



QUEEN'S CLASSIC 32ND INTERNATIONAL MEET REPORT

BY CAPT. STUDE, GORDON BRICKEN

Richard Marks said, "It was terrific. It was a pleasure from start to finish—a well run and well organized event." Paul and Wanda Wallace exclaimed, "It has been a verrry goooood meeeet." The Orange Empire Chapter should be proud of the outcome.

These words were echoed by many as the SDC International Meet returned to the Queen Mary in Long Beach, California, after a hiatus of 17 years. Event Chairman, Gordon Bricken, and his committee produced a unique conference and meet at a one-of-a-kind location. As he stated three years ago in Portland, "It was not just a meet, it was an adventure." More on the Queen Mary and Studebaker appear in accompanying articles.

The Queen's Classic featured a number of firsts, not all of which were evident to the participants, such as the first use of the Internet to post the show, provide planning updates and have a page on the World Wide Web, the first full program of seminars, the first use of computerized presentation equipment, the first computerized judging record system, the first scored judging for watches and models and the first Valve Cover Races. In addition, the event developed a computer based registration and record keeping system based on a standard filing program that can be adapted to future meets. Following a pattern set by Brian Millette in Minneapolis, a professional tour company was employed to operate most of the area tours. An integrated graphics theme, plan and logo were adopted so that all communication and signage had a common look and Internet presentations. This was especially evident in the unique presentation in *Turning Wheels*.

The event organizing committee convened monthly for a period of three years, most of the time on the Queen Mary in a room provided by the management. Gordon Bricken and his wife, Maureen, Co-Chaired the event and provided the administrative guidance and support. The Bon Voyage Party on opening night and the meeting scheduling were the responsibility of Cathy Hughes, wife of National Board member Doug Hughes. Doug Hughes handled vendor spaces and trophy acquisition. Barbara and Ruben Polanco managed the registration process. Cindy and Mark Archambault coordinated

The beautiful 1996 International Meet Program. This particular copy was personally autographed at the meet by Alan Young, the actor who played Wilbur Post in the famous Studebaker sponsored Mister Ed TV series. This program cover, the meet logo and numerous other items were created by Barbara Bricken. Our thanks to Barbara for sharing her talents with the Studebaker Drivers Club.



Photo by Linda Fox

amounted to several thousand. Bob Bryant organized the seminar programs. The seminars were very well received. As Treasurer, Ed Reynolds, (former National President and Chairman of the 1979 Meet at the Queen Mary) kept a very tight lifeline on the purse strings. Zen and Lee Everett volunteered full time assistance in the registration program. Our deep appreciation to Richard Peterson as the official International Meet photographer. He wishes that any proceeds from his effort be donated to the Studebaker Museum. Special recognition should be given to Chuck and Helga Collins and Joanne Dixon for volunteering their efforts full time to the raffle program. Financial donations as well as time from Larry and Jeannete Chalfant and their granddaughter, Laura Goldberg, are very much appreciated. Others who donated time and talent were: Larry and Art Cassell, Dick Clemens, Paul Rick, Donna Steward, Nick and Karen Berger, Dave and Julie Weeden, Diane

A smiling foursome at the end of a successful international meet. From left to right, we have Gordon Bricken, meet chairman; Paul Wallace, retiring SDC president; Brian Millette, new SDC president; and Terry Judd, past SDC president.

the tour company, operated several tours, and provided valuable insight into local attractions. Judi and Jason Thomas managed the car show and parking. Rosiland Metzker headed up the Hospitality Room and designed the Fun Night activities. John Metzker managed meet security. Both John and Rosiland were active on the 1979 Meet Committee at the Queen Mary. Barbara Bricken produced all the graphics, and also designed the computer programs. Tricia Bricken cheerfully colored in the red on the S. S. Studebaker emblem, which



Photo by Rick Peterson

Vendors kept members busy swapping during the week-long meet.



Photo by Rick Peterson

The SDC registration table with meet co-chairman, Maureen Bricken (right) and her excellent crew (left).

Voorhis, Rick Gahlbeck, John and Lillian Tonrich, Bud and Dee Gruver, Faye and Jack Weber, Gordon Cooper, and Pamalyn Lynn. Also, we would be remiss if we did not recognize the valuable assistance received from Shawn and Garrett Fort and Alan Archambault and his friends. Alysha Archambault came through like a champ.

While organized and sponsored by the Orange Empire Chapter, the event was supported by volunteers from the Bakersfield/Kern County Chapter, the Las Vegas Chapter, the Beach Cities Chapter, and the Los Angeles Chapter.

This year's event drew 1,000 Studebaker fans from all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and seven foreign locations, including Luxembourg, England, Norway, Sweden, South Africa, Australia, and Canada.

Commenting on the International Concours, many members stated the Classic was one of the nicest car shows ever. Particularly noteworthy was the fact that the people and judges were friendly and informative. The Cade family, who brought eight Studebakers over 2,000 miles from Florida, especially appreciated the mixing of cars rather than the conventional staging by class. This permitted them to keep the family close together so as to watch and detail the cars.

The range of vehicles at the Meet was impressive. Ages and types ranged from a 19th century horse-drawn buggy and a farm wagon, an early Studebaker Electric to 1990 Avantis with every age in-between represented. As might be expected in California, the largest Division was the altered and modified types. Overall, 233 cars



Photo by Rick Peterson

The SDC Club Store kindly hosted by Paul & Wanda Wallace.

Photo courtesy of Terry Judd



We have it on good authority that while the grown-ups were playing "cars," Captains Corey Judd and Amanda Fox were keeping the good ship Queen Mary on course!



Photo by Corrina Fox



Photo by Rick Peterson

were on the field on Concours Day with 146 cars judged. The international system of point judging, also called the Danish System, resulted in 49 First Place awards, 59 Second Place awards and 19 Third Place awards. Overall, 87 percent of the judged cars received awards.

The Orange Empire Chapter would like to extend our special THANKS and gratitude to those who sponsored trophies. The list is given at the end of this article.

As part of the Concours events, the first Valve Cover Races were conducted. The valve cover vehicles are widely known in California Custom Car Meets and were first introduced to the Studebaker group by the Bakersfield/Kern County Chapter. The process is somewhat

like the Pinewood Derby where cars are launched down a short ramp. In this case, the vehicles are valve covers mounted on wheels. The valve covers are stylized and featured railroad engines, school buses, sharks and even a model of the Queen Mary. There were two classes. Those participants with a driver's license were considered the Senior Class and those without a driver's license were considered the Junior Class. The Bakersfield Chapter provided the ramp, judges, and the trophies. It was great fun, and hopefully will be adopted by other clubs and meets.

For the first time, a comprehensive seminar program was presented. This program is discussed in an accompanying article. Subjects ranged from historical discussions about Studebaker and Avanti, a technical panel with the *Co-Operators*, a book signing and presentation by Alan Young of the *Mr. Ed* television series, Internet access, and a beauty make-over program. While new to the International Meet, such seminar programs are standard at most conventions and conferences.

The parties featured a unique combination of talent and entertainment. The Bon Voyage Party, the first night, featured a Country Dance team who taught the attendees line dancing. Additionally, a Casino operation was in full swing. Casino gambling is not permitted in California. Therefore, attendees received Studebucks to be used at the tables. Winners received tickets which were used for drawings later in the evening. Fun night featured the Fabulous Pelicans Band. This band was the only band from the western United States to appear at the entertainment venues of the Olympics in Atlanta.



Photo by Rick Peterson



Photo by Terry Judd

Dedicated SDCers, Stephen and Robert Cade. The Cade family, hailing from Florida, brought a total of eight Studes to the meet.



Photo by Rick Peterson

Concours Day: SDCers out there celebrating Studebaker!

Awards Banquet . . .



Photo by Linda Fox



Photo by Rick Peterson



Photo by Linda Fox



Photo by Linda Fox

THE SDC STUDEBAKER BAND

The Studebaker Band was once again a big hit at the International Meet. As usual, they played just prior to Fun Night near the Fun Night entrance. A wide variety of numbers were enjoyed by all the lucky ones who heard them perform!

If you are interested in performing in the SDC Band during the 1997 International Meet in South Bend, Indiana, write or call Director/Organizer Brad Kuchan (6 Aberdeen Way, Bloomington IL 61704 or (309)663-9177).

1996 STUDEBAKER BAND MEMBERS

DIRECTOR, BRAD KUCHAN, ILLINOIS

- ▲ Christopher Jean, trumpet, California
- ▲ Ernie Lima, soprano saxophone, California
 - ▲ Karen Cosby, clarinet, Kentucky
 - ▲ John Cosby, clarinet, Kentucky
- ▲ Bruce Connor, trombone, alto saxophone, Missouri
 - ▲ Pam Hackney, flute, Texas
 - ▲ Robyn Crabtree, flute, Tennessee
- ▲ George Hamlin, percussion, Maryland
- ▲ Larry Swanson, percussion, Illinois
- ▲ Jenny Kuchan, clarinet, Illinois



Photo by Fred K. Fox

From left to right: Brad Kuchan, director; Ernie Lima, soprano saxophone; Bruce Connor, trombone; Robyn Crabtree, flute; Pam Hackney, flute; and Christopher Jean, trumpet.



Photo by Fred K. Fox

Front row: Pam Hackney, flute. Second row from left to right: John Cosby, clarinet; Jenny Kuchan, clarinet; and Karen Cosby, clarinet. Third row from left to right: Larry Swanson, percussion and George Hamlin, percussion.

Milton and Esther Peterson at the Awards Banquet. A master mechanic, Milton has been working on Studebakers for 50 years.



Photo by Linda Fox

Awards Night was well received. Including dinner, the event lasted two and one-half hours. Many of those in attendance remarked that the event was the right length for once. No long winded speeches and a streamlined system of awards. Chairman Gordon Bricken adopted the system pioneered by John Began in 1995. He, John and Pat Billey (the 1997 Meet Chairman) read the winners of each Division, asked them to stand and be recognized and then proceeded to the next Division. Winners were free to pick up their trophies and judging sheets which were off to one side. Aiding this process was the first use of a computerized judging record which was available to the three presenters. Awards were presented for the concours, publications, watches, models and valve covers.

The Awards program featured the presentation of the Minnie Barnes Award and trophy by Founder Harry Barnes to John Goodall of the Bakersfield/Kern County Chapter, and the drawing and presentation of the Jim Dixon Studebaker watch donated by Joanne Dixon in memory of Jim. Congratulations to the winners of the watch, Lloyd and Cindy Prather

Let's end with a mystery... Just WHY do these four past SDC presidents (Terry Judd, Ed Reynolds, Colin Fort & Paul Wallace) have such big smiles on their faces???



Photo courtesy of Terry Judd

of the Kern County Chapter. Paul Wallace stepped down as the President after successfully serving three years and was presented a plaque in appreciation for giving of himself so generously by incoming President Brian Millette.

A few days later, a number of the Meet Committee members shared dinner with Larry Swanson at the Steak House and Knotts Berry Farm. Larry expressed the view of those present, and shared by many, that the Studebaker Drivers Club should be rightfully proud of the professional dedication, organization, and execution of the 32nd International Meet of the Studebaker Drivers Club. ♪

A Special THANK YOU!

The Queen's Classic Committee wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to all those SDCers who came to the event. The Committee spent three years organizing the meet. The response, courtesy and enthusiasm of the visitors was ample reward for the time spent. New ideas were advanced through the seminars and computer-based planning and registration programs that we hope will be of assistance in future years. Once again, the event proved that the Studebaker Drivers Club is the finest organization of its type in the world.

— Gordon & Maureen Bricken, meet chairmen

International Meet Trophy Sponsors

With an understanding that the trophies are the largest expense of this Meet, the following made contributions towards the purchase of the awards. Many thanks from The Queen's Classic!

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| Avanti Owners Association International | Don & Mary Cox, Classic T-Shirts |
| Gordon & Maureen Bricken | Chicagoland Avanti Owners Assoc. |
| Bakersfield, CA Chapter | Delaware Valley, PA Chapter |
| Central Texas Chapter | Pat Erickson Memorial, CO Chapter |
| Edmonton Canada Chapter | Lee & Zen Everett |
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| Jet City Studebaker, in memory of Ron Hall | Indy, IN Chapter |
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| Los Angeles, CA Chapter | Jerry Kier |
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| Southern Nevada Chapter | North Texas, TX Chapter |
| West Lake Erie Chapter, | Northeast Oklahoma, OK Chapter |
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| Milton & Daniel Loga | Studebaker of California |
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