



BRICKYARD BULLETIN



VOL. 49, ISSUE 7, A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDY CHAPTER OF THE STUDEBAKER DRIVERS CLUB, JULY, 2022

The Indy Chapter enjoyed a nice lunch at Bubba's 33 Restaurant June 12th. We held a brief meeting and lots of visiting with friends on the only rainy day of June. The July meeting is the 7th Annual Bacon Backyard Luau and is a rain or shine event. We will be serving smoked Wild Texas pork and look forward to seeing everyone!

There has been some thoughts and interest as to the history of the Indy Chapter. We have many members that have been in the club along time, who has been a member the longest? Becky Griffith and I will be looking for answers to the questions, when did the club start, who were the founding members and other interesting facts about our chapter. I have reached out to a couple of people to start this search off but would love to hear from anyone who can add to this story. We are thinking it is time to celebrate who we are, where we started and why do we do this! Let us hear from you with your memories!

Beth Doran has done a great job on our club roster. It will be sent out electronically at first, we will then take orders for a printed copy that we would pass out at meetings for those that would like one. Clip on name tags are also going to be available at meetings soon. The hard plastic ones are not available from the company that has made them before as they no longer can get the plastic blanks.

I was saddened to learn of the passing of Carl Finchum in March. He and his wife Karen joined the club when he bought a 1916 Seven Passenger Touring a few years ago. He was still in the process of getting it back on the road at his passing. Karen said she would like to bring it to a meeting when it is ready.

Nancy Bacon
President, Indy Chapter

Annual Studebaker Nationals and Orphan Car Drags Bean Blossom, Indiana May 27 and May 28

Friday, May 27, twenty four members and guest had dinner at the Sugar Creek Barbeque Company in Nashville the night before the Drags. And bless her heart, host Rose Poe brought her delicious pies. We enjoyed the tasty treats in the parking lot from the trunk of the Poe's car! It was delightful. We met the next morning, Saturday, at the Brown County Dragway to watch some racing. It was a beautiful day for racing. Thank you to Richard and Rose Poe for sponsoring this annual event.





At the Drags



Our hosts, Richard and Rose Poe with their Mean, Green 1964 Challenger



Barry McPherson with his 1955 Custom Hot Rod



Steve and Gloria Woodall



Official Drags photographer Tom Lawlis photographing Jeff and Kathy Westcott



Bob and Cheryl Parker with their 1964 Daytona



SDC Lunch and Meeting at Bubba's 33 June 12, 2022



Nineteen members gathered at Bubba's for lunch and visiting on Sunday, June 12. President Nancy Bacon opened the meeting thanking all who attended. Nancy reminded the club that the Annual Bacon Luau was July 16 rain or shine.

Secretary Beth Doran is all but finished with the new directory. We hope to hand these out per request and not have to mail.

We heard just recently the sad news that member, Carl Finchum passed away in March. Carl and Karen have a 1916 Series 16 Touring Studebaker that is still in restoration.

Andy Swartz motioned we adjourn, Charlie Griffith 2nd.

Becky Griffith

Welcome New Members

Kurt & Lisa Weisner
28 N Country Club Road
Columbus IN 47201
812-371-7928
rhddatsun@gmail.com

64 Wagonaire
59 4E1 Pickup
64 7E13 Flatbed
55 E38 Dump



Member Carl Finchum



SDC member, Carl E. Finchum passed away at home in the early morning of March 9th, 2022. He passed at the age of 69. Carl was such a nice, happy man. Our club will surely miss his presence.

Indiana Automotive Newsletter March 2022



Indiana Automotive South Bend Tour, July 15-16

Join us in July for the return of Indiana Automotive's summer tour! The two-day event explores South Bend, a city rich in automotive history thanks to the legacy of the Studebaker family. We'll enjoy guided tours of the former Studebaker assembly plant, Studebaker National Museum, Studebaker Electric Fountain, St. Paul's Memorial Church, and more -- including a look at a private auto collection not ordinarily open to the public. [Learn more.](#)

The Awards Keep Coming For Tom Lawlis and His 1957 Golden Hawk

My 1957 Studebaker Golden Hawk 400 won the People's Choice Award (the top Award given) at the Sportscar Vintage Racing Association Invitational (SVRA) / Hagerty Cars and Caffeine car show held on the grounds of the IMS on July 18 & 19, 2022.

The award was decided by a vote of participants and spectators. When the top Award was announced, the MC said, " by a landslide vote, the winner of the People's Choice Award is the 1957 Studebaker Golden Hawk 400 of Tom Lawlis". Oh my!



The show had over 200 entries of the usual hot rods, muscle cars, Corvettes, Camaros, Mustangs, Mopars, custom \$ cars, Cadillac etc. , but was heavy on high end foreign sports cars such as Cooper, BMW, Mercedes, Porsche, Jaguar and Ferrari. Also represented were Shelby Cobras and a Ford GT40. Needless to say I was thrilled!! And as an added bonus I got 2 laps in on the IMS road course.

Great weather, serious vintage race car racing all day and a good day for the Studebaker marque. What a great day it was for me.

Tom Lawlis

1964 GT Hawk For Sale

Unfortunately, SDC member **Victor Melchiorre** needs to sell his beautiful black 1964 Studebaker GT Hawk with only 70,150 miles on it.

New tires in 2018

Recent repairs:

New battery and hold down bracket

Flushed out cooling system, removed rusty freeze plugs,

clean out rust sediment, install new brass freeze plugs

Install new ignition switch

Fixed tach

I drove it to and from South Bend without any problems. During the South Bend SDC Meet, most folks said, "This was the finest GT Hawk they have seen" or "This GT Hawk was so much better than theirs".

\$27,500 or best offer.

If you want see it in person or take it for a test drive, please give me a call.

Regards,

Mike Baker

Avanti Restoration & Service Inc.

317-498-2288



Aunt Bee's Last Studebaker

By: Bob Palma
 Technical Editor
 Studebaker Drivers Club

Thanks to owners Brad and Christine Born, Danville has an unusual fondness for all things related to The Andy Griffith Show and its fictitious town of Mayberry. Since 1989, generations of Danville residents have enjoyed dining among Andy Griffith Show memorabilia while watching reruns of the show at the Born's Mayberry Café on Danville's town square.

Did you know that actress Frances Bavier, who played the famous Aunt Bee on The Andy Griffith show, was a regular Studebaker customer? Indeed she was.



Ms. Bavier passed away December 6, 1989 at her home in Siler City, North Carolina. At the time of her death, she still owned the last new Studebaker she ever bought, a 1966 Studebaker Daytona 2-door sedan. Although it had deteriorated somewhat from not being driven as they both aged, the car exists today, having been purchased from her estate in 1990 by a Studebaker enthusiast.

“Aunt Bee’s” 1966 Studebaker was a six-cylinder 1966 Daytona Sports Sedan, identified as model 66S-F8 on this Retail Sale Card from The Studebaker National Museum. At the time, vehicles did not have what we now know as Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs). Rather, they had simple Serial Numbers. Note that Ms. Bavier’s car carried Serial Number C131698.

The car’s Production Order indicates it was Algonquin Green with a Black Vinyl Top, identical to the 1966 Daytona Sports Sedan shown in the 1966 Studebaker brochure shown here. Her car, however, had a black vinyl interior, rather than the white vinyl interior in the brochure car.

66S F8 ^{C131698} 131698		RECEIVING DEALERSHIP NAME ABBREVIATION		CITY ABBREVIATION	
MODEL	TYPE	DEALER CODE	SERIAL NUMBER	SELLING DEALER NAME	DATE OF TRANSACTION
66S	F8		131698	FROST & FRENCH, Inc.	6/14/66
DEALER CODE	SERIAL NUMBER	CITY AND STATE	MODEL TYPE	SELLING ADDRESS	MONTH
				230 So. Western Ave.	6
				Los Angeles 4, Calif.	
PURCHASER'S NAME					
FRANCES E. BAVIER					
PURCHASER'S STREET ADDRESS					
3321 N. SYCAMORE AV. LOS ANGELES, CAL.					
PURCHASER'S OCCUPATION					
ACTRESS					
DEALER'S INITIALS AND NAME					
W. L. BIBENS					
SALESMAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER					
CHECK OR COMPLETE				STUDEBAKER REPURCHASE	
ONE APPLICABLE				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
PLACED IN DEMO SERVICE					
OTHER (EXPLAIN)					
TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER STUDEBAKER DEALER					
FOR REGION OR FACTORY USE ONLY					
TO CHECK "SALE DATES"					
CONTRACT'S INITIALS AND NAME					
FORMERLY REGION CARRIAGE ON					
DEALER DEMONSTRATOR					
PRINTED IN U.S.A. LITHO IN CANADA P-508494					

Ms. Bavier’s 1966 Daytona was built October 18, 1965, but records indicate it remained unsold and in stock at Johnson Motor Sales in Santa Barbara, California when Studebaker discontinued automobile production on March 17, 1966. (South Bend, Indiana, Studebaker production ended on December 31, 1963. All 1965 and 1966 Studebakers were assembled in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.)

The Retail Sale Card indicates she bought the car from the largest Studebaker dealer on the west coast, Frost & French in Los Angeles. Unsubstantiated rumor has it that Frost & French went up and down the west coast buying leftover new Studebakers from smaller, marginal dealers after production ceased in Hamilton. The principals at Frost & French (including then-owner W. L. Bibens, who sold Ms. Bavier her Daytona) must have thought they had a good customer base who would want to buy one last new Studebaker now that new ones would no longer be available.

Frances Bavier was one of those customers. She didn’t buy her new Daytona until June 14, 1966, almost 3 months after the last Studebaker had been built. She knew Studebaker was out of business. In fact, in a November 6, 1972 letter to Studebaker Drivers Club member K. Victor Smith of Winston-Salem, N.C, she

testified, "I've driven Studebakers for 40 years -all kinds, all models- and no other car. Watching the pictures of the closing of the factory, I did indeed weep!" It is known that she was driving a 1962 Studebaker Lark at the time, so she may have wanted to replace it, although she apparently did not trade it in.

1916 53386 53386 10 14 65	LINE NUMBER 3299
E C JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES INC 504 JOHNSON MOTOR SALES 516 STATE STREET SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA	BODY NUMBER 3322-
BANK OF AMERICA BK 215	SERIAL NUMBER C131698
128 SPB 2 DR SPORTS SEDAN 488 ALGONQUIN GREEN	ENGINE NUMBER 656101735
012 BLACK VINYL BUCKET ST 019 AUTOMATIC TRANS 026 BLK 27 AXLE 3.31 DUNLOP	IGNITION KEY NUMBER 5080-5
031 5 735X15 2PLY W/P 024 ENGINE 230	TRUNK KEY NUMBER S1525.
042 BLACK VINYL ROOF 043 CONSOLE	FINAL ASSEMBLY DATE Oct 18
053 CLOSED CRANKCASE VENT 057 TINTED WINDSHIELD 060 CLIMATIZER	FINISH OF TILES Dunlop
070 UNDERCARRIAGE 079 WHEEL DISCS	MATS PACK SPARE TIRE
081 SEAT BELTS BLACK-PRT 087 TINT SEAT BELTS-REAR 087 OUTSIDE MIRROR LEFT PADDED SUN VISORS	INSPECTOR DATE

Ms. Bavier, as Aunt Bee, may be seen driving her 1966 Studebaker Daytona in at least one Mayberry R.F.D. episode. The episode entitled *The Mynah Bird* has extensive footage of her in the car...and since it is in color, the car's colors are apparent.

Thanks are extended to my good friend and authority on all things Andy Griffith and The Andy Griffith Show, Bill Pressler of Kent OH, for bringing this material to my attention.

Bill was in Indianapolis for the Studebaker Drivers Club International Meet in September 2021. During the week, my

wife and I took Bill and five additional out-of-state Studebaker friends to Danville's Mayberry Café for dinner one night. We called ahead to tell them we had a late party of eight coming, so they were prepared. Our party thoroughly enjoyed the meal and Mayberry atmosphere and were still conversing at closing time; an enjoyable experience for all. They still talk about it; the wait staff was so friendly and accommodating. Good PR for Danville and Hendricks County.

Frances Bavier's gravestone reads, "To live in the hearts of those left behind is not to die." Indeed...and regarding Aunt Bee's preferred automobiles, as the late Paul Harvey would say; "Now you know the rest of the story."

As you can see on page 1, the *Brickyard Bulletin* is on its 49th volume, making next year it's "golden" anniversary. I don't know how long the club had been established before the *Brickyard*, that's something that needs investigated. In celebration of our 50th plans are being made for special editions/articles in 2023. I'll keep you up to date on our progress and may need assistance from members.

Becky Griffith





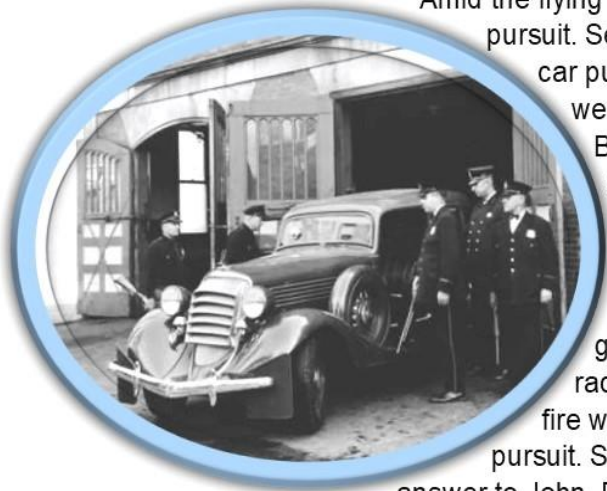
Studebaker Joins with Police in Battling Gangsters

It was late on Saturday morning, June 30, 1934. The Merchants National Bank, on Michigan Street, in downtown South Bend would soon be closing for the day. The bank tellers were starting to organize their cash drawers and praying the accounts would balance quickly so they could head home and enjoy the rest of the lovely summer day.

Suddenly, the heavily armed John Dillinger gang burst into the bank. Chaos ensued as the gang members shouted orders to the trembling tellers. Someone triggered the silent alarm and police officers were waiting outside when the gang made their exit from the bank. Police officer Howard Wagner was killed as he approached the fleeing gangsters. The scene quickly turned into a shootout between two police officers, a detective, a bank customer and Dillinger's boys.



Amid the flying bullets, the criminals made their getaway with the police in hot pursuit. Several witnesses remembered seeing the gang's black Hudson car pulling away from the pursuing police as the cops and robbers went racing out Washington Street. It was obvious that the South Bend Police Department was outgunned and outrun during their efforts to stop the robbery and catch the thieves. In response, the always public-minded Studebaker Company customized a 1934 President for the struggling hometown police department.



The car that Studebaker provided boasted a powerful motor, a gun porthole in the windshield, and armored baffles to protect the radiator and tires. Although the police were now equipped to fight fire with fire, the "Dillinger Car" was never actually used for criminal pursuit. Sadly, a few years later, the South Bend Police Department's answer to John Dillinger and other criminals was demolished in a wreck.

The unique customized car may have been wrecked, but soon other police departments developed armored police cars similar to the famous Studebaker Dillinger car. Canton, Ohio modified a 1937 Studebaker President with many of the same features, but they added armor plating around the car body and 1-1/8 inch thick bullet-proof glass. Six portholes were mounted in the glass...two on each side, one on the front, and one in the rear. Even the tire tubes resisted punctures from gunfire. The doors of the car are so heavy that an extra hinge had to be added. These modifications increased the weight of the car by almost a ton (for a total weight of 2.5 tons) and put a final price tag of \$5,400 on a car that retailed for about \$1,200.

The special armored Studebaker was ordered by the city of Canton in 1937 to maintain control at the violent steel strikes at area mills. But fast forward to 1957. Three desperate robbers wounded a Louisville policeman and then took a family hostage northeast of Canton, while hiding in their home. When the police discovered the hiding place, they used the 20-year old armored car to drive through a hail of bullets to a point near the home.

They then were able to launch tear gas bombs into the basement. Moments later, with screams of pain and watering eyes, the bandits surrendered!

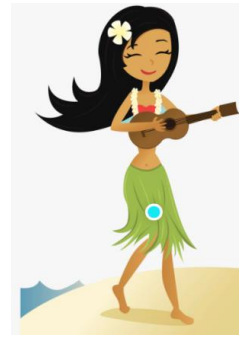


In battling crime, it's Studebaker for the WIN!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 16 at 1:00 p.m. – Bacon’s Annual Luau.

Bring a favorite side dish or dessert and join us for some fun. Joe once again is providing the meat. The Bacon’s address is 1701 E. Lawrence Avenue, 46227.



Mark Your Calendar:

Saturday, August 14 at 1:00 p.m. Lunch at Willow LeaVes at 326 Jackson Street, Hope, IN 47246. After lunch, host Jim Lime has invited the club to visit Studebaker International just a few blocks away.

Saturday, September 10 at 1:00 p.m. – *Drive Your Studebaker Day!*

Hosted by Jeff and Kathy Westcott. We’ll meet up for lunch at LePeep Intech Commons, 6335 Intech Commons Drive, Indianapolis, 46278. There is lots of parking outside and a side room inside that holds about 40. The restaurant closes at 3:00 p.m. so don’t be surprised if we’re the last ones there. They serve breakfast and lunch items, we’ll order off the menu. Hope to see you there. Call, text or email Jeff Westcott at 317-759-8895 or Westcott2@gmail.com



September 16-17 - 2022 Pure Stock Drags in Stanton, Michigan

September 30, October 1 & 2 – Newport Antique Auto Hill Climb

October – Open

November – Annual Thanksgiving lunch hosted by Mike and Yvonne Baker.

Saturday, December 10 at 12:30 p.m. – Indy Chapter Christmas Party at Green Street Station in Brownsburg, hosted by Diane Elmore and Sandy Fox.

Visit scenic Manitowoc and Two Rivers, Wis. on September 12-16, 2023!

Northeast Wisconsin is a beautiful place in late summer - and the Wisconsin Region Studebaker Drivers Club will have a wide range of great activities planned for the 59th SDC International Meet, Stay tuned for more details! **We'll see you there!**

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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Crossroads Zone National Board Director: Bob Henning at rhnn15090@aol.com

Crossroad Zone Coordinator: Joanne Hamblin

Regional Manager Indiana: Bob Henning

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 are available.) Application is available upon request or e-mail studebakerdriverclub.com.

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.

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Brickyard Bulletin July, 2022



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To:

