



BRICKYARD BULLETIN



VOL. 43, ISSUE 7 A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDY CHAPTER OF THE STUDEBAKER DRIVERS CLUB, JULY, 2016

I was very sad to hear of the passing of long time Indy member Mike Lawson on Sunday. Nothing I can say really expresses the loss of a friend we have known for years, seeing them at club meetings and car shows, always with a smile, he will be missed. Appreciate the time we all have with one another because each day is a gift.....

On a lighter note, the Indy Chapter & Historic Auto Club of Indiana met at Don Pablos on June 12 and had a great time! Over 30 people and about 15 very nice cars gathered on a 90 degree day for tacos, cars showing and a really good time! Don Pablos awarded gift certificates for Managers, Employees, Non Studebaker, and Random Customer Choice awards. They also gave free appetizer cards to everyone there! They loved having us there and everyone in attendance really enjoyed the taco bar! We might have to do this again!!!

I am really looking forward to having the Indy Chapter at my annual Luau July 16th. We will provide smoked pork and have lots of shade, tables and chairs. Grass skirts are optional! If all goes well (and I keep Joe working on the GT) who knows....maybe we can start the GT Hawk up after 25 years!!!! Hope to see everyone soon,

Nancy Bacon

First Annual? Don Pablos People's Choice Award Show – June 12

On a beautiful, warm sunny Sunday afternoon 15 cars and thirty members and guest gathered at Don Pablos in Greenwood for the first People's Choice Award. Don Pablos was very generous in prizes handing out coupons to every participant and providing a great taco buffet. Let's hope we're invited back next year.



"Manager's Choice" winners Joe and Nancy Bacon with their 1956 Gold Hawk and Don Pablo manager Angie.



"Non-Class" winners Val and Bev Weakley with their 1956 Fairlane.



"Employees Choice" winner Larry Hopkins with his 1962 Hawk GT



"Guest Choice" winners Jim and Nancy Ritchie with their 1953 Ford Texaco Pick-up.

Other Participants



Enjoying the taco bar.



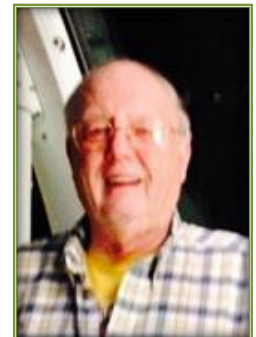


On a really warm Sunday afternoon the masses huddled under one little tree for shade.

Photos courtesy of Larry Hopkins and Charlie Griffith

News About Our Members

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to long time member, and friend to all **Mike Lawson** who passed away June 19, 2016. He will be greatly missed.



Welcome New Members

Nicholas and Josephine Shaw
 3580 W. Highland Drive
 Crawfordsville, IN 47933
 Phone 765-866-0586
 njshaw3@gmail.com
 1957 Golden Hawk HT Coupe (R) and 1963 Champ PU





CRIPLEY'S Believe It or Don't!

I'm sure everyone has heard that "April showers bring May flowers". Oscar Hammerstein wrote that "June is bustin' out all over." But can you guess the most often repeated monthly "saying"? (Here's a hint...it involves Independence Day.) Yes, over the years, we've all heard and often repeated this little ditty: "Knee high by the 4th of July." Our forefathers were pleased as punch to have their corn crop tickling their knees on the 4th of July. As evidenced in this old family photo, the knee high tradition was still true in 1951.

However, have you noticed that this is not true today? Now a typical crop more resembles this picture taken on our farm on July 4, 2014. How did this happen? Is it our modern technology and equipment? Could it be the potent herbicides that farmers are using? How about the new man-made

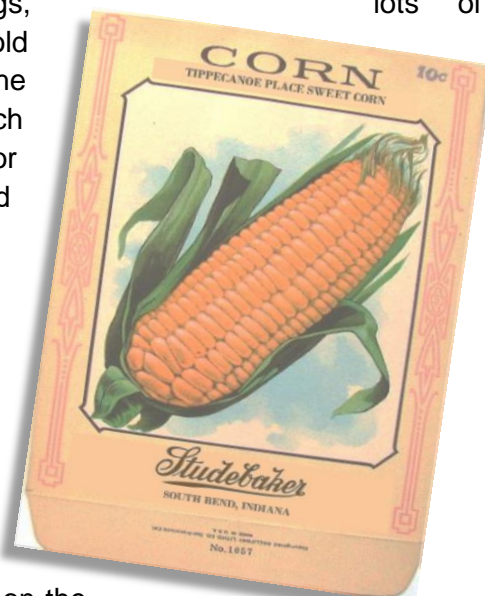


fertilizers...is that the answer? Well, the answer is that ALL of these things help produce the corn that is "sky high by the 4th of July". The real story behind this remarkable corn growth pattern is buried in decades of Studebaker history. Until a recent discovery by the intrepid Lark Parker, the incredible story of the Studebaker Company's influence in agriculture lay forgotten and buried in a norther Hoosier farm field. So grab a cool drink, find a comfortable chair and prepare for a journey back in time. As Paul Harvey would say, "It's time for the "rest of the story".

It all started sometime between 1893 and 1901. During this time, the Studebaker Company was still small enough that the Studebaker family would host an annual summer picnic for employees and their families. Traditionally, this was a fun-filled day with games, songs, fried chicken, corn on the cob and cold watermelon. Each year, at the end of the day, the Studebakers would give each family a token of their appreciation for their employees' dedication, loyalty and hard work.

At one of these Studebaker picnics (the exact year cannot be verified), each family was presented with a packet of sweet corn seeds. It seems that the corn grown at Tippecanoe Place was always the highlight of each year's picnic. It matured early and could be harvested weeks before other locally grown sweet corn. So, obviously everyone was overjoyed to receive this gift.

Thus the following spring, the Tippecanoe Place sweet corn was planted in many South Bend gardens. Later that summer, platters of corn-on-the-cob were eaten in Studebaker employee homes LONG before their neighbors' corn was ready to be



harvested.. Over the years, the employees shared the seed with friends and family and the “*sky high by the 4th of July*” corn became a staple in northern Indiana. As the transportation industry expanded, people moved to other areas and Tippecanoe Place corn could be seen growing across the United States. Now decades later, the link to the Studebakers has been lost as various seed companies (using their individual logos) package and sell the seed. So how did this little known and almost forgotten piece of history come to light? This is where our hero, Lark Parker enters the scene.



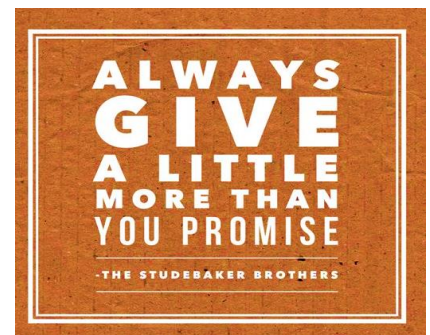
A friend of Lark’s told him that, while installing a new roof on a farm house located a few miles south of Mishewaka, he’d spotted an old Studebaker in the weeds, way behind a corn field. Old Lark just had to check this out. So he put on his chigger-repellent shirt and grabbed the tools of his trade: a crowbar, a screwdriver and a flashlight. Thus armed, he was ready to venture out and find the long-abandoned Studebaker.

After trudging through giant weeds and crossing a creek, our hero arrived at the back of the corn field. As daylight was ebbing, Lark hurried to inspect the Studebaker. Of course, we all know that the Rust Demons had ravaged the car, but still Lark investigated...hoping to uncover something to make his trip worthwhile. First he pried open the passenger door and looked in the glove compartment. This is when he discovered that this old car had once belonged to a Clyde Studebaker Underwood. Lark thought this was very interesting and wondered what Mr. Underwood’s connection was to the Studebaker family. Digging deeper he discovered the photograph of the two ladies in the cornfield. On the back of the picture (written in badly faded ink) was this inscription: *Aunt Bessie and Mom – July 1905*. Lark let out a scream of delight, his denture flew out of his mouth and he had to sit down! He’d heard rumors of the Tippecanoe Place corn, but now he’d found proof.

After he’d recovered from the shock of this discovery, our ever-curious detective, decided to check out the car’s trunk. Using his brute strength (and the crow bar), Lark eventually coaxed the trunk lid up about 12 inches. With his trusty flashlight, he peered into the depths of the long-forgotten trunk...now the home to a nest of mice. He dug around in the trunk with the crow bar and pulled out weeds, cornstalks, grass, and lots of mice...who ran south, while Lark ran north!

When Lark “bravely” returned back from the Studebaker, it was almost dark. He picked up his flashlight and started looking through all the debris he’d pulled out of the trunk. This is when Lucky Lark discovered the forgotten seed packet. Well, two days later, that seed packet was put up for sale on ebay, the bidding went through the roof and now Mr. Parker has moved from snowy Indiana to a beachfront condo in sunny Florida.

Who put that seed packet into the rusty old Studebaker? How was Mr. Underwood related to the Studebaker brothers? Whatever happened to Aunt Bessie? Was Lark Parker within the law to take the seed packet, sell it, and retain the profits for himself? So many questions and not enough answers. But one thing we are all absolutely certain about...whether it was barrels, buggies, cars or corn, the Studebaker Brothers always lived up to their famous motto:



Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 16 - Joe and Nancy Bacon are hosting a Luau at their home. It will be a hog roast **pitch-in at 1pm**. They have their annual luau that same day & the Indy SDC lunch will flow into the annual back yard bash which goes into the evening. Indy members are welcome to stay as long as they would like as the "luau" is usually late afternoon into evening affair. Bring a dish and table service. The **Bacon's address is: 1701 E. Lawrence Ave. , Indianapolis 46227.**



Mark these dates on your calendar:



Sunday, August 14 at 1:00 – Lunch at Logan's Roadhouse in Greenwood on County Line Road.

Saturday, September 10 – Pitch-in picnic at **Charlie and Becky Griffith** and possible short tour around Indianapolis in honor of *Drive Your Studebaker Day*. More to come.

September 11 - The Great Indiana Motor Muster featuring Indiana built cars will be held in Kokomo as part of a week long Bi-centennial celebration. Also two 4 day driving tours will be departing from Kokomo on Monday Sept 5th and returning on Thursday. One tour going north and one going south. More information in the August Brickyard.

Tuesday, September 13 - Official International Drive Your Studebaker Day

September 16 – 17 - Studebakers at Dunkirk, NY Swap Meet. I will post more information closer to the date or if anyone is interested I do have a flyer I can send.

October – OPEN. If you have an idea for a meeting on a beautiful Fall day, contact Charlie Griffith at chazwork@msn.com or call at 317-353-8287.

November 6 – Pitch-in at Ed Reynolds



The Brickyard Bulletin

Published by the Indy Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club

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

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National SDC Membership

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

Indy Chapter Membership

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 will be added. Application is available upon request.

Brickyard Bulletin July, 2016



A great day at Don Pablos. Beautiful cars. good food and great fellowship.

Indy Chapter SDC
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To:

July