



BRICKYARD BULLETIN



VOL. 40, ISSUE 10 A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDY CHAPTER OF THE STUDEBAKER DRIVERS CLUB, OCTOBER 2014



Such a pretty view on such a pretty day!

Indy Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club Minutes

September 7, 2014

Hosts: Charlie & Becky Griffith

Place: At their home – 1526 S. Hunter Rd.,
Indianapolis, IN

Attendance: 33

Following a delicious pitch-in lunch of pulled pork sandwiches with all the trimmings, President Chuck Kern called our meeting to order.



Vice President Dan Taylor who attended this year's International Meet stressed that Drive Your Studebaker Day is on September 13th this year.

This Thursday, September 11th, Chuck Kern, Ted Harbit, and Richard Poe will be going to the drag races at Stanton, Michigan. This is a good time to highlight the performance of Studebakers, and our guys always make a good showing.

Max Starkey wrote positive remarks in his local newsletter about the Indy Chapter providing fried chicken for the joint activity at the Grissom Air Force Base. It seems the number who would be attending was under-estimated so the chicken provided by our guys was appreciated.

50/50 Drawing: Chuck Kern won \$51.00 with \$50.00 going to the club treasury.

Scott Jones made a motion that we adjourn. Andy Swartz seconded the motion.

Judy Lawlis, Secretary



Two Studebaker Buildings in Chicago

Story and Photos by Danny G. Taylor

Chicago is a short trip for most of us in the Indy Chapter. Next time you are there for whatever purpose, spend a little extra time and explore the two beautiful Studebaker buildings.

Karen and I meet our classic car and historic preservation friends George and Mary Fraser of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin there this spring. We stayed at the Palmer House in downtown Chicago so most of our excursions could be on foot. Our purpose was three-fold: go to the musical “Motown” at the Oriental Theatre, take a couple of architectural tours sponsored by the Chicago Architectural Foundation and then on our own, explore the Studebaker Buildings. So, in addition to Studebakers, this article will speak a little about architecture.

Fine Arts Building – 410 S. Michigan Ave.

This building, original known as the Studebaker Building, was built between 1884-85 as the Studebaker Brothers Chicago area wagon and carriage manufacturing plant and showroom. It originally had eight stories (remodeled in 1898 to add three more stories) where the first four floors were showrooms which displayed up to 2,000 carriages as well as providing service. The remaining four floors were for the manufacturing process. Its cost to construct was \$750,000. It was designated a Chicago Landmark in 1978.

The exterior walls are built of red syenite granite and Bedford limestone. The two granite columns at the main entrance were said to be, at that time, the largest polished monolithic shafts in the country measuring 3 feet 8 inches in diameter and almost 13 feet in height.



Outside of the Fine Arts Building (left and above)

As its current name suggests, it houses a variety of businesses associated with the arts: galleries, theatre, dance and recording studios, musical instrument makers and the like. Also housed in the building is the Studebaker Theatre also known, as Studebaker Hall dedicated in 1898. In its time, it was one of the most popular theatres in Chicago.

Not to be missed if you go is the Artist's Café – in one of the carriage showrooms !! We had a fine breakfast there one day while we admired the building both inside and out.

Columbia College Wabash Campus – 623 S. Wabash Ave.

This ten story building was built in 1895 and was originally known as the Second Studebaker Building with offices and warehouse facilities. Its architectural style is quite different from the Michigan Ave. building. In the ten years between the construction of these two buildings, metal framing was now being used as the load bearing material. Prior to that, buildings had very thick masonry walls particularly near the bottom, that were necessary to support the structure; this reduced floor space on the bottom floors, usually used for retail and this in turn cut into the amount of rent the owners could charge.



Outside the Columbia College Building

This building has had extensive remodeling done to both the interior and exterior as much of the terra cotta exterior was in poor condition. The building now houses classrooms, academic offices, laboratories and art studios for the college..

When I am near any place where Route 66 runs, it is impossible for me not to journey some of it, which we did. Get a taste of Route 66 by having a meal at the famous Lou Mitchell's Restaurant at 565 W. Jackson Blvd, where they have been serving a great breakfast since 1923 – 3 years before the designation of Route 66. This is a place where the rich and famous want to be seen - everyone from U.S. Presidents, Mayors, Governors, Senators, Representatives, athletes, coaches, authors, judges, lawyers, clergy, and stars of the stage and screen. It's a time-honored whistle stop on the campaign trails of many elected officials. Don't forget to get your free box of Milk Duds when you check out.

In closing, Karen and I had a great time with our friends, even though George is a Mopar man – his 1947 New Yorker convertible was in the 2011 Milwaukee Masterpiece Concours d'Elegance. He has since replaced it with a beautiful black 1948 New Yorker convertible – it

would also qualify for a concours.

I hope you enjoy your next trip to Chicago. Drive your Studebaker and park it in front of the Studebaker Building on Michigan Avenue – I'm sure Becky will print a photo of it in our newsletter.



Breakfast in the Studebaker Building's
Artist's Café

Last 'Studebaker brother' dies By Margaret Fosmoe South Bend Tribune

SOUTH BEND — They were eight strapping brothers, back from service in World War II and working together at the Studebaker Corp. automotive plant.



This photograph, taken about 1950, featured eight brothers of the Wilk family from South Bend who worked at Studebaker Corp. At far right in the photo is Ted Wilk, who outlived all his brothers. He died Friday. Photo provided/Studebaker National Museum

birds in his later years, said Holly Happ of South Bend, a close family friend who first met Ted 22 years ago when he was a neighbor of her sister's.

"He was 77 years old then, but he looked 67 and acted like he was 57," Happ said.

Ted Wilk, who was divorced, had no children of his own. He came to view Happ and her sister as an adoptive family.

Ted Wilk was born in 1915, the seventh of a dozen children — nine boys and three girls — born to Frank and Sophia Wilk.

The Wilk family lived in the Rum Village area. As a youngster Ted was known as a expert marksman, shooting rabbits and other small game that helped put food on the table for the large Wilk family, Happ said.

Ted and seven of his brothers served in World War II. One brother, Floyd, was killed in the war.

After the war, the eight remaining brothers all got jobs at Studebaker. Seven of the brothers were still working for the company when the South Bend factory closed in 1963.

Ted Wilk retired in 1977 from AM General.

A photo taken about 1950 showed the eight Wilk brothers in a row outside the auto assembly building that still stands on Lafayette.

Thaddeus "Ted" Wilk, 99, the last of the brothers, died Friday.

The brothers were featured in that photo, which was published in the Studebaker Spotlight, the company's in-house magazine, as part of a marketing campaign that highlighted family members who worked together at the auto manufacturing firm.

All eight worked for Studebaker at the time. Their father and two of their three sisters also worked at Studebaker. The Wilk family was well-known around town. They were gifted musicians, with many of the family members performing in amateur and professional groups in the area. Ted played guitar and was known for his whistling ability.

One sister, Virginia (Wilk) Mouros, 89, of South Bend, survives.

Ted Wilk was a nature lover who stayed active fishing and feeding



In this 1988 photo, the six Wilk brothers still living in the South Bend area struck a pose for a photo that was published in the South Bend Tribune. The brothers shown here — from left, Stanley, Joe, Chick, Ben, Ted and Henry Wilk — modeled their stance after a famous photo of them and two other Wilk brothers that was taken in 1950, when all eight men worked at Studebaker Corp. SBT File Photo

Most of the Wilk brothers continued to live in the area and sometimes were interviewed about their Studebaker experiences. The Tribune restaged the famous photo in 1988, shooting a picture of six of the brothers who still lived in town, taken in the same spot outside the factory building as the circa 1950 photo.

Ted and three other surviving brothers were interviewed in 2000 for a project to create videotape archive interviews of former Studebaker workers for the Studebaker National Museum archives.

"I started at Studebaker back in 1936. I followed four other brothers who were there ahead of me. We sure had some good times," Ted Wilk said in a Tribune interview at that time.

Ted lived in his own house on East Fox Street in South Bend until two years ago, when he moved into The Waterford at Edison Lakes in Mishawaka, Happ said.

"Teddy loved animals and nature," Happ said. "He was a simple man and lived a simple life. He was a good man."

News About Our Members

On July 16, **Lois McDowell** broke her pelvis. Soon after that, **Bill McDowell's** brother, Frank McDowell, died. On August 7th, Bill fell and broke his neck. I believe he broke his first vertebra. He is in a nursing home in Greenfield.

Also keep **Dave Elmore, Bob Fox, Judy Lawlis** and **Carol Reeves** in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with health issues.

It's That Time of Year

You'll see on page 8 the National SDC Membership Application and Indy Chapter Membership Application for 2015.

Also

Remember to set your clocks **back** an hour November 1 before you go to bed.



Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 11, 2014 - Milan '54 Museum - On Saturday, October 11, we will meet at the McDonalds in FRANKLIN, located at I65 and Main Street (the only Franklin exit off I65). We will leave here at 8:30 to travel to Milan, Ind. for a visit to the newly opened "Milan '54 Museum". We will be making a pit stop in Shelbyville at the McDonalds on Hwy 44 East, should any of you care to join us there rather than drive to Franklin. We should be there about 9:15 - 9:30.

We will arrive at the Museum at approximately 11:00. We think you will find this museum interesting whether you are a basketball fan or not. It's not only a piece of sports history, it is a piece of Indiana history. Also, if the weather blesses us with a nice day, we will be able to enjoy a Studebaker ride in the Indiana fall foliage.

Afterwards we will have lunch at "The Reservation" restaurant in Milan. We should arrive back in Greenwood at about 4:00.

Please email or phone so I will have a number to give the restaurant. Also let us know if you plan to meet us in Shelbyville or Franklin. Call 317-889-3802 or msnider04@AOL.com

Thanks, Marvin & Berniece Snider



Sunday, November 2 – Pitch-in at Studebaker International - Lunch at Studebaker International in Greenfield hosted by Ed and Heidi Reynolds. Lunch is at 1:00 pm. Turkey will be provided; just bring a side-dish and your table service. Ed's address is 97 N 150 W, Greenfield 46140

Anyone in need of parts please call Ed ahead so he and his crew can have it ready to go for you. 317-462-3124 or edr@studebaker-intl.com

We will have elections for officers as well. Please consider how you can be involved in the club.

Mark these dates on your calendar:

December 27 - Christmas lunch

January 24 – Lunch at the Pit Stop in Brownsburg 1:00 pm

August 16 – 22 - Studebaker International in St. Louis



Hello Fellow Members and Friends;

As your Activities Director I'd like each of you to consider hosting an event in 2015. Whether it be a driving tour, pitch-in, car event or meeting at a restaurant. Think about something you think the group would enjoy.

Maybe you have an idea but don't want the responsibility of making the arrangements. Give me a call or e-mail me at 317-353-8287 or chazwork@msn.com. I'll see what I can do.

Let's change things up next year and go and see some new places. **Remember, it's your club and the club is only as good as you make it.**

National SDC Membership Application

Regular membership dues in **The National Studebaker Club** are **\$24.00** for new members 1st year only.

Renewals are \$31.00 per year, which includes 12 monthly issues of ***Turning Wheels***, the National SDC Magazine. (Other memberships are available.)

Mail application and check to:

Or email: studebakerdriversclub.com for information

The Studebaker Drivers Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 1715

Maple Grove, MN 55311-6715

Or

Call 763-420-7829 to use Visa or Mastercard

Or fax application with credit card to 763-420-7849

Name: _____ Spouse _____
Address: _____ Year _____ Model _____ Body Style _____
City _____ St _____ Zip _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail _____
Birth Date(s): _____
Month/Day _____ Add another sheet if needed.

Indy Chapter Membership Application

National SDC membership is a prerequisite. Renewal INDY Chapter dues are \$18.00. Renewals are payable January each year (after March, a \$5.00 late fee applies). Mail application and check to:

Tom Flynn, Indy SDC Treasurer

4531 S CR 500 E

Plainfield, IN 46168

Name: _____ Spouse _____
Address: _____ Year _____ Model _____ Body Style _____
City _____ St _____ Zip _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail _____
Birth Date(s): _____
Month/Day _____ Add another sheet if needed

The Brickyard Bulletin

Published by the Indy Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club

Editor: Becky Griffith

The Brickyard Bulletin is published monthly. The deadline for summations is the 15th of the previous month.

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Updated 3/24/2014

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Brickyard Bulletin October, 2014



Brian Reeves 1949 Commander

Indy Chapter SDC
Becky Griffith, Editor
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To:

