



# Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Louis Chapter  
**BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA**

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July 2007

## PICNIC AT THE PLANTATION

Hosted by Bruce and Kathy Kunz

Article by Paul Meyer; Photos by Steve Dodson

I'm calling that Saturday afternoon the "sit around in the shade and watch the workers" trip. It was a beautiful day to sit around and do nothing but move our chairs to keep up with the shade. For some reason it kept moving around the tree. Maybe the world is moving, or is it the sun, who knows? Anyway, after eating a nice meal of brats, burgers and all the side fixin's, we decided to sit in the shade and try to catch the occasional breeze that would pop up. And sitting back and watching a big crew of people paint

and repair the barn was a joy for me, especially since I had nothing to do with it and I didn't have to make any decisions.

Mind you, this was not a large crowd. I believe only 17 or 18 BCA'ers showed up, but we all sat there wondering what to do and who to talk about, since we now had a large group of non-attendees to choose from. One of the attendees, Culus Jones,

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Culus Jones & Ed Keil tended the grill.....



while others tended the shade.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- |               |          |                                      |
|---------------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| July 5        | 7:30 PM  | Monthly Meeting, Chuck-A-Burger      |
| July 7        | 6:00 PM  | Bobby's Custard Display              |
| July 14       | 10:00 AM | Automotive Technology Inc. Shop Tour |
| July 25 to 29 |          | BCA Nationals, Bellevue, Washington  |

**DUES are PAST DUE**

## PICNIC AT THE PLANTATION

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turned out to be the center of attention. He started talking and we all listened attentively. Soon, Mary Ann started asking questions. Since he was generally talking about his life, his standard answer was, "Well, it's none of your d--- business, but, since you asked, here goes". By the time the afternoon was over, we all knew the complete life history of Culus Jones. And what an interesting life he has had from growing up in an orphanage in Cincinnati thru his army years (he enlisted at age 15) all the way up to the present.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable afternoon. If you didn't get the chance to attend, you missed an afternoon of Buick camaraderie and good will and an occasional lie.

## BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS' TOUR TO FRENCH LICK Contributed by Bob Brasses

As is standard operating procedure with my family, we had to leave for French Lick late on Sunday. Seems I had to attend my niece's graduation party. So at about 5 PM Mike Marx, Barb and I headed out. The trip was uneventful and we arrived at the French Lick Resort around 11:30.

The first morning we had a drivers' meeting at 8:30 which seemed very early after not hitting the sack until 1 AM. At least the early start meant a cool ride in my 55 (NO A/C). We broke up and headed out in four groups. We stopped at the Abby Press Gift Shop and went on to the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand, Indiana. The Monastery is located on the hill above the town and is the first thing visitors to the area spot when getting close to town. On to a German/American buffet lunch at the Schnitzenbank Restaurant. The food was good and no one left hungry! I truly believe at times that the E in BDE stands for Eating! The next stop was Jasper Engines and Transmissions. It is quite an operation what with all the parts, engines and transmissions they rebuild. Everything is tested before it is returned to the customer. Later that evening we had a cocktail party. Maybe the D stands for Drinking. One of the BDER's brought along his bagpipes and Scottish attire and performed for the group.

Day two.. Mike was busy doing a business deal and missed the trip. We stopped in at the West Baden Hotel. I cannot even begin describe the place, but jaw dropping is

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## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Hi All,

Where did June go? Club members were involved in a lot of activities during the month including a trip to Tan-Tar-A with the Olds club. Rain washed out Bobby's Custard (which has been rescheduled to July 7<sup>th</sup>), the next week a couple of us ventured to French Lick, Indiana, with the Buick Driving Enthusiasts (BDE) and the annual picnic at the Kunz Plantation was on the 16th.

From what I heard the trip to Tan-Tar-A was a big hit. Hard to beat an indoor car show and the Olds folks were great hosts.

A big thank you to Kathy & Bruce for having us over for the picnic at The Plantation. Those of us who made it enjoyed the day. Good food and good friends are hard to beat!

Mike Marx, Barb and myself went on the BDE trip. We had a great time. Both Mike's 30 and my 55 ran well. For more details see my write up on the activity.

Speaking of writing, why not submit a short article for the *Gazette*? John is a great editor as what I often write gets a nice bit of polishing by the time you all see it. Articles do not have to be long. Please send in updates on new cars, car shopping trips, status of projects, how-to ideas. Hey, why not send in an article on you favorite garage grub (or in my case it's the brownies that get me out of the garage!).

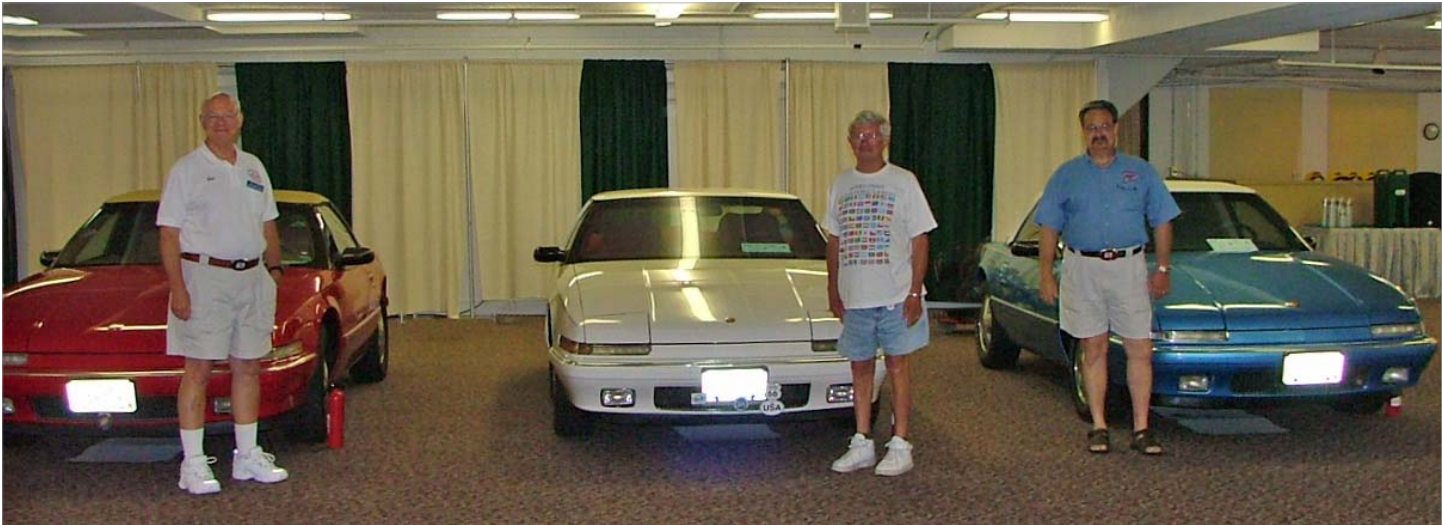
Now on to dues... Please take a moment and check to see if your dues are due. Sending the *Gazette* and providing food for several events during the year requires the support of our membership.

One last thing: make sure to cast your ballot TO-DAY for the BCA National election.

Happy Buicking... ☺

*Bob Brasses*, Director  
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# GATEWAY CLUB MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT IN JUNE



**Mid-Missouri Olds Show at Tan-Tar-A**

Pictured are Bill Landers, Bill Wester and Herb Morris with their patriotic Reattas.



**Grafton Harbor Boat Show**

Gene Hughes' 1959 16' Shepherd wooden outboard runabout is being admired by Paul Meyer.

**Buick Driving Enthusiasts' Tour**  
Above & right: Bob Brasses' 55 Special and the atrium at West Baden Springs.  
Below: The ponies running at Churchill Downs.



## BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS' TOUR TO FRENCH LICK

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what happened when I entered the domed atrium. It is huge! Five stories tall up to where the dome starts, the atrium is large enough that the owners held a three-ring circus for their guests in the 1920s. Back then the West Baden was the place to be seen! The rich and famous were there and FDR often came to enjoy the springs. Hopefully the picture gives you a small hint of the place.

Back on the road and past the home of French Lick's very own Larry Bird. To our surprise, he was outside pushing a mower and waved as we went by. We then went on to Spring Mill State Park and another wonderful buffet lunch! Many stopped in at the Gus Grissom Memorial and Museum. For those that don't remember, Gus was one of the Mercury Astronauts and died tragically in a fire on the launch pad in Apollo I.

Day 3.. Off to Louisville. We saw how bats are made at the Louisville Slugger Factory and Museum. They are producing a line of gloves now and I bought a pair of driving gloves as a memento of the visit. After that we stopped at Churchill Downs. From the banquet room where we had lunch, you could place your bets and watch the races either on TV, through the glass walls or go outside. We had to have a Mint Julep which was quite tasty. We took a tour and watched the horses paraded and saddled and the jockeys

mounted. Then we followed them to the rail to watch the race up close. It was quite a different experience being right there by the track as the horses came around the corner heading for the finish! The day was almost over except Mike and I had to change the plug wire and plugs in his 30. He had a miss and new wires and getting rid of the resistor plugs solved the problem.

The last day.. We went to Koetter Woodworking which is a state-of-the-art mill where they make every wood item for a house except the 2x4s. It was amazing to see the huge automated and computerized process. And it is even harder to believe that the founder started the business in his basement. He began by making molding for his employer's cabinet shop. The business now has 6000 acres of forest to supply the wood for their products. They only harvest mature trees and leave the young ones to grow for future harvests. The Koetters built the Forest Discovery Center which is used to educate school children and adults on the importance of the forest and how proper care will enable it to last forever. To wrap up the tour we had a fine banquet and were entertained by several of the senior members of the club.

If you get a chance we can highly recommend going on a BDE trip. Great friends and good times.