

it was the trains at the B&O Railroad Museum



Our cars were displayed among the locomotives at the front of the Museum

By Jerry Gordon

There's always a lot of interest generated by an antique car show at the B&O Railroad Museum, both on the part of car owners and the general public. Again this year, WJZ-TV, channel 13, did a promotional piece about the museum and the car show. The spectator traffic on Sunday, June 28th was steady all afternoon as visitors to the museum looked at our cars extensively and went into the museum to enjoy their exhibits.

We noticed that museum visitors were mostly families with young children who came out for an excursion on a summer Sunday. The museum admission cost for a family of four compares favorably with any amusement park; and you get to ride on a real vintage train. The exhibits at the museum have an excellent collection of railroad equipment and technology from an era in American and Baltimore history when railroads were a prime mode of transportation – approximately

from 1850 to 1950. The museum's roundhouse and exhibit of historic locomotives, rail cars, and equipment is impressive, as are the collections of accurate locomotive models, signal and communications equipment, and train station clocks.

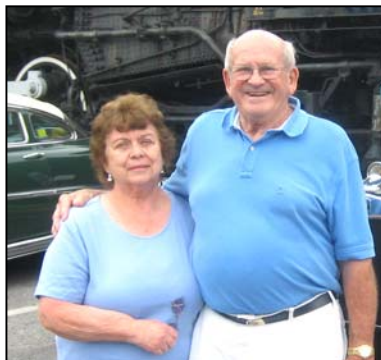
The weather continued a trend of low humidity and slightly cooler temperatures with lots of passing clouds. But, it was nice to sit outside among the locomotive displays and our cars and not have to worry about the Baltimore summer heat, as we have in the past.

Two Museum staff members spent quite a bit of time walking around our cars looking for the best one. John Marranto and Eileen Blindey decided that Joan and Walt Meyers' 1930 DeSoto sedan was worthy of the Sponsor's Choice award at this show. One of the features of the car that they liked was the natural finish, wood-

spoke artillery wheels. They certainly were in the ballpark in terms of authenticity and condition (the hallmarks of AACA judging) because the Meyers' DeSoto is an AACA Senior car.

The Sponsor's Choice topped a great outing for Walt, because during the day he was able to reminisce about his early career when he joined the B&O Railroad in 1948 as a Rodman in the Regional Engineer's Office in Baltimore. This part of the railroad was responsible for all construction projects. Walt's career with the railroad spanned eight years, during which he rose to a Project Engineer and handled construction work in various parts of the B&O system including the Cumberland, MD locomotive maintenance shops, the Staten Island, NY Ferry terminal, and projects in Riverside, Brunswick, and on the east side of Philadelphia.

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Shown from the left: Joan & Walt Meyers; the DeSoto's wooden spoke artillery wheel; and the Museum's John Marranto & Eileen Blindey with the Sponsor's Choice Trophy.

B&O Museum - continued

Walt was especially thrilled to see B&O locomotive #51 on display – a piece of equipment on which he often was able to grab a ride back home from a project.

One of the more unusual cars was Charles Visconage’s 1972 DeTomasso Pantera, a bright yellow, low-slung Italian sports coupe. Chuck bought the car on e-Bay.

DeTomasso produced 7,260 Panteras from 1971 to 1992. About 5,500 were imported to the US and sold in Lincoln-Mercury dealerships through 1975.

The Pantera has a monocoque body design, similar to unibody construction, but the car is no lightweight at more than 3,100 pounds on a 98-inch wheel-

base. The overall height is 43 inches, so you need to be fairly agile to enter and exit the car.

The Pantera is powered by a Ford 351 Cleveland V-8 that produces 330 HP. The engine is mounted mid-vehicle with a rear wheel drive transaxle. Reported 0 to 60 acceleration is in the 5.5 second area. Chuck didn’t indicate if he has tested that acceleration time.

Participating in this show and enjoying the B&O Railroad Museum experience were: Chris & John Young, 1957 Thunderbird; Linda & Tom Young, 1960 Thunderbird; Helen & Jerry Gordon, 1961 Cadillac; Henry Ver Valen, 1960 Jaguar; Ted Schneider, 1983 Oldsmobile; Lynn & John Horn, 1953 Hudson; Dave Cavey, 1959 Edsel;

Ray Adler, 1968 Dodge; Terry & Dan Materazzi, 1956 Corvette; Paul Pullnen & Tommy Thompson, 1973 Chevrolet; Julie & Ron Siegrist, 1966 Cadillac; and Michael & David Dodge with Ruth Synodinos, 1932 Buick.

Also in the show were: Don Rhine, 1940 Buick; Nancy, Marshall & Curtis Lee, and Ginny & Paul Habicht, 1959 Cadillac; Carla & John Tische, 1966 Camaro; Ray Barnack & Wayne McDaniel, 1951 Chevrolet; Matt Livingston-Burton & Bob Battista, 1979 Jeep; Charles Visconage, 1972 DeTomasso Pantera; Jerry Wagner, 1938 Buick; Todd, Andrew, Vicky & Gary Wilmer, 1950 Mercury; Mary & Ed Allen, 1957 Chevrolet; Joan & Walt Meyers, 1930 DeSoto; and Larry & Pat Wenderoth, 1928 Studebaker.



From the left: Charles Visconage with his 1972 DeTomasso Pantera; Ruth Synodinos with her 1932 Buick, flanked by son David Dodge and grandson Michael Dodge.

**Chesapeake Region
Special Event**

25th Anniversary Celebration

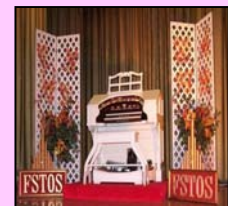
Free State Theatre Organ Society

Recital – Picnic – Car Show

Saturday, August 22nd – Noon to 4 pm

At the home of Dee & Roy Wagner – 4308 Meadowcliff Rd., Glen Arm, MD

Listen to theatre organ artists play the restored Wurlitzer & Conn organs
You are invited to bring your own sheet music and play these fine instruments



Directions: From I-695 exit Cromwell Bridge Rd., go north 2 miles, bear left to Glen Arm Rd., go 7/10 mile to Manor Rd., go left 1-7/10 miles to Meadowcliff Rd.

BBQ sandwiches & sodas will be available. Bring a dish to share. Be sure to bring your own lawn chair and don't forget to come in your antique car – weather permitting.