

# THE WESTERN ROUND-UP



May 2011

Driving for fun since 1950

## April Monthly Meeting Presentation

### License Plate Collections Spin Lore



Chuck Speicher shows a 1915 Pennsylvania license plate.



Bill Maurer's 1917 truck plate coated with original 1917 dirt.

Who'd ever have known that in the early days of USA motoring drivers had to have a license plate in their possession for each state they drove through? Chuck Speicher and Bill Maurer knew. At the WPR April meeting they shared that interesting piece of information and many others as part of their mini presentation on license plate lore.

The fun, interactive presentation got rolling when Chuck handed out two antique auto horns to members in the audience, who were instructed to give a toot should anyone nod off during the presentation. No one nodded off. In fact, audience participation was excellent. Through interactive questions we found out that the earliest license plate purchase made by a member of the audience was Pete Orazio's in 1936.

"Our story starts in the penitentiary," said Chuck as if to begin a 1930s gangster film narrative, "License plates were manufactured in prisons." He then walked the audience through an original 1930s newspaper article on how the plates were made.

Bill Maurer showed some excellent examples of early porcelaine license plates from his collection including a truck plate from 1917 with original 1917 road dirt still coating the back. Bill even had an early "vanity plate" which was made in a prison via political pull for a wealthy PA oil man. The plate simply read "OIL".

"Truck plates are hard to find," said Chuck. "Many old plates ended up patching a shed down on the farm."

Lee Speicher graciously assisted Chuck and Bill as they showed interesting pieces from their collections. Afterwards members were invited to come up and examine an array of plates and accessories. Thanks Chuck, Lee and Bill for pulling together a terrific presentation!

If you would like to make an antique auto related presentation at a future monthly meeting please contact Chuck Speicher or Mark Jackson.

## Members Enjoy Elegant Spring Tea

The Victorian Lady of Academy Hill Tea Parlor and Gift Shop on North Main Street in Greensburg was the destination for a special Spring Tea Tour of the Academy Hill Historic District. WPR members attending delighted in the pleasures of an English afternoon "high tea" which featured a fresh fruit cup glazed with special lime sauce, English scones, sugared grapes, tasty tea sandwiches, gourmet cookies and a wonderful variety of flavorful, steeped teas. The warm and rich Victorian decor and friendly atmosphere inspired lively conversations, which is what an English "high tea" is suppose to do. Restored by Jeff and Carol Kornides, the Victorian Lady was originally built in 1885. WPR members received a guide to Greensburg's Academy Hill Historic District and could take an optional self-guided driving tour through the neighborhood.



Hostess Carol Kornides begins the tea by serving a special fruit cup.



## 2011 Officers

Harvey Eger, *President*

1005 Sleepy Hollow Road, Jeannette, PA 15644  
724-523-2399

John Ross Kuhns, *Vice President*

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Craig DeFloria, *Treasurer*

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Mark Jackson, *Secretary*

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724-832-9074

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Chuck Speicher, *Publicity Director*

4558 Ridgeview Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601  
724-837-3701

## Membership

Western Pennsylvania Region dues are \$10.00 until March 1, 2011 for individual membership and are \$12.00 after that date.

Joint membership dues are \$15.00 until March 1, 2011 and are \$17.00 after that date.

Student membership dues are \$5.00.

AACA National Rules dictate that you must be a member of the AACA National Club in order to join a region. Please display your current AACA National Membership Card when you pay your Western Pennsylvania Region dues.

Dues may be paid at the monthly meeting or by mail. If by mail, send your check along with your AACA National Membership Card to:

Craig DeFloria, Treasurer  
164 Millersdale Road  
Greensburg, PA 15601

Your card will be stamped and mailed back to you.

# CALENDAR

**Western PA Region AACA Monthly Meetings** are held at the American Legion Post 982, Latrobe, PA (Pipetown). Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month except December and January beginning at 7:30 p.m. **2011 Meetings:** May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, and November 15.

## Local Cruises and Shows

### Norwin Hills Car Cruise

Norwin Hills Shopping Center, Route 30 starting at 5:30 PM. Every Saturday from now until the snow flies.

### Belle Vernon, PA Car Cruise

May 22, Brunswick 51 Lanes, Route 51 South, Belle Vernon Show cars, trucks, motorcycles, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### West Overton Car Show

May 22, First time at historic West Overton Village, 427 Frick Avenue, Scottsdale, PA, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Tarentum, PA Ultimate Car Cruise

May 25, Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills, 357 Pittsburgh Mills Mall Circle, Tarentum, PA, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

### Rollin Oldies 21st Annual Car Show

May 29, New Stanton Park, Thermo Village Road, New Stanton, PA, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### 39th Annual Antique Auto Show

June 5, Mars Area Middle School, Route 228 and Three Degree Road, Mars, PA 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 13 classes. Trophies for each class.

### 11th Annual Trinity Lutheran Church Car Hop

June 5, Trinity Lutheran Church, 331 Weldon St. Latrobe, PA 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Cars and motorcycles, great food and music

### Crusin Concert

June 12, Legion Keener Park, Latrobe  
Noon to 4 p.m. Live music. Food and beverage available.

### Saint Bruno Festival Car Cruise

June 17, Saint Bruno Church, Reamer Avenue, South Greensburg, PA 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Live oldies band, games, food.

### Scottdale VFD Car Show & Burger Bash

June 24, Scottdale Firemans Club, 405 Porter Ave., Scottdale, PA, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

**60th Annual Antique Car Show and Parade** week of July 5-8, Idlewild Park, more details to follow.

### Weatherwood Manor Cruise

Weatherwood Senior Community, 896 Weatherwood Lane, Greensburg, Wednesday, August 10th, 6-8 p.m.

## AACA Tours and Shows

### Special Vintage Tour (pre-1938)

July 24 - 29, Susquehannock Region, N. Central PA - Lower NY 570-368-2570

### 16th Annual AACA Museum Car Show and Flea Market

Saturday, June 25, 2011 starting at 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.,  
161 Museum Drive, Hershey, PA



# Hey, Let's Go!

We've got some fun stuff coming soon for 2011...



## Downtown Indiana Car Cruise

**Saturday, June 18**

3 - 7 PM

Philadelphia Street, Indiana, PA  
\$5.00, spectators free

Sponsored by the Punxutawney Region  
AACA and the Indiana Lions Club.

Dash plaques and goodie bags to the first 175 cars. Featuring Jerry B. and the Goodtime Oldies Show.

Let's get together and take a scenic back roads drive to downtown Indiana for this show. Sign up at the May meeting or contact Mark Jackson 724-832-9074 email: [rpmguy2002@yahoo.com](mailto:rpmguy2002@yahoo.com)



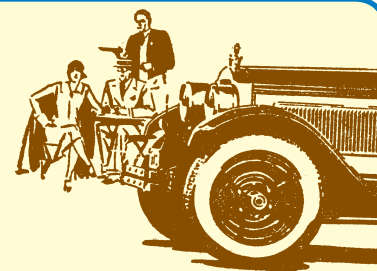
## 29th Annual Classic Auto Show & Cruise In Dublin, Ohio

**Friday, July 8  
& Saturday, July 9**

Benefits the Arthritis Foundation  
of Central Ohio

Attracts over 1,500 cars from over 20 states. Live oldies concerts with the Van Dels and Phil Dirt and the Dozers. Vendors, food, awards featured marquees and fun.

The Western PA Region has four reserved rooms remaining at the Hilton Garden Inn which is located right in the middle of the action. Rooms have a single king size bed. Contact Mark Jackson 724-832-9074 email: [rpmguy2002@yahoo.com](mailto:rpmguy2002@yahoo.com) For more information on this event visit [www.arthritisautoshow.com](http://www.arthritisautoshow.com).



## Western PA Region Progressive Dinner Tour

**Coming in July**

Date to be announced.

Follow a tour route stopping at the homes of WPR members or other locations to enjoy the elements of a progressive dinner one stop at a time...appetizer...salad...entre...dessert...Three members have volunteered to host dining stops. We need one or two more hosts. The Region provides funding for food purchases. Contact Mark Jackson 724-832-9074 or [rpmguy2002@yahoo.com](mailto:rpmguy2002@yahoo.com)

## Western PA Region Golf Outing

In the planning stages. An interest sign up sheet will be passed at the May meeting or contact Mark Jackson 724-832-9074 or [rpmguy2002@yahoo.com](mailto:rpmguy2002@yahoo.com)



## Das Awkscht Fescht Macungie Memorial Park Macungie, PA

(near Allentown)

**August 5, 6 & 7**

One of the largest antique and classic car shows in the U.S. Over 2,000 cars, flea market with over 600 vendors, 120 + arts & crafts vendors, kids shows & activities, live music, fireworks, food & fun. Contact Harvey Eger for accommodations information.



## Western PA Region Annual Picnic

**Sunday, July 24**

Cooperstown Club,  
Latrobe

Pig roast, corn on the cob & other great food. Members are asked to bring a dessert. Registration sheet will be in the June Round-Up



## Member News

We received word that past WPR member Joseph J. Schwerha, M.D. of Valencia, Washington County passed away on April 27th. He and his wife Dorothy were members for many years.

WPR student member Trudy Jackson graduated with honors from the University of Pittsburgh, Oakland on May 1st.

If anyone knows of a club member who needs a greeting card, have them call or e-mail Lee Speicher.

If you have any member news please contact Mark Jackson 724-832-9074 or [rpmguy2002@yahoo.com](mailto:rpmguy2002@yahoo.com)



# Minutes of the April 19, 2011 Meeting

A meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America was held April 19, 2011 at the American Legion Post 982 (Pipetown) Hall, Latrobe, PA, commencing at approximately 7:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Harvey Eger followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were 61 members in attendance and one guest, Bernie Summit.

## Minutes of the March 15, 2011 Meeting

The minutes of the March 15, 2011 meeting were printed in the April *Round-Up*. President Eger asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, the President called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Upon motion of Ron Underwood, seconded by Al Wirick and unanimously carried, the minutes of the March 15, 2011 meeting were approved.

## Treasurers Report

Craig DeFloria presented the Treasurers Report. A motion to accept the report as presented was made by Howard Finney, seconded by Dominic Surace, and unanimously carried. The Treasurers Report was approved.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Membership - *Howard Finney*

A new membership reading was given for Bernie Summit. A motion to accept Bernie as a new member was made by Dominic Surace, seconded by Mark DeFloria and unanimously approved.

### 2010 Founders Tour - *Howard Finney*

Howard read a letter from AACA National Executive Director Steve Moskowitz which gratefully acknowledged receiving of a check from the Western PA Region for the 2010 Founders Tour. Steve also mentioned that comments from Howard prompted a new procedure at the AACA National Office which now acknowledges receipts from meets and tours.

### 2011 Dues and Membership

The Western PA Region Board of Directors implemented a change in the way annual Region dues will be collected. Dues will be collected by the membership committee starting in October. Anything relating to membership will be handled by the membership committee.

President Eger told members that Donna Surace had copies of the 2011 Western PA Region Membership Roster available tonight for anyone who did not get one.

### Rev-Up Party - *Donna Surace*

Donna reported that 65 fun-loving people attended the Rev-Up Party on March 26 to help make it a great success. The event was subsidized by the Region. Cost was \$28.91 per person. Members were charged \$5.00 each to attend.

### Letter of Thanks

The Region received a letter of thanks from Dean, Dennis and Diane Barron for the donation to the AACA Library in honor of Maxine Barron.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Western PA Region Committees - *President Harvey Eger*

Harvey informed all present that committee chair appointments have been made, and invited members to serve on a committee. Any questions pertaining to a matter being handled by a committee should be directed to that committee.

#### *WPR Committee Chair Appointments:*

Car Show - Harvey Eger

Car Show Judging - Howard Finney, *Chief Judge;*

John Kuhns, *Technical & Safety*

Chance Car - Debbie and David Sheetz

Events - John Ross Kuhns

Hospitality - Debbie Sheetz

Membership - Howard Finney

Programs - Chuck Speicher and Mark Jackson

Tours - Mark Jackson

### 2011 Chance Car - *Debbie and Dave Sheetz*

Chance Car tickets are selling. There are Western PA Region membership applications in the Chance Car. The WPR website is also printed on the ticket. Members are invited to contact Debbie and Dave Sheetz to schedule taking the Chance Car out to sell tickets at an event, etc.

Al Wirick said that the color stickers featuring photos of the 2011 Chance Car have been a good selling tool.

### Tours - *Mark Jackson*

#### Spring Tea:

There will be a Spring Tea Tour at the elegant Victorian Lady of Academy Hill Tea Parlor, North Main Street in Greensburg on Saturday, May 14th. A registration flyer is in the April *Round-Up*. This will be an English "Afternoon Tea". Cost is \$22.00 per person, which includes tax and gratuity. The WPR Board has agreed to subsidize the cost for members who have sold 5 or more Chance Car tickets. The ticket sellers discount rate is \$5.00 per person. There is a limit of 50 people for this event. Depending on response two sessions may be needed. The first is scheduled to begin at noon. Members are also

invited to explore the Academy Hill Historic District via a self-driving tour. The nearby Westmoreland Museum of American Art will also be open.

**Apple Blossom Meet, Winchester, Virginia - Harvey Eger**  
Held by the local AACA Region May 6 & 7. Some reserved rooms are still available. Hope to leave and travel as a group.

**Dublin, Ohio Arthritis Foundation  
Classic Auto Show and Cruise-In**

July 8 & 9. There are four reserved rooms left at the Hilton Garden Inn, which is central to this fabulous event. The rooms have single king size beds. Special event rate is \$105. per night. Contact Mark Jackson.

**Daws Awkscht Fescht, Macungie, PA**

One of the country's largest antique and classic car shows, August 5, 6 & 7, Macungie, PA (Lehigh County near Allentown). Reserved rooms are available. Contact Harvey Eger.

**Progressive Dinner Tour**

We are planning a Progressive Dinner Tour, which may be scheduled in July. This tour will follow a route based on dining stops hosted by a WPR member at either their home or some other destination (park, community center, etc.) Will limit to four stops. The Region will provide money to pay for food for each member who hosts a dining stop (approximately \$250. budget per stop). A few members have already agreed to host a stop. We need a few more to volunteer. Contact Mark Jackson.

**WPR Apparel Point System**

WPR members can now earn WPR apparel points when they sell 2011 Chance Car tickets. Members will receive one apparel point worth one dollar for each ticket sold, up to 90 tickets per member. 2011 points can then be used towards purchase of WPR apparel (jackets, shirts, hats, etc) in 2012.

Dick McKelvey is in charge of WPR apparel.

**Presentations - Chuck Speicher**

Upcoming mini-presentations include: May - Preparing to Paint Your Classic Car with Joe Purrierg, 3M Auto Finishes and Abrasive Representative; June - Tires for Your Classic Car; later this year - A History of the Packard Motor Company.

**WPR Contribution & Scholarship**

The WPR Board of Directors approved a \$500 contribution to Westmoreland Cleanways, a grass roots organization dedicated to keeping our local roadways and waterways clean. Since 1991, Westmoreland Cleanways has been conducting and organizing roadside cleanups to remove unsightly and dangerous litter with it's road adoption program. Over 70 roads in Westmoreland County have now been adopted by various volunteer groups. The organization also works to remove hazardous, illegal dumps; conducts recycling programs for tires, batteries, and household hazardous wastes; offers educational programs on composting, reuse, and practicing cleaner ways to respect the local resources we all share.

Scholarship - The WPR Board is looking for scholarship candidates.

**Taxes**

Eric Bononi will be working on tax exemption filing for the Region by May 15, 2011.

**Harvey Eger - Candidate for AACA National Board**

WPR President Harvey Eger announced that he would be on the ballot for the 2012 AACA National Board of Directors. WPR members present congratulated him with applause.

**Region Golf Outing**

Duane Anderson suggested that the WPR plan a nine hole golf outing event. A sign up sheet could be passed around at the May meeting.

**Mini Program - License Plates**

Chuck Speicher assisted by Lee Speicher and Bill Maurer gave a fun and fascinating presentation on the history of license plates. They showed many fine examples from their collections and encouraged audience participation.

**50/50**

The winner of the 50/50 was Bob Inhoff who won \$59. The bonus winner was Nancy Vrable, who won \$58.

**Adjournment**

President Eger asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Howard Finney, seconded by Jack Wolfe and approved unanimously.

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## Name That Car!

by Mark Jackson



Ed and Nancy Vrable were the first to contact me with the correct identification of March's car - a 1953 Packard 300 Convertible. Congratulations Ed and Nancy. Enjoy the thumb print cookies.



Can you name the year, make and model of May's car? Be the first to contact me in person, emailing [rpmguy2002@yahoo.com](mailto:rpmguy2002@yahoo.com) or calling 724-832-9074 and win a box of chocolate chunk cookies.



# Looking Back...An Italian Oldsmobile

by F. L. Nicholls



Fred Nicholls

For this story, I must write about the background. In 2005 I was in a Pittsburgh hospital following heart surgery. I was eventually transferred to a semi-private nursing unit. The other patient was a man who had a similar operation. We soon started talking and I found out that he was also from Indiana, but I did not know his family. I was home several weeks when he and his wife stopped by to see how I was doing, and when they left they invited us to their home, where we were received with their traditional Italian hospitality. They were so gracious, and we felt very comfortable. We became friends and visited often, and I learned of his family background.

His father and uncle came to America following World War I. Within years they became successful businessmen; his uncle owned a bar and his father a small coal mine, which he sold and bought a bar and restaurant. That restaurant soon became a nightclub. This is where the story starts.

In 1948, his father and uncle bought a new Oldsmobile Club Sedan from the local Oldsmobile dealer. They wanted a four door sedan, but had to take a sedanette 98 series. It was black, radio and heater plus white sidewall tires.

At a local body shop owned by a relative, the door panels were removed and the tube from the spare tire was slit. Packs of cigarettes were packed in the doors and the tube. The door

panels were then replaced, and the tube patched and replaced in the spare. A new tube was purchased and placed in the trunk if by chance they had a flat. The two brothers and my friend, who was 13 years old at the time, then drove to New York.

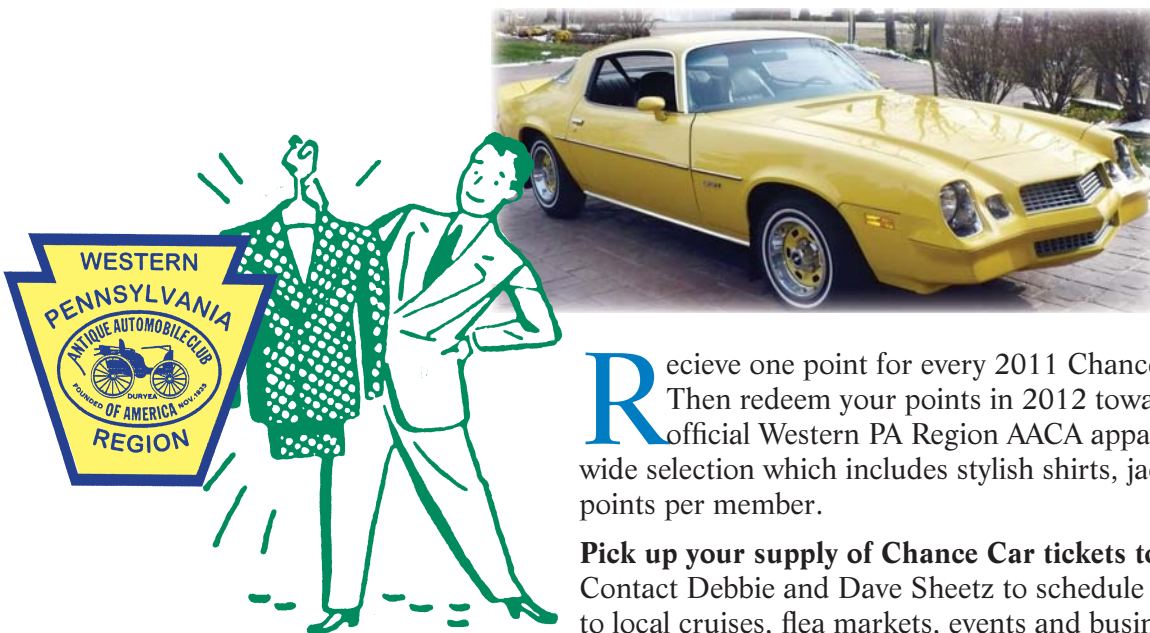
There the Oldsmobile was loaded on the ship and they sailed for Marseille, France. When they arrived they were met by another brother, who following World War I had married a French girl, and now owned a large vineyard. When they stopped at a hotel, the brother who now spoke French slept in the car to prevent theft. Arriving at their hometown in Italy, they were met by their oldest brother, who still lived there and owned the local garage. The door panels were removed and the tube cut. The cigarettes were removed, door panels replaced, and the new tube put back in the spare.

They visited for a week, and the car was purchased by a local businessman. They returned to their point of entry by bus and train, and sailed for home.

Note: The disposition of the cigarettes was never mentioned. When I docked in Naples, Italy in 1945 and went ashore you were allowed one pack. I didn't smoke, but still took a pack. I was on a converted aircraft carrier to bring back troops. We returned 700 Italian POW, and brought home 6,424 troops. On our second trip we took 2,000 GIs over as occupational troops, and returned with 6,724 happy GIs.

I believe that this story is true. The 1948 Club Sedan sold new for \$2,078.

## Sell Chance Car Tickets. Earn Points for Apparel!



Receive one point for every 2011 Chance Car ticket you sell. Then redeem your points in 2012 towards the purchase of official Western PA Region AACA apparel. Choose from a wide selection which includes stylish shirts, jackets and hats. Limit 90 points per member.

**Pick up your supply of Chance Car tickets today.**

Contact Debbie and Dave Sheetz to schedule taking the Chance Car to local cruises, flea markets, events and businesses to sell tickets. Then get yourself some snappy, new threads!

## Western Round-Up Classifieds

Automobile related ads in the *Western Round-Up* are free of charge for Western PA Region AACA members.

To place an ad contact Mark Jackson, Editor at [rpmguy2002@yahoo.com](mailto:rpmguy2002@yahoo.com) or call Mark at 724-832-9074.

### FOR SALE



**1968 Olds Cutlass 'S' Coupe** Was a father/son project. Son away in Army. Father lost interest. A good start for someone wanting a project car. Has a 389 pontiac engine, 400 auto, P/windows, Buckets, Console. Olds service manual, history report & many new uninstalled parts. \$2,500.00 OBO- MUST GO!  
Al or Sally Findley. 724-593-2152.



**1969 Corvette Coupe** Original/excellent condition, All numbers match. Automatic - side pipes, Gold/saddle  
Call Lou: 724-834-6813

**2006 BMW Scooter** \$5,000

**1928 Model A Ford Roadster Pick Up**

Janet Bloom: 724-676-4791

**5 Tires, L-78 x 15 Wide Whitewall** 3 inches.  
\$100. Ron Underwood, 412-341-7812  
Cell 412-303-4927

**Corvette Shop Manual 1963 with 1964 Supplement** \$30.

**14" Rally Wheel for 1980 Camaro** NOS black, \$30  
Call Joe Vrable: 724-219-3922

### FOR SALE

**From 1967 Ford Mustang:** four P205/25R14 tires with good tread, mounted on rims and balanced. Hubcaps included, \$400.

**Two flags and spring holder for Model A Ford**  
- New, \$60.

Call Tom at 724-423-4640

### WANT TO BUY

**Old Gas Pump** - Call Tom at 724-423-4640

**White Wall Tires** wide or narrow, four 750 x 14, four 215-75-14, Larry Hood 724-552-3154

**Ford Wheels,** 1932-1935 and 1941-1948  
Call Lou: 724-834-6813



### BACK SEAT DRIVER CARDS

**No. J30.** Cardboard folder which contains a snappy retort to the back seat driver. Keep a few in your car.  
Selling price, 3 for 10c  
Dozen, 10c; Gross, 75c

## THE WESTERN ROUND-UP

*The Western Round-Up* is the official publication of the **Western Pennsylvania Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA)**. It is mailed to all members of the region the week preceding the regular monthly meeting. The meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month excluding December and January.

**All copy to be included in the newsletter must be in the hands of the editor by the first day of each month** in order to be published in that month's edition.

Any items contained herein may be reproduced if proper credit is given. All articles submitted for publication may be edited for length, grammar, accuracy and composition and will be used solely at the discretion of the editor and the club officials. Please advise the editor of any and all needed corrections.

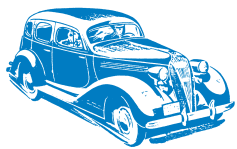
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**Special thanks to these members for contributing their time and talent to this issue:**

Barbara Erny, Howard Finney, Fred Nicholls, Chuck Speicher



Western Pennsylvania Region  
Antique Automobile Club of America  
P.O. Box 882  
Latrobe, PA 15650



*Come enjoy the "Greatest  
Hobby in the World!"*



### **TIMERS FOR MODEL T FORD**

**No. H112-RH.** Simple in design, yet absolutely dependable and fool proof. Constructed of the very best materials. Ring is made of special seasoned bone dry fibre, carefully turned and fitted in case. Steel segments perfectly fitted in the fibre ring. Perfect contact assured. Standard type rotor. Double type roller construction properly hardened means long life. Are built to give constant and hard service, which every Ford driver appreciates.

**Selling price, 49c**

**Sample, 26c; Dozen, \$2.95**

## *Perfect Timing!*

**S**pring is here. Summer's coming - time to get up and go. See page 3 for fun tours and events! Plan on making a trip out to Dublin, Ohio in July and Macungie Memorial Park near Allentown, PA in August. We're talking thousands of antique, classic and special interest cars here, along with vendor markets, live music, great food, fun, fireworks, etc. There is also plenty of fun close to home. Check out the Western PA Region website and its links to car show events in our area. Visit <http://local.aaca.org/westernpa/>