



# TIRE TRACKS

September 2016

**THE ELECTRONIC VERSION**



Greetings, Waynesboro—Staunton Region Members & Friends, Lots of activities to report on this month and lots of pictures also. We're still looking for your "First Car Stories" so keep your editor in mind. Don't let Bob Ridle's story on pages 3 and 4 intimidate you. Broadcasting and writing is Bob's profession and I think you'll find his story to be very entertaining. You don't need to be a professional to tell your story, we'll make it work.

Stu Allen—Editor



**Touring**  
**and a Tribute to Martin Milner**  
**By Myron Smith**  
**V.P. Regions—Eastern Division**

*Published in the AACA Summer 2016  
Rummage Box*

Many of the television programs of the 50's and 60's were westerns. Drifters and cowboys were often the plot. Shows such as "Have Gun Will Travel," "The Lone Ranger" and my favorite western "Cheyenne" are three examples. However, one of these drifter shows set in the current time of the '60's was "Route 66" which aired from 1960-1964. It starred Martin Milner and for most of the series George Maharis. Two guys and a new Corvette traveling across the country working odd jobs and usually finding a problem to fix or a damsel in distress. I do not know how much the show actually influenced my young mind, but I thought enough of the show to keep the TV Guide magazine which featured the duo on the cover for all these years. The show's allure for this youth had a lot going for it: seeing different parts of the country (even if it was in black and white) a Corvette, a Chevrolet sponsor for much of the series, and a snappy Nelson Riddle theme which I can still hear in my head. I even had a 1/25 scale luggage rack, suit case and bed roll on the back of my model Corvettes as I traveled in my make believe world around the living room floor.

What I remember of the writings about the show from when it was aired, the filming was a grueling process with most scenes being shot on location. I also recall that in reality, Milner traveled with his family in a station wagon while the show was being filmed with his wife and 5 children. Milner was the one who remained on the series for its entire duration. For a while after Maharis left, Milner traveled alone before Glen Corbett was added as a new traveling companion near the end of the series.

Although the show was called "Route 66," the duo were rarely on the US Highway 66. The highway nicknamed 'the mother road' was the most direct route between Chicago and Los Angeles. It has been a famous road and one about which much lore still exists. Much of the road can no longer be found as it was replaced by Interstates. Tourists do travel as much as possible the original route just for nostalgia sake (where it can still be found). Many signs have been erected to advertise 'Historic Route 66'.

I noted with sadness last September the death of Milner, but was not aware that the show might have affected others in the same way until I read the excellent essay in "Hemmings Classic Car" by Jim Donnelly (December 2015). He also enjoys cars and traveling by car.

I wonder how many of us who 'tour' were influenced by this TV program and are now 'touring' in our antique vehicle - even if we don't have a Corvette.

Thank you Mr. Milner - A man I never met.

**SEPTEMBER MEETING:** Sunday, September 25, 1:00 PM, Annual Steak Fry & Auction at [Coyner Springs Park, 2091 Lyndhurst Rd.](#), Waynesboro. Steaks, Hot Dogs, plates, cup, utensils, ice & drinks provided. Bring a dish to share, a lawn chair, an item or two to donate to the auction and your checkbook!



# ***TIRE TRACKS***

The Official Publication of the  
**Waynesboro-Staunton Region**



Volume 46, Issue 9 Visit our NEW website—<http://waynesboro-stauntonregion.aaca.com/>

September 2016

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I believe our Expo vehicle display was a roaring success as we have been asked to return next year. Hopefully this will become an annual event for us to host. This is great recognition for our Region. All this would not have taken place if it wasn't for the excellent organization, planning and execution by Bob Ridle, Alfred Meyer, Robbie Gray and Jack Drago. Also, I would like to thank all the members and the Corvair Club who brought their vehicles for display, and especially all those members who brought multiple vehicles: The Gray's, Dr. White, Nelson Driver, the Gregory's, the Perrin's and the Ridle's.

Hopefully next year we can have more exposure with better signage, more in-house Expo advertising and local advertising. That way we should be able to have a larger money fund from the voting for the best vehicle to give to the charity of Expo's choice.

I hope everyone got their fill at our joint meeting at Grand Caverns. It was a little hot and some vehicles got a little wet, but other than that I believe we had a grand old time and assisted Tri-County Region with their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

Our car season is getting shorter and before we know it we will be putting them up for another year. Time sure does fly when you're having fun. However, there is still more time left this year to enjoy them. Shirley and I will be going to Michigan taking our '51 Chevy on a five day tour and then we will be getting ready for our annual trip to Hershey. In between we will have our annual Steak Fry and Auction at Coyner Springs Park in Waynesboro on Sunday, September 25. Our Honorary Member, Bruce Elder, will be our auctioneer. Bruce is guaranteed to keep us all laughing. Please remember to bring items that have been under your feet and in your way that someone else just has to have.

Our new Nomination Committee Chair, Doris Stone, is soliciting our membership for members to run for the 2017 election. If you feel you would like to serve as an officer, please contact her.

Again, thank you for your support.

Ken Farley

## **Steak Fry and Auction—September 25**

Time to get ready for our annual Steak Fry and Auction! You never know what goodies will be donated for our annual fund raiser.



Dust off those items you have been saving and bring them along. Auctioneer Bruce Elder can sell anything! Come join the fun and bring your check-book. There is always something here that you need.

## **'53 Studebaker, Tree Sap and All: A Love Story**

**By Bob Ridle**

Billy Joel and the Statler Brothers may mention them in song, but I actually own Studebakers. And like many other Studebaker owners, my very first car was a Stude. In fact, it seems like only yesterday...

It was the summer of 1962 and I was approaching my senior year at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, Va. My father, who never forgot what it was like to be young, decided that having an old jalopy was a rite of passage and had agreed to let me get my first car. Besides, he figured, it would keep me away from the family car...an Imperial with a 392 Hemi V-8 that only I could truly appreciate!

After several weeks of combing through the automotive classifieds in the Washington Post, I finally found a car that met my strict criteria for purchase ...I could afford it! The ad did not go into great detail, but it beckoned to me like a flashing neon sign: "53 STUDE, GOOD 2<sup>ND</sup> CAR, CHEAP --\$150 OR BEST OFFER." Wow, I thought. I didn't know if it had a V-8 or a 6, straight stick or automatic, two doors or four doors or no doors at all. This was the car for me!

"Augh!" my mother said, "Aren't Studebakers those funny looking little hump-back cars Mr. Kaiser had built?" No, I explained, those were Henry J's. "Hold On!" said my father, "Aren't Studebakers those bathtub shaped cars with beds in them?" No again, I said patiently, those were Nashes. "OK," he said, "as long as it doesn't have a bed." I called the phone number in the ad and made an appointment to view the car that evening.

My dad and I rolled into the owner's driveway and there it was parked under a low hanging tree in the backyard. A small, forlorn-looking, dingy gray car, covered with tree sap and sprinkled with bird droppings. It was love at first sight!

A jump start got the engine going and my dad and I took it for a test drive. Except for the radio (yes, it had one!), everything seemed to work. We pulled the little Stude back into the owner's driveway and made an offer of \$125. He said he had several other inquiries and would take the highest offer by the coming weekend. "I'll call you on Sunday," he said, and we headed for home.

Sunday was four days away. The time crept by. I was in agony. "We should have given him his \$150 asking price," I told my father. "We're already \$25 too high," he replied. "Besides, it's a Studebaker and the newspaper says they may not be in business much longer." I was frantic now. "Maybe we can call him back and up the offer to \$175 or \$200!" My father shook his head, as only fathers can do, and Sunday moved inexorably closer.

The dingy gray little Studebaker was a 1953 Champion two-door coupe, equipped with the basics...six-cylinder engine, three on the tree, radio, heater, and turn signals. It was known to car aficionados as a "Loewy Coupe." And although I had no idea who automotive designers Raymond Loewy or Bob Bourke were, I had been bitten by the bug.

Unlike other cars of the 50's, the '53 Studebaker had no wraparound windshield, no fins, no slab sides, and no massive chrome grill. It was low-slung, clean and lean, almost lithe in appearance. Even when it was sitting still, it seemed to be moving, flowing over the ground. Fords and Chevys looked like boxcars sitting next to it.

This was the car for forward looking people, I thought. Certainly Hyman Rickover, Chuck Yeager, and JFK owned one. If he were alive, Jules Verne would've had one in his driveway. And there was no doubt in my mind that James Dean paid the ultimate penalty because he left his Studebaker in the garage and took his Porsche on that fateful day. Yes, this was the car for me!

That Sunday I lit a candle before Mass and asked St. Christopher for help. I even told my mother, that although the parish priests drove Buicks, I thought the Pope drove a Studebaker. Her look told me that I had probably gone too far.

It was late Sunday afternoon when the telephone rang. My dad answered and listened intently. "Uh huh," he finally said, "is that so?" He listened some more, said "OK," and hung up the phone. I was crestfallen. How could any conversation consisting of only seven syllables be good news? My father then handed me the keys to the Imperial and asked me to move it into the garage. "Can I do it later?" I said dejectedly. "Well, I wouldn't wait too long," he said, "your Studebaker is on its way over here and we need to make room in the driveway."



ALL RIGHT! OUTASIGHT! The Loewy coupe was mine!

*Continued on net page*



## '53 Studebaker, Tree Sap and All: A Love Story

After some serious cleaning and polishing, the car turned out to be a beautiful Maui Blue in color. New hoses, belts, tires, seat covers my father stitched himself, and a fresh tune-up put the Studie back into shape. A new vibrator brought the radio back to life, and even today I can still hear the Contours singing "Do You Love Me?" through its old speaker.

The car served me well, from double dates in high school to my freshman year in college. And when my dad's Imperial was acting up, I even took my ailing Grandmother back to Ohio to visit her sister in the reliable Studebaker. She had a ball in that old car. The trip seemed to bring back memories for her. When we arrived in Ohio she looked years younger, and had a wonderful time telling friends, in Pennsylvania Dutch, about the trip with her grandson in the old Studebaker. It would turn out to be her last trip home to Ohio, and the Studie made it possible.

I've had several other Studebakers and brand X's since that summer of '62, but that first car was special...very special...kind of like your first kiss.



### Activity Participation Questionnaire

Have you filled out your questionnaire and sent it back to our VP Alfred Meyer? It only takes a few minutes and will help the Board plan future activities for our Region. If you have already sent yours in, we thank you. If you have not yet filled it out, please do it now—we need to hear from you.

## Cars & Coffee

The Waynesboro Free Methodist Church holds a Cars & Coffee event the third Saturday of each month from 8-10 AM during good weather. Several members of the W-S Region have been attending regularly. No judging, no signs, just coffee, doughnuts and sometimes sausage gravy. On Aug. 20 there were about 35 cars in attendance. It's a good time to get the old cars out before the day heats up and share a few stories (some true) with other car guys and gals. Many of the cars are modified but a good turnout of original and restored cars show up as well. The event will continue in Sept. and Oct. so there is still time to attend this year.



Jack Drago brought his beautiful '56 Ford Victoria.

Scott Gegory drove Jim Gregory's '65 El Camino



This Studebaker Champion sported a well-disguised Chevy small block and some interesting plumbing

When was the last time you saw a Whizzer at a cruise in?





## Waynesboro-Staunton Region AACA Augusta County Fair Vehicle Display

Our Region put on a vehicle display as part of the Augusta County Fair on Friday, August 5, 2016. We had 34 cars and trucks (30 from W-S Region and 4 from the Corvair Club). Bob Ridle coordinated the event with Fair officials and reports that the Fair will consider making this an annual event based on the great response this year. We filled the Multi-purpose building at Augusta Expo, thanks to Jack Drago who handled parking and Rebecca Perrin for handing out windshield placards.



Region members manned the info. table at the entrance to welcome guests.



The milk jug in front of each vehicle (shown here in front of Bob Ridle's Bullethead) were for contributions from spectators to vote for their favorite vehicle.



Nelson Driver's 1930 Ford AA Oil Tanker was parked outside the MP Building to attract visitors to our display.



Jimmy Kilbourne displayed his 1943 Willys Jeep.



Duane and Rebecca Perrin's 1913 Overland attracted a lot of admirers.



Alan White from the Corvair Club brought this beautiful and rare 1962 Corvair Rampside.



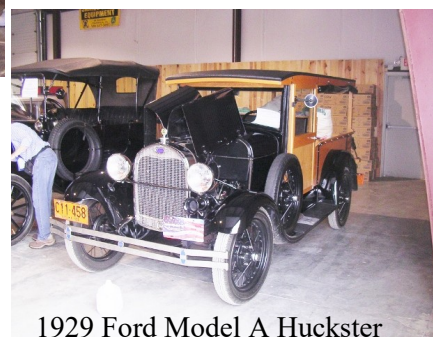
Trophy winners selected by Fair visitors were: 3rd-Mike and Sharon Endres for their 1927 Chevrolet 1-Ton truck, 2nd-Robbie Gray for his 1929 Ford Model A Huckster, and 1st-Jim Gregory (represented by Scott Gregory) for his 1933 Franklin.



1927 Chevrolet 1-Ton



Mike Endres includes a tool display with his Chevy truck.



1929 Ford Model A Huckster



1933 Franklin



### August 14 Annual Picnic with Tri-County Region at Grand Caverns Park in Grottoes

Our August meeting was our joint picnic with Tri-County Region. Temperatures in the mid 90's caused many members to come out in moderns with AC but some hearty souls brought their antiques. As usual, there was plenty of chicken, salads, fruit and all the fixings for the 58 members and guests to enjoy. Did I mention desserts? Choices included cakes, pies, brownies and cookies, so nobody went home hungry. The weather stayed dry until we adjourned but some of us got wet on the way home.



W-S Region VP Alfred Meyer was busy selling 50/50 tickets.



Doris Stone would be disappointed if I didn't get a picture of her filling her plate!



The gang enjoying the food and fellowship.



Tri-County is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and brought a special cake for us to enjoy.



Tri-County President Mike Yankey cuts the cake.



Our members preparing for the short business meeting.

Webmaster Bob Ridle got some pictures of a few of the old cars present.





## Calendar of AACA Events and *Community Car Events*

- SEPT.**    **10**    **Saturday, Car Tour to the Somerset Steam & Gas Pasture Party.** Jim Gregory will lead the W-S Region caravan departing [Willow Oak Plaza](#) in Waynesboro promptly at 9:30 AM. Display your antique vehicle and you'll be admitted free!
- 11-16    Revival [AAA Glidden Tour](#), North Conway, NH. Hosted by [VMCCA](#).
- 17    *Saturday, Cars & Coffee, 8 AM – 10 AM, Waynesboro Free Methodist Church Parking lot, [600 Hopeman Prkwy.](#)*
- 25**    **Sunday, 1 PM, Annual Steak Fry & Auction at [Coyner Springs Park, 2091 Lyndhurst Rd.](#), Waynesboro. Steaks, Hot Dogs, plates, cup, utensils, ice & drinks provided. Bring a dish to share, a lawn chair, an item or two to donate to the auction and your checkbook!**
- 
- OCT.**    5-8    [AACA](#) Eastern Fall Meet, Hershey, PA. Hosted by [Hershey Region](#).
- 9    *Annual Bradfield Car Show & Picnic, 12:30 PM at the Bradfield Home, [9219 Centerville Rd.](#), Bridgewater. Meal at 1:30 PM – Bring a dish to share. Paper goods & utensils provided. RSVP 540-828-2907 or [nansgram@aol.com](mailto:nansgram@aol.com)*
- 15    *Saturday, Cars & Coffee, 8 AM – 10 AM, Waynesboro Free Methodist Church Parking lot, [600 Hopeman Prkwy.](#)*
- 16**    **Sunday, 2 PM, Business Meeting at the [Wood Grill, 1711 Reservoir St.](#), Harrisonburg. Program – “Cars I’ve Enjoyed” – Duane Perrin.**
- 20-22    [AACA](#) Central Fall Meet, Galveston, TX. Hosted by [Gulf Coast Region](#).
- 22**    **Saturday, Dynamic Aviation Flyover & Car Show, Bridgewater. Details – TBD**
- 
- NOV.**    5-11    [AACA](#) Reliability Tour, Savannah, GA. Hosted by [Savannah Region AACA](#) & Low Country Region [HCCA](#).
- 20**    **Sunday, 2 PM, Business Meeting & Election of Officers at [Mrs. Rowes, 74 Rowe Road](#), Staunton—Annual Show & Tell meeting.**

**Tri-County Region Meetings**  
 Dates vary - Check their website  
<http://tri-county-aaca.org/>

**Piedmont Region Meetings** are the  
 4th Monday at the Doubletree Hotel  
 on Route 29 North in Charlottesville  
 at 7PM

## ***Tire Tracks***

The official monthly publication of the  
Waynesboro-Staunton Region of the  
Antique Automobile Club of America

### **2016 Executive Board**

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Scott Gregory (727-542-9723  
Class of 2018

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Doris Stone (540)-289-5520  
Past President

### **From the Editor's Desk**

Please submit any articles, pictures, or ideas for publication to me at the following:

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### **Aug. 14 Waynesboro-Staunton Region Meeting Minutes**

The Waynesboro-Staunton Region of the AACA held it August 2016 meeting at Grand Caverns with Tri-County Region for its annual picnic on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. After the blessing was asked by Nelson Driver those present enjoyed a picnic lunch. Following lunch, President Ken Farley welcomed the 58 members and guests and then proceeded with the meeting.

The sunshine report was given by the members stating Bill Kerr was home after a stay at UVA with heart problems, Owen and Dolly Harner were both at home, and Alfred Meyer was going to have hip surgery.

The secretary's report was printed in the Tire Tracks and was approved as printed.

Treasurer Jack Drago gave the treasurer's report and it was approved.

Ken stated we have received a thank you note from Tinkling Springs Church and correspondence from MDIR about car show dates and The Inn at Indian Creek.

The Vice President Alfred Meyer gave the activities as follows;

Sept 25<sup>th</sup> meeting will be annual steak fry and auction at Coyner Springs .

Sept 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> Summerset Pasture Party. Sat a tour to Summerset leaving Willow Oaks Shopping Center in Waynesboro at 9:30 am.

Bob Ridle gave the report on the show at Expo. (see pictures on the website) We had 34 cars and trucks at the show. He stated that Expo may make this an annual event.

Larry Huffman stated that Tri-County would be hosting the 2018 ODMA in probably in May and would like help from our Region.

Scott Gregory stated that 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month the Methodist Church on Hopeman Parkway hosts a breakfast and car show.

The 50/50 was won by Stu Allen of \$29.

Respectfully submitted

Robbie Gray, Sec.



### **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Calvin Campbell

Pauline Campbell

Rena Caricofe

Peggy DeVore

Carol Downs

Joyce McIninch

Dianne Pennington

Pam Potter

Robert Ridle

Ann Ridle

Marilyn Rimel

Todd Smith

Michael Embres

Vince Ennis

Roller Shipplett

Dallas Wyant

### **LOST & FOUND**

At our August 14 picnic:

- ◆ Plastic handled cake knife
- ◆ Pink & white kitchen towel
- ◆ Lawn chair in a bag

Contact Stu Allen to arrange return.





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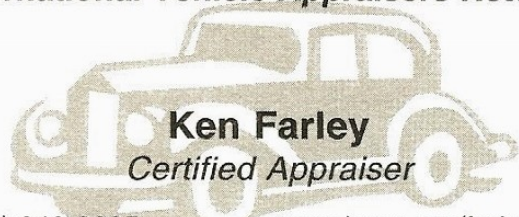
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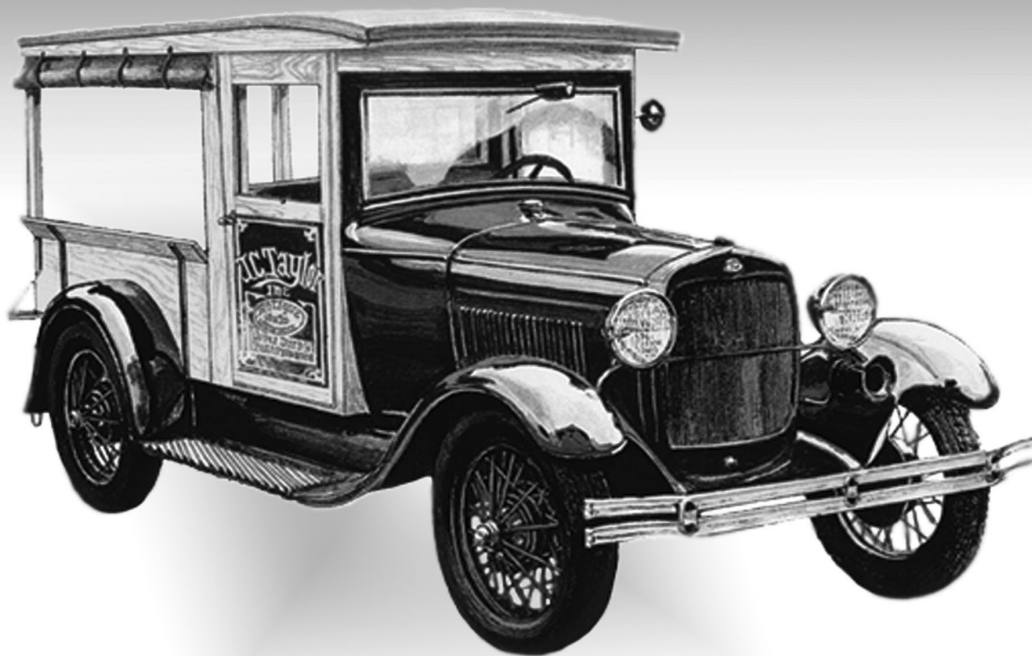
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