William E. Swigart, Jr.  
Secretary / Treasurer – William A Huff, Jr.

Advisory Committee – George W. Brisbin, David T. Davis, Paul K. Good, Carl E. Henderson, G. Bland Hoke, E.J. Leap, Fred Samuel, E.T. Studebaker

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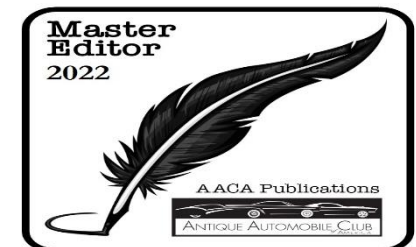
## PAST PRESIDENTS OF ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN REGION, AACA

1951-William E. Swigart, Jr.*	1975-Robert M. Struble	2000-John R. O'Brien *
1952-William E. Swigart, Jr.*	1976-Ferd D. Page, Jr.*	2001-N. Scott Deno
1953-William E. Swigart, Jr.*	1977-Stephen Leoras*	2002-N. Scott Deno
1954-Stanley B. Smith*	1978-James L. Kingston*	2003-Patricia B. Swigart
1955-Dr. Max Tornatore*	1979-James L. Kingston*	2004-Patricia B. Swigart
1956-David T. Davis*	1980-Larrie A. Derman	2005-John R. Mueller
1957-Leonard L. LeCrone*	1981-Larrie A. Derman	2006-John R. Mueller
1958-Ernest L. Shank*	1982-James F. Eichelberger*	2007-Nicholas Sabatino
1959-Chester E. Geist*	1983-James F. Eichelberger*	2008-Nicholas Sabatino
1960-Chester E. Geist*	1984-Charles Caracciolo*	2009-Francis P. Searer
1961-Paul Swartz*	1985-Charles Caracciolo*	2010-Francis P. Searer
1962-Dr John C. Gourley, Jr.*	1986-James Fisher*	2011-Bill M. Loy
1963-Dr John C. Gourley, Jr.*	1987-James Fisher*	2012-Bill M. Loy
1964-William H. Harshbarger*	1988-William Eardley*	2013-Ernest Romanini
1965-Leonard L. LeCrone*	1989-Wiliam Eardley*	2014 Ernest Romanini
1966-Ferd D. Page, Jr.*	1990-Ralph B. Grove	2015 N. Scott Deno
1967-Ferd D. Page, Jr.*	1991-Ralph B. Grove	2016 N. Scott Deno
1968-Stephen Leoras*	1992-Ralph B. Grove	2017 N. Scott Deno
1969-Stephen Leoras*	1993-Ralph Hoover*	2018 William Forsht
1970-Robert L. Meckley*	1994-Robert M. Struble	2019 William Forsht
1971-Dr. James K. Gordon*	1995-Russell Bambarger	2020 William Forsht
1972-Dr. James K. Gordon*	1996-Russell Bambarger	2021 William Forsht
1973-Fred P. Lockcuff*	1997-Stanley B. Smith, Jr.	2022 N Scott Deno
1974-Robert M. Struble	1998-Stanley B. Smith, Jr.	2023 N. Scott Deno
	1999-John R. O'Brien *	

## Classified Ads:

For Sale or Wanted are **Free** of charge to members. Please include Name, Price (if selling), Phone and E-mail Address.

Articles in this newsletter may be reprinted.



# President's Message



Wow, what a great season of events this year! Hard to believe it is time to start planning for 2024. Our region board is planning to meet at the Swigart office in Huntington on January 28 at 2PM. Please consider attending and offering your event planning suggestions.

Hershey meet was super in the weather department and meeting friends, but not so good for me when it came to selling parts. Attendance seemed a little off to me.

Certainly, not as many foreign visitors and fewer car parts buyers. Thanks to those that stopped by my space! I am looking forward to next year, possibly a move of my space, more browsing and less selling.

The Glidden tour in Georgia was one of the better Glidden tours. Great roads, hotel, weather, sites, and friends. It was a nice change to travel without mountains. Our Marmon did the 600 miles in its usual first-class style. We were fully loaded with our friends Paul and Sharon Kron joining us for the week. There should be an article soon in VLs. Next year's Glidden is in northern Maryland/Adams County PA area. So, if you have been thinking of joining us, 2024 is the year!

The Fall dinner at the Dream in Altoona was very well attended (almost ran out of room in the dining room). Several good discussions were conducted. Amber Boring was welcomed as a new board member. When you see Amber Boring, give her a BIG welcome as a new board member.

These ideas will be further reviewed at the January board meeting (please come). Board members and officer assignments for 2024 and beyond will also be finalized at the January meeting. So, there may still be an opening, if you are interested in being part of the high powered management team.

Remember our Christmas party at the Dream (again) on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Don't forget that the AACA national convention is at a new and improved location, February 8-10. Chantilly, Virginia is a new location. I have heard lots of good things about this new location and the hotel pricing is surprisingly reasonable for a great hotel. I should be giving my usual 2 seminars with expert panelists. Stop by to see my new wireless turn signals recently tested on the Glidden tour with success. Please join us so Ellen has plenty of folks to talk to while I hit the seminars (Gladys, this might mean you and Bill).

Looking forward to seeing you!  
Scott



## Try A Tour

By Dave Anspach 2023 AACA Secretary/Treasurer

I have been showing cars on a local, Concours, and AACA level for over 25 years but I had never tried an AACA National Tour. I have been on numerous local Tours over the years, but not a National Tour. I have been the liaison Director for a couple, but I never really tried an AACA National Tour... until now.

Last year when President Wayne Tuck asked me to be the liaison Director for the Special Central Division Tour this year, I accepted and began working with tour chairman Don Sword to help the Southern Ohio Region with the details of a National Tour. I also began planning to find a car that worked for both Deb and I for a Tour vehicle. Unfortunately, in the ensuing 10 months, I looked at several cars but was unable to "pull the trigger". As a result, the deadline for registration for the tour neared without me having a suitable car. I was talking with Don about some last-minute plans, and he mentioned that I hadn't registered yet. When I told him the tale of looking for a car, he replied that one of his Region members, West Peterson, had offered a car to anyone who wanted to enter but didn't have a car. I immediately contacted West to determine if the offer was indeed good and he assured me that I indeed could use his car... a 1940 Packard Touring. Given that my wife is a gigantic Packard fan, it was a match made in heaven.

We arrived in Piqua, Ohio the afternoon before the Tour was to begin and finalized arrangements with West. The following morning, we drove to Dayton and met West at his home. After an initial driving lesson that featured some genuine jitters on my part (the prestige of the Packard along with its sheer size was quite unnerving for a Crosley driver) we were off to the first destination. The first day was an on your own trip to 2 destinations; the US Air Force Museum, followed by the Packard Museum. I was even treated to a rare visit to the basement workshop at the Packard Museum and every visitor from the AACA received a book as a gift. I followed West the first day because we had no idea where we were going!

I can honestly say I didn't sleep well the first night. I was so worried that we would not be able to follow the directions and would get hopelessly lost. Add that to continuing nervousness about properly caring for West's Packard and I was awake a lot! I went out to the car in the morning to start it, warm it up, and wipe off the morning dew and found Roger Ireland standing there and he asked

if he could ride with us. RIDE WITH US? He immediately became navigator while Deb followed along with the directions as we drove along. The second day's trip included the Airstream Museum and Factory, lunch, shopping in Wapakoneta, and the Neil Armstrong Museum went off without a hitch!

I slept pretty well Thursday night and headed out to warm up again and wipe down the car Friday am.

Roger again came out but told me he was riding with West and Laura Peterson this day (I guess I talked too much). Friday's trip was to the Klepinger collection, The bicycle museum of America, and The Allen County Historical Museum. We were to follow Roger and the Petersons but to my utter delight, my bride/navigator found errors they made a few times during the day, and we ended up in the lead! I couldn't have been more tickled! The museums were great but successfully navigating the course was far better. I guess I finally relaxed driving the car by Saturday. The trip to the Halderman Museum followed by Bob McConnell's race car collection was fantastic. Deb's navigation was flawless again (she was so good; I honestly can't wait to do it again). I was almost sad when the day ended, and we returned the car to West's home. The day ended with a fantastic banquet that featured a game of Singo...a variation of Bingo using songs as spaces instead of numbers.

It was overall an entertaining and educational experience that I hope to repeat again soon. I want to thank Don Sword and the Southern Ohio Region for a great Tour, Roger Irland for his help and training in navigation, but most of all I want to thank West and Laura Peterson and the Peterson family for the use of one of America's finest cars. It was an experience that Deb and I will remember for the rest of our lives.

The people were warm and welcoming. The cars were beautiful. The locations were interesting and educational and several of them could have been whole day locations on their own. We left Piqua totally exhausted and happy. What more could you ask for from an event. I encourage every one of you to Try a Tour, you will not be disappointed... I guarantee it!

**Happy Holidays!!**

# Car Trivia

Clymer's Motor Trivia

1. What 3 cars had the same names as three U.S. Presidents
2. What car was names after a famous French battlefield?
3. What 5 cars were named after animals?
4. What 8 cars were named after states?
5. What car had the name of a firearm?
6. What car had the name of an insect?



## PIC FROM THE PAST

Who remembers this 2015 picture from our Christmas Party?



Our magician Don Foor did some magic on Bill and Jackie Forsht.

# ~AMR Annual Meeting~

October 15, 2023

President Deno called the meeting to order at 2:45 and thanked Amber Boring for organizing the dinner. The entire Board of Directors was in attendance except for Secretary Pat Swigart who had a prior engagement.

Treasurer Gladys Guyer presented a financial report for everyone to look over. The club has a nice balance in the checking account and a CD. Gladys also reported our Region has 90 memberships. She also mentioned the printing and postage for each issue of Vapor Locks is under \$2.00 each.

Gladys Guyer suggested that because of our finances it would be nice to do something for members of the Region.

Gail Whitman suggested the option of making some donations to a worthy cause.

President Deno was not able to get 4 candidates for an election for the Board of Directors however Amber Boring is willing to become a Board Member. President Deno asked if there was a current Board member willing to step off the Board and be replaced by Amber. Gladys Guyer agreed to step off the Board. Welcome to the Board of Directors Amber.

Jeff Boring spoke about the possibility of holding the Delgrosso Car Show in 2024. There will be more discussion on this at the next Board meeting.

Earl Eby has volunteered to donate his time and knowledge to produce a commercial to advertise the Regions Car Shows.

President Deno spoke about the Region and AACA. Several members voiced their opinions on the topic.

All topics will be addressed at the next Board Meeting in January 2024.

The Region's after Christmas party was discussed. It was suggested that we hold the Regions after Christmas Party at the Dream on January 14. Everyone thought this was a good idea. Amber will check with the Dream and report to President Deno.

This concluded the meeting.

*Gladys Guyer filling in for Secretary Pat Swigart*

## ATTENTION



### *Allegheny Mountain Region Members*

**It is time to renew your 2024 membership.**

**Please take a minute and complete the renewal application in this issue of Vapor Locks. The renewal can be located on the cover. It would be greatly appreciated if you would return your renewal to Pat Swigart by December 31.**

**Please include all information that is requested. This helps keep all mailing addresses, e-mail, and phone numbers current.**

**There has been no increase in cost of Membership. \$10.00 if renewed by December 31 and \$15.00 after January 1, 2024.**

**Secretary Swigart must meet the AACA National deadline with current information on membership. Please be prompt with your renewal. (See renewal form on the cover of this issue of VL.**

**Thank you in advance for your courteous response.**







## THE EDITOR'S DESK

The beautiful colored leaves have fallen from the trees and Thanksgiving is in the past. I believe we are all very thankful for the many blessings in our life. Count your blessings!

The guys probably have already put the cover on the "old car" and tucked it in the garage for a nice winters nap. Soon the snow will begin, and we will recognize it is winter.

This is the last issue of Vapor Locks for 2023. The news book is the way to communicate information to all members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each person who has sent me photos, classifieds, and articles throughout the year. Your contributions make my job as editor a little easier. Our Region has great members that make our club successful.

Your membership renewal form is in this issue of Vapor Locks. Please take a minute and send your renewal in by December 31.

Information about the after Christmas Party in January is included in this issue of Vapor Locks. I hope everyone will attend.

Planning for 2024 will begin on January 28 at a Board/Membership meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend. This winter could be the perfect time to attend club meetings and get involved. With everyone's help we can make 2024 a great year.

Have a wonderful Christmas with family and friends.

See you in the New Year.

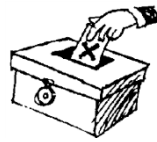
Gladys

### **Allegheny Mountain Region Board of Directors Meeting**

**January 28, 2024 @ 2:00  
Swigart Office, Huntingdon  
Everyone is welcome to attend!**

# Cast Your Vote

## ~PERSON OF THE YEAR 2023~



Each year Allegheny presents a travelling trophy to a deserving member selected by the AMR members as person of the year. This should be the member you feel has done the most to enhance Allegheny Mountain Region throughout 2023.

We realize it can be a hard decision because AMR works as a team. There are many wonderful members deserving of the 2023 Award. The award will be presented at the after Christmas Party on January 14.

On the cover of this issue of Vapor Locks, you will find your membership renewal form, and your person of the year ballot.

We have made it easy for you. You may return both your membership renewal and your ballot in the same envelope with one stamp to Pat Swigart. You may also email your Member of the Year selection to Pat at [pbts114@gmail.com](mailto:pbts114@gmail.com).

## **AACA ANNUAL MEETING**

**February 8-10  
Chantilly, Virginia**

- Meeting
- Car Exhibit
- Lady's Breakfast
- Auction
- National Awards Banquet
- Trade Shows
- Seminars
- President's Dinner
- Judging Schools

### **COME AND ENJOY!!!**

Info is in the National Antique Automobile magazine.

# After Christmas Party

**January 14, 2024**  
**Chairperson, Amber Boring**

Allegheny Mountain Region will begin the New Year 2024 with an AFTER Christmas Party.

Amber Boring has confirmed with the "Dream", 1500 Allegheny St, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 for the event to be held January 14, 2024

There will be appetizers and socializing at @2:00 followed by our meal at 3:00.

Everyone will have a choice of entrees. (you will choose at the dinner).

Turkey meal at \$15.35

Pork meal at \$14.99

Beef meal at \$14.99

Meatloaf meal at \$14.25

All meals are served with Mashed potatoes and stuffing with an additional choice of coleslaw, vegetable of the day or apple crisp. Drinks are not included. You will choose your entrée and order at the Dream.

You **do not** have to prepay for your meal. This is restaurant style; you will pay when you get your check after the meal. Tax and gratuity are NOT included in the meal prices.

Plan to start 2024 with friends of the car club.

For additional info contact Amber Boring at 814-931-1456.

**Reserve your seat by calling Amber  
at 814-931-1456.**



## Just for Thought

On Christmas Eve a very lonely young soldier was sad to be away from his family and home. He asked a few of his friends to go out on Christmas Eve and make Christmas of whatever they found. Shortly after leaving their military compound, they came across an old grey building with a sign that said, "Queen Anne's Orphanage".

This was perfect, they all thought. The young men's hearts pounded quickly. They gathered themselves and knocked on the door. The door slowly opened as a kind elderly woman cautiously emerged from behind it and bid them all a Merry Christmas, then, asking how she might be of any help?

The young soldier then stepped forward and asked if they could come in for a few minutes to greet and talk with the children. The elderly keeper with a beaming smile then welcomed and invited them in. As the soldiers began to enter, they could hear the clamoring of children in the background as they came running down the stairs to see who was at the door.

Once inside this old grey building their hearts sank as they witnessed the undeniable poverty of the lives of these orphans. The children were all very poorly dressed. There was no Christmas tree or decorations of any sort in the empty cold dark place.

The soldiers then mustered their spirits and stepped forward and did what they came to do. They greeted and spent time talking with the children and searched their pockets for anything that they could possibly offer and share with these youngsters, a stick of gum, candy, special coins, ribbons, whistles ... just anything.

Their hearts and souls were filled with the spirit of giving as they could see that by their very presence and sincere attention to these innocent children was making a difference no matter how small. The young men all felt the warmth inside of giving and sharing.

Then when it was time to leave and as the young soldier was getting ready to step out the door, he noticed one small boy about five years old standing in the corner all by himself crying softly. The boy reminded the soldier of his own son back home who would now surely be about the same age. The soldier paused and was overtaken with flooding emotions as he rekindled in his heart being with his young son again. He walked over to the young crying orphan boy, seeing the tears stream down his tiny pink cheeks. He then knelt on one knee so that he could look the boy in the eyes; and said, "Hey little fella, what would you like for Christmas"? Without hesitation the young boy got up and simply said, "A Hug". The soldier gave the boy a hug that seemed to go on forever.

The soldiers gave the kids a Christmas Eve they would soon not forget. Their act of kindness made all the difference for those orphan children.



# Just For Laughs

## Coffee and Doughnuts

As grandma was getting ready to leave the house on Christmas Eve, Olivia looked at her with concern. "Make sure to be really careful on your way home". Santa will be delivering presents."

Her grandmother smiled at her. "I don't think I have to worry about Santa." Olivia. Olivia looked at her with disbelief. Starting to cry she asked "Haven't you heard? It was all over the radio. One Grandma has already gotten run over by those reindeer this going home so you have to be careful.

## Santa's Secret Identity

A little boy secretly followed a department store Santa to the changing room. The man came out in his street clothes, ready to go home. The boy popped out, "I knew it."

Nervously, the man looked around, asking, "Knew what?" Smiling ear to ear, the little boy leaned in close and whispered, "I knew that Santa wouldn't be able to keep an eye on all the little girls and boys without a secret identity."

The man smiled, nodding. "Just make sure not to tell anyone."

The little boy nodded enthusiastically, "I won't, San..." the boy paused, looking around cautiously before adding, "I mean Kris Kringle."

---

## Trivia answers

1. **Lincoln, Grant, and Roosevelt**
2. **Argonne**-The Argonne was an American automobile manufactured from 1919 to 1920 by the Jersey City Machine Co. of Jersey City, New Jersey. Only 24 were produced before the company folded. The prototype car was a sports roadster with an aluminum body crafted by the Schutte Body Co.
3. **Badger, Panther, Buffalo, Colt, Lion**
4. **Ohio, Indiana, California, Texas, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and Illinois**
5. **Cannon** which was built in Kalamazoo, Michigan, by the Burt Manufacturing Company from 1902 to 1906
6. **Plymouth Cricket**

# Automobile History

## From 1944 Vapor Locks

Submitted by Scott Deno

Remember the Carter Car, the Elmore, the Scrips-Booth and the Welch? They were once owned by General Motors. Other makes that General Motors once controlled, which have passed by the wayside, include Oakland, which was succeeded by Pontiac, Viking, LaSalle and the Marquette.

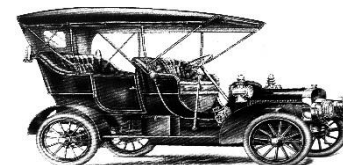
In 1875 the state of Wisconsin offered a bounty of \$10,000 to any investor of a successful Steam Carriage. The bounty was paid to George B. Deldon in 1875, who secured the first patent to be granted to anyone connected with the American automobile industry. However, the Selden car was not a steamer.

In 1892 Charles E. Duryea and his brother, built and operated the first successful gasoline car built in the United States. The car was built in Springfield, MA, and is preserved in the Smithsonian Institute. The car was not shown to the public until 1893.

The first Glidden Tour was held in 1905. These early day Glidden Tours were endurance contests and covered several hundred miles of roads into several different states...the roads were not good, and the early Glidden Tours did much to further advancement of the Automobile of America. Every contestant was penalized for being late at a designated place and for any difficulty he had with the car while on tour.

Buick is one of the very few American automobiles that survived with very little advertising in the early days of the industry. It is almost impossible to find any number of Buick advertisements in any of the popular magazines or automobile publications prior to 1907. Such cars as Cadillac, Oldsmobile, Reo, Packard, Ford, White, Studebaker and others, who did survive, did extensive advertising.

When Ford announced his first Model T in 1908, it had the steering wheel on the left side of the car. While others used left-hand steering prior to Ford it is generally accepted that Ford was the one responsible for all other manufacturers accepting it as a universal feature.



1908 Carter Car

# Ride of a Lifetime

By Stan Smith

Please look at the cover of your past issue of AACA's magazine ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE. Not the latest "Hershey Fall Meet" issue but the one with the 1908 Locomobile racer #1 on the cover. Inside the magazine there is a major article on the resurrection of this racer from parts that were left over and stored for many years along with the sister racer Locomobile #16. During the 1960's and 70's we became familiar with #16 during visits made with my parents to the home of the artist Peter Helck in New England who then owned the racer. He fortunately preserved what has become one of America's most historic race cars having won the Vanderbilt Cup Race.

Many of us old car enthusiasts, after seeing photos of these two early monsters can't help thinking "what would it be like to drive or yet alone have a ride in one?" 40 years ago, in October 1983, one of the Smith's got the chance of a lifetime. We had become a part of a tour day vintage car tour of New England and helped prepare two of Peter's cars that were invited to participate - the 1908 Locomobile better known as OLD # 16 and his 1914 Mercer Raceabout. In return for our work on the cars my Dad, with our 13 year son Bill as his navigator, drove the Mercer.



At the start of the first day David Helck, grandson of Peters, told us his wife didn't wish to ride with him because she had a nasty cold, and it was raining. So, would Darlene take her place as navigator? No problem we all said since I

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was already assigned to drive the chase vehicle. She wasn't quite aware of how much of a crazy ride was coming up. Sitting in a bucket seat behind a 900-cu. in. engine that bellowed exhaust out two stubby pipes on her side of the racer. Not having a windshield or fenders to protect her from the rain and wet roads couldn't have been fun. Plus, there was the whurring of the large chain driving the back wheel on her side. At least it had a cover! At the end of that first day, I asked how it was to be driven in OLD #16 and initially was told it was great even though right from the start she detected this had to have been David's first time to have the Locomobile without Dad or Granddad looking over his shoulder. Overall, the noise she would hear him shout out war-hoops of joy as he went through the gears to get up to speed. I did have a fairly hard time keeping up with them!

Unfortunately, Old #16 now is in the HENRY FORD MUSEUM and rarely driven. Let's hope LOCO #1 can take over giving people a "ride of a lifetime".



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