



# SIDELIGHTS



The Official Publication of the Illinois Region

AACA's Oldest Region—established 1946



September 2015

Volume 67 Number 09

## MORE ON FALL TOUR

By Pat Markert

The Des Plaines Chapter is hosting the fall tour to Jackson, Michigan. Our base hotel is the Comfort Inn in Jackson at 2435 Shirley Dr. The group rate is \$112.49 + tax per night. Reservations can be made by calling (517) 768 - 0088. **Please make your reservations by September 15th to lock in the group rate.** Make sure to mention you are with the Illinois Region of the AACAA. Trailer parking is available on site.

One of the places we will be visiting is



**Ye Olde Carriage Museum.** This private collection belongs to Lloyd Ganton who has the very same 1947 Chevrolet Fleetline Fastback he drove as a teenager!

Fifteen Jackson made cars at the museum were handmade during the city's brief glory days of automobile building. "Jackson was intended to be the automotive capital of the world in 1910," Lloyd Ganton said in a Brad Flory column

at [brad@lifeinplaid.com](mailto:brad@lifeinplaid.com). Then assembly lines put Jackson car-makers out of business.



1902 Jackson Steam Car - only one in existence. This was built in Jackson, Michigan.



More of Lloyd Ganton's collection.

Continued page 4 →

# Upcoming EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 12 - REGION Board Meeting**  
at Elmhurst Public Library/ 10:30 am / More information on page 11

**SEPTEMBER 12 - Waukegan-North Shore Chapter Dinner and Concert** at Woodstock Opera House. Dinner at 6 pm.

**SEPTEMBER 26 - ALL CHAPTERS Temple Tour** hosted by Fox Valley / more information on page 6

**OCTOBER 15 - 18 REGION Fall Tour to Jackson Michigan** /Hotel reservations should be made by September 15. Comfort Inn (517) 768-0088 mention AACA Illinois Region car club/ group rate is \$112.49 + tax per night. For more information see pages 1 and 4

**NOVEMBER 1 All Chapters / Brighton Run** hosted by Waukegan-North Shore

**NOVEMBER 14 REGION Board Meeting** hosted by Momence

**OCTOBER 24 Fox Valley Chapter Pot Luck & Auction** at AMS, Inc. at 3N545 17th St, St Charles, IL, the business of Marge & Art Swanson.

**JANUARY 16, 2016 REGION Board Meeting and Annual Members Meeting** hosted by Region Board

## JUDAYS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS!

Fifty years ago on August 14, Don & Nancy were wed. They gathered with family and friends on August 16 to celebrate at Clara's Italian Restaurant in Woodridge.



## NATIONAL NEWS

For more information on National events see [aaca.org](http://aaca.org)

September 14-18  
Founders Tour (Post 1931 vehicles)  
Host: Canton & Meander Chapters/  
Ohio Region  
Contact: Darrin Troyer/  
330-760-2200  
founders2015@aol.com



October 7-10  
Eastern Fall Meet  
Hershey, PA.  
Host: Hershey Region



November 5-7  
Central Fall Meet  
Houma, LA.  
Host: Lagniappe Chapter/ Louisiana Region  
Contact: Fred Duplechin  
985-803-0672  
centralfall2015@gmail.com



February 11-13, 2016  
AACA Annual Meeting  
Philadelphia, PA  
717-534-1910



## CHAPTER CONTACTS

**Des Plaines Valley** President: Lee Nelson  
815-729-0366 l-n522@juno.com

**Fox Valley** President: Dan Sobczyk  
847-428-0247 dansobczyk@yahoo.com

**Momence** President: Ernie Hart  
815-472-6207 edgetown5@aol.com

**Silver Springs** President: Al Matison  
815-414-1239 almatison@hotmail.com

Chapter meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at member homes.

**Waukegan-North Shore** President: Bob Grutza  
847-295-6996 bob.grutza@yahoo.com  
Chapter meetings are held the second Friday of the month September through May (excepting December) at the Gorton Community Center 400 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest, IL.



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the May issue of *Sidelights*, I shared with you my "barn find" experience and meeting the "elderly, eccentric and generous couple" who gave my Uncle Gene and me the wooden top bows from a Model A Pickup that we needed to complete our restoration of a '30 Model A Roadster. The story doesn't end there.



After giving us the title to the Model "A" Pick Up with its top bows, the woman said that since we obviously appreciated old cars she had something to show us. We were then led to a building behind the main house which was obviously a recent addition to the property. As the doors opened slightly the automotive treasures housed inside began to be visible. There were Packards. There were Cadillacs. There were Lincolns. There was even a Duesenberg or two. The building was filled with examples of the finest vehicles of their era. After allowing us the time to get a closer look at each of the motorized masterpieces, our hostess shared the story behind the beautiful automotive collection.

The marriage of the couple was the joining together of two of Elkhart County's wealthiest and politically influential families. Their life had been one of "nothing but the best" including automobiles. The problem was their love of their cars. They never wanted to part with any of them. So they didn't. Every vehicle they owned, which were now classics, was in the building that had been built to house their collection. Even though there was no heir apparent, our immediate attempts to be adopted failed.

Last weekend's Geneva Concours d'Elegance provided the opportunity to share this and many other car related stories to numerous interested people. By the end of the day I was exhausted and fighting laryngitis but pleased to have met and talked with so many old friends, new friends and soon to be friends. We are fortunate to be part of this great hobby called "antique cars" which provides us with so many unique opportunities.

*Don*

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK . . .



Shakespeare wrote: "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." But, honestly, would you put your nose close to that rose if it was called "Barf Flower?"

So, you are asking yourself, "What does this have to do with the price of rice in China?" Nothing. But it does have to do with naming things, particularly cars. Cars used to have such lovely names: Impala, Falcon, Mustang, Crown Victoria. These names brought forth visions of sleek, fast animals or vehicles that were for royalty—Crown Victoria. These names were evocative—they spoke to the conscious and the subconscious self.

What happened? Suddenly we had to follow the Europeans who seemed to have fallen into a bowl of alphabet soup. Hmmm, ZDX, MKS and TSX became the accepted names. Ick!

These names do not speak to any part of my soul. Give me a sleek and fast Cougar. Let me ride in that Crown Victoria.

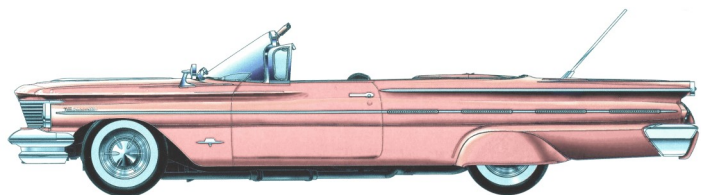
Not that all names given to cars were winners. What are we supposed to think of when we hear the name Bel Air? Electra? Fairlane? Why not the Best Lane, not just a fair one.

Well, I guess we will never know what was in the mind of car makers when they named these vehicles what they did. I just know that I prefer Barracuda to TSX and Riviera to more alphabet scramble.

Just close your eyes and dream . . . . . Diplomat . . . . . Valiant . . . . . Bonneville . . . . .  
ZZZZZZZZZZZZ!

Shhhh. See you next month.

*Pat*



## TOUR *continued from page 1:*

Cars built in Jackson in the collection include the Argo, Briscoe, Buick, Cartercar, the Duck, Earl, Hackett, National and others. Five of these cars are the **only examples** known to exist.

Mr. Ganton feels this is one of the rarest collections in America because of his one of a kind cars.

The museum also has a large collection of pedal cars, gasoline signs and pumps and toys. This will be a fun stop at a hidden treasure of a museum.



One of the gas signs from the Ganton collection.

Another stop on the tour will be to the **Conklin Reed Organ Museum** which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014. This building houses 95 fully restored antique reed organs. The collection includes church organs, cottage and parlor organs as well as beautiful rosewood melodeons. Some of these date back to the mid-1800s.



As originally built, the organ was put on a

table or a person's lap to play it. Air was forced through reeds to produce the musical notes by means of bellows. By the early 1900's organs were permanently



Some of the beautiful reed organs at the museum.

mounted on a table and a foot pedal and cord were added to operate the bellows.

Another stop on our tour is called Timeless Iron. **Timeless Iron** was formed in 1996 after its founders purchased a collection of over 60 antique tractors and steam engines from an estate. They kept some of the items for their own collections and sold the rest.

Since that time, they have bought and sold hundreds of vintage tractors and steam engines throughout the US, Canada and Europe. The founders especially like early steel wheeled tractors and generally have an extensive inventory of rare and unusual vehicles.



Rumely 12-20 Model K tractor purchased in the 90's from a man in Canada. It still has the original fenders and runs well.



25-50 Avery with original plow. Timeless Iron is the third owner of this nice original tractor. They put on new radiator tanks and tubes, new valves and valve seats. Most of the original paint is still evident making this one of the most original tractors the owners had seen.

This is a Rumley Gas Pull tractor painted as a Minneapolis Universal. Most parts on this tractor are original. →



**COME  
JOIN THE FUN ON THE FALL TOUR!**



## Cruising the Back Roads

By Muriel Baker

It was raining so much that what was to be a leisurely 50 mile tour turned into a different story. Shall we start at the beginning?

We arrived at Jeanne & Paul Marcotte's home before 9 am. We were served a beautiful continental breakfast of a variety of juices, coffee and an array of rolls and Danish. It was a de-



Some of Paul Marcotte's trophies.

licious beginning. We also toured the building where Paul keeps his trophies. You could live in that big place because it has all the comforts of home. We got to view and look around the Peterbilt truck that has won him so many trophies. It takes a room almost as big as a house to care for them. I can see why Paul's motto could be "Keep on Truckin'"

Well it's time to get on our way. Besides all the rain we learn that the collection of cars and Disney memorabilia

we were supposed to see would not be available to us. So being determined, we set out on our cruising! We still got to see the blue wildflowers along the roadside; the beans in the field were enjoying getting greener and soon ready for harvest. Some of the cattails in the ditches were getting ready for fall also. There were homes being built along the way so we did run into some progress of society on our tour.

We also viewed Fey Orr's (former member) grain elevator in Beaverville. There was a mural on the side of a building →



Bev Mulroe and Pat Hart enjoy breakfast.

## NEW MEMBERS



**Lindberg, Frank & Nancy**

1613 Signal Dr.

Naperville, IL 60565

Home: 630-364-2801

Other: 410-456-7631

Email: frank.lindberg@comcast.net

Chapters: FV, WA-NS

Car: 1952 Buick 2 dr. HT

**Nemec, Carl & Carolann**

112 S. Francis Circle

Oak Brook, IL 60523

Home: 630-323-9487

Email: nem05516@aol.com

Chapter: FV

**AACA #:** 566105 J/ 15

Cars: 1950 Ford Custom cnvt.

1953 Mercury Monterey cnvt.

**Larson, Elaine & Mike Van Wiltenburg**

13945 Keslinger Rd.

DeKalb, IL 60115

Home: 815-754-4545

Email: elainelarson383@yahoo.com

Chapter: NONE

Cars: 1958 Cadillac 2 dr. HT

1963 Pontiac 2 dr. HT

1975 Pontiac cnvt.

that was dedicated to him. It is now named called Chebanse Grain. We also got to view a RR trestle that Fey's railroad went over and we saw where they send the engines to be repaired. His railroads are now managed by his nephew's family.

We arrived at our eating destination, the Milford Family Restaurant, on time. It was nice to have a real good menu to pick what you wanted to eat. They were ready for a bunch of hungry antique car people. We were joined by Donna & Chuck Mann, former members, who live there.

At the time we left the restaurant it was barely sprinkling and as we got closer to home the sun came shining through! So it was a very enjoyable tour.

In September, if all goes as planned, we will be in Holland, well maybe just a windmill and some wooden shoes .

## COME TO THE TEMPLE TOUR

Please join us on a local tour on Saturday, 9-26-15. We will be touring the BAPS Mandir in Bartlett, IL. It is a Hindu Temple. They have a website ([www.chicago.baps.org](http://www.chicago.baps.org)) that you can check to see if it would be of interest to you.

The tour will begin at the McDonalds on 791 South Rt. 59 in Bartlett. (South of Rt. 20 and



North of Stearns Road). We will depart the McDonalds at 9:15 for arrival at the temple at 9:30.

The tour will take about 1 ½ hours. There is limited seating and a modest amount of walking. The temple is handicap accessible. There is ample parking.

**There is a dress code.** Clothing must cover the shoulders and the knees and once in the temple, no shoes are allowed. Wear your "Sunday" socks.

**The cost will be \$7.00 per car.** This will cover our cost and a donation to the temple.

After the temple visit, we will depart for lunch at the **Golden Corral Buffet** at 601 South Randall Road in Elgin. Lunch will be on your own. We have a private room for our group. Cost of lunch is about \$15.00 per person.

If you have questions or want to register for the tour, please call Dan Sobczyk at 847-428-0247.

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## TRIVIA

1. What car was the first to have an electric starter?
2. If you had "three on the tree" what did you have?
3. What road did the "Oakies" take to California in the book "Grapes of Wrath"?

Answers: page 12



## WA-NS PICNIC

By Dan Helgren

The Waukegan/North Shore Chapter held its annual picnic tour on Sunday August 9. Although rain was forecast for the day we had a good turnout of almost 40 members.

We started the day with breakfast at the Lake Forest McDonalds, which offers made to



Mike & Bob Grutza supervise Dan Sobczyk on the grill.

order omelets. After breakfast we started on our tour. Bob Wenderski and Gary Smythe planned the tour for the day working our way over back roads to the north end of the county and found some new roads that most of us had not been on. We were fortunate to avoid the rain, despite rain clouds all around us and had no more than a few raindrops land on our windshields or heads for those with open cars.

At the end of the tour, we arrived at our destination, Northcroft Park in Lake Forest around noon. All the tour participants brought their favorite side dishes and we were greeted by the grilling team and hosts: Bob and Renee Grutza, Mike Grutza, Dan and Darlene Sobczyk, and Harold and Carroll Flood. They prepared the drinks, brats, burgers, corn on the cob and all the fixings. The food was all great and we all enjoyed visiting with new and old friends.





# SHABBONA LAKE STATE PARK HOSTS SILVER SPRINGS PICNIC

By Pat Markert

The Silver Springs Chapter had their annual picnic at Shabbona Lake State Park (the name comes from the Potawatomi leader Shabbona.).

The views from our picnic pavilion were spectacular. This was a truly beautiful setting for a wonderful picnic—it was sunny, 75° and breezy. The group gathered together about 1 pm and grilled and chilled together. Al Matison and Rick Shaw manned the grill serving up burgers, hot dogs and brats.

Later in the afternoon, several of the members went for a ride on the lake on a pontoon boat. Even though the boat broke down at one point, they managed to have a good time.

This state park has a little more than 1500 acres of beautiful woods and prairie grasses. The lake itself is man-made and was formed by damming the Big Indian Creek, a tributary of the Fox River.

The park has also set aside areas for hunting, archery and fishing. The lake is stocked with large and smallmouth bass, walleye and muskie among others. In addition, Shabbona Lake contains a 15-acre seasonal nesting area for migratory waterfowl such as Canvasback, redhead and pintail ducks and Canada Geese.

Everyone went home full of good cheer and good food. A very relaxing afternoon; we hope to go back next year.



L to R: Terri Shaw, Norm Olson (next to the tree), Andy Voss, Curtiss Brewer, back of Rick Shaw, back of Carla Baxter, Al Matison and Chris Schurrer get ready for a great meal.



Curtiss Brewer watches Al Matison manning the grill.



Panoramic view of Shabbona Lake from the picnic pavilion.



Chapter members congregate under pavilion.



## NOTICE: REGION DUES

In order to offset the continuing increase of printing and postage costs, the Region Board increased the 2015 dues for those receiving the *Sidelights* by postal service to \$28.00. The dues remained at \$23.00 for those receiving it via email.

There are members of the Illinois Region who do not have access to email or for extenuating circumstances need to receive the *Sidelights* via "snail mail." However, a number of Region members with email access also chose to receive the 2015 newsletter by postal service.

In 2016 the Board will ask for the help of all Region members with controlling printing and postage costs by receiving the *Sidelights* electronically if they have email access.

The Board will also revisit the Region dues system in order to evaluate and perhaps restructure. The goal will be the fairest possible system providing the maximum amount of member benefits.

Joe & Linda Dolezal  
Membership Chairs

## FROM JUL-AUG 1970 SIDELIGHTS



"No, I CAN'T picture it after you've done a little work on it!"

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



**Do you have something to say? This is the place! I will publish letters to the editor as long as they meet the following criteria: 1) no inappropriate language 2) no personal attacks 3) all entries must be signed. Write away!**

Hello Pat,

Seeing the ad for Peter Troost Monument Company in the new issue of *Sidelights*, I thought there may be some possible interest in seeing the work that Troost has performed for me and my family. Attached is a photo of my family's car-themed cemetery monument. Also attached is a photo of the real car that it is based on, my 1985 neoclassic Packard hearse.

If anyone would like to see the monument in person, it is located in Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. My public thanks to the Troost company for the excellent job they did with my family's monument design and construction!

Patrick J. Martin



Patrick's 1985 neoclassic Packard hearse.



The monument done for the Martin family by Troost Monuments.



# Our History



## FROM 1970 JANUARY SIDELIGHTS TALES FROM FOX VALLEY

By Louise Pearson

John and Elaine Heidemann were our gracious hosts for the January 24th meeting. It was well attended by 37 of us held in rapt attention by Richard Crabb, author of "Birth of a Giant—The Men and Incidents That Gave America the Motorcar." Mr. Crabb's discourse covered the involvement of (Frank)

Duryea in the development of his horseless carriage and the first race in the United States for self-propelled road vehicles sponsored by the Chicago Times-Herald in 1895. The planned route went from Chi-



Duryea automobile

cago to Milwaukee and back, but was changed to Chicago to Evanston and return because of heavy snow. Duryea won this race and only one other car, a Benz, out of six starters finished the course. On Memorial Day the following year, Duryea had 4 cars entered in a New York race and finished 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th.

In the fall of that year, 1896, Frank Duryea went to England to participate in the London to Brighton run on November 14th to help celebrate the repeal of the "red flag" law which specified that a man carrying a red flag must walk ahead of any self-propelled vehicle on the English highways. In spite of starting in last place in a field of 58 cars, Duryea overcame the hazards of dust and stalled vehicles to cross the finish first and wait an hour and 4 minutes for the 2nd place car.



Another fact brought out by Mr. Crabb concerned the spark plug. Albert Champion, a French racing star, set up his business and marketed "Champion Sparkplugs." (William) Durant enticed Champion to Flint, Michigan to make sparkplugs for Buick. The new

## FROM THE KITCHEN OF: JOANNA VROMAN

*I received this recipe the first Christmas Bill and I had together as the Vroman family. There are 5 siblings and they all feel as though it was their Mothers recipe. I usually refer to it as such.*

*I never met Bill's Mother, but his Father and I were the best of friends and he remembered the recipe as something that the family enjoyed as*

*long as he could remember. I miss him each and every day. His nick name for me was "old woman" and mine for him was "skinny butt". What a character!*



### Vroman Chinese Salad

1 head of one of the following: Chinese, Napa, Bok Choy or Savoy Cabbage chopped fine  
1 or 2 bunches green onions, chopped fine.  
Set both aside.

Brown then cool the following:

1/2 c. butter, melted

Add:

2 pkgs. Ramen Noodles, broken into pieces  
(discard seasoning packet)

1/2 c. Sesame Seeds

1 c. Blanched Slivered Almonds

**Dressing:** Put in jar with tight fitting lid

1 c. salad oil

2 tablespoons soy sauce

1/2 c. sugar

1/2 c. vinegar

Shake to blend. Refrigerate for at least 20 minutes. Keep ingredients separate until just before serving. Enjoy!

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company had to have a different name and it was decided to use Champion's initials "A.C." Thus today, two major brands of sparkplugs originated with the same man - Albert C. Champion.

## GENEVA CONCOURS BROUGHT OUT MANY REGION MEMBERS

As with many activities this summer, the day of the Geneva Concours, August 23, started out with rain. But by 10 am, the sun came out and brought crowds of people to view these wonderful cars.

Here are some sights from the show.



Ed & Debby Leed displayed this 1974 AMC Javelin AMX.



John & Lynn Brayton were there with their 1936 Chevrolet Deluxe Town Sedan.



Crowds enjoy the sun and the show.

## FROM 1968 MAY—JUNE SIDELIGHTS The Homely Little '37 Ford

They say you were the least Ford that Henry ever made. You had a gutless little V-8 and a stupid little grin. And when you started you had the Ford-iest sound any Ford ever had. You're not even an antique you foolish old thing. You're supposed to be streamlined like you're funny big brother the Zepher. But you never went fast enough to put up any wind resistance. Except maybe on a long downhill run with you in neutral. No, you weren't much of a car at all. The Model A and the T are at least historic. You're pathetic.

I was ashamed to be seen riding in your back seat with all your tickly prickly old mohair. But when war rationing was on you did run pretty well on a mixture of 50/50 gasoline and kerosene. You got us to the lake and back regularly when a lot of mighty fine Packards just sat. You went through fuel pumps like crazy though. And finally, just about V-J day you pooped out completely just before you got to the top of a high hill. So we just went and traded you in, and waited 9 months for a new one.



Well, the salesman did say the '37 wasn't much of a Ford and you'd need new innards and you were hardly worth fixing. Wonder why we saw you putting down the street a few days later? Wonder where you ever went.

No you weren't much of a car at all. You just got us there. But then, nowadays they have a car called a VW and that's what it does — just gets people there, and looks stupid like you. Wonder why the Volkswagon and you look so much alike. Could you have been 30 years ahead of your time? Could it be that in even the lowest creature car of the old years there was something special, unique, something that has influenced the history of the automobile industry, if only in a small way. Well, answer me little Ford. Or are you just going to sit there and grin that stupid little grin?

A Little Boy



# Classifieds

The following have supported our Illinois Region Car Show. Please give them your support if you can. Thank you.

## Deluxe Auto Werks

Complete Auto Body Refinish & Repair  
Certified ASE, STG, PPG

319 Wilson St.  
West Chicago, IL 60182

SCOTT STASTNY  
630-293-7750  
Fax 630-293-7790



Jack Emerson  
General Manager

Haggerty Ford                      Bus. 630-231-3200  
330 E. Roosevelt Rd.              Fax 630-231-3210

## BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 12 AT EHPL

The Illinois Region Board will be holding its next meeting at the Elmhurst Public Library on September 12. The meeting will start at 10:30 am and is hosted by the Fox Valley Chapter.



The Elmhurst Library is located at 125 S. Prospect Ave., Elmhurst 60126/ (630) 279-8696.

We have much planning to do for next year, so please come and help the board make these decisions. RSVP by September 5 to Dan Sobczyk at 847-428-0247 or email at [dansobczyk@yahoo.com](mailto:dansobczyk@yahoo.com)

## MR. TRIM Auto Tops & Upholstery

946 Ogden Ave.  
Downers Grove, IL  
630-810-0424

[www.mistertrim.com](http://www.mistertrim.com)      Owner: Darrell Duchon



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### ILLINOIS REGION

The Illinois Region of the AACA serves northeastern Illinois. Meetings are held 5 times a year at various locations.

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Please contact with questions about membership and/or address corrections. Annual dues are \$23 for both individual and joint memberships. Membership in the National AACA is an absolute prerequisite for membership in the Illinois Region. Applications are available.

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All materials should be submitted by the 20th of the month.

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Dolezal, Linda & Joe  
Juday, Don & Nancy

#### DIRECTORS:

##### Through 2015

Joe Dolezal  
Don Juday  
John Otto  
Dan Sobczyk

##### Through 2016

Nancy Juday  
Jeanne Marcotte  
Bob Markert  
Nancy Nelson

##### Through 2017

Ernie Hart  
Chris Schurrer  
Rick Shaw  
Darlene Sobczyk

1. 1912 Cadillac/ 2. Column mounted  
shifter 3 speed transmission/ 3.  
Route 66

