

ESTES PARK, COLORADO

Remember the year Studebaker used the slogan "Different By Design"? This year our hosts, the Conestoga Chapter, used the same slogan to indicate that this meet would have some different activities. And it was different, with many events that we will long remember and hopefully repeat at future meets.

It even started differently before we actually got there. We arrived in Colorado a day early so we could drive around in the mountains to see the sights. We drove to the top of Mount Evans (at over 14,000 feet the highest automobile road in North America) where there was still ice and snow in mid July. Then we approached Estes Park from the west, over Trail Ridge Road (at 12,183 feet the highest continuous automobile road in North America). Here we experienced rain, fog, and then a blizzard late Sunday afternoon. It will probably be the only time in my life I will drive through falling snow to come to the SDC International Meet in July! (Those coming up the mountains from Denver and the east had nice weather, but I think we had more fun.) Once in Estes Park, the weather was delightfully cool and dry - a welcome change from our home in the humid midwest.

The Inn at Estes Park was already overflowing with SDCers and their Studebakers on Sunday evening. We said hello to many old friends in the lobby. From our arrival we were surrounded by genuine Western hospitality the entire time we were there. The Conestoga Chapter members were always available to lend a hand. They each had different responsibilities so we didn't see them all - the ones who were usually in the same area I was were the Graubergers and the Zaners. Every time I needed anything, James Zaner was always there to solve my problem. Thanks, Jim. I am sure that the other members of the host chapter were equally appreciated by those they helped.



Monday was the Board of Directors Meeting - rather, the first session of the Board of Directors Meetings. Our Club has grown to over 11,000 members, with many matters for the Board to consider, so the Meeting reconvened Tuesday evening to finish the Club business for another year. Minutes of the Board Meeting will be published in a future issue.



Supper on Monday was a hayride to a wiener roast. It turned out to be a ride up the mountain behind a pair of draft horses (and one team of mules) for the first half of the journey, then behind even larger horses or tractors up into the pines. The ranch which put it on was almost overwhelmed - they expected about 400, and well over 500 of us showed up. They had to send back for more food, and we had to wait in line for the next hay rack, but a good time was had by all, and everyone was fed with roasted wieners, fresh watermelon, and marshmallows to toast over a campfire. Actually, I didn't think about it at the time, but while we were renewing old acquaintances and meeting new friends in the line, we were adjusting to the altitude. By the time we were back down from the wiener roast we had ridden behind three different teams and one antique tractor. Someone even remarked that the tractor had been styled by Raymond Loewy!



The Swap Meet began officially at 7 A.M. on Tuesday, but parts swapping had been going on since the first vendors had arrived. Several of the big vendors had rented meeting rooms in the headquarters motel and neighboring motels to allow lots of space to display their wares. For that one week in Estes Park you could find just about any part you would ever need in Estes Park to keep your Studebaker running.





At ten the Editors of many of the SDC Chapter Newsletters held their annual meeting. Featured speakers were Fred and Linda Fox, professional writers and editors, and Steve Montgomery, editor of *Avantivents*. After the formal meeting was adjourned, those interested were treated to a demonstration of "desktop publishing" on the new IBM model II personal computer by Cheryl Brown from the Denver office of IBM. We thank her for the informative demonstration.

That afternoon the Chapter Presidents held their yearly meeting, followed by a Judges Meeting to prepare for the 1987 National Concours on Thursday. During Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday as well, the host chapter had an entire afternoon of young peoples games in a recreation area near the outdoor swap meet. There was also a young peoples swimming meet held at the headquarters motel pool.



Tuesday evening was the annual Membership Meeting. After reports to the membership, those in attendance got to ask their national elected representatives all the hard questions. Complete minutes will be published in a future issue (there were so many cars there that this issue was filled to capacity with car photos). A highlight was the selection of Las Vegas as site of the 1989 Meet. (Start saving your loose change for the slot machines.) Seriously, Las Vegas is famous for fancy hotels at reasonable prices and buffet dinners at downright inexpensive prices. We can hardly wait.

Wednesday featured a parade of Studebakers through the center of Estes Park. The parade was well covered by the local news media and resulted in newspaper articles with pictures of the cars and quotes from several members.



Back at the headquarters the literature swap and model car and watch concours was in full swing. It continued from 8 AM until 3 in the afternoon. Many of the ladies left about noon to attend a luncheon and period style show at the historic Stanley Hotel. Your reporter missed this one, but his wife really enjoyed it. That afternoon saw meetings to explain the Coding System and of the Regional Directors and Zone Coordinators.

Wednesday evening the National Auction set a new record in sales, with over \$2,300 raised for the SDC treasury. Every cent raised resulted from the sale of items donated by great number of generous SDCers. A special thanks is due to Sheldon Harrison who donated an entire collection of showroom banners and signs which were very popular with the bidders.

Thursday was the highlight of the meet when all the Studes which had been parked at a dozen





motels and many cabins and camping areas all came together for the national car show. Some were trailered to Estes Park then driven to the concours, others had been driven thousands of miles. Whether entered in the judging, or as "display only", or just driven to the area and parked, they were all examples of South Bend's finest. We tried to get photos of all of them, and we will be working to identify the owners of the cars in the pictures right up to press time. If your car was there and is not pictured in this issue, send me a photo and we will feature all of them this spring.



Thursday night was Fun Night. This year we were driven to the Barleen Family Western Show in style by volunteers from the host chapter. The singers had one song which suggested that it was time to put the "western" back in "country and western" music. They made a good case for it! Afterward, entertainment continued back at the host motel. It was not until later that I realized that the professional entertainers "Cimarron" were SDC members Jim and Chris Calhoun from Nebraska, (If any other SDC meets are looking for entertainers, they are in the Roster.)

Friday featured an escorted tour into Rocky Mountain National Park up Trail Ridge Road. Usually I come home with a camera full of car and people photos - this year I had cars, people, and mountains.

Friday evening the awards banquet was a Chuckwagon Dinner at the Lazy B Ranch. It began with a western meal served to a great number of people in a very short time, with seconds for everyone who wanted them. That was followed by a western show by the Lazy B Wranglers. After the show the trophies and awards were passed out to the lucky winners. The only problem I can see with the Club growing is that it is getting harder to win a trophy. It is also getting harder to judge which one is the best. I sure wouldn't have



wanted the job of Ed Tozier, Chief Judge, he was busy all day during the car show. Congratulations to those who took home a trophy, you had to beat some stiff competition!

On Saturday the meet ended, but there were still two items on the agenda. Some of us drove down to Central City for the day. The town police had reserved parking for us on the main street right in the center of the business district. We saw the "face on the barroom floor" and bought some Colorado gold and silver charms. We also found a few last souvenirs before coming back down to heat and humidity and home.

Saturday night a special party for S.D.C. and tour of the Coors Brewery was held near Denver in Golden. We had to miss that one but we imagine those who attended enjoyed the free samples.

And then the meet was over for another year. In the meet program President Colin Fort had welcomed us to a ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH. He was correct. The Conestoga Chapter certainly gave us a memorable meet.

If you came to Estes, it was nice seeing you. We will all be meeting again in South Bend next August. Remember that the South Bend meet motel fills up fast (I couldn't get a room in the meet headquarters in 1983, and I tried to reserve in March!).

If you missed Estes Park 87, plan now to come to the 1988 meet in South Bend. It won't have the mountains, but it will have many of your old SDC friends and some new ones, and their cars, plus the entire city is filled with Studebaker history that you can't find anywhere else. I can guarantee you will have a good time! Don't miss out twice in a row.



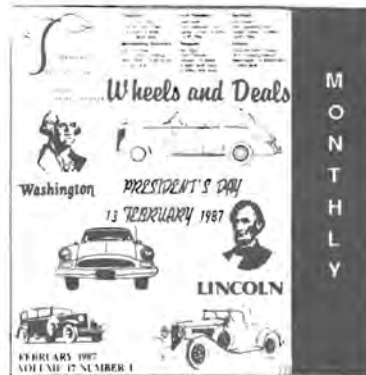
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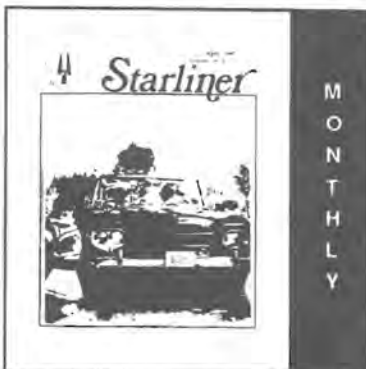
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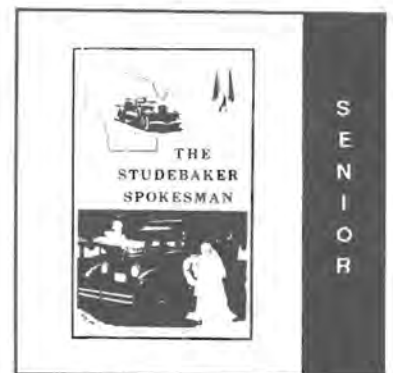
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