

SOUTH BEND 2007

by Richard Dormois

The 43rd annual Studebaker Drivers Club International Meet in South Bend, Indiana, June 18th to the 23rd will likely take its place in history as one of the most memorable in recent years for a lot of people for a variety of reasons. Many members visited South Bend for the first time to see the Studebaker National Museum, which had been a dream for a long time, and the museum didn't disappoint them. Thousands were in awe of its splendid architecture, the multitude of informative displays and, of course, many examples of our beloved marque on three climate-controlled floors.

Two thousand five hundred and sixty-two Studebaker fans officially registered for the International Meet with Cornerstone Registration, while hundreds more attended, registering with the Avanti Owners Association International, the Antique Studebaker Club and Packard Automobile Classics. They came from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and 49 of the U.S.A. states. No Alaskans made the trip. Indiana led the states in numbers with 330 and Australia, with 51, led countries outside North America.

I'd like to take this opportunity at the beginning of the story to issue a sincere THANK YOU to the 200 of

photo by John Cosby



you who took the time to assist the Studebaker Drivers Club in improving the International Meets by completing the 6-page South Bend International Meet Survey and sending it to me in a timely fashion. Surveys were received from virtually every state and country represented and your candid remarks are appreciated by your Board of Directors, the International Meet Committee and the chairs of each future International Meet. Each year some very positive things have come out of some very negative comments.

Sunday started off with a bang with the Cornerstone Registration staff, the Studebaker National Museum staff and a host of museum volunteers, poised in the Atrium of the museum to handle the throngs of early bird registrants and those who had not registered, coming fresh off the street.

Across town vendors were setting up shop in Buildings A and B, in the hog barns, and on the grass at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds for the largest six-day swap meet in recent memory. Vendors occupied 249 spaces at this year's meet. On Sunday evening Tippecanoe Place served a packed house which included the Studebaker Drivers Club Board of Directors.

The SDC Board of Directors met at the Indiana Center for History at 8:00 a.m. Monday. The several pieces of legislation passed will be outlined in the meeting minutes in a future *Turning Wheels*. Reviewing, updating and editing the SDC by-laws was on the agenda. Cornerstone Registration was awarded the contract for registration services, Good Printers will print *Turning Wheels* for the next two years, Ann Turner and Art Un-



photo by John Cosby



photo by John Cosby

ger will be editors and ad editors of *Turning Wheels* and Larry Swanson will continue to act as Director of Publications. Bob Shaw will continue as the SDC Webmaster.

Sitting Officers were not opposed for election: Ed Reynolds, president, Richard Dormois, vice president, Jan Lockmon, secretary, and Brian Millette, treasurer.

Great weather prevailed as the Studebaker National Museum hosted Welcome Night on Monday evening, with few speeches, wonderful music and ice cream on

the patio. It was a grand opportunity for folks to meet and greet after a year and make new friends. Although many lingered outside most of the evening and chatted about their families and their Studebakers, many more were anxious to get into the museum for the first time. In addition to the free ice cream social, pastries and snacks were available. Conservative estimates indicated there were about six hundred enjoying themselves during the evening.

Business meetings were the order of the day on Tuesday, with the SDC Publications Committee Meeting at 7:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Downtown. The SDC Newsletter Editors' Meeting followed, in the classroom at the Indiana Center for History. Newsletter competition awards were given and the group

... continued on page 20



photo by Evan Severson

Part of the crowd at the Welcome Night in the Studebaker National Museum.

MODEL CAR JUDGING

submitted by Joe Parsons

SCRATCH-BUILT - Adult

- 1st Richard Whetstone
- 2nd Bob Mags
- 3rd Larry Tholen

SCRATCH-BUILT - Junior

- 1st Alexander Gore

DIORAMA - Adult

- 1st Jim Geary
- 2nd Dale Seaton
- 3rd Linda White

KIT-BUILT - Adult

- 1st Fred Gooch
- 2nd Gary Sanders
- 3rd Linda White

KIT-BUILT - Junior

- 1st Tyler Sable

FACTORY-BUILT Adult/Junior

- 1st Bruce Slifer
- 2nd Larry Tholen
- 3rd Joe Parsons

SDC PUBLICATION AWARDS 2006-2007

by Larry Swanson

Monthly Publications

- 1st Peter Yuen, Editor, Studebaker Packard Post, BC Coastal Chapter
- 2nd Joe Roberts, Editor, The Down Easterner, Eastern North Carolina Chapter
- 3rd Betty Knopf, Editor, The Hawk Talks, Karel Staple Chapter

Senior Monthly Publications

- 1st Ernie Loga, Editor, Badger Bullet-N, Badger Wheel Chapter
- 2nd Dot Sheldon, Editor, nutS n boltS, Palmetto Chapter

Bi-monthly Publications

- 1st Desi Souder, Editor, Tempo, BC Southern Interior Chapter
- 2nd Gary Ash, Editor, StudeGram, Ocean Bay Chapter
- 3rd Sidney Kertzel, Editor, Keystone Keynotes, Keystone Region Chapter

Senior Bi-monthly Publications

- 1st Terry Judd, Editor, Wonderland Cruiser, West Michigan Chapter
- 2nd Graham Gagne, Editor, Stude News, Atlantic Canada Chapter
- 3rd Gail Ault, Editor, Copper Starlight, Southern Arizona Chapter

Best Overseas Newsletter

- Sr 1st Mike Sandy, Editor, Stude Examiner, Studebaker Owners Club, UK
- Sr 2nd Richard Freeman, Editor, The Distributor, New Zealand Chapter

Golden Hawk Award to the most improved chapter newsletter

Gary Walters, Editor, The Zion Almanac, Zion National Chapter

Herb Keller Award for Outstanding Service, Excellence and Innovation

Brian J. Larson, Editor, The Headliner, Heart of Dixie Chapter

Eleanor Blume Award for Best Covers and Artwork in a Chapter Publication

Linda Larson, Editor, The Washington Dictator, Tacoma Area Chapter

Best Article in a Chapter Newsletter Award

"My Post Omaha Experiences" by Frank Drumheller
The Studebaker Menu, Greater Virginia Chapter

John Brichetto Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Chapter Editors

Dan Dobbins, WMWM (the World's Most Wonderful Mechanic)

Turning Wheels Awards

Harold E. Churchill Award - for best unpaid article in *Turning Wheels*

"Studebaker: The Second Greatest Teacher I Ever Had" by Jim Glass, November 2006

Best Young Author in *Turning Wheels* Award

Matthew Burnette "Keeping It In The Family", May 2007

... Continued from page 7

was lectured on internet publications. The International Meet Committee followed, where host committees for future international meets shared their plans. Chapter presidents, Regional Managers and Zone Coordinators met at 1:00 p.m. A variety of topics were discussed without formal agenda. Scholarships, fund raising and the benefit auction were on the agenda for the Studebaker National Foundation Board at 3:00. Alex Janke of Wyoming Technical Institute and Nick Koehn of McPhearson College were awarded the inaugural Foundation educational scholarships. Secretary Jan Lockmon of Sun City, Arizona, assumed a director position and Nancy Pfahler, Paradise, Pennsylvania, was appointed Secretary.

On Tuesday evening, 65 Studebaker Truck Farmers gathered for a fish fry and tour of the Studebaker Engineering Building, currently quartering the inventory of Studebaker Autoparts Sales Corp (SASCO) on

West Sample Street. Safety officers accompanied the group, most of whom marveled at floor after floor stocked with surplus Studebaker parts left from booming production days past. The Studebaker Truck Farmers are a very informal group thought to have been formed in the last century by a wealthy eccentric from Terre Haute who insisted that members wear colorful "Hee Haw" overalls he sold them at enormous profit.

A hundred and thirty-two ladies and gentlemen enjoyed a scrumptious repast of quiche, fresh fruit and a variety of teas at the Ladies Luncheon and Style Show at Tippecanoe Place Wednesday. Long time SDC member, Dottie Mae Grove, proprietor of a Kansas City emporium of fashion, presented the pro-



photo by Evan Severson

The large group of SDCers from Australia at Welcome Night.



photo by John Cosby

Ice cream and much socializing at Monday's Welcome Night.



photo by John Ernst

The 2007 Studebaker Truck Farmers.



photo by John Ernst

One of the many outdoor vendors at the fairgrounds.

gram, featuring fashions from the eighteenth century to the seventies with models from the Studebaker Drivers Club. This was an SDC encore appearance for Madam



photo by John Ernst

Studebaker Auto Sales Corp (SASCO) in the old Studebaker Engineering Building.

Grove, who entertained with great success in Charlotte in 2004.

Ed Reynolds conducted the Studebaker Drivers Club Membership Meeting Wednesday at the Century Center at 3:00 p.m. The meeting, which competed with the swap meet and two very popular bus tours was attended by fifty-four members. Ed reviewed activities and decisions at the board meeting and entertained several questions from the membership.

Wednesday was a full day for the Studebaker Band with morning and afternoon practices and a concert at 6:00 p.m. at the Century Center prior to the SDC National Auction. Glen Shull of Fort Collins, Colorado, conducted a variety of music to an appreciative full house. This year's benefit auction conducted by SDC auc-

tioneers from Tennessee, Indiana and Arizona raised \$8,000, which the SDC Board donated to the Studebaker National Foundation. The non-profit Foundation was formed three years ago to support automotive related education, museum restoration projects, and programs to preserve our Studebaker heritage. Thank you to all of you who supported the auction with donations and purchases.

The concours Studebaker show at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds on Thursday, was thought by many to be one of the more spectacular events in decades. Three hundred and forty-nine high quality Studebakers registered to be judged and two hundred and eighty-five registered to be displayed.

This did not reflect the true number of Studebakers at the Fairgrounds, as many which were not registered for the meet, arrived on Thursday from the surrounding communities. Two Studebakers were awarded a perfect 400 score by the judges. Those vehicles are the 1926 Big Six Hearse shown by Jerry Kayser of Moses Lake, Washington, and the 1955 President Speedster shown by Robert and Sally Strait of North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. Joining the Studebakers on the field were over a hundred



photo by Evan Severson

The two Studebakers awarded a perfect 400 score by the judges were the 1926 Big Six Hearse (above) shown by Jerry Kayser of Moses Lake, Washington, and the 1955 President Speedster (below) shown by Robert and Sally Strait of North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

photo by Evan Severson





Phantom Auto Works at the swap meet.

photo by Ann Turner

beautiful examples from Packard Automobile Classics, evaluated by Packard judges.

At the conclusion of the show, through the cooperation of the City of South Bend and a yeoman's effort by the South Bend Police Department, a parade from

Ralph Norton. I think many would have preferred the concert continue rather than the chant of the auctioneer. The auction made money. The members had a good time and we got

the Fairgrounds to downtown South Bend meandered through commercial and residential areas, to the delight of residents. At the end of the parade, most of the classics parked in selected areas of downtown to entertain the residents of South Bend with an old-fashioned street car show. It was well attended.

The Antique Studebaker Club held the annual benefit auction in the Atrium of the Studebaker National Museum Thursday evening with about a hundred and twenty members in attendance. The highlight of the evening was the auction prelude of upbeat music by the renowned "Studebaker Champions", a group of Chicago-South Bend based musicians led by the talented conductor and Studebaker aficionado,



Some of the Packards at the meet.

photo by John Verbeek

to spend more time in the museum, so I guess it was all good. Thanks to all of you who donated and bid.

Ten Golden Hawks and fifty members mustered at the Star Cafe on Wayne Street for the annual banquet of the 1956J Golden Hawk Register. This year the banquet



At one of the inside swap meet buildings at the fairgrounds.

photo by Rick Peterson



photo by John Cosby

Dottie Mae Groves, of Dottie Mae's Costumes of Kansas City MO, and SDC member (2nd from left) provided costumes for the Ladies' Luncheon and Style Show at Tippecanoe Place. Several SDC members participated in costume, including Curt Campbell of Spokane (at right).



photo by John Cosby

was arranged by Jim and Jan Bella of North Liberty, Indiana, and owner Brenda Mar-kin was able to provide the entire restaurant to the group. The 56J Register was founded January 1, 1989 with a current membership of 240 and 450 of the rare model identified. It would be well to note here that all 1956J Golden Hawks entered for judging at the 2007 concours garnered first place awards. If interested, you can find them at www.1956GoldenHawk.com.



photo by John Cosby

photo by John Verbeek



The Elk's Lodge was the venue on Thursday evening for a hundred and eighty-eight members of the Avanti Owners Association International to gather for their annual banquet.

The full evening of socializing, dining and speech-making included presenting a distinguished service award to Bruce Hillman of Arizona for his contributions to the association. AOAI was proud to have a record number of Avantis on the show field for the Thursday concours. High point Avantis at 399 points were

Left: Studebaker car show in downtown South Bend after the parade on Thursday.

Right: The Antique Studebaker Club driving tour on Friday.

John Seaton from South Bend, Indiana and Jim and Susie Pearce from Lakeland, Florida

Six hundred and twenty five members took advantage of the wide variety of informative and educational bus tours offered Monday through Friday, covering Amish History, automotive and air history, gaming, outlet shopping, Studebaker history, recreational vehicle history, botanical gardens, wine making, and the Studebaker Administration Building.

photo by Rick Peterson





photo by Ann Turner

Studebakers filled part of the WalMart parking lot on Saturday, lining up ready to convoy to the proving ground.

Seven Studebaker technical seminars presented at the Weikamp Auditorium at the Center for History were well attended. They included a Studebaker Employees Round Table, Studebaker and the Mobil Gas Economy Run; Caring for Your Collection; Preparing Your Studebaker for Concours; "So You Just Bought a Studebaker!" and a question and answer session with the SDC Co-Operators. Meet surveys indicated those in attendance felt the seminars were worthwhile and educational.

The Antique Studebaker Club driving tour on Friday departed timely from the Hampton and the drive through the countryside was great as was the pit stop and photo opportunity at the Studebaker Proving Grounds club house. Several dozen pre-war examples of Studebakers and a Pierce Arrow lined up on the nicely manicured lawns for pictures. The group then went to the Ragtop Museum where a beautiful display of vintage convertibles of all makes and years was enjoyed. The ASC luncheon and program were fitting for such an outstanding event. Emcee Richard Quinn was informative, gave credit to Pam Miltenberger for doing a nice

success in terms of numbers and the chicken was good. Eight hundred and forty six members paid for meals and an untold number of additional spectators were in the room to enjoy the program. A total of nine hundred might be a fair estimate. At any rate, there were more people than I have ever seen at an SDC banquet. The program went pretty quickly and we concluded by 9:00. We know we can make some improvement on the award process and we will. It was refreshing to see the number of people who lingered to visit and say their goodbyes long after the program concluded.

job setting up the meet, then honored several members for their outstanding Studebakers. 2008 ASC International Meet Chairman, Kent Haberle, spoke about plans for the meet in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. As the meet concluded, some drove back to South Bend while others continued to enjoy the Ragtop Museum. Only the lone Pierce Arrow and a vintage beverage hauler needed help.

The Friday night awards banquet at the Century Center was a resounding

For many, the Studebaker Test Track Tour was the highlight of their South Bend experience Saturday morning. Three hundred and sixty three individuals signed up for the four laps around the Bosch operated facility and 152 vintage Studebaker, Avanti and Packard vehicles arrived with spectators catching rides in vehicles with vacant seats. Some I interviewed found the experience as exciting as anything they have done as adults.

Thank you to each one of who devoted so much time and energy to making 2007 in South Bend a very positive experience for so many.

The 43rd Studebaker Drivers Club International Meet was good for South Bend. It was good that many got to see the Studebaker National Museum. It was good that many saw South Bend, Indiana as the Studebaker capital of the world in 2007, because much of our heritage will soon be razed in the name of progress.

Cherish the memories. (S)



photo by Claude Chmielewski

Some of the 152 vehicles at the Studebaker Test Track Tour on Saturday.