

THE WESTERN ROUND-UP



December 2020

Promoting the Preservation & Enjoyment
of Antique Automobiles Since 1950.



Finishing the Dream

A 1941 Chevy Pickup Truck's Story
pages 4-8





2020 Western PA Region AACCA Directors

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for further information see the 2020
Western PA Region Roster, which is
available on the Region's website.

Membership Information

Do you like old cars? We at the Western PA Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America are excited to share our fun and exciting activities, events and resources.

You don't have to own an antique automobile to become a member, However, you must first join our national club, The Antique Automobile Club of America (AACCA) before joining our Region. For national membership information and to join online visit: www.aaca.org AACCA is the largest and oldest antique automobile club in the world and offers a wide variety of resources, and activities. All national members also receive the beautiful *Antique Automobile Magazine*.

For a Western PA Region AACCA new membership application visit: http://westernparegion.org/membership/wpr_application.html

New members must attend a Western PA Region monthly meeting to be voted in and welcomed. Our monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month except December and January. We are a Latrobe-based club.

Upon receipt of your membership application, our Membership Chairman will contact you to schedule a convenient monthly meeting for you to attend. Our monthly meetings take place at several venues in the Latrobe and Greensburg, PA area.

To learn more about our club and activities visit our website: www.westernparegion.org

Please also feel free to contact any of the directors above with questions about memberships.



Western PA Region AACCA apparel can be ordered at



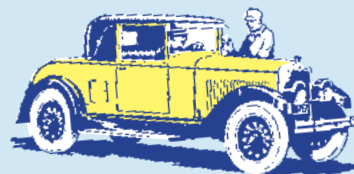
t-shirts, polos, hoodies,
jackets & more

2004 Lincoln Place
Route 30 West
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Hours: M-F 9:00am-6:00pm,
Sat 11:00am-3:00pm
Sun Closed
P: (724) 853-3764
greensburg@bigfrog.com

Direct to garment printing or embroidery

The Region logo is on file. Just ask for the Western PA Region AACCA logo or ask them to look under the name "Mark Jackson" for the logo. Printed shirts can be ready in 24 hours. Embroidered apparel takes longer.

You can furnish your own garments or purchase them there. If furnishing your own shirt or garment ask them if it will embroider or print well. Some fabrics do not.



Member News

Sending prayers and wishes for a speedy and strong recovery to Bettyann Finney who fell in early December and fractured two vertebrae.



We Are Still Here

Hello all.

Well, this year certainly hasn't turned out how we would have liked or expected. With the efforts of members like Carl Erb we have had some tours that were awesome. We had our summer picnic/meeting and another get-together on the date that was to be our car show. Members brought out their cars and we had a great time with music provided by John Harvey and also a pretty cool trivia game. Everyone had blast!!

We all should give a big thanks to Mark Jackson and the people that contribute articles to the newsletter. This really keeps the membership informed and up to date on what's going on with the club. This in my opinion is such very vital lifeline for our club. I know we still get emails and calls from members letting us know what's going on in their lives. Also, Mark DeFloria deserves thanks for keeping the club's website up and running.

Communication is vital in keeping us moving forward. I know many of you are wondering about our annual meeting. I will be getting the board together and we will decide what and how we will handle this issue. For now, hold tight and we will figure something out.

Going into 2021 maybe a little different and slow, but we will get there. Our main concern is the club members and their safety thru all of this. I know sometimes it's easy to forget we have a club but we are here and not going anywhere.

In closing I want to wish everyone and their families a SAFE and happy holiday season. Keep everyone in the club in your prayers. God bless you all.

Sincerely,
Your Western PA Region President
Bob Doppelheuer

UPDATES

2021 Annual Meeting

Due to the current COVID-19 virus spike and related restaurant and facility restrictions our 2021 Annual Meeting has yet to be scheduled. The region directors will keep you informed of any updates by email, mailed flyers and *The Western Round-Up newsletter*. We are hopeful that we can get together again in the first quarter of 2021, but we will have to wait and see.

2021 Dues

These are difficult times for all of us. Although we have yet to schedule an Annual Meeting, we ask that you please pay your 2021 Western PA Region member dues by January 31, 2021.

Remember that you will need to pay your 2021 AACA National dues first and provide proof of payment to Secretary Mark DeFloria when you submit your 2021 Western PA Region dues.

AACA membership renewal forms were included with your most recent issue of *Antique Automobile Magazine*. You can also renew online.

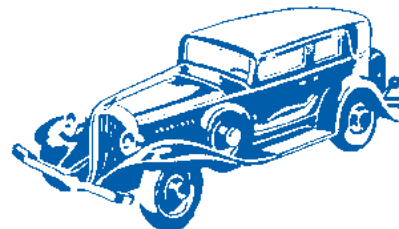
Western PA Region membership renewal forms were included in the printed November *The Western Round-Ups*. Notices were also emailed.

Board of Directors Election

Consider running for the Western PA Region Board of Directors in 2021. Let Secretary Mark DeFloria know if you are interested. Terms are two years. Elections take place at the Annual Meeting - time and place to be determined.

AACA Activities

AACA has a full calendar of activities set for 2021. Visit their website for details and updates. We hope that the pandemic will ease so that we all can enjoy our hobby more fully once again.



Finishing the Dream

A 1941 Chevy Pickup Truck's Story

by Mark Jackson



Four generations of the Vrable Family pay tribute to the late Joe Vrable, Jr. by the 1941 Chevy Pickup Truck resto-rod he envisioned. Left to right: Joe Vrable, Sr., Tammy Vrable holding a photo of Joe Vrable, Jr., Joe Vrable III holding eight-month-old son Barrett Vrable and Joe's fiancée Maggie Sherman.

Western PA Region member Joe Vrable, Jr. had a lifelong passion for old cars, trucks, airplanes and most mechanical things. He eagerly dove into projects with the confidence of knowing he would figure them out somehow. I met Joe at Youngwood Junior High School in 1970. We sat together at lunch and enjoyed talking about old cars, movies and music.

As a young teen, Joe worked part time on the Hillis Farm near his house. Mr. Hillis had an old, rusty Model AA Ford Stakebed truck, which Joe learned to drive through the fields. There were also a number of old abandoned cars and trucks in the woods near the farm including a 47 Chevy, 48 Nash, Model T and a 1941 Chevy pickup truck. When I would visit Joe he would sometimes drive me to the farm in his dad's 1964 Mercury Comet so we could look at the old cars. He had a particular fascination with the old Chevy pickup. Although that particular truck was badly deteriorated, he liked the styling. Joe would often refer to it when we "talked cars" as the type of antique truck he would like to own someday.

Fast forward to the Spring of the year 2000. Joe had become an accomplished mechanic with a special knack for building and servicing engines. He could repair most anything and eventually found employment at Omnova Solutions in Jeannette servicing their complicated vinyl

production equipment. He was happily married to Tammy in 1996. They had recently purchased a house near the village of Marguerite and welcomed their son Joe Vrable III into their family. Around this time, I got a call from Joe to tell me that he finally was able to purchase an antique Chevy pickup truck similar to the one we had seen at the Hillis farm many years ago. It was a 1941 model and sported a snappy two-tone tan and metallic brown paint job. It did not have the original engine, but did have a healthy 1955 Chevy six-cylinder under the hood. The truck needed some work, but it wasn't long until Joe made it into his daily driver. When he drove it to work or to the lumber yard to get supplies for the house he got many thumbs up and honks of approval. Once when he came with the pickup to visit my parent's home in West Point, the neighbors came over to see the old truck sitting in the driveway, and it became quite the conversation piece.

Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensburg use to host a very nice car show. One time Joe and I participated together. He drove the Chevy Pickup and I drove our Ford Conversion Van. We brought our sons along which made the occasion more special. They were at the age where they could really enjoy the show and had fun climbing in and out of Joe's truck and our van.

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Joe's 1941 Chevy Pickup at the Our Lady of Grace Car Show



Joe and Joey landscaping at home with the "daily driver."



(l-r) Regis Jackson and Joey Vrable pretend to go for a spin.



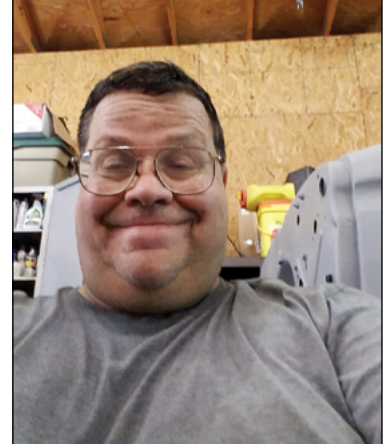
The truck bed being refinished in Joe and Tammy's garage.



Joe's 305 engine and refinished frame ready to go.



A cooling system worthy of a resto-rod



Joe takes a happy "shop selfie".



Joe and Joey prepare the cab to go to the body shop.



Joe's dream finally comes true - the "reveal" after painting and assembly.

The Road Less Traveled By

by Guy Davis



Historic postcard images of Ligonier Beach
along U.S. Route 30, The Lincoln Highway



The association we motorists develop towards familiar landmarks or establishments that we often pass by or frequent along life's journey sometimes evolves into a personal and endearing type of relationship. Many of those sites may have existed long before we were born, were there throughout our youth and during our days of courtship, carried well into our adulthood and even remained with us in our waning years. They often provided us with some of our fondest memories. And if one day we suddenly hear that they are being closed or demolished, that news often leaves us a little breathless, like a sharp punch to the stomach. It is not unlike a close connection one may have to a favorite great aunt or uncle who you loved and respected, and who was always there for family gatherings, birthdays, and holidays, and then one day you receive the news that they are gone. Such can be the emotion one may encounter when a favorite destination no longer exists.

For me, such a place was Ligonier Beach just off of Route 30 in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. As a youngster, I spent many a carefree summer at the well-known swimming pool. The high and low diving boards, giant slide, and the powerful fountain which shot water 20 feet into the mountain sky were just some of the attractions that could be found there. Inside the concession building were pinball machines, tasty food, and some welcome shade from the hot afternoon sun. Brightly painted wide-plank wooden chairs situated at the northeast corner of the pool

afforded a great view of people springing from the diving boards as well as an opportunity to gaze at young ladies parading around in the newest bikini fashions. When the 90 plus year old pool closed just a few years ago, it was like losing a close friend.

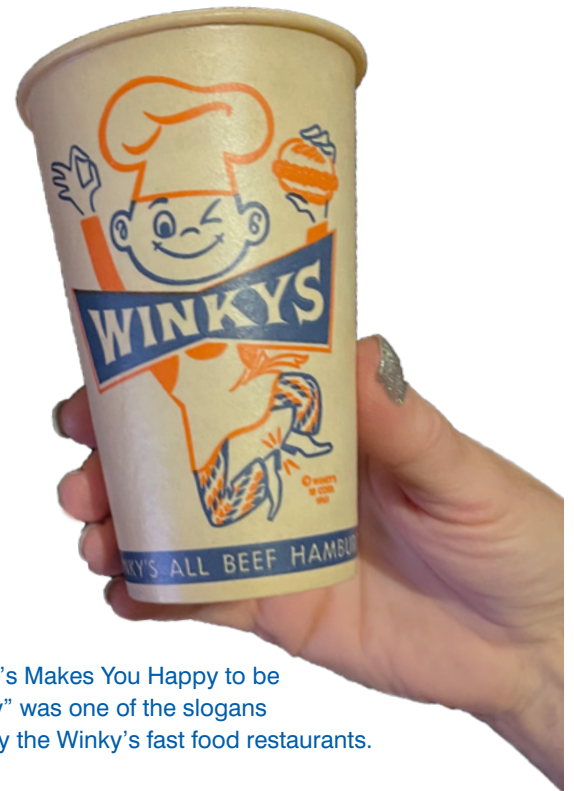
Other local establishments, that are now just a memory, once flourished along Pennsylvania's expanding roadways. Where Route 130 enters the city of Jeannette was Oakford Park Swimming Pool which opened in 1921 and ceased operation in 1990. The Blue Dell Swimming Pool in East McKeesport drew customers from busy Route 30, and just a few miles from Blue Dell, in White Oak, was another swimming pool centered in the quaint amusement park known as Rainbow Gardens. Perhaps one of the most picturesque swimming pools in our region was located on the Mountain View Inn property east of Greensburg where one could take in a panoramic view of scenic Laurel Ridge. Another hotel which boasted an even more impressive view was the Grand Ship Hotel which was a well-known landmark along Route 30 near Bedford. From its upper deck one could view 7 counties and 3 states. How many of us passed by that spot on our way to or from Hershey or Carlisle? Unfortunately, a fire destroyed that memorable landmark in 2001.

During my high school days, I worked at Pete's Curb along Route 30, Greensburg. Pete's was one of the last car hop food services in the county. The young waitresses carried meals to the cars in the parking lot and



A postcard of Mountain View Inn near Greensburg shows the beautiful swimming pool many people enjoyed once upon a time.

placed the food on trays which clipped onto the car's window channel. My job at Pete's was the soda jerk (some people today still consider me some type of jerk) where I prepared ice-cream cones, banana splits, milkshakes and root beer floats. One of my busier days at Pete's occurred when the Pagan motorcycle gang pulled into the parking lot and placed a large order of chocolate and vanilla ice cream. When Pete converted his curbside service to a restaurant lounge business in the mid-1970s, my job was eliminated. Pete's Restaurant & Lounge eventually closed, demolished and replaced with a restaurant known as "The Italian Oven," which itself eventually closed and is now the site of a car dealership. Heading east on Route 30 from Pete's was a large banquet facility known as the Red Rooster. It hosted many special events and star performers over the years. Going further east on Route 30 along the banks of the Loyahanna Creek was the pictur-

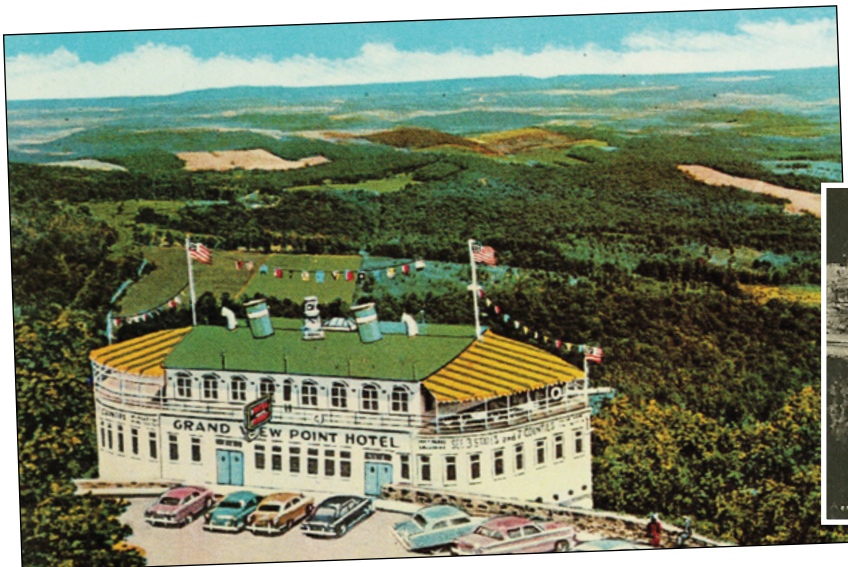


"Winky's Makes You Happy to be Hungry" was one of the slogans used by the Winkys' fast food restaurants.

esque Sleepy Hollow Tavern. Originating in the 1920's, it provided good food and many a happy occasion for guests. An arsonist set fire to the structure in 2008. An investor reconstructed the Tavern several years later, but to date it remains unoccupied. A popular local fast food chain, known as Winkys, had many locations in the tri-state area. The Winkys' Restaurants in Greensburg were located near present day Westmorland Mall and on South Main Street. I recall purchasing 3 hamburgers at the South Main Street location for less than one dollar. A popular advertising phrase for the restaurant chain was, "What, no Winkys in Wilmerding?"

Drive-In Theaters also once dotted the landscape adjacent to busy roadways. In Latrobe, the Hi-Way Drive-In

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The Grand View Point Ship Hotel along U.S. Route 30 near Bedford, PA offered views of seven counties



Joe's 1941 Chevy pickup truck has been a part of his son Joey's life ever since he was a toddler. When the Disney/Pixar movie "Cars" came out, the pickup was lovingly nicknamed "Mater" after the tow truck "Tow Mater" in the movie. Joe would often say to Joey, "Let's go out in the garage and work on Mater."

Joe enjoyed his antique daily driver, but he had a greater vision for it. After about five years he began to plan and work on its transformation into a "resto-rod". He wanted a truck that looked like an antique but with a modern muscle motor and updated safety and convenience features. Joe began acquiring parts one piece at a time – new chrome grill, hubcaps, etc. He built a special muscle motor out of a 305 short block. Although Joe's regular job at Omnova Solutions often required him to work seven days a week, he found time to work on "Mater" as he could with Tammy's loving support. Joe and Tammy eventually added a beautiful new, four-bay garage beside their house, where Joe had plenty of room to work on cars. In addition to working on his resto-rod dream, Joe also repaired many cars for family and friends.

In about ten years, Joe had much of the restoration work done on the pickup. The engine sat ready to drop in. The frame was finished. He also had done much body work to the cab and fenders. However, he and Tammy felt it was time to get some help to finish and paint the truck cab while Joe worked on the other pieces getting them ready for assembly. They took the cab to one body shop hoping for it to be finished within a few months. A few years later the cab still sat in the body shop far from finished. Joe was getting frustrated. When he was diagnosed with cancer the desire to finish his dream truck became all the more urgent. Joe put up a valiant fight with his cancer. But sadly was unable to see his 1941 Chevy Pickup resto-rod finished. He passed away on December 17, 2018. Joe was gone way too soon. All those who knew and loved Joe still miss him immensely. One of his



Joe and Tammy Vrable's grandchildren pose in "Mater"
(l-r) Maddy, Barrett, Hailey, and Paisley.

greatest gifts was the ability to bring people together.

Tammy was determined to do all she could to help Joe's dream come true for the 1941 Chevy Pickup. She had the cab taken out of the one shop, and took it and all the other parts to Tim McDowell at Stars and Stripes Restoration. He was very excited to finish, paint and assemble the truck for her. On May 14, 2020, Joe's birthday, Tammy and son Joey brought "Mater" home. They knew in their hearts that Joe would have been very happy. "Mater" now sports the burgundy and black color combination that Joe discovered on a visit to the Duesenburg Museum in Auburn, Indiana. The engine Joe built runs great. There are still a few little odds and ends that need done, but Joe's dream is alive.

The 1941 Chevy pickup resto-rod now resides in their garage and is a source of pride and accomplishment. When family and friends visit they smile at seeing Joe's dream come true and enjoy the classic styling that Joe admired so much.

The Vrable's hope to eventually show Joe's 1941 Chevy pickup resto-rod at a future Western PA Region Car show in Legion Keener Park, Latrobe, and maintain it for future generations of the family to enjoy. ■

Drive Your Old Car



Spell

W E S T E R N

There's still time to participate in the Spell WESTERN photo contest. Get out your antique or classic car(s.) Take a picture of them by a place with a sign that starts with each letter in the word WESTERN. Then submit the photos to Mark DeFloria by email westernparegion@hotmail.com or as hard copies by U.S. Mail to: Mark DeFloria 123 Fosterville Road, Greensburg, PA 15601.

Mark will then post them on the website in 2021. There will be nice prizes. **Deadline for submission is December 31, 2020.** Thanks to all who have submitted photos so far. There will be some good weather yet. You don't have to go too far to find those letters. It's a way to have some old car fun during the pandemic, while following social distancing and safe practices.



Win Prizes!

It's Not the Cars, It's the Memories



By Fred Trusty
Vice President - Membership



At age 14, I got a copy of the Kentucky Drivers Manual. I read it front to back several times and memorized all the stopping distances and other important facts. If only I had that much enthusiasm for my school work. On Sunday mornings I would get up and be ready for church long before it was time to leave. My mother would let me back her 1967 Oldsmobile Delmont 88 out of the garage about 10 – 15 minutes before it was time to leave. I would drive it the 200 feet or so down the driveway but I wasn't allowed to go into the street (or at least I didn't get caught) so I would go in reverse all the way back to the garage. Everyone told me that parallel parking was the hardest part of the driving test so I put chalk markings on the asphalt in front of the garage to simulate parking spaces so I could practice parallel parking. A couple of days after my 16th birthday I took the written test and easily passed. Then a couple of months later I took the driving test and after 2 years of parallel parking practice, I could parallel park that Olds blindfolded.

I now had a license to drive but no money for insurance, and gas. Having a car meant no more walking to and from school uphill both ways in the snow, or at least that's what my kids say about me. I could be one of the cool kids at school. I could be somebody. Oh, and let's not forget the biggest motivating factor; girls. But getting a part time job after school meant quitting football. Hmm?

I started work at the Beechmont Key Market making \$1.60/hour. With some money I had saved from cutting grass and a loan from my father, I paid \$500 for a 1965 Ford Custom. The Custom was basically a Galaxy without all the options and trim but for some reason this one was equipped with factory air, automatic, power steering, power brakes, 352 CI engine, and a 4-barrel carburetor.

Cars invoke memories of our younger days. Have you ever noticed that when some people talk about their cars they have a gleam in their eyes? "I had one just like this in high school" or "The first date with my wife was in a car like this?" What are your memories?

I might not have a '65 Ford Custom anymore but I still have the memories. Now think of young people today. 20 years from now when they see a car on the show field, are they going to say, "Wow, my first car was a '95 Toyota Corolla. I drove it in high school during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic." If you see a 90's car on the show field, don't think of it as just a used car. To someone younger, someday it might bring back fond memories.

-- The Rummage Box

The Road Less Traveled By
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closed in 2010 and a CVS Pharmacy now sits on a corner of that property. I feel fortunate that my wife Leona and I were able to take our children to that drive-in on several occasions before the last picture show. Over in Norvelt, the Rustic Drive-In showed outdoor movies from 1953 to 1985. The land on which the theater stood is now a tree-covered field. Heading west on Route 30 in Irwin was the Super Highway Drive-In Theater. That giant screen went dark in 1970. Today, a shopping plaza featuring a Giant Eagle and Bob Evans Restaurant sits on that site. Not far from the Super Highway theater on the opposite side of Route 30 was a popular Italian restaurant known as Angelo's and just a few buildings east of Angelo's was an establishment called "The Silver Dollar" which I will

allow your imaginations to wander as to what took place within its confines.

So the next time you cruise the highways and byways in that classic car of yours, perhaps turn onto that road less traveled by, and take a look at the fields or empty lots along that path and try to imagine what might have stood on that site. Perhaps a banquet hall where many wedding receptions took place, or an amusement park where families gathered to enjoy rides and picnics, or a swimming pool where youngsters splashed away those lazy summer days. Whatever may have been located on that spot, it likely etched many a fond memory into the hearts and minds of those who passed that way. ■

2020 Fall Foliage Tour Photo Flashback - On the Way to Dennyland



Carl and Camille Erb round a bend in Punxsutawney, PA driving their 1970 Citroen DS 21 Pallas EFI



A variety of friendly, colorful groundhog statues greet Punxsutawney visitors as symbols of Groundhog Day cheer.

top photos by Doreen King



(l-r) Dennyland Hosts Dennis Heindl and his friend Erika, Tour participants: Camille Erb, Vickie Kuhns, John Kuhns, Sr., Jill Jackson, Amanda Lawson-Drab, Mark Jackson, Molly Detwiler, Cris Detwiler, Doreen King, Tom King, Toni Beattie, Phil Beattie and Gary McCormick

photo by Carl Erb

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Call: 724-925-3272

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Model A Ford Trunk - 28-31, complete with luggage rack and mounting brackets, excellent condition - Retail \$790. Sell \$300. firm.

Model A Ford - 28-31 Sedan Rear Fenders - original steel - left and right side, \$600. pair or OBO

Call Lou Zecchini - 724-834-6813

Name That Car

by Mark Jackson

November's Mascot



Howard Finney was the first to identify November's Mascot as "Nipper", the little dog who represented the RCA Victor Company on it's record labels along with the slogan, "His Master's Voice". Phil Beattie also correctly identified Nipper and Carl Erb sent some interesting information on how "Nipper" came to be.

Nipper was a small stray terrier found on the streets of Bristol, England in 1884 and adopted by a man named Mark Barraud. Mr. Barraud named the dog "Nipper" due to his habit of biting at people's ankles. Nipper was a good and devoted pet. When Mark Barraud passed away in 1887 Nipper went to live with Mark's brother Francis Barraud. Francis also inherited his Mark's Edison cylinder phonograph. Francis noticed that when he played the phonograph Nipper would cock his head and seem to listen to it. Nipper passed away in 1895.

Four years later in 1899, Francis was thinking about what might make a good subject for a painting. He had a photo of Nipper and decided a painting of the dog listening to the phonograph would be interesting.

Francis had no success trying to sell the painting as a magazine illustration, so he decided to see if anyone would be interested in it for advertising purposes. He first approached the Edison Bell Company, the maker of his brother's phonograph, which he used in the painting. But they turned him down. Francis then painted a Gramophone phonograph over the Edison cylinder machine. The Gramophone had a flat disc record and a brass horn for Nipper to be listening to. The Gramophone Company agreed to buy the painting and the famous mascot image and slogan "His Master's Voice" were born. The Gramophone Company patented the image, but was later sued by the Victor Talking Machine Company. As part of the settlement Victor acquired the painting of Nipper. In the late 1920's Victor was purchased by RCA, who adopted the Nipper painting as their trademark.

Reference source: Terrierman's Daily Dose - Terrierman.com

December's Car



Here's a beautiful convertible from the Dennyland collection. Be the first to contact me with the correct make and year and win a \$15 Sheetz gift card AND a Christmas gift courtesy of Guy Davis - an original, antique, unused Winky's drink cup! We will mail the Sheetz card and Winky's cup to the winner. Email me at jacksonmark469@gmail.com or call 724-832-9074 and leave a message. Remember, "There's no Winky's in Wilmerding!"



THE WESTERN ROUND-UP

The Western Round-Up is the official publication of the Western Pennsylvania Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America. It is published on a monthly basis with January/February being a combined issue.

Each issue is also posted on the Region's website: www.westernparegion.org. Members may choose to receive this newsletter by email or a mailed hard copy at an additional cost.

Submission deadlines are the first day of each month for possible publication in that month's edition.

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

Mark Jackson, Editor

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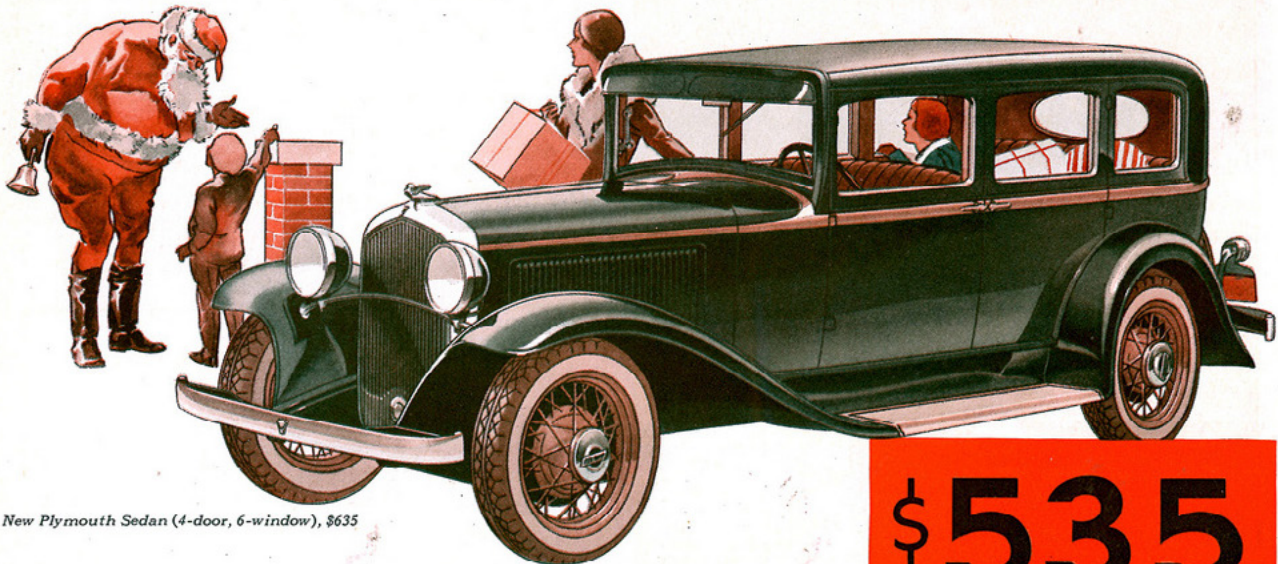
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Western Pennsylvania Region
Antique Automobile Club of America
P.O. Box 882
Latrobe, PA 15650



NEW PLYMOUTH FLOATING POWER *and* FREE WHEELING



New Plymouth Sedan (4-door, 6-window), \$635

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