

WAYNE-PIKE UPDATE

Volume 31

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Issue 2

“THE APPRAISERS” PANEL DISCUSSION

-By Sandy Flynn

A session scheduled, so all could attend, was a panel discussion featuring the stars and producer of “The Appraisers”. Tom Cox, past AACA President and nick named 'The Classic Car Guy', Chris Ritter, a librarian at the AACA Library is called 'The Car Geek' and Ben Nef, who started as a parts manager and then sold custom bikes before becoming an exotic car dealer in Vegas now finds luxury cars for buyers is dubbed 'The Vegas High Roller' and Chip Taylor, the producer of the show were the panel members. Steve Moskowitz, Executive Director of AACA Headquarters, was the moderator for the session. The Appraisers was on the Discovery (Velocity) in late 2015. It will be on again in 2016, but because they are still in negotiations with Discovery and Velocity, they were not able to talk about it.

(Con't on Page 3)



2015-2016 Officers

President: Arthur Flynn
PO Box 418
Callicoon, NY 12723
570-224-4894

Vice Pres: Hank Antonioli
1307 Bethany Turnpike
Honesdale, PA 18431
570-253-0545

Secretary-Nancy Koberlein
923 Bethany Turnpike
Honesdale, PA 18431
570-253-5010

Treasurer-Richard Covey
345 The Hideout
Lake Ariel, PA 18436
570-698-6608

Board of Directors:
Allen Koberlein
Charlie McKenna
Joan Filosa

Chairmen:
Membership: Joan Filosa
570-698-0630
Sunshine: Pat Kopp
570-253-0545
Historian: Sandra Flynn
Legislative: Randy Koenig
Webmaster: Brandon Fenning

Editor and Publisher:
Sandra Flynn
PO Box 418
Callicoon, NY 12723
sandraflynn1947@yahoo.com

2015 Show Chairman
Hank Antonioli

Club Website:
www.aaca.org/waynepike

Newsletter Awards:
Award of Excellence
2006-8, 2010, 2013-15
Master Editor
2009, 2011, 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-By Art Flynn

I do hope you all have enjoyed our nearly snowless winter. What a turnaround from last year!

With the warmer weather we have had in January and February, I have seen quite a few motorcycles and some older cars out cursing the highways.

Last winter my son brought up an extra snowmobile so we could enjoy some Father-Son riding. We had a great time going over 150 miles in two days. Fast forward to the fall when he talked me into buying a snowmobile to ride this winter. (I can hear your giggles.) Besides the sled, I bought a trailer, new helmet, suit and boots. Needless to say, they didn't get used!

I am looking forward to spring and hope we can get some cruises planned. If the summer is as mild as the winter has been, we should be able to get out and have some fun with our cars.

The trip to Philadelphia was a wonderful little get-away. Sandy and I have written short articles on some of the sessions and included pictures from the cars in the Trade Show area. I sure would not like to have been the drivers of the trailers bringing them through the city and into the hotel driveway to unload and then load up again!

The seminars were really very informative, but are so close together in times that you feel like you are back in school with hardly any time for a "pit" stop between sessions. I did attend a

seminar entitled "AACA X-cup-the Next Generation" by Jeff Mahl, the great-grandson of George Schuster who in 1908 won the NY to Paris race. There will be a report on that seminar in the next newsletter. I had taken my copy of "America 1908" with me that covers important events that happened in 1908 in America. There was a large write up on the "Great Race". I had Jeff sign the book for me and he wrote, "To a dedicated fan of automotive history, enjoy the journey. Jeff Mahl." Sandy and I have met him several times and he is always so gracious and takes time to talk to us. I hope some of you can meet him at some point.

Hope to see you at the March meeting.



PRAYER LIST

Let's keep Joe Verrastro in our prayers. Joe has done a lot for the club with his program book. His address is 1503 N. Webster Ave., Scranton, PA 18509



If you know of members who should be included in our Prayer List, please let the Sunshine Chairman Pat (570-253-0545) or Sandy (570-224-4894) know, so cards

CARS ON DISPLAY IN TRADE SHOW AREA



Since 80th year of AACA, several 1935 cars were on display including this 1935 Buick



This 1935 Chevrolet also drew attention



Beautiful 1935 Cadillac



1935 DeSoto Airflow had many admirers



This gorgeous 1913 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost was also on display and has won 4 Concours Awards



This 1934 Pierce Arrow 840a Convertible Sedan by LaBaron was in the trade show and has also won many awards.

NEXT MEETING -- MARCH 9

(Con't from Page 1) Chip has been a producer for over 40 years, having produced many documentaries for Discovery. He said that a single documentary is much easier to produce than a series like "The Appraisers". A little over a year ago, Discovery called and said that they had a slot and wondered if he could fill it. Chip has done several documentaries for them, so they knew of his work. It only took him a second to say "Yes". The only problem, the documentary had to be ready by Halloween or there would be a large law suit filed on November 1. Chip noted that to be a producer it takes a lot of money (often your own), creativity, determination.

Steve next asked Tom, an AACA member since the age of 13, how the show got started. He said that he had seen another car show that Chip had produced and that he didn't like it, so he e-mailed Chip with his displeasure. They e-mailed back and forth a couple of times that night and Tom called Chip in the morning. Tom asked if AACA could get involved in a show about cars and without the cooperation of AACA the show would never have happened. Steve interjected that he, too, had seen the show and had screamed at the TV how bad the show was.

Chris was the next person to add how he got involved. He had been contacted at random about information on other cars for other shows that never got off the ground. Steve called Chris on Easter Sunday and told him to contact Tom immediately about the show. He then e-mailed an audition tape that was accepted. Chris reminded Steve about his original interview with him 7 years earlier when he was applying for the job in the library. He had said that he would do anything except public speaking and that even doing the library sessions at the Annual Meeting caused him much stress. Since then Chris has gotten over some of that fear and does a great job on the show.

Ben was more quiet, but said he got involved because a person on his mailing list for his luxury cars was a producer and had gotten a casting call and thought of Ben. Ben sent an audition tape and found out he was one of three finalists—but there are only three guys on the show!

Tom's original audition tape was rejected because it seemed as if Tom really wasn't "into it". He was asked to send a second one. Originally Tom only wanted to facilitate the program, not necessarily be

on the show. Chip encouraged him to submit the second one and by this time Tom had a different attitude about the show and wanted to be part of it.

One of the first AACA shows that were filmed was the Buffalo Spring Eastern meet. All the shows are non-scripted and it takes many hours of taping to come up with the few minutes of footage to be used on the show. All felt that the chemistry between the three of them is good and that they feed off each other to make the show good. Chip does want a little friendly friction between the "fast car guy" and the "AACA type vehicle guys", but not enough to turn people off. (Ed. Note: While watching this episode they featured a '37 Plymouth truck and we could see our '37 Plymouth P4 in the background.)

By then end of the session, Ben had to admit that he likes his exotic cars and had not seen many he thought he wanted to be see or be connected with a care that he could walk faster that it would run. After being with Tom and Chris and the vehicles they have shown and taught him, he has changed his mind.

The benefit of the show is that it exposes the AACA, it's exceptional library and the museum on an international basis. Reality TV is often scripted, but not "The Appraisers". Chris gets the information on the cars to be showcases and shares it with the others. The biggest surprise to all was that once people found out what they were doing, they were more than willing to share the story of their car.

As the time drew to a close, Steve let the three panelists say anything they wanted to share with the audience. They each related funny stories that happened to them while taping, such as Tom losing a cap on his tooth while taping. He actually swallowed part of it and spit the rest out and kept on taping. Chris has a hard time watching himself on TV. He has seen all the shows on a small computer screen, but when the show comes on he finds things in his garage to work on.

(Ed. Note: We have this show set to record when the next season comes on and will let members know when we see it coming up.)

UPDATE DID GOOD!

For a seventh time, the *Wayne-Pike Update* has received an Excellence Award from the Publications Committee. Issues are submitted to National AACA and four others on the committee for evaluations.

Thank you to all who contributed articles this year. Chuck Crane said, in his presentation on 'Publications and Newsletters', "The club newsletter is the glue that holds the club together." Yes, I can get articles from the Rummage Box or AACA Speedster, (that they like editors to share with their members) but the most interesting articles come from the members on their travels, shows they have attended, about their cars and club activities.

In 2015 of the 125 newsletters submitted for evaluation (out of 360 clubs nationwide) twenty Master Editor Awards, 48 received Excellence Awards, 44 Distinction Awards and 13 Merit awards were presented after the President's Dinner on Friday night of the Annual meeting.

Newsletters are evaluated from March to November and must follow specific guidelines to earn the points to determine the award to be given. These are listed on the AACA website under publications.

Chuck also warned about using articles off the internet as they are copyrighted and need to have permission from the author to use. Information from the AACA publications has been reviewed by the AACA directors and is OK to use, as is information from the AACA Museum and Library.

Members are encouraged to submit original articles. Don't worry about not being a "good" writer, as I can edit them for you for grammar, spelling and punctuation, but need your thoughts.

JOE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Joe Verrastro has done our program book for several years and is seeking help this year. He sent me a note asking the following:

- Do you have a copy machine?
- Do you have or can use a copy machine?
- Can you go out and get ads?
- Can you go to stores and vendors to get giveaways?

Joe also included the prices of the ads in his note. He would like the checks made out to "Wayne-Pike Region AACA" and requests that you get the payment when you get the ad. They should be to him by June 1, 2016 so he has time to get the book printed.

Full Page ad	\$85.00
Half Page ad	\$50.00

Business card ad	\$25.00
Patron or Sponsor	\$10.00

More information can be gotten from Joe at 570-239-1079. Let's help Joe produce another successful program book.

AACA ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was called to order bt 2pm by AACA National President Donald Barlup, who also offered the invocation. All veterans in the audience (and there were many) were asked to stand and be recognized. Introductions were made of the AACA Board, Directors, *Antique Automobile* editor, AACA Library and Past National Presidents. Mike Jones, chairman of the Annual Meeting also introduced his committee and made a few remarks. A couple more donations were made to the Library and Museum. Most of them had been presented on Friday night at the President's Dinner.

The following newly elected Directors for 2016-18 were introduced: Lars Anderson, Donald Barlup, Tom Cox, Jim Elliott, Norm Hutton, Roger Irland and Chester Robertson. Tom Cox was introduced as the Executive Vice-President for the coming year.

A new program, AACA Military Sponsorship Program, was introduced by LT. Col. (Ret.) Holly Forester of Virginia. It provides a limited number of one-year complimentary memberships to retired military members for first-time applicants with all the rights and privileges of members with the hopes that they will continue their membership in years to come.

The Officer's Reports were printed and distributed to all attending. Enclosed in this newsletter is a '57 Chevy cutout that has been developed by the membership committee to use as a windshield card to introduce others to AACA. (More cards are available from AACA National Headquarters.)

Lars Anderson, VP of Membership, conducted an open mike round table discussion. He noted that AACA will be doing an e-mail survey and ALL members are encouraged to answer it.

AACA Scholarships were brought up during this session and one member said he communicates regularly with a former scholarship winner and that other should be encouraged to do the same. This year there were only 10 applicants for the six scholarships that were awarded this year. AACA

website has the information on the scholarships. It is found under the 'Junior AACA' tab at the top and contains the information needed to apply and where to get the application)

Don then wished everyone a safe trip home and adjourned the meeting.

WE ENDED UP IN PRISON!!

-By Art Flynn

Sandy and I left for Philadelphia and the Annual AACA meeting on Thursday morning from Scranton by bus. We found that it was the easiest and more economical way to go to Philly for three days—no tolls, no hotel parking fees and MUCH less stress on me who hates to drive in the cities.

We arrived about 11am and were able to check into the hotel and get our room right away. We had talked about going to Eastern State Penitentiary and found the tourist literature on it. After checking out the map and finding out how far away it was, we grabbed a cab since it was cold and windy in Philadelphia that day (but not as cold as Friday and Saturday were).

The outside walls look like a fortress with its 30 foot high walls (and 10 foot underground) that surround the penitentiary. The total distance around the perimeter is about one-half mile. The prison, built in 1829, is laid out like a wagon wheel with a center hub and seven original cellblocks. Several others were added later. Originally the prison was two miles outside the city proper, but now is very much "in the city". It was in continuous use until 1971 when it closed.

Eastern State was abandoned for over 20 years and was declared to be a semi-ruin and named to the 100 Most Endangered Sites List by the World Monuments List in 2000. Because of the efforts to stabilize it, it was removed from the list in 2002. The goal now is not to restore the site, but to preserve it as stabilized ruin. Selected areas have been restored to better interpret the history of the institution.

This was the first true "Penitentiary" or a prison designed to inspire "penitence" or true regret for your wrong doings and where the word penitentiary was derived from. All the inmates were held in true solitary confinement as each cell only held one person and light came from two sky lights in the ceiling. Prisoners were not allowed to communicate with each other or the guards and were allowed two

half-hours a day outside in their "exercise yard" that was connected to each cell. In the rooms there was a bed, table, toilet and sink with running water. The only reading material was a Bible.

On our tour, guided by a personal audio system and headphones, we were able to see the cell blocks and look into some of the cells that they have cleaned up. Because the prison has been closed since 1971 and abandoned for many years, there are huge piles of dirt-deteriorating concrete that is falling off the brick walls and flaking paint. The corridors were open on each end and allowed the cold air to blow through, making for a cold tour.

One of the cells that were open for viewing was said to have been inhabited by "Scarface" Al Capone when he spent about eight months of a 12-month sentence there for being caught with an illegal concealed weapon. He was housed in what is called 'Eastern States Park Avenue' cellblock. Upon looking into his cell, there was a Persian rug on the floor, oil paintings on the wall, a nice desk with lamp, upholstered chair and a bed with a nice bedspread on it!

If you are in Philadelphia and have a couple of hours to spare, consider visiting the Penitentiary. It is a famous tourist attraction, even when it was in use there were tours through it. It is said that foreign dignitaries coming to the US were asked what they wanted to see and one is reported saying that the only things he really wanted to see in the US was Niagara Falls and Eastern State Penitentiary. It has been a registered historical landmark since 1996.

Check out the full page of pictures from the prison.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to All,

Well the winter has certainly flown by.....without any significant snowfall thankfully. My plow truck has only been used a few times this winter season. There were a few days this past month that I actually toyed with the idea of taking my Cadillac out for a spin on some of those gorgeous spring like days we have been fortunate to have.

This year Pat and I have started taking 10 day mini trips down to Florida so I can test the waters about possibly becoming a "snowbird" in a few years once I become semi-retired. I must admit I look forward to these trips and have a great time meeting all the

neighbors that are down Florida for the winter. Pat is real fortunate to have great neighbors and I thoroughly enjoy their company when we are there. Our remodel project of the condo is finally completed and is our little vacation "oasis". Now the real test of MY mini vacations begins since my "honey do" projects are completed in the condo.

Dick and I have planned three trips this year. Going to Vineland, New Jersey on May 20 & 21 for the AACA National Eastern Spring Meet; Williamsport, PA on June 4th for the AACA Grand National Meet and Ferrom, Virginia on June 9 through 11th for the LZOC/LOC "Gathering of the Faithful" Spring Meet. Naturally we will be attending Hershey in October. Also scheduled this year is Crankers Museum Car Cruise is being held on Sunday, August 7th.

The flyers and posters are printed and Pat will have them mailed out the by the middle of March. I will bring in some at the meeting on March 9th. Dick's grandson, Brandon, also updated our AACA website and has added our flyer to it. We must also get the road signs repainted and stenciled. This will be discussed at the meeting.

See you soon.

CAR AUCTION SEMINAR

-By Art Flynn

I attended a session called "Demystifying the World of Collector Car Auctions" by Megan Boyd and representatives of Auction America that talked about auto appraisals, inside facts about big car auctions and some information on American cars in Cuba.

They started by talking about the cars in Cuba. What you see on TV and the pictures of the cars there make you drool and wish you could get your hands on one of them. But don't believe what you see is an original unrestored car. They are all but original in any way, shape or form. After 60 plus years, nearly every bit of the power train and steering parts are whatever they could replace the original parts with. Most have diesel engines because the diesel fuel is much cheaper there than gasoline. Most all hardtops have been cut up and made into convertibles. The presenters noted that all the cars used as cabs are owned by the state. Cabs charge \$25 an hour for hardtops and \$30 an hour for convertibles and that the state gets 85% of the fares collected.

In summing up the information on Cuban cars, they noted that we will never get our hands on those cars and that there is little value if we could get one of them. They suggested just going to Cuba and enjoy seeing the cars from a distance.

The focus of the seminar then turned to the auctions and how they are run.

As you know, a car going to an auction sells for what a person is willing pay for it. The car may not be worth that price, but if it is what you want then you will do anything you can to get it.

Auction houses are in the business to make money and they know how to do it. As much as 30-40% of the cars going through the auction are owned by the auction companies. When a car that they know is worth a lot more than what is being bid for, the staff from the auction will bid on the car to buy it or drive the sale price up much higher so they get more out of the buyer's premium. If you are bidding on a car that is owned by the auction house, they will keep the bid going higher and you may not know you are bidding against them. If they don't feel the car is going for big enough money, they will get the car back and offer it at another auction.

Some information that sounded good to pass on was if you are interested in a car go to the auction office and ask to see the title and ask how many times the car has been sold. By law they must produce the title information so you know who owns the car.

Other good information shared was to try to get documentation on who restored the car or about its originality so you have a good idea on its value. A well-known restoration shop that had done the restoration work can add a lot of value to the car now and in the future.

They offered a note on insuring car after having purchased it at auction that you paid a lot for. Just because you paid a lot for the car, you may not be able to get from them what you paid for the car if something happened to it. One example they gave was that Barret Jackson sells insurance at their auctions and would be glad to sell you a \$200,000 policy on a car you paid \$100,000 for. But read the fine print on the policy, because, remember who wrote the policy. You must take into account that when you buy a \$100,000 car, taking out the seller's fee and the buyer's premium, you only have a \$75,000 to \$80,000 car.

The presenters summed up the session by saying “If you can, buy a well-documented car with a reputable company appraisal you will be much better off.”

FOR THE LADIES: ZENTANGLE

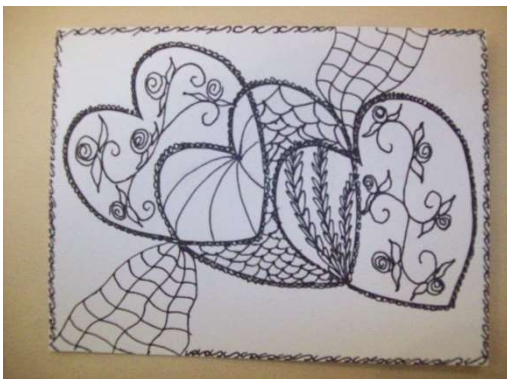
-By Sandy Flynn

Each year there is at least one session for the ladies, but this year there were two that I attended. I will write on one this month and the other the next time.

Zentangle is not just “doodling”, it is a way of creating beautiful images from structured patterns. There are several websites to look at about “Zentangle”.

The instructor, Chris King, had her helpers distribute paper, envelope, pencil and Sharpie pen to attendees as they entered. She had already drawn three overlapping hearts on the paper. Chris passed around an album full of samples that she had done, plus she had a couple larger ones on display in the front of the room. We were able to look at the album during the presentation.

Chris instructed the more than 30 women and one man in the room how to get started on creating their own card. First we drew small circles around the edges of each heart. She had an easel in the front and showed us how to make the ‘roses’, leaves and vines in two of the large open areas. Next she suggested various ways to fill in the rest of the sections made by the overlapping of the hearts. A ‘ribbon’ was added to fill up some of the blank spaces and to complete the design, she suggested different ways to put a design around the edge of the card.



Chris shared several papers of different designs to

choose from to use on this card or others in the future. In reality, doing this gives you a feeling of timelessness, freedom and can be a form of meditation. I was surprised how fast the 75 minutes of the session went, because I was so involved in completing my card. It was fun and something I will be able to use in the future and can show the grandkids when doing crafts with them.

EPA SEEKS TO PROHIBIT CONVERSION OF VEHICLES INTO RACECARS

The following is a copy of the press release from SEMA dated February 8, 2016:

“The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a regulation to prohibit conversion of vehicles originally designed for on-road use into racecars. The regulation would also make the sale of certain products for use on such vehicles illegal. The proposed regulation was contained within a non-related proposed regulation entitled ‘Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Engines and Vehicles—Phase 2.’

The regulation would impact all vehicle types, including sports cars, sedans and hatch-backs commonly converted strictly for use at the track. While the Clean Air Act prohibits certain modifications to motor vehicles, it is clear that vehicles built or modified for racing, and not used on the streets, are not the ‘motor vehicles’ that Congress intended to regulate.

“This proposed regulation represent overreaching by the agency, runs contrary to the law and defies decades of racing activity where EPA has acknowledged and allowed conversion of vehicles,” said SEMA President and CEO Chris Kersting. ‘Congress did not intend the original Clean Air Act to extend to vehicles modified for racing and has re-enforced that intent on more than one occasion.’

SEMA submitted comments in opposition to the regulation and met with the EPA to confirm the agency’s intentions. The EPA indicated that the regulation would prohibit conversion of vehicles into racecars and make the sale of certain emission-related parts for use on converted vehicles illegal. Working with other affected organizations, including

those representing legions of professional and hobbyist racers and fans, SEMA will continue to oppose the regulation through the administrative process and will seek congressional support and judicial intervention as necessary.

The EPA has indicated it expects to publish final regulation by July 2016.”

A petition was started in early February and they needed 100,000 signatures by early March. I went on the website on February 20, 2016 and already nearly 158,000 had signed the petition. It is good to know that there is someone, like SEMA, watching out for the interest of the motorist and their hobbies.

AACA MUSEUM OFFERINGS

The AACA Museum is open and free to AACA members. Currently there are several special exhibits there and they will close the end of April 2016.

- It's a Small World-Micro and Mini Cars until 4/22/16
- Herbie's Winter Vacation at the AACA Museum until 4/30/16
- Pioneers in African-American Auto History until 4/30/16

The Volkswagen at the museum is one of the 11 original cars built by Walt Disney Studios for the first Herbie movie. Of the 11, this is #10 and was intended for some serious stunt work. His current state shows signs of his adventures.

The Pioneers display is a salute to Black History Month and history of pioneering African-American community that contributed to the culture of the automobile industry. These men and women laid the foundation for others to pursue careers in such fields as franchised car dealers, designers, custom car builders, race car drivers and manufacturers.

If you have never taken time to visit the AACA Museum in Hershey, it is certainly worth the trip and besides its FREE to all current AACA members.

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Sandra Flynn

What a great time we had in Philadelphia at the 80th Annual AACA Meeting. The hotel lobby was decorated with blue and yellow balloons in the shape of “80” with a couple others on each side. There were Granny Smith apples, cupcakes decorated with “80” on top, fruit infused water and hot mulled cider for our enjoyment. These were there Thursday

through Saturday morning.



As usual the sessions were excellent and a couple of times, I had a hard time deciding which one I would rather go to as there were at least two I would have liked to attend. We especially enjoyed to panel discussion with the three stars of “The Appraisers”. We already have our TV “watching” for the next season of the show. It is not showing up yet on our list of recordings that goes about two weeks ahead of time. I will report on sessions Art and I attended (we try to go to different ones so there is a lot to write about) in this newsletter, plus the next one.

Being history buffs, we both enjoyed our tour of the Penitentiary. Art did a short story on it, but there was so much more we could have said. We will bring the postcards and book with us that we bought to share with everyone.

BRIEF MINUTES MEETING

There are no minutes for this issue, as we have not met since November. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the March 9 meeting at Elegante's Restaurant. Remember, several of us meet about 6pm for dinner before the meeting.

SCENES FROM EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY



Aerial view of the penitentiary 1954. Photo: collection of Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, from Eastern State Penitentiary Correctional Diagnostic and Classification Center, gift of Norman Johnston.

Picture on wall shows the layout of the prison from the air in 1954.



Each cell had a toilet with running water. Heat was provided by the pipes on the wall.



Sandy walking down the hall of the cellblock. Prisoners were held behind those wooden doors.



One of the 30 foot high walls (plus 10 foot underground) surrounding the penitentiary.

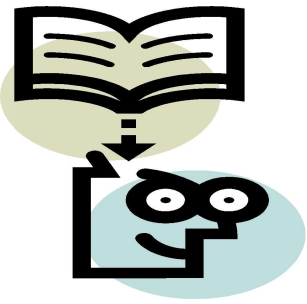


One of the cells on display with the bed that they used. A thin mattress covered the “springs”.



Al Capone's cell on “Park Avenue” at Eastern State

NEXT MEETING – MARCH 9



COMING \$ EVENTS

- Mar 9 Monthly Meeting at Elegante's Restaurant
- Apr 13 Monthly Meeting at Elegante's Restaurant
- May 11 Monthly Meeting at Elegante's Restaurant
- May 19-21 Eastern Division Spring Meet, Millville, NJ. Application on flier in National AACA magazine
- June 2-4 AACA Grand National Meet, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport, PA
Application on flier in National AACA magazine
- June 8 Monthly Meeting at Elegante's Restaurant
- July 10 Our Car Show, Salem Mason Grounds, Hamlin, PA
- July 17-21 Founders Tour 2016, Huntingdon, PA
- Aug ? Club Picnic
- Sept 11-16 2016 Revival AAA Glidden Tour
- Sept 14 Monthly Meeting at Elegante's Restaurant
- Oct 12 Monthly Meeting at Elegante's Restaurant
- Nov 9 Monthly Meeting at Elegante's Restaurant
- Dec ? Holiday Party



Nash Ambassador "500" Coupe Broughton with full-width
Seat (De Luxe Equipped)



NEXT MEETING -- MARCH 9

BIRTHDAY LIST



MARCH

Paul Schiavo 3/4
Virginia Schiavo 3/11

APRIL

Joan Filosa 4/12
Isabella Tridente 4/13
Ernest Iannaccone 4/25

As a change of pace, instead of a game, I have included several trivial facts that I found on the AACA website under the AACA Junior section. I was surprised at the information provided in this trivia. There are a couple more there if you want to check them out.

- The first drive-in service station in the US was opened by Gulf Oil Company on December 1, 1913 in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.
- The driver's test was invented in France. In 1893, drivers of all self-propelled vehicles had to undergo an exam that involved driving ability and vehicle repair.
- US patent #D219584 was issued to Steve McQueen in 1970. Besides being a movie star, he loved racing cars and working on engines. A by-product of his racing hobby was the invention of the bucket seat.
- Automobiles use lead-acid batteries, each of which contain approximately 18 pounds of lead and a gallon of sulfuric acid, both hazardous materials.
- In 1916, 55% of the cars in the world were Model-T Fords, a record that has never been beaten.
- A car uses 106 ounces of gas idling for one minute. Half an ounce is used to start the average automobile.
- The size of car number plates were standardized in 1957, in the United States, Canada, and Mexico at 12 inch by 6 inches.
- The first product Motorola started to develop was a record player for automobiles. At the time, the most known player on the market was the Victrola, so they called themselves Motorola.
- Ferdinand Porsche, who later went on to build sports cars bearing his own name, designed the original 1936 Volkswagen.
- As an ad gimmick, Karl G. Mayer, nephew of the lunchmeat mogul Oscar Mayer, invented the company's Wiernermobile. On July 18, 1936, the first Oscar Mayer Wiernermobile rolled out of General Body Company's factory in Chicago at a cost of \$5,000 and was 13 feet long. They can still be found on the road today.

NEXT MEETING -- MARCH 9