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Flowermart Car Show Tradition Continues With Good Turnout

By Jerry Gordon

Flowermart, Baltimore's official rite of spring, celebrated the two-day event's 93rd year on May 7th and 8th. On a beautiful spring morning on Friday the 7th, Chesapeake Region members began arriving at the east plaza of Washington Square to establish our car show under the trees in the park facing the restored 19th century townhouses. Eventually, we had twenty-five vehicles displayed on the brick paved street. The proximity to the hub of activity surrounding Washington Monument encouraged a lot of spectators to wander over and examine our car display.

One of the event tasks that our members have performed the past few years is transporting the Mayor and other dignitaries up the hill on North Charles Street to the opening ceremony on the main stage. This year, open convertibles were provided by Dave Benson – 1964 Lincoln Continental, Ed Allen – 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air, and Art Petrucci – 1964 Corvair. The fine spring weather prompted members to bring a total of ten convertibles. The number of cars, members, and convertibles were the most the Club has had at Flowermart since we began participating.

Club attendance at the Flowermart included many spouses and significant others who enjoyed browsing the booths selling flowers and plants, arts and crafts, and collectibles. There were two stages with continuous music and other performances, plus a whole bunch of civic organizations with information booths. The first day's schedule included a maypole dance, fancy hat contests, Hilda Mae Snoops art contest, and the booth decoration awards. Other attractions were the organ recitals at the Mt. Vernon UMC on the square and tours of the Garrett Mansion. Plus, the lemon stick stand had long lines all day.

For more adventurous members, a short walk down North Charles St. put them virtually at the door of the famed Walters Art Museum where there were many options to tour the exhibits.

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Frank Ruehl, 1937 Buick



Dave Benson, 1964 Lincoln



Al Lawson, 1957 Chevrolet



Pat Wenderoth, 1982 Rolls Royce



Ed Allen, 1957 Chevrolet



Walt Meyers, 1930 DeSoto



Norm Reese, 1963 Chevrolet



Ted Schneider, 1983 Oldsmobile



Dave Hamill, 1950 Cadillac and Ned Shields, 1968 MGB – two of the Club's newer members at their first Flowermart



Flowermart – continued

The organizing committee really treated us well. Each vehicle received two gourmet box lunches with a choice of beverages. In addition, we received a collectible glass in a decorative bag.

Elizabeth and Dave Hamill came to their first Flowermart in their 1950 Cadillac. Dave acquired the Cadillac about twenty-five years ago when he found it on Gibson Island. It was re-

trieved and trailered home, where it underwent a complete restoration. The Hamill's two sons helped with much of the work, although paint and upholstery was farmed out.

1915 Mack truck. From time-to-time Dave drove these antiques to various events and enjoyed the experience. Patti and Ned Shields came to the Flowermart car show because they saw it online and thought it sounded interesting. Their 1968 MGB roadster, painted British Racing Green, was a nice addition to the show. Some of our members explained Chesapeake Region's activities to Ned, who said

Chesapeake Region members not already mentioned who enjoyed the 93rd Flowermart were: Paul Habicht, 1959 Cadillac; Anne & Tom Kenney, 1955 DeSoto; Thelma & Dave Johnson, 1956 Thunderbird convertible; Frank Ruehl, 1937 Buick; Mildred & Al Lawson, 1957 Chevrolet; Pat Wenderoth, 1982 Rolls Royce; Henry Ver Valen, 1967 Jaguar; Joan & Walt Meyers, 1930 DeSoto; Ray Adler, 1984 Fiat Pininfarina; Eelsie & Norm Reese,



Pictured in the top row from the left: Helen & Jerry Gordon with Beth Muscedere, who walked over during lunch from her nearby office; and Thelma & Dave Johnson leaving at the end of the day in their 1956 Thunderbird. At row 2, shown clockwise from the left: Walt & Joan Meyers, Dave & Elizabeth Hamill, Norm & Elsie Reese, Paul & Rose Smith, and Al & Mildred Lawson.



tried and trailered home, where it underwent a complete restoration. The Hamill's two sons helped with much of the work, although paint and upholstery was farmed out.

Dave became interested in antique cars while working at Flanigan Construction, which owned a 1931 Cadillac and

that he was already an AACA member. During the day Ned filled out an application and joined the Club.

The MGB is an impressive little sports car with a favorable weight to horsepower ratio and exceptional road handling. With a 0 to 60 time of 11+ seconds, it can handle today's traffic.

1963 Chevrolet; Rose & Paul Smith, 1964 Thunderbird; Lois & John Krupinsky, 1950 Ford; Helen & Jerry Gordon, 1961 Cadillac; Ted Schneider, 1983 Oldsmobile; Gary Wilmer, 1963 Pontiac; Read Van Zile & Joanne Day, 1963 Thunderbird; Joan & Neil Haynie, 1968 Thunderbird; and Buzz Diehl, 1966 Pontiac.