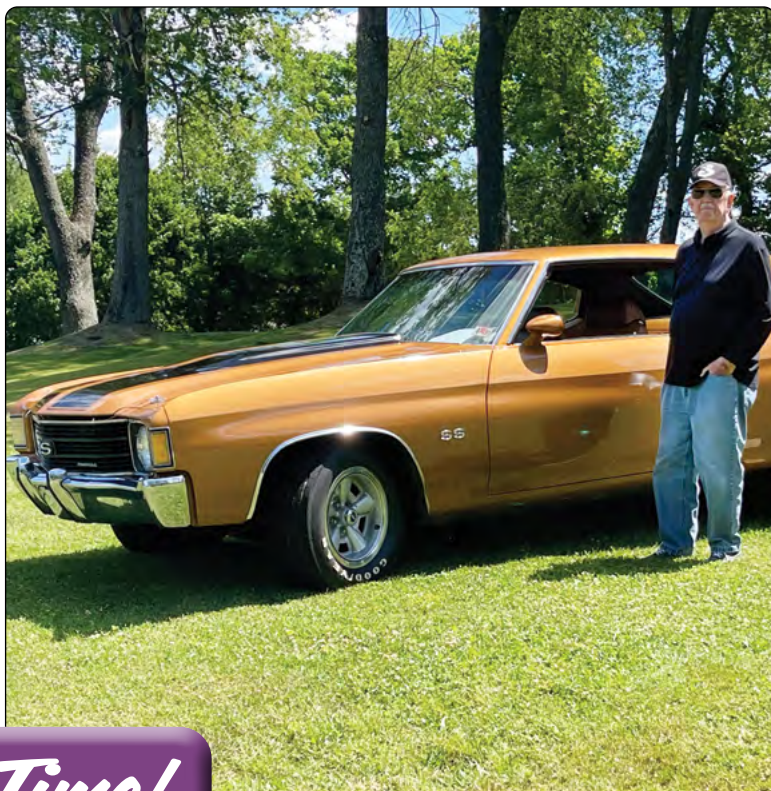


THE WESTERN ROUND-UP



July 2026

Promoting the Preservation & Enjoyment
of Antique Automobiles Since 1950.



Tour Time!



June 20 WPR Country Drive Tour Memories
See the captions on page 3 and article on pages 6-8.



A 501(c)3
Public Charity
Organization

Directors

Debbie Sheetz, *President*
724-454-8948

John Kuhns, Sr., *Vice President*
412-554-3321

Doreen King, *Treasurer*
412-736-4299

Mark DeFloria, *Secretary*
412-558-0417

Tony Mascia, *Publicity*
724-244-5656

Phil Beattie, *Safety*
724-205-1661

For more information see the WPR roster available our website.

How to Become a Member

Do you like old cars? The Western PA Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) invites you join our region. Make new, like-minded friends. Enjoy our fun activities, events, and "know-how networking."

You don't have to own an antique vehicle to become a member. However, you must first join our national club, The Antique Automobile Club of America, before joining our Region. For national membership information and to join on line visit: www.aaca.org AACA 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*.

Then visit our Western PA Region website for membership information, forms and examples of our activities <http://westernparegion.org>

Our new members are required to attend a Western PA Region monthly meeting to be introduced, officially voted in and welcomed. Our region's 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, which take place at several venues in the Latrobe and Greensburg areas.

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

Calendar 2026

Additional meeting and event information to come

Western PA Region Monthly & Special Meetings & Locations

Tuesday, July 21 Monthly Meeting

Dinner on your own at 6:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Location - Hoss's Steak & Sea House Meeting Room
1261 South Main St., Greensburg

Wednesday, August 5 - Last Car Show Committee Meeting before the Show. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

Location - Westmoreland Conservation District barn
218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg.

Tuesday, August 18 Monthly Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Location - American Legion Post 982, 158 American Legion Rd, Latrobe (Pipetown)

Western PA Region Events



Sunday, July 26 - Annual Picnic starting at 1:00 p.m.

NEW LOCATION - Bob Evancho Lakeside Park

Unity Township Municipal Building Complex
154 Beatty County Road, Latrobe, PA 15650
(Just off of Route 30 near Beatty Crossroads)

Sunday, September 6 - The Western Pennsylvania Region

AACA 2026 Car Show - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Legion Keener Park, Latrobe

AACA National Events

[See aaca.org](http://aaca.org) - [Events](#) - [National Shows and Tours](#)
for details and registration links

August 5-8, 2026 - Southeastern Divisional Tour (Up to 2001)

Flat Rock, N.C. - hosted by Great Smokey Mtn. Region

August 19-22, 2026 - Annual Grand Nationals /

Zenith Awards - Allentown, PA - 717-534-1910

September 9-14, 2026 - Founders Tour (1932-2001) -

Williamsburg, VA - hosted by Historic VA Peninsula Region

September 20-26, 2026 - Revival AAA Glidden Tour

(Pre-1943) - Dover, DE

October 6-9, 2026 - Eastern Fall Nationals - Hershey, PA

- hosted by Hershey Region

2027 AACA National Events

February 4-6, 2027 - Annual Convention

King of Prussia, Pennsylvania - AACA National 717-534-1910

February 18-20, 2027 Winter Nationals

Melbourne, Florida - AACA National 717-534-1910

April 8-10 - Southeastern Spring Nationals

Charlotte, N.C. - Hornets Nest Region - 704-847-4215



Car Show Necessities

Here is where club members come in and all can help in some way!

We Need:

- **Scratch off Lottery Tickets** (unscratched) for the Lottery frame. *Please bring these to next meeting and/or the club picnic.*
- **Sponsorships for Classes** - \$150 per class. There are 10 or so classes still available for sponsorship.
- **Baskets for the silent auction.** Please make and donate a basket or two.
- **Donations for door prizes**
- **Yellow T-shirt sizes** for new members and those who have had shirt shrinkage, or whose shirts are just worn out. *(Call Flo)*
- **Baked goods for the Bake Sale.** Please get your ovens warmed up and ready to bake.
- **Members to sign up** to help.

The Car Show Committee has been very active since February making behind the scenes arrangements. Now is when every member can help bring our show to fruition. The ball is in our court to make it a success. Please try to help in some way.

The last Car Show Committee Meeting before the show is **Wednesday August 5 starting at 7:00 p.m.** at the Westmoreland Conservation District, barn, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg.

Questions - please call me at 724-331-7293.

-- Thank you,
Flo



WPR President Debbie Sheetz and Dave Sheetz strike classic poses with their 1935 Ford.

Hello Everyone! Summer is in full swing. Dave and I have been super busy with our kids and family projects and just trying to keep up with our own maintenance.

The fourth of July at the Westmoreland Arts and Heritage Festival in Twin Lakes Park was a steamy one this year. Attendance seemed to be down because of the heat. I don't have an exact count on the ticket sales yet. We have had some of the events where we would have sold tickets at rained out. We all need to make an effort to sell or buy tickets to help support our club. Please see Tom King for scheduling the car at an event and see me for tickets.

Labor Day weekend and our annual car show will be here before you know it. We will need everyone's help in some way to make it a success. Thank you in advance!

Our annual summer picnic is coming this weekend. We hope to see you all there.

--Debbie

On The Cover

The photos on the cover of this issue were taken during the June 20 WPR Country Drive Tour hosted by Tom and Doreen King. See the story on pages 6-8

1	2
3	4

As per the diagram on right:

Photo 1: l-r, Toni Beattie, Flo Myers and Phil Beattie explore the wonders at Scott C's Classics & Collectibles in Connellsville; **Photo 2:** Clay Stoner with a 1972 Chevelle SS at Starry's Auto Sales, New Alexandria; **Photo 3:** Jill Jackson with the wild and creative "hillbilly" Model A Ford at Scott C's Classics & Collectibles; **Photo 4:** l-r, Doug Starry, Tony Mascia, Tom King and Phil Beattie discuss a 1959 Cadillac at Starry's Auto Sales.



Minutes of the June 16, 2026 Monthly Meeting

A meeting of the Western PA Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at American Legion Post 982, Latrobe (Pipetown). President Debbie Sheetz called the meeting to order at approximately 7:04 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 23 members in attendance and no guests.

Minutes

The Minutes of the May 21, 2026 Monthly Meeting were printed in the June *Western Round-Up*, which was emailed to all members. President Sheetz asked for a motion to accept the Minutes. A motion was made by Brian Ellicker, seconded by Flo Myers and unanimously approved.

New WPR Director

WPR Safety Director Cindy Fisher resigned from the board in May because she was moving to Connecticut. President Sheetz informed those present that the board voted for Phil Beattie to serve as our new Safety Director to complete Cindy's term. Phil then joined the current directors at the head table for the remainder of the June meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Doreen King

Doreen presented the May Treasurer's Report. President Sheetz asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the report. A motion was made by Tony Mascia, seconded by Kirk Fellabom and unanimously approved.

Membership

2026 AACA Membership is half price from June forward. Craig DeFloria informed those present about the AACA National free first year membership program for veterans.

Newsletter - Mark Jackson

Mark thanked Norma and Tony Mascia for the wonderful article on the 2026 AACA Eastern Spring Nationals hosted in Indiana, PA by the Shannock Valley Region May 28-30. The Mascia's also provided a great selection of photos from the Meet, which were featured in the June *Western Round-Up* along with the article. Mark said that he was able to accurately caption many of the car photos because AACA had the Meet winners already posted on their website.

Website - Mark DeFloria

Mark was not able to be present. He is recovering from a detached retina which occurred while he was at Virginia Beach. He should be able to travel back to PA soon.

Remember to keep Mark posted if your emails change.

July WPR Monthly Meeting

President Sheetz informed those present that the July WPR Monthly Meeting will be held at Hoss's Steak & Sea House restaurant, 1261 S Main St, Greensburg, on Tuesday, July 21. We will be meeting in the private dining room. Dinner on your own is at 6:00 p.m. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Debbie encouraged everyone to drive their antique cars to this meeting so people can enjoy seeing them in Hoss's parking lot.

Sunshine Committee - Flo Myers

Sunshine Committee Chair Flo Myers thanked WPR members on behalf of herself and her family for the warm expressions of sympathy upon the May 18 passing of her mother, Thelma Richter.

Flo also reported that seven well wishes cards were sent out to members through April, May and June.

WPR Annual Picnic - John Ross Kuhns

The 2026 WPR Annual Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 26 at a new location, The Bob Evancho Lakeside Park, which is located just off of Route 30 near Beatty Crossroads in Unity Township. Dinner starts at 1:00 p.m.

Vice President John Kuhns, Sr. read the registration flyer aloud, which described the picnic foods provided and appetizers, side dishes and desserts members are encouraged to bring. Printed registration flyers were available at the meeting and were emailed to all members.

Car Show - Flo Myers

The Western PA Region AACA Car Show is September 6. Flo reported that the car show flyers are printed and ready to distribute courtesy of Bill Holtzer.

There are 25 judging classes, ten of which are available for sponsorships at this time. Don't be afraid to reach out to businesses and friends for support.

Flo thanked Becky Blank for pulling together a great selection of food trucks again this year. They include: The Lunch Lady on Wheels, Carmine's Pizza & Pasta, Grilled Cheese Please, Yappy Dawgs and Ligonier Creamery.

We need donations of PA Lottery scratch off tickets to fill the Lottery frame, basket auction and door prize donations, and bake sale items.

Flo asked that members contact her if they need a yellow T-shirt for the car show and if they have any questions about the show.

An email reminder will go out regarding the upcoming Car Show Committee Meeting Friday June 19 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Westmoreland Conservation District barn, Greensburg.

Tours - Tom King

Tom passed around a sign up sheet for the Saturday, June 20 WPR country road driving tour. We will all meet at Scott C's classic car collection in Connellsville at 9:00 a.m. After visiting there we will drive north to Starry's Auto Sales in New Alexandria, where they will bring out some special cars for us to enjoy. There will also be some interesting finds on their sales lot. Afterwards, we will end the tour with a visit to either an air museum near the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport, Latrobe or the Westmoreland Land Trust's Saint Xavier property just off of Route 30. We will also stop at a local restaurant to enjoy dinner.

Westmoreland Arts & Heritage Festival - Tom King

We will once again have a promotional booth and antique car display at the Westmoreland Arts & Heritage Festival, which is on July 3, 4, 5 and 6. We will be at our usual location on top of the lower lake dam breast at Twin Lakes Park. Visit the Festival in your antique car and park on the dam breast for free as part of our display.

Our 1994 Mustang Convertible Chance Car will be there and we need volunteers to sell tickets and manage the promotional booth. Tom passed around a volunteer sign up sheet with time slots for each of the four days.

Chance Car

President Sheetz reported that people love the 1994 Mustang Chance Car when we take it to sell tickets at shows and community events. She asked members to help get the Mustang out to sell tickets and also sign out tickets to sell.

Contact Tom King to schedule taking the chance car out to sell tickets at an event.

AACA Eastern Spring Nationals

The 2026 AACA Eastern Spring Nationals meet was hosted by the Shannock Valley Region AACA in Indiana, PA May 28-30. The main show was held on Saturday, May 30 at the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex (KCAC) on the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP).

Several Western PA Region members helped the Shannock Valley Region with the show and events. The weather was beautiful and participating WPR members reported that things went very well.

WPR members receiving awards at the show included: a Preservation Award for Tony Mascia's 1981 Fiat X-19 and a First Junior Award for his Honda motorcycle; a Senior Award for John Kuhns, Sr.'s 1970 AMC Rebel Machine and a Second Junior Award for John Ross Kuhns's 1968 Camaro SS.

WPR Scan Tool Awards - President Debbie Sheetz

President Sheetz reported that she called and left messages for Automotive instructors at both the Easter and Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Centers to see if they would

be interested in WPR once again sponsoring a Scan Tool Award for graduating seniors. But so far there has been no response.

Debbie asked for any other ideas members may have for presenting auto-related awards on an educational level as part of our Region's non-profit mission.

Badge Fines

Wear your Western PA Region name badge to our Monthly Meetings or face a Badge Fine of \$1.00.

With tonight's badge fines added, the Badge Fine kitty total was \$14.25. The drawing to determine the winner of the kitty is based on randomly selecting a Western PA Region member's number from the current Roster. The winning member must be present at the meeting to take home the kitty amount.

Tonight's winner was WPR Roster #66, Jim Salandro. Jim was not present. So, the kitty rolls over until the July Monthly Meeting, where it will most likely grow some more.

From the Floor

Several members reported that the most recent Norwin Hills Plaza Cruise had about 700 cars. The event was reestablished under some new rules. These include a strict enforcement of not being able to enter the parking lot before the 4:30 p.m. start time. This causes a large bottleneck of cars trying to get in at the same time. However, WPR members were happy that this popular local show is back.

Snacks - Toni Beattie

Our thanks to Toni and Phil Beattie for providing some delicious cookies, snacks and water for all to enjoy.

Adjournment

President Sheetz asked for a motion to adjourn the June Monthly Meeting. A motion was made by Becky Blank, seconded by Brian Ellicker and approved unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Mark Jackson
substituting for WPR Secretary Mark DeFloria*

Drive Your Antique Car Award



WPR members are encouraged to drive their antique cars to events and meetings. President Debbie Sheetz presented the June Meeting Drive Your Antique Car Award to Phil Beattie.

Nice Day for a Country Drive



Flo Myers's 1951 Ford F1 resto-rod joins the car cruise show in front of Scott C's Classics & Collectibles in Connellsville.



l-r: a 1967 Chevelle, AMC AMX, 1966 Camaro and a Corvette inside Scott C's Classics & Collectibles showroom.



l-r: A Hudson Metropolitan, Fiat Jolly and VW Beetle



Elvis rocks behind a row of classic motorcycles at Scott C's.

Western PA Region members enjoyed visits to two eclectic antique car destinations and a unique historic site as part of a country road driving tour hosted by Tom and Doreen King on Saturday, June 20.

Tour participants met at Scott C's Classics & Collectibles in Connellsville at 9:00 a.m. for their "Saturday Morning Car Cruise with a Twist". Scott C's regularly hosts these fun and friendly events during each cruising season.

WPR members who drove their antique and classic cars joined other area old car enthusiasts in the Scott C's Classics & Collectibles front parking lot to create a unique car show. Upon entering Scott C's building, guests were treated to a continental breakfast hosted in a large 50s-era dining and gathering space, which was decorated with nostalgic memorabilia.

As part of a short program, Scott C welcomed everyone and then introduced a local pastor who gave a nice, inspirational message tied to craftsmanship and the classic car hobby. After the pastor's presentation, Scott invited all to walk through his

building to enjoy the interesting cars, games and memorabilia. Scott C and his friends mingled with the guests answering questions about the various cars, trucks, motorcycles and special interest vehicles.

The collection featured over 40 vehicles and was a joy to behold. There were beauties from the fabulous 50s and forward including muscle cars and resto-rods. Among the exciting sports cars were an Austin-Healey, Bricklin and a Ferrari. Bringing smiles to the visitors was a line of antique mini-cars containing a rare Hudson version of the Nash Metropolitan, a late 1930s Austin Bantam Convertible, a fun-in-the-sun Fiat Jolly and 60s era VW Beetle with a fabric sunroof. Special interest vehicles included an antique midget race car and a "hillbilly" Model A Ford with remarkable country accessories, which included a wooden outhouse in tow and a chicken standing on the engine hood.

Displayed throughout the historic vehicles were nostalgic icons of Elvis, The Pep Boys and the Big Boy restaurant mascot,



l-r: Carl Erb and Tony Mascia enjoying the sites at Scott C's.



A 1966 front wheel drive Oldsmobile Toronado at Scott C's.



The Starrys 1959 Chevy Impala was entered in the WPR Car Show.



A customized 1970 Cadillac DeVille at Starrys Auto Sales



Some "fixer uppers" waiting for a new owners at Starrys Auto Sales.



Visiting Westmoreland Land Trust's Saint Xavier's Nature Preserve.

as well as pedal cars, auto-related dioramas, toys, signs and automobilia. An impressive souvenir from another time was a Winky's fast food restaurant light-up menu selection board with the original prices. Do you remember when a cheeseburger cost 25 cents?

Leaving Scott C's, the WPR tour group journeyed north following Tom and Doreen's carefully-plotted country road directions ending up at Starrys Auto Sales in New Alexandria, a short distance off of Route 22. Doug and Ron Starry have regularly participated in the Western PA Region AACA Car

Show for many years.

Starry's Auto Sales acquires, restores and sells antique and classic cars nationally and internationally. They offer beautiful survivors and show cars, as well as a selection of interesting fixer-uppers.

For WPR visitors to enjoy the Starrys displayed some of their beautiful, personally-owned antique and classic cars. They included a stunning 1959 Chevrolet Impala, a 1947 Buick

Continued on page 8

Woodie Station Wagon, similar to one their father once owned and some classy Corvettes.

The interesting cars displayed on the hill outside above their car lot included a 1959 Chevrolet El Camino, 1970 customized Cadillac DeVille, 1972 Chevelle SS, and a 1972 Buick LeSabre Convertible. In their shop garage a 1974 Chevrolet was getting some work done.

There was also a wide variety of cool fixer-upper classic cars on the Starry's Auto sales lot waiting for new homes. They included Buicks, Cadillacs, Oldsmobiles, Chevys, Mercurys and more from the 50s, 60s, 70s and forward. A special treat to see was 1948 Cadillac barn find from Lancaster County, which the Starrys just acquired. It was still sitting on the open-air auto trailer, proudly wearing its patina and barn dust.

Departing Starry's Auto Sales, the country drive tour continued towards Latrobe ending up at the Westmoreland Land Trust's historic Saint Xavier Nature Preserve. The Land Trust worked with the Sisters of Mercy in 2022 to preserve the 249-acre site of their former Saint Xavier Academy for women, which is now open to the public as the Nature Preserve.

Land Trust representative Domenic Demangone greeted everyone and coordinated parking beside a beautiful old brick house, which was recently restored and updated. It serves as the Westmoreland Land Trust's headquarters and an education center. Domenic invited everyone into the house. Then he gave an excellent presentation on the history of the Sisters of Mercy, the now-preserved Saint Xavier site and its transformation into a Nature Preserve. He also informed the group that with the support of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and local foundations, the Land Trust was able to acquire an additional 102 acres in June 2026. This brought the preserved green space here to a total of 350 acres.

The tour group explored the education center's displays and historic photos and artifacts from Saint Xavier Academy. The

beautiful Academy building originally built in 1847 survived a few fires over the years, but was largely destroyed by a final fire in 1972 resulting in it being razed afterwards.

Upon leaving the Westmoreland Land Trust's Saint Xavier Nature Preserve, the tour group headed to the nearby DeNunzio's Italian Chop House at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport, Latrobe for a delicious dinner together.

Sincere thanks to Scott C and his crew, Ron and Doug Starry at Starry's Auto Sales and Domenic Demangone and the Westmoreland Land Trust for their hospitality, time and sharing some unforgeable stories. Finally here's a huge thank you and bravo to Tom and Doreen King for planning and coordinating this delightful tour! ■



The Starry's newly acquired 1948 Cadillac barn find from Lancaster County PA awaits its next move.



Check out these prices on an original Winky's fast food menu board from years gone by displayed at Scott C's dining area.



Country Drive Tour participants at Scott C's, l-r: Clay Stoner, Phil Beattie, Toni Beattie, Doreen King, Carl Erb, Tony Mascia, Norma Mascia, Carol Polidara, Brian Ellicker, our host Scott C., Jill Jackson, Mark Jackson, Denny Blank, Becky Blank and Tom King

"Someday..."



By Fred Trusty
2026 VP Regions
Development & Support -
Central Division



Willie lived in southern California for about 30 years before moving back to Louisville to help with the care of his elderly mother. He knew that I liked unusual cars so in early 2018 he told me one of his friends in California had a 1955 Pontiac Chieftain two-door wagon that he was going to sell. Asking an antique car addict if he would like to buy another old car is like asking an alcoholic if he'd like another drink. I thought about all the shows I've attended over the years, and I can't remember ever seeing a Chieftain wagon so naturally I said yes, I'll have another drink. It was a southern California car that Richard had purchased about 30 years ago with the intention of restoring it, "Someday." Now, I'm sure none of you guys have ever purchased an old car with the intention of restoring it "Someday" only to find out that someday never arrives.

Richard emailed me lots of pictures, so I had a very clear understanding of the car's condition. The transmission and the 287 V8 engine block were there but everything else was missing. Other than the rusted floorboards it is a very solid body so we made a deal. Willie was planning a trip back to California to visit friends and pick up some items that he still had in storage, but that trip was over a year away. Richard agreed to store the car for me until then. Willie used his truck with my trailer and I paid for his fuel, so it was a good arrangement for both of us. Before tearing into another project, I decided to start collecting some of the harder to find parts first. Using the classifieds in the Pontiac club magazine *Smoke Signals*, AACA forums, Hemmings Motor News, and eBay enabled me to find a lot of parts. Front floorboard replacements and a NOS front grill trim filler were easy finds. Then I started looking for replacement tail lights. One of mine was missing and the other was in very poor condition. I searched the internet for months and finally found a set on eBay that was solid but needed to be re-chromed. They were a "Buy it Now" price of \$1200 which I considered crazy money, so I kept looking. A few weeks later another set popped up on eBay, but this time it was "Auction" style with a starting bid of \$150. I placed my \$150 bid and as

the seconds ticked down to the end, I had my hand ready on the mouse like a gunfighter ready to draw his pistol in an old western movie. To my surprise, no one else bid on them. I sent them out to be re-chromed and they look great now.

The hardest part to find on these cars is what's called the paint divider strips. These are two "S" shaped chrome trim pieces about 1" wide and 12" long that attach to the body between the taillights and the bumper. They are made of pot metal and attach with small studs on the back. It's almost impossible to remove one without breaking the studs off. They are unique to the Chieftain wagon and almost impossible to find. I think I called every old car salvage yard in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. One yard told me I was looking for the rarest of the rare. I had one that was barely hanging on the car but in very poor condition. All but one of the studs were broken off and there was a big chunk out of it, but I thought I might be able to find a company that could copy it and make them using the 3-D printing process. If I was going to produce say, 100 of them, it would have brought the price down considerably but how many people own a 1955 Chieftain two-door wagon?

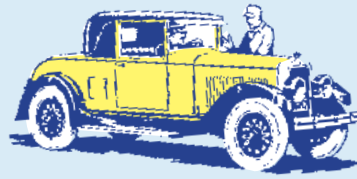
The next idea was to have them machined out of metal but again, it was cost prohibitive. I don't know why I didn't think of this to begin with, but I decided to place a "Parts Wanted" ad in *Smoke Signals*. A couple of months later a gentleman near Knoxville, TN called and said he had two of them in "fair" condition so I bought them sight unseen. While I was waiting for those trim pieces to arrive, an elderly man in Marietta, GA called and said he had one that he had pulled off a car in the 1960's just before it went to the crusher. He lived just a half mile off I-75 and it just so happened that we were going on an AACA tour in Florida in a few weeks, so on the way to Florida we stopped by his house, and he gave me the piece, for free. He was a very nice man in his mid-80's and had been a Pontiac fan most of his life. But you know what they say, "You get what you pay for." So now I had two sets, one in very rough condition and the other not much better. I was shocked when I got the invoice for the repair and chrome plating.

Next, I turned my attention to getting an engine. I bought an engine and Hydramatic transmission out of a '55 parts' car. A short time later I saw an ad in *Smoke Signals* for a '56 engine and transmission so I made the trip to the little town of Prairie Du Rocher, Illinois, population 650, and met Dave, another life-long Pontiac fan. I've never seen so many Pontiac parts in one place. He told me that "Someday" he was going to sell some of those parts." I bought his '56 engine and transmission.

Then about a year later, I saw an ad in *Smoke Signals* for a '55 NOS short block. Dennis bought the engine in the early '70's for

Continued on page 10

Member News



It was only a few months ago that long time Western PA Region member Lou Zecchini reached out to let us know that he recently received his 50 Year Membership pin from AACA. He asked if we would like to mention that in *The Western Round-Up*, which we did in the May 2026 issue's *Member News*. Sadly, we lost a wonderful, dedicated

WPR member and friend shortly thereafter, when Lou passed away on Tuesday, July 14. In addition, our community lost a top-notch musician and legendary Greensburg-Salem School District teacher and administrator.

Lou owned several beautiful antique cars during his lifetime and was particularly proud of a Model A Ford, which he drove back and forth to Saint Vincent College while earning his degree.

Lou was easy and enjoyable to talk with about the antique car hobby. He once told this author that the wisest approach to getting into the hobby was to search for the best condition original antique car you can find.

Lou was always willing to lend a hand and regularly attended the WPR Car Show and other events.

Our deepest sympathy to his fiancé WPR member Patty Surovy, daughter Maxine, family and friends.

Portrait from Lou's obituary

"Someday..." continued from page 9

a project that he would get to "Someday" and just like Richard, someday never came. As luck would have it, Dennis' friend that lives in Georgetown, KY was going to be visiting Dennis in Miami, so they put it in his truck, and he brought it back to Kentucky. It's now on an engine build stand in my shop. I took the heads off the first '55 engine that I bought and had them re-worked. I also used the oil pan and some other parts from the '55 engine. I still have the '56 engine and Hydramatic transmission that I plan on selling "Someday."

That brings us to the transmission. I looked for someone to rebuild the Hydramatic for over a year with no success. I finally found a man that said he could do it, so I dropped it off. Two years later it was still sitting in the same spot in his garage. He said he was going to get to it "Someday" but I could tell his "Someday" will never come so I brought it home. When we were moving the NOS block from Matt's truck to mine, he asked what I was going to do with the engine. I told him I was restoring a 1955 Chieftain wagon but still needed to find someone to rebuild the transmission. He told me about a shop that might be able to do it. I called and they didn't want the job but gave me the name of Ross Brothers Transmission shop in Jeffersonville, IN. I called them and when I told them what I had, they couldn't believe it. A customer had just dropped off two Hydramatic transmissions with the intention of building

one good one. They hadn't seen one in many years and now they had three at the same time. I was very lucky because some of the unused parts were exactly what I needed for my transmission. What's the chance of that?

I haven't worked on the project for several years now but I plan on finishing it "Someday."

Here is some advice: "Someday" can be a very elusive animal. Let it get too far ahead of you and you'll lose it forever, much like Richard and Dennis. I'm confident that I will catch my "Someday" and when I do, I'll write a follow-up article about my just restored 1955 Pontiac Chieftain two-door wagon and all the fun I've had with the project.

The antique car hobby is much more than just cars; it's the people you meet along the way. ■

-- The Rummage Box



Name That Car

by Mark Jackson

June's Car



Tom King was the first to correctly identify June's car as a 1962 Pontiac Bonneville Convertible. We also heard from Denny and Becky Blank, who also identified this customized car as a Pontiac, but were off on the correct year.

I took these photos of this interesting car, which is on display at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum when Jill and I visited Nashville this past May with my brother and sister-in-law,

This 1962 Pontiac Bonneville Convertible once belonged to flashy honky tonk singer Webb Pierce. It was customized for him by Nudie's Rodeo Tailors reflecting the outlandish style of western-wear designer Nudie Cohn.

The interior featured hand-tooled leather bucket seats with a miniature saddle between them, chrome plated guns and horses along with steer horns on the front bumper. Originally the upholstery was inlaid with more than 1,000 silver dollars, most of which Webb Pierce later replaced with alloy coins.

When visiting Nashville, I highly recommend visiting the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. It's a state of the art interpretive museum experience with something for everyone.

Information source - The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum interpretive panel



Webb Pierce's 1962 Pontiac Bonneville Convertible's interior with hand tooled leather seats, miniature saddle and decorative chrome plated guns.

July's Guys



Do you know who these car guys are? Be the first to correctly identify them as a team, and each by name *left to right* to win a \$10 Sheetz gift card, if you haven't won one already. Even if you've already won please go ahead and guess. These guys are still at work, but something changed from their original design. The thing that is now gone does appear in this statue. Can you guess what that thing is?

Call and leave me a message at 724-832-9074 or email me at jacksonmark469@gmail.com.

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 nine times per year. Combined issues are January/February, March/April and November/December. Monthly issues are May, June, July, August, September and October. Issues are posted on the Region's website: westernparegion.org. Members may choose to receive this newsletter by email or a mailed hard copy at an additional cost.

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They're Still Out There!

by Bill Holtzer



Here's a 1964 Dodge Dart 170 two-door sedan near Hempfield High School. It is overgrown with bushes. But it looks like the body is in good shape from what I could see. It's just a "Plain Jane" model.