

THE BRASS LAMP

The Spring-Summer Magazine

May 2024

HCCM Newsletter "Rigs That Run"

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

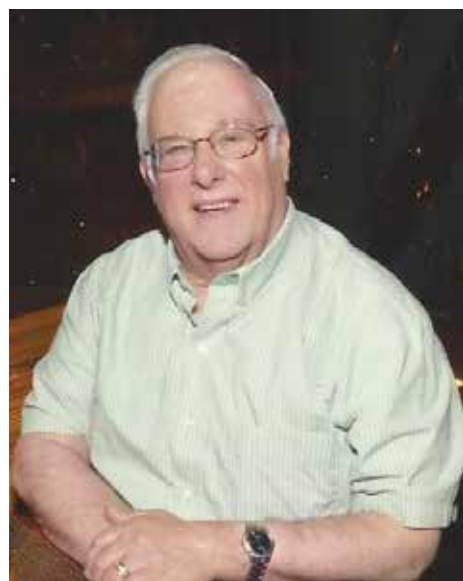
A huge *thank you* to all who helped make the annual Easter Concours a success. As you know we are boasting that 2024 was the 61st Easter event. Without Covid a few years ago we could have said continuous years, but we had to take some time off while the country healed.

I remember when I attended church on Easter with my parents and the whispering was all about the new Easter outfit that so and so was wearing. Fast forward to today and we gather in the park and critique the new automotive "outfits." AL Dyke called his kits an "outfit." I wonder if that is what he was thinking.

On April 13th we visited Evergreen Historic Cars in Lebanon, Missouri. The Evergreen is out in the foothills of the Ozarks and difficult to find. I am sure the owner, Steve Plaster, likes it that way, for the security of his enormous collection. Check

out the pictures on the next few pages.

We are a car club with the mission to "inform and educate." That is our mission and is accomplished with a lot of camaraderie and driving and dining. Part of my goal as president is to have an event each month that goes beyond car shows and parades. Be sure to check out the activities page and join us when you can. In May we are going to Motorheads Diner and Museum in nearby Springfield, Illinois. In upcoming months, a train ride to Hermann (or drive if you like) to sample wine, bratwurst, and cheese in a little German town. Sometime during the warm months how about a dinner cruise on the Mississippi? And August brings us to our annual picnic. Later in the year our ritual visit to the Wittmond Hotel in Brussels, Illinois. Right around the corner is the Overland Day's Parade in May and the Father's Day car show



HCCM President John Hartmann

at The National Museum of Transportation in June. The Father's Day show is expanded this year to allow modified cars if they are 25 years old or older. This departure from the past is an experiment to attract younger participants and hopefully new members to the club. Get those vehicles out of hibernation, put in some fresh gas, check the tires, and let us get going, spring is here!
John

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A RECAP OF THE 61ST EASTER CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE

A LOOK AT THE VERY SUCCESSFUL EVERGREEN TOUR

HCCM UPCOMING EVENT INCLUDING FULL CALENDAR OF EXCITING ACTIVITIES
AND MUCH MORE

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Celebrating 80 Years in St. Louis!

"BRASS LAMP" STAFF REQUESTING ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS FROM OUR MEMBERS

The *Brass Lamp* is your club newsletter. It is a very sizable task to gather articles and publishable photos, edit, design, assemble, then get it to members either as a digital or print publication. Please help the Brass Lamp staff by providing your content so we can produce quality publications of interest for you the members.

We really need our members help to make the *Brass Lamp* a success by submitting articles and a few photos to accompany the writings. Articles should be between 400 and about 1200 words along with 6 to 12 high-resolution photos. Larger articles can be submitted but, understand that due to space constraints, larger article may need to be presented in multiple issues. By submitting your article and photos you agree that you own copy rights to the materials submitted and the HCCM has your permission to publish your material.

What should I write about you ask? Well, write about how you became interested in the car hobby...How you found your first car... Your thoughts on how and why you built your collection of cars. Frankly, anything of the car hobby interest that you feel others also might enjoy.

Submission is easy. Simply provide a text file along with photos to this email address: BrassL.HCCM@yahoo.com

It is ok to submit several files if needed but please include your name in each file name. Files should be under 24mb. If your files are extremely large please contact Jim at the above email address for information on how to submit large files.

Submit text files as Microsoft Word files and photos as JPG or PNG files are preferred. DO NOT FORMAT your text files as this creates additional work removing formatting for publishing.

Submission Dates:

For August: Materials by July 6, for publish date August 1, 2024.

For November: Materials by October 23, for publish date November 1.

Submit files to: BrassL.HCCM@yahoo.com

The *Brass Lamp* staff appreciates your contributions, your help and look forward to your articles.

Thank you,
Jim Gormley

UPCOMING HCCM EVENTS FOR 2024

- | | |
|---------|--|
| May 7 | Board meeting, 7:00 at Overland CC |
| May 11 | Lunch at Motorheads in Springfield, IL, after lunch visit the National Corvair Museum in neighboring Glen Arm, IL, or the Ace sign Co. display of neon and Rt66 signs at the Springfield fairgrounds, or the Lincoln Presidential Museum in downtown Springfield |
| May 17 | Monthly member's meeting, 7:00 at the Dealers Assn. building. Strawberry Social night. Doug Birk and others will talk about Cadillacs. |
| May 18 | Overland Day's Parade, line up at the Overland Christian Church, 2200 Lackland at 9:00 AM, Lunch is provided at the Overland CC after the parade. |
| June 2 | Car show at the White Rose Café, 208 E Main in Union, MO. Not a HCCM function but fun, call 636 584-0500 for information. |
| June 4 | Board meeting, 7:00 at Overland CC June 8
Train ride to Hermann, details coming |
| June 16 | Cars with Class, Father's Day show at The National Museum of Transportation |
| June 21 | Monthly members meeting, 7:00 at the Dealers Assn. building, cruise for ice cream after business meeting |
| June 30 | All Souls Car Show in Overland, details coming |
| July 2 | Board meeting, 7:00 at Overland CC |
| July | Dinner cruise on the Mississippi, date and details coming soon |
| July 19 | Monthly member's meeting, 7:00 at The Dealers Assn. building |

Questions about anything? Call John at 314 313-0305



ST LOUIS EASTER
Concours d'Elegance

61st Easter Concours d'Elegance

By all accounts, everyone who participated in the 61st Annual Easter Concours d'Elegance enjoyed the event. Two years in a row we've enjoyed exceptional weather for the show. Pre-registrations were a bit slower than last year and there was concern that the earlier date for Easter this year would discourage hobbyists from committing to the event, fearing fickle weather. As it turned out, we had over 325 cars on display, split almost evenly with 162 cars on the individual entrant side of the field and 163 registered with various car clubs.

New to the show this year: Allowing exhibitors who wanted their cars judged could be parked with their car clubs; all cars on the individual entrant were parked in their show class regardless of whether they were judged, displayed, or day-of-show registrants; and we had signage that gave all visitors a clear indication of what group of cars they were seeing. We also had students from the Automotive Studies Program at St. Louis Community College on the Forest Park Campus displaying their Great Race cars.

I am still receiving comments, but so far everyone enjoyed the show and have been particularly complimentary of the volunteers who checked them in or registered them, helped them find their parking area, or answered questions. I have a very big thank you to the many members of the show committee who spent lots of hours getting everything as close to perfect as they could.

Don't forget to volunteer next year!

By Todd Tobiasz, 2024 Easter Show Chairman



A REVIEW AND PERSPECTIVE ON THE 61ST ANNUAL ST. LOUIS CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

Forest Park / Sponsored by, The Horseless Carriage Club of Missouri / Easter Sunday March 31, 2024

Prepared By, William F. Hall, St. Louis, Missouri

On a gleaming, bright, clear, beautiful Easter Sunday morning, more than two hundred and fifty unique antique, vintage and classic automobiles began slowly, cautiously appearing and very carefully occupying their designated spaces, according to their assigned automotive-categorical classifications, on the expansive upper-rear parking lot of the historic St. Louis Municipal Opera-Outdoor Theater, located in one of the most beautifully, meticulously-landscaped and largest urban parks setting in America, St. Louis' Forest Park.

This longstanding St. Louis based, Concours d' Elegance-Classic Car Show, held in Forest Park on Easter Sunday, is an historic tradition, that has been a particular favorite among St. Louisans for more than six decades. It has also been particularly known for both the consistency of its quality and the extremely high degree of the caliber of the large number of unique antique, vintage and classic automobiles participating, as well as the exceptionally wide variety and range of automobile marques registered to participate in the concours, including marques enthusiastically participating in the event both just for display only purposes as well as those participating for refereed judging. To try and put it in a just few words..., this very special St. Louis based Concours d' Elegance, is truly an amazing, extraordinary exhibition of exceptionally fine and well-maintained quality automobiles. On this most recent Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024, the notably large field of antique, vintage and classic vehicles that showed up and participated in event, featured, among others, several highly unique and noteworthy vehicles, representing not only each and

every decade, beginning from 1899 on, but also representing nearly all of the various major and many of the minor and often forgotten, namesake marques, of classic and vintage automobiles, with particular focus on high-lighting and displaying several exceedingly rare and highly unique vehicles, reflecting the extremely long, rich, and exceedingly deep history, contributions and connections between St. Louis and the long, storied history of the American automotive manufacturing industry and its legacy, in general, writ large. As a proud owner of a classic Buick for more than 46 years myself, (I purchased my own 1940 Buick Limited, Model 81 Series, Straight-Eight Touring Sedan in 1978), I was natu-



rally inexorably drawn to view, with special interest, three examples of what I considered to be exceptionally fine examples of three truly spectacular Buick marques being displayed at the car show. These three outstanding fine examples and distinctive versions of the Buick Marques' being displayed on the field were, I felt in my opinion, were especially spectacular. Beginning with the most recent vehicle and working back, one Buick was a 1965 Buick Riviera, a second Buick was a 1956 Buick Roadmaster, and the third Buick was my own, a 1940 Buick Limited, Model 81 Series, Straight-Eight Tour-

ing Sedan. Beginning with the most recent Buick displayed at the show, a beautifully shown 1965 Buick Riviera, painted in a deep violet-purple-esque hue, almost black exterior paint, it stood out, spectacularly, among the other marques presented in its class. It reminded me, and brought back to mind many fond memories once again, of the stunning statement it made the year it arrived and burst onto the scene and set the entire automotive world on fire with its unforgettable combination of style, sleekness, refined raw power and its very presence. In my view, it was truly one of the iconic automobile marque's of all of the entire decade of the 60's and even far beyond into the future. The 1965 Buick Riviera, indeed,



reflected and foretold with its unique total combination of sleek style, beauty, power and stealth, a marque that that would later be embodied and personified in both the Darth Vader and B-1 Stealth Bomber genres and form, that would later also define a future generation of style and persona. The second Buick Marque being displayed on the show field that also immediately caught my eye and attention, was a 1956 Buick Roadmaster, painted in a two-toned light Turquoise and White exterior. This marque too, in my opinion, was simply spectacular. Among the prolific number of namesakes created for automobiles



over time in the long history of automobiles, in my view, there has never, ever been another name, either before or since, that has more accurately or eloquently captured the essence of what true automotive excellence should either look like or be. In a word, Buick's 1956, Roadmaster, namesake for a marque, says it all. Like a true professional moonlighting among mere amateurs, this 1956 Buick very distinctly and clearly stood out, far from the pack of other 1950's marques. From the highly distinctive portholes, to the almost sensual, wide-bodied form of its exterior and luxurious appoint-



ments in its all white interior, to its iconic front grill with bomber-sight, to its smooth ride and exceptional power from under its hood, this 1956 Buick was an awe-inspiring marque, complete with wide white wall tires. This 1956 Buick Roadmaster beauty, truly magnificently personified and captured the essence of what 1950's automotive style, power and luxury in automobiles was all about. And Finally, in closing, indeed, I truly believe I would definitely be remiss, if I failed to recognize any vehicle from the decades of the 1930's or 1940's. For that very purpose, and to represent those two giants of automotive

William F. Hall is a Member: Buick Club of America (BCA) -National Chapter, #19859/#52720 — St. Louis Gateway-BCA Local Chapter; — Classic Car Club of America (CCCA)-National Chapter, #40419; — and The Spirit of St. Louis-CCCA Local Chapter.

decades, I will focus primarily on one vehicle that, in my humble opinion, although perhaps, not completely devoid of some small degree of bias..., I will focus on my own, 1940 Buick Limited, Model 81 Series, Straight-Eight Touring Sedan. Indeed, the upper series of full sized 1940's Buicks, were truly a class of exceptionally large behemoth automobile marques. My own 1940 Buick limited being displayed, while nestled in its space located between two other full-sized marques, literally made them look, relatively small in comparison. The year 1940, also represented a milestone in terms of automobile styling, manufacturing and production, and especially for the marques of the General Motors stable of automobiles. To a very significant degree, the year 1940 also represented



the year when, arguably, the mechanical side of automotive styling and production, reached its pinnacle in height of success. Embodied in the manufacture and production Buick's of the late 1930's and early pre-war 1940's, were particular focus on achievement of exceptional mechanical operations, including, but not limited to powerful engines, smooth ride and outstanding styling. Up until the beginning of WWII and the suspension of all retail automotive production by all automobile manufacturers, due to the needs of the war, the competition for the top marque among all GM automobiles was still

not at all settled, with both the Cadillac as well as the high-end Buick marques, both still competing for designation as the number one top and most prestige marque for GM. It would, however, be sometime later after the end of WWII, when it would be decided by GM, that the Cadillac marque would be considered to be their number one..., at least among GM executives at the GM corporate central offices, if not always in the minds of either the buying public or some of the employees at Buick's Flint, Michigan manufacturing headquarters.

So, as I relax still seated among this virtual sea of some of the most beautifully preserved, restored and well maintained automobiles on the earth, I smile as I gaze over the field of unique antique, vintage and classic vehicles



surrounding me and think to myself, what a truly special and beautiful day, for this 2024 Easter Sunday is also truly special, both for what it symbolizes and celebrates spiritually as well as for what it has also allowed and provided me with the privilege, to enjoy and celebrate this day in the upper-rear parking lot of the St. Louis Municipal-Outdoor Opera Parking Lot, in Forest Park. Indeed, it is a good day to be alive and in St. Louis, Missouri!

Article reprinted with author permission from the St. Louis Gateway Gazette Newsletter, Buick Club of America

A car club collaborative road trip and tour of the fabulous Evergreen Historic Automobile Collection

Report of the tour by Kevin Williams



On April 13th HCCM along with 8 other clubs including CLC, CCCA, AACA, Oldsmobile, Triumph, AMC, Model T and Frisco Hill Restoration totaling 95 people met up at the Wallys off I-44 to start the 160-mile trip to the Evergreen Historic Automobile Collection near Lebanon in Evergreen MO (population 28). I will be the first to admit it's easy to miss the entrance as you head south on Route 5 as it is in the middle of nowhere!

Once you get up the very steep drive you are greeted by a large complex of buildings with the primary building being the Dogwood Room Banquet Facility. The owner Steve Plaster was there to greet everyone as we arrived on-site and welcomed everyone to go inside and find a seat to enjoy a catered lunch from Jimmy John's.

The official tour started around 12:30pm after some brief comments by Mr. Plaster and introducing his staff that would be on the tour with us to answer any questions and to keep everyone on track with the guided tour through each building. Each building had a mixture of vehicles sure to please anyone's interest.

It is my understanding that Steve's father Robert Plaster



had a primary interest in the 30's and 40's classic body styles and Steve's interest in muscle cars of the 50's, 60's and 70's was also very well represented. It would be impossible to list every manufacturer they had on-site.

This outstanding collection included Packard, Cadillac, Lincoln, LaSalle, Pierce Arrow, Auburn, Cord, Duesenberg, Rolls Royce, DeSoto, Edsel, Mercedes, Jaguar, Buick, Ford, Mercury, Chevrolet, Dodge, Chrysler along with numerous not so well-known brands as Mercer, Kelsey, Delage, Delahaye, Kaiser. This collection also presented a wide variety of early brass cars, early fire engines, trucks of many makes, tractors, boats and motorcycles. Like, I said you would be hard pressed to not find something that would not peak your interest in this 400+ car collection that started back in 1970's.

Mr. Plaster mentioned that the collection had grown to more than 600 cars at one time, but they have thinned it back to the current collection size. He said every car was for sale with the exception of a few incredibly special vehicles.

If you ever have the opportunity to visit the Evergreen Historic Automobile Collection in the future, it is a must see on everyone's list of incredible collections to visit!



These photos just provide a sampling of this vast historic car collection. Photos by Kevin Williams

Special Heritage Edition—A Look back at the many milestones and achievements of the HCCM



018



019



020

The HERITAGE!— PART #2

By Gerald Perschbacher, LL.D.

This Article is continued from the April Issue of the Brass Lamp

018—friendships abounded

No one seems lonely at the show. Smiles abound as discoveries are made. Friends who winter in Florida seem to migrate back to Forest Park for Easter. If they were salmon, they would be willing to bruise themselves just for the chance to see something surprisingly spectacular at the event. The Concours is almost like being at a huge (let's say really HUGE) "family reunion" as people of like minds congregate for the annual "swim" in a sea of goodwill and discovery.

019—Kitcar Club

As the hobby matured, the rise of "kit cars" reached the golden age of 25 years and, thus, were allowed as "production" cars made by manufacturers. It was a fresh twist to the notion of car making and it became one of the intriguing additives to a full Easter day. As a car-club unit, such a display not only added more life to the show but also introduced a good number of onlookers to the option of such ownership. Indeed, in the process the hobby expanded to a degree.

020—Many members enjoyed long years in the club

Flexibility is a byword on Easter. There have always been surprises (some great, others not so great) but so is life. Vol-

unteering at an Easter Concours sharpens a person's resolve to MEET and GREET as goodwill ambassadors of the hobby. A car club is not a "thing" but a living, breathing, heart-beating body of folks with a common aim and target. Thus, friendships are deepened. Achievements are shared. Woes are remedied. Memories are stock-piled. WE are NOT alone! For all that is great and even those points that are questionable, the HCCM faces it all with unified determination to make the day a success.

When we recall those who had been among our number, we may feel loss. But on Easter at the Show, it seems as if a rush of memories return and we warm in the thoughts of those who were close but have departed. When this wells up inside, enjoy the rich moment.

021—Seminars sharpen judges

The Concours is a day we remember and appreciate. It is a dip to the past, for sure. It also is a look to the rest of the year. A look forward to what is coming. A hope to "drive" onward and upward against whatever odds (even breakdowns or malfunctions) may greet our days.

NO ONE is ALONE at the annual show. We are part of something greater than ourselves.

We can judge the day much as a car-show judge sharpens techniques and skills to be honest, faithful, and reliable members of a judging team, properly trained for the task.



021



Surprise item at the swap meet



Fred Guyton enjoyed showing his car at the Easter Show

022—Moon cars made here still come to shows

We can all appreciate the name MOON. It was that of a car brand made locally. But it can remind us of the very moon itself, that heavenly body that circles our earth continually, along its set path, with a goal to keep going. It brings a good degree of light to the darkness. It brings joy in discovery thanks to astronauts and star gazers, even romantics. We should all be “moon-struck” in a good sense. And that can happen at the Easter Concours.

023—Moon Car Club display; the Nolans' 1923 (at right) took Sponsor's Choice

Have you studied the motorized Moons? They are solid in design, reliable in general, and stylish for their era. When Moons arise and arrive at the show, their entry grab the attention of St. Louisans as though they were mascots of the community.

024—Some other cars are consistent winners

We can all appreciate and applaud the handwork of fellow members who keep their cars in top shape, for Easter and beyond!

025—Super Chevy

There have been (and still are) many good members who lift us up when down, provide guidance when needed, and make our days brighter. These are our shining lights that beam far beyond Easter.



022



023



36 Caddy

024



025



026



027



028



030

60s vintage Ford Econoline



029



026—Sweet Maxwell

Tall or short, good members come in all sizes -- and render many good results for the club. We are a club of RELIABILITY, else we would NEVER have kept the Easter going for as long as it has.

027—Forest Park and fun

Old cars seem to be the “toast of the town” on Easter.

028—1927 Chrysler has belonged to members since the early 1950s

What is YOUR part in the big SHOW? Can you keep the tradition lively? Progressive? Help it stay on a good path? Offer ideas and improvements? Let's hope so.

029—1960 Cadillac & owner appear at many shows

.....Do YOUR part in advancing the future by helping in the present.

030—1966 Rambler still in same family since new

You may not realize it but you are “part of family” when you are in the HCCM. Act the part. Enjoy the experience. Build for the future!

Open a fresh and delightful future in the hobby. Be part of the present—and future. Make fresh memories. And enjoy the experience!



Visit to Motorheads, Corvair Museum or Neon Sign Museum-

May 11th Meet at Motorheads at 11:30AM



Join the fun on May 11th when we lunch and explore Motorheads in Springfield, IL. Just an hour and 15 minutes from the Chain of Rocks bridge. Motorheads is located just off highway I-55 at the Toronto Road intersection, just south of Springfield, IL. Motorheads is a full-service restaurant and car museum filled with automotive nostalgia. No charge for the museum, just pay for your food. Check it out at <https://66motorheads.com> If you liked Bob's Gasoline Alley you're going to love this place.

After lunch you can explore the National Corvair Museum in Chatham, IL. Go south on I-55 and take exit 88 toward

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YOUR NAME _____

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A cooperative event of St. Louis area car clubs.



The Brass Lamp



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Andy Dorris enjoyed his
1904 St. Louis

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