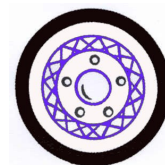


# ***NHHAC NEWS***

**The Newsletter of the  
North Hills Historic Auto Club**



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**Volume 53 Issue 04**

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**APRIL 2022**

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hell-O car people, we had a great turn out for the first meeting and it was fun to see all . We discussed a few things that you will see in the newsletter when and if you read it. The only thing I would like to mention is the Memorial Day parade in Aspinwall and the Fathers Day show in Oakmont.

(Welcome) to the two new members that were at the meeting, and hopefully we didn't scare you off, and will see you at as many meetings as you can.

*President Mike*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>April 10</b>    | <b>NHHAC Monthly Meeting, Sunday 3 pm, Church of Our Saviour, Glenshaw</b> |
| <b>April / May</b> | <b>Ladies' Lunch, to be determined.</b>                                    |
| <b>April 29</b>    | <b>Men's breakfast, 8:00 am, Eat n Park Wexford at Rt 910 &amp; I-79</b>   |
| <b>May 8</b>       | <b>Mother's Day (meeting moved to next Sunday)</b>                         |
| <b>May 15</b>      | <b>NHHAC Monthly Meeting, Sunday 3 pm, Church of Our Saviour, Glenshaw</b> |
| <b>May 27</b>      | <b>Men's breakfast, 8:00 am, Eat n Park Wexford at Rt 910 &amp; I-79</b>   |
| <b>May 30</b>      | <b>Memorial Day, Aspinwall Parade</b>                                      |

## Minutes of March 13, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Quinn following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Twenty-nine members were in attendance including two new members, Frank Van Atta and Lou (sorry I didn't get the last name)

Motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2021 by Diane Otto and seconded by Bill Watt

### Treasurer's Report

Jack Swaney reported a balance of \$3,180.73

Motion to accept from Rick Kelley and seconded by Daryl Elliott.

### Wellness Report

Jackie Sheerer noted that Fran Kaiser is recovering from a knee replacement.

### Old Business

The Spring Getaway is good to go! Thanks to Dave and Bobbi Carpenter for planning this trip.

Thanks from the club to Steve Illsley for his many years of planning and leading tours.

Contact Jan Smith if you need a name tag.

### New Business

Contact Diane Otto if you wish to purchase club merchandise.

Contact Rick (724-814-4395) for information if you wish to help with a car/truck show in Butler on September 24

Oakmont Lions Club will be having a car show on Father's Day. More information to follow.

Memorial Day parade will be held in Aspinwall.

### Daryl Elliott Presentation

Talked about using old road maps and Google maps to explore virtually. Recommended watching 52 Sunset Boulevard on YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-TK3GDz0\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-TK3GDz0_8)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Steve Illsley

Submitted by Mary Jo Phillips, secretary

### Women's Lunch

All welcome. None scheduled at this time.

Anyone interested in attending or to take over organizing the Ladies' Lunches please call

Jackie Sheerer at (412) 367-3138



### In Memory

John Eld, a long time member of our Club passed away on March 15, 2022. A Memorial Gathering will be held in Wexford on Saturday, May 28th. Please contact Suzanne Ackers at (412) 364-3875 for additional information and attendance.

### John Eld

### Member Profile By: Joe Acker

*Excerpts Reprinted from March 2007 Newsletter*

This month we feature club member John Eld. John and his wife Mary live in McCandless Township and own a 1957 Ford Fairlane 500 4 Door Sedan that has been in the family for many years. It was the '57 Ford that got John into the old car hobby by a circuitous route. John's grandfather purchased the car from the former West View Garage when it was about 2 years old. He was already retired and didn't drive very much, so the car eventually became John's car. John learned to drive with this car, took his drivers test in it and drove it back and forth to North Allegheny High School. He recalls that even with power steering, having to parallel park a 16-1/2 foot car when you are still a student driver, was quite a challenge!

John drove the Ford off and on over the years, and finally got another car about the time he went off to college. The '57 Fairlane then sat idle for about 13 years, but was always kept in a heated garage. Then in 1991, John decided to do some restoration work on it and put it back on the road. When he went to apply for antique



car insurance, they strongly suggested that he join a car club. John went to his first NHHAC car show that year and asked how to join. There he met Frank Pribanic who gave him an application, and has been a member since. He didn't realize until later that he was already acquainted with Frank's wife Judy, who worked where he did his banking.

Since the '57 is a driving car, and not a show car, John enjoys that aspect the most. Just seeing people's faces light up when he pulls into the gas station, is a lot of fun. Usually people want to know what year it is, what size engine it has, and when John tells them he has driven this car since high school, they are really impressed and amazed! John has never been able to do any of the heavy work (rebuilding engines or transmissions) but loves detailing the car. He got a lot of satisfaction out of removing the old padded dashboard and installing the new one, and taking off the door handles to have them re-chromed. John has enjoyed the friendship of Jim Zeleznik over the years because he is a fellow '57 Ford owner. He said he has also gotten valuable assistance from Dave Kurash, Roger Boff, Phil Deakin, Joe Acker and of course, Jack Swaney who is a virtual encyclopedia on cars.

John said he is not sure if he can be called an old car hobbyist, and feels he certainly is not a car collector. He became interested in cars when he was about 9 or 10 years old. For family vacations, they would usually take long motor trips. To while away the hours, they would play a little game. There were 5 of them in the car including his grandparents. Each person, in turn, had to name a model of car starting first with the letter "A", and going through the alphabet. This is how John got to know about cars like the Reo, Kissel, Jewett, Hupmobile and Stoddard-Dayton.

*Continued . . .*

During John's work career as a radio personality, he met many fascinating people, but saw very few antique cars. Perhaps it was because he wasn't really in the antique car hobby, and the subject never seemed to come up. It did provide him with some interesting car stories though. John got his first job at WJAS when it was owned by the NBC network. This was a big deal for him starting out in one of the major news departments in the city. One day the newsroom was alerted that Pittsburgh Police were searching the banks of the Chartiers Creek for 2 robbery suspects. The news department tossed John the keys to the mobile unit and told him to go file a live report. The news car turned out to be a 1961 Plymouth Valiant. It was not kept in a garage, but was housed in a barn at the transmitter site in the South Hills. When John got to the barn, he found the bright red Valiant covered with hay. As he roared down the driveway, he swears there was a chicken perched on the roof! When he arrived at the scene, there was still straw stuck to the car, and he was laughing so hard he could hardly file his story.

John said he is fortunate that mishaps with the '57 have been minimal. Once back around 1961, he had put in a long day of volunteer work. He returned to the Fairlane bone tired, got in, fired up the 292 V8 and shoved it into reverse. The car traveled about 6 feet and there was a loud bang and a huge jolt. He had forgotten that he had parked with a sign pole directly behind the car, a 5 inch steel pipe embedded in concrete. It only pushed the bumper in about an inch with no damage to the body. Those spring steel bumper mounts really did their job.

Another time in the early seventies when John still ran a regular license plate, he decided to pick up Mary for a date in the Ford. He had just had the snow tires removed and the summer tires remounted. He got halfway to Mary's house and heard a rumble. Then the whole driver's side of the car lurched over. He then realized that the kid who remounted the tires had not tightened the lug nuts, so he lost a wheel. In addition to a new wheel, it cost John a full set of lug nuts and wheel studs. On top of that, he missed the date with Mary. (But they made it up later).

It was on his Schwinn Black Panther bicycle that he first encountered a 1951 Henry J. It was a compact car made by Kaiser Frazer, not a pretty car, but it had a fastback design where the roof line swept down all the way to the rear bumper. John had installed a gizmo on his Schwinn that worked off the rear spokes and made a sound like a motorcycle. One day he was speeding down a hill near his house when suddenly the gizmo stopped working. He turned around on the seat to see what had happened and the next thing he knew, was spread-eagled on the roof of the parked Henry J! He wasn't hurt, just shaken up a bit. The beautiful Schwinn however, had a broken front axle, a bent fork and the chrome rim of the front wheel was shaped like a pretzel. John said he guessed he was pretty lucky, but never liked the Henry J after that incident.

Over the years John and Mary have enjoyed many events with the NHHAC, mostly working on the car shows and attending the annual fall picnic. They recall what a great time they had at the chuck wagon dance held at the North Park skating rink. Everyone came in western costumes. He thinks Bob Stauffer was most authentic though, he was packing a real six-gun!

John once bought a used 1956 Lincoln Capri 2 door coupe. It was his first car that had all the goodies, power windows, power seats, automatic headlight dimmers and a posh leather interior. John was so proud when he got it. A week later, he was cruising along when he heard a crash and a scraping sound. He got out to look and saw he was dragging the battery along the ground by the cables. The battery box on those Lincoln's was under the floor board on the passenger side. With all the road salt in Pittsburgh, it had rotted out and finally just let go.

When he traded the Lincoln about a year later on a 1961 Thunderbird, it was picked up by one of the mechanics at the dealership. John heard later that he was pulling up his unpaved driveway in deep mud, and the transmission fell out! Well, you win some, you lose some.

In most of our profile stories, I ask the person being interviewed to tell us about their favorite car, or perhaps one they wish they could have had. When I asked John this question, he said ever since he was old enough to listen, his Dad told him stories about his first car. It was a 1926 Dodge Brothers Sedan. In the 1930's, his dad and his younger brother took time off from college and traveled the West, stopping to see most of the big national parks. He even drove this '26 Dodge up Pike's Peak in Colorado without boiling over (or wearing down the brakes on the way down). This car became somewhat of a legend in their family. It was boxy and drab, not a very exciting car to look at. John has seen pictures, but doesn't know if he would actually want one. He keeps thinking that someday he would like to drive one, or just sit in a '26 Dodge so he can whisper to his Dad up in heaven, "I know what you meant!"

**Spring Getaway at Berkley Springs WV Recaps**

The spring getaway was a great success. Eight couples joined in the fun. The Sheerers and their son Doug, the Paines and their son Mark and his fiance Sarah, the Goetzs, the Carpenters and the Smiths were club members in attendance. We were joined by the Alberts and McLaughlins (friends of the Carpenters). We had great accommodations at the Country Inn. We checked in, then we ate. We slept then we ate. We toured the museum where we learned the history of the spring water and then we ate. We drove to the C&O Canal Paw Paw tunnel then came back and ate. We met in the social room and had snacks. We slept and then ate. Having had a wonderful weekend, everyone went home happy. *Dave & Bobbie Carpenter*

The Carpenters planned an outstanding winter weekend getaway in historic Berkeley Springs, WV. Dave and Bobbie scheduled a museum tour. They also led a car tour of beautiful scenery of the West Virginia mountains with a short hike to the Paw Paw Tunnel. The food was plentiful and good. We even had a private dining room. The whole trip was a lot of fun. Thanks to Dave and Bobbie. *Cathy Paine*



The Country Inn of Berkeley Springs



Marty & Bob Goetz, Jackie & Bill Sheerer and Doug



Bonnie & Jan Smith, Mike & Cathy Paine, Sarah & Mark



The Carpenters (Dave taking photo), Alberts, and McLaughlins



Roman Bath House at Berkeley Springs State Park



Museum of the Berkeley Springs



C&O Canal Paw Paw Tunnel



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**SINCE 1971**



## **NORTH HILLS HISTORIC AUTO CLUB**

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