

# NEWSLETTER

## *The Society of Automotive Historians*

BUSINESS OFFICE: 5 Queen Ann Drive, Christine Manor, Newark, Delaware 19711

PRINTING AND PUBLICATIONS OFFICE: P. O. Box 6465, Marietta, Georgia 30060

VOL. 1

NOVEMBER, 1969

NO. 3

### THE MEETING AT HERSHEY - A REPORT

The first meeting of the Society of Automotive Historians was held on October 11, 1969, at the headquarters of the Antique Automobile Club of America. Mr. William S. Jackson made his offices available for this meeting. Coffee and doughnuts were provided by Mr. and Mrs. Jackson.

Those present, members and non-members, were:

Glenn Baechler

Charles L. Betts, Jr.

Charles W. Bishop

Grace R. Brigham

Richard B. Brigham

Henry Austin Clark, Jr.

Leslie R. Henry\*

William S. Jackson

Walter O. MacIlvain

Bruce B. Mohs\*

G. Marshall Naul

John M. Peckham

Harry Pulfer

Guy P. Seeley, Jr.

Frank T. Snyder, Jr.

Herman L. Smith\*

Kenneth H. Stauffer

William E. Swigart\*

Paul Terhorst\*

\*Non-member

By default, G. M. Naul assumed the position of temporary chairman for the meeting. The agenda discussed was the listing as given in the October issue of the Newsletter.

The pros and cons of incorporation as a non-profit organization were discussed, and it was agreed that such a move at the present time was too expensive for our modest treasury, and that incorporation may take place at any time in the future when it seems to be desirable.

Guy P. Seeley volunteered to formulate a set of by-laws, to be submitted to the membership for approval, and his offer was accepted.

The question of qualification for membership was covered in some detail. The suggestion that publication of a work be made a prerequisite was not acceptable to the majority of those present. A motion was made, seconded and passed that a three-member membership committee be appointed. It was agreed that initial membership will run through December, 1970.

It was generally agreed that membership requirements should remain flexible and generally open. The membership committee is to be appointed by the forthcoming president.

The necessity for a temporary treasurer was recognized, and G. M. Naul was authorized to act as temporary treasurer.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that a nominating committee be formed by W. S. Jackson, H. A. Clark, Jr., and G. M. Naul to present a slate of nominees for the offices of president, vice-president, and secretary/treasurer. After adjournment, the committee nominated the following for office:

President: G. Marshall Naul

Vice-President: Richard B. Brigham

Secretary/Treasurer: Guy P. Seeley, Jr.

Henry Austin Clark, Jr., volunteered to make up a publicity release on the meeting, and distribute it to pertinent magazines, etc.

It was suggested by H. A. Clark, Jr., that the next meeting be held in Philadelphia at the February Annual Meeting of the Antique Automobile Club of America. (Feb. 20-21)

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A ballot is inclosed with this issue of the Newsletter. Names suggested by the nominating committee are listed, and space for write-in votes is provided.

Mail your ballot to G. Marshall Naul, 5 Queen Ann Drive, Christine Manor, Newark, Delaware 19711.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

Following is a list of the members of the Society of Automotive Historians as of October 24, 1969. New members will be listed in each issue of the Newsletter, and a membership roster in booklet form will be issued in January, 1970.

L. M. Ackley 1616 Sheridan Road Wilmette, Ill. 60091	John A. Conde American Motors Corp. 14250 Plymouth Road Detroit, Mich. 48232	G. Marshall Nau1 5 Queen Ann Drive Christine Manor Newark, Del. 19711
Harlan E. Appelquist 6328 Rolf Ave. Minneapolis, Minn. 55435	Ralph Dunwoodie P. O. Box 7774 Reno, Nevada 89502	J. B. Nethercutt 221 S. Rockingham Ave. Los Angeles, Calif. 90049
Alvin J. Arnheim 10 West 66th St. New York, N. Y. 10023	Hugh Durnford 128 Percival Ave. Montreal West, Quebec Canada	John M. Peckham 675 Pinewoods Road Troy, N. Y. 12180
Glenn Baechler 307 Algonquin Waterloo, Ontario Canada	G. N. Georgano 44 Kensington Park Gardens London, W. 11, England	Hugo Pfau Box 417 Centerport, N. Y. 11721
Phillip S. Baumgarten 277 S.W. 33rd Court Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33315	J. William Goodwin 757 S. Harrison St. Frankfort, Indiana 46041	Harry Pulfer Box 8526 La Crescenta, Calif. 91214
Charles L. Betts, Jr. 2105 Stackhouse Drive Yardley, Penna. 19067	Arthur Lee Homan 13 Elmgrove Ave. Troy, N. Y. 12180	Ken W. Purdy 905 Ridgefield Road Wilton, Conn. 06897
Charles W. Bishop P. O. Box 1906 New Haven, Conn. 06509	Ronald B. Irwin 18319 Grayland Ave. Artesia, Calif. 90701	Guy P. Seeley, Jr. 271 Stanmore Road Baltimore, Md. 21212
Henry H. Blommel Route Five Connersville, Ind. 47331	William S. Jackson P. O. Box Y Hershey, Penna. 17033	Ervin Seltzer 7530 Mountain Ave. Melrose Park, Penna. 19126
Grace R. Brigham 136 Park Lane Marietta, Ga. 30060	W. S. Jaro P. O. Box 645 Lynnwood, Wash. 98036	I. Irving Silverman 105 West Adams St. Chicago, Ill. 60603
Richard B. Brigham 136 Park Lane Marietta, Ga. 30060	H. L. Jennison 1561 S.E. Linn St. Portland, Ore. 97202	Frank T. Snyder, Jr. Box 551 Hackensack, N. J. 07602
Mary M. Cattie Free Library of Philadelphia Logan Square Philadelphia, Penna. 19103	Alfred S. Lewerenz 4107 Holly Knoll Drive Hollywood, Calif. 90027	Kenneth H. Stauffer 258 Kimbel Drive Phoenixville, Penna. 19460
Henry Austin Clark, Jr. Meadow Spring Glen Cove, N. Y. 11542	Walter O. MacIlvain 17 Bonner Road Manchester, Conn. 06040	Stanley K. Yost 4443 Elmwood Ave. Royal Oak, Mich. 48073
Burton Marcus Cohen 230 W. Jersey St. Elizabeth, N. J. 07202	Keith Marvin East Road, Brunswick Hills Troy, N. Y. 12180	Karl S. Zahm 724 Roland Ave. Rockford, Ill. 61107
M. L. Cohn 1325 West Venice Blvd. Los Angeles, Calif. 90006	B. L. Mundhenk Box 1255 Lima, Ohio 45801	

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THE MAIL BAG - Letters from Members.

From Jacques Kupelian, 7 Sportlaan, Overysel (Brabant), Belgium:

I am very interested in your project of covering all information about motor vehicle history. I am interested in all kinds of vehicles, but more specialized about European Continental vehicles. If it will be of interest to American members, I can write some articles about the ancient Belgian automobile makes, about which I have a rather important documentation. I have a question to pose about the American "Rotary-Bournonville" car of 1922-1923; who is Eugène Bournonville, where was he working before and after the construction of his cars? I will also be very much interested to read about the Argentinian "Anasagasti" cars of 1912-1914. These cars were raced in France at this epoch and I believe that their engines were French ((Janvier, perhaps). I hope for a big future for the Society.

*(Ed.) - Articles about the early Belgian and other European makes will be most welcome. The Society of Automotive Historians is international in scope, and presently has members in Canada, England, Belgium and Argentina, as well as the United States. Many of our members (your editor included) have a considerable amount of reference material on the American automobiles, but lack familiarity with the history of the cars of other nations.*

THE ALSO-RANS - A residue from a number of lists of U. S. makes of automobiles.

One can turn up upon demand masses of information on the STEVENS-DURYEA, LOCOMOBILE or JORDAN, to name but three. It is possible to work down the scale through NORWALK, ARBENZ and PUNGS-FINCH. Each of these commands at least some sort of recognition from those familiar with the period from which these may be chosen. Should a scale of obscurity be established, eventually one reaches those barely discernable makes such as JEANNIN, JANNEY and IZZER. Beyond this region lies a vast residue of supposed makes which are almost devoid of information, other than a name.

Much of this "residue" was conveniently listed merely as names and dates as "Additions" by G. R. Doyle in his "The World's Automobiles". The Brigham's "Road to Yesterday" attempted to shed some light on these through requests for information on these "Mystery Makes". A few of them were subsequently dealt with in Nick Georgano's "The Complete Encyclopedia of Motor Cars".

It would seem that the Newsletter should make a good forum to investigate those makes whose existence is not beyond question. The following listing of reported makes is a compilation from a number of lists, rosters, etc., and they should be looked at critically and with suspicion. If information is available to support their existence, it it would be appreciated if the author would fill in any gaps in the information and forward to the Newsletter. This list is to be a critical one, and each make should be suspect until some verification is unearthed.

Portions of this list will be published in each forthcoming issue of the Newsletter, as space permits.

MAKE	MANUFACTURER and LOCATION	YEARS	REF.
(A )	American Auto. Co., Portland, Maine	-1900-	BNE
(A )	American Motor Carriage Co., Newton Center, Mass.	-1900-	BNE
(A )	Anderson Mfg. Co., South Boston, Mass.	-1900-	BNE
(A )	L. J. Aubrey Carriage Co., New Haven, Conn.	-1900-	BNE
A.B.C. (Steam)		ca. 1900	N
A.B.C.	Arthur Boynton Co., Albany, N. Y.	1922	N
A.B.C.		1939	N
Abenaque		1900	TWA, N
Able		1916	N
A.C.F.		1926	TWA
Acorn		1910	N
Acorn		1926	TWA
Acme		1902-03	N
Adams		1906-07	N
Adams		1924	TWA, N
Adelphia	Philadelphia, Penna.	1921	N
Adette		1947 (Note 1)	N
Admiral		1914	N
Adrian	Adrian Motor Works, Adrian, Mich.	1902-03	TWA
Aero		1921	TWA, RTY
Aerocar	Longview, Wash.	1948	N
Aerocar		1950	N
Aetna		1915	N
Aetna		1922	N
A.I.C.		1913 (Note 2)	N
Airmobile		1936	N
Airphibian (or Fulton Airmobile)		1946-52	N
Airscoot		1947	N
Airway	T. P. Hall Engineering Co., San Diego, Cal.	1948	TWA
Ajax		1920-21	N
Akron	Akron Motor Carriage Co., Akron, Ohio	1901	MoToR, N
Alamobile	Hillsdale, Mich.	1902	TWA
Aldrich		1897	N
Alena		1922	N
Algonquin		1913	N
All American		1919	TWA
All American		1923	N
Allegheny		1908	N
All Power		1917-21	N
Allen & Clark		1908 (Note 3)	TWA

References: BNE, The Automobiles of New England, in The Antique Automobile, 1950-51  
 MoToR, MoToR's Historical Table of the Motor Car Industry, March, 1909  
 TWA, The World's Automobiles, G. R. Doyle & G. N. Georgano, 4th ed., 1963  
 N, National's AUTObiography, Chicago, Ill., 1964

Note 1. Described in "Cars", May, 1953

Note 2. Possibly A.E.C., Anger Engineering Co., Milwaukee, Wisc.

Note 3. C. E. Duryea, in MoToR, March, 1909, lists Allen & Clark Co., Toledo, Ohio in 1908 and 1909

## LET'S CORRECT THE ROSTER!

The task of compiling a complete and accurate roster of automobiles made since the beginning of the industry is an overwhelming one. Thousands of makes have appeared in various parts of the world, and now, at this late date, much of the information about them has been lost. On the other hand, a great deal of such information has been preserved in publications which are still readily available.

In almost all cities of any size the local public library has city directories back to 1890 or earlier. If the name of a particular company is known, it is a simple matter to trace an automobile company's life span from its first year to its last. Many city directories list businesses by products in a section separate from the regular alphabetical listings. In the very early books, auto makers may be listed under "Manufacturers" and further classified under "Automobiles". Later editions list them under "Automobiles - Manufacturing". Such listings often turn up very obscure makes.

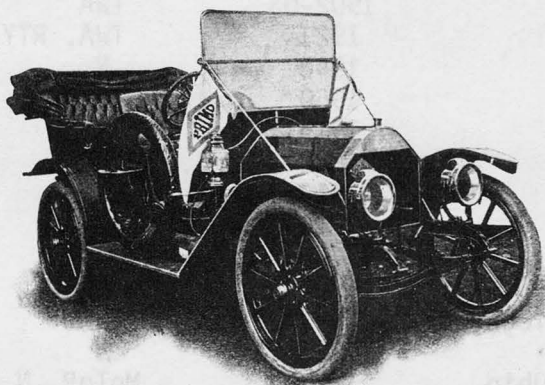
Once the name of an automobile manufacturing concern has been found, the regular listings in the directory will usually provide the names of the officers of the company, and, unless the names are Smith, Brown, Jones, etc., a modern telephone directory will frequently list the names of the descendants of these people, and a dozen or so phone calls will often put you in touch with a son or grandson of a former small-time auto maker - and they are delighted to tell you what they know.

The big, thick volumes of "Moody's Industrials", also available at most libraries, frequently offer much historical detail in connection with the accounts of the financial doings of long extinct manufacturers.

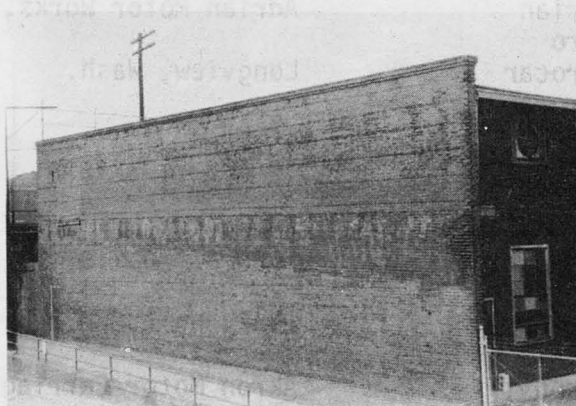
Another (but time-consuming) source of material is the micro-filmed newspaper file, also at the library. However, this involves scanning every page of each day's paper, skipping lightly over the comics, sport sections and society pages. However, just to check a couple of months of such pages takes an hour or so - and it is not easy to refrain from stopping to check other items than the business at hand.

In almost every roster of cars, certain errors are duplicated - which indicates that quite a few historians are using someone else's homework - and an error in one list is repeated in others. If you have found such errors, send your information to the Newsletter. In this way our organization can eventually produce the most complete and accurate listing yet published.

As a starter, look at any roster you may have at hand and check the dates of the Primo. It is a safe bet that your list will say Primo Motor Co., Atlanta, Ga. 1906-15. Thorough checking on this one (by the library method mentioned above) has led to the establishment of the correct dates (1910-1912), plus a long conversation with the grandson of the president of Primo, who provided the name of a truck (Van Winkle) made by his grandfather after the Primo venture failed.



This 1911 Primo, with pennants flying in the breeze, took part in a Good Roads Tour from New York to Atlanta, sponsored by the *New York Herald* and the *Atlanta Journal*.



The name PRIMO MOTOR COMPANY is barely discernable on this old building in Atlanta. Over the years, other signs were painted over it, but time and the weather are slowly making the PRIMO name visible once more.

## ADDITIONS TO THE MEMBERSHIP ROLL

Here are additions to the list of members, received just as this issue of the Newsletter was about to go to press:

Vincente Alvarez, M.D.  
Bernardo de Irigoyen 652  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Ann S. Eady  
1428 Renee Drive  
Decatur, Georgia 30032

Jacques Kupelian  
7 Sportlaan  
Overysel (Brabant), Belgium

Michael Lamm  
Box 7211  
Stockton, Calif. 95207

Herman L. Smith  
Ford Motor Co. of Canada  
The Canadian Road  
Oakville, Ontario, Canada