

THE CHESAPEAKE BULLETIN

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Chesapeake Region Celebrates Sixtieth Birthday!

By Mary Whitcraft

A new year has dawned, 2015, and with it a cause for celebration. This is the year that we, The Chesapeake Region Antique Automobile Club of America, reach a milestone.

That stone is a diamond, the marker of a sixtieth anniversary and a perfect symbol for the noteworthy achievement of enduring and growing brighter as the decades roll by indeed they have, six of 'em.



Paula Ruby, President

It is with great pride that we acknowledge the men and women who have kept this engine running and on a perfect

course even without global positioning. It is with much gratitude that we salute the three men who fashioned this organization of like-minded automobile enthusiasts on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, *SIXTY YEARS AGO!*
Founders: Prentice, Feather & Hook

The founders, whose names are deeply etched in Chesapeake Region's DNA are Willard Prentice, Karl Feather and Edward Hook, all of Baltimore. Of the three, it was Willard Prentice who picked up the torch, ignited its flame and ran the distance for the high calling of creating such a worthwhile organization. Willard's interest in early Fords was a solitary avocation when he began in the late 1940's. In ensuing years, he bought and sold many old cars and in the process, met other men who were engaged in the same hobby.

In the early 1950's, Willard joined the *Antique Automobile Club of America*, headquartered in Philadelphia. Shortly thereafter, he became a member of The National Capital Region AACA based in Bethesda, Maryland. At the outset, Willard drove to the Washington area meetings alone but was

soon joined on a few occasions by a friend, Karl Feather. On the long drives to and from meetings, the men decided to try and establish a *regional club* in the Baltimore area. They proceeded to pound the pavement, write letters and spread the word of their plan. Their efforts were soon rewarded when enough men expressed interest and a meeting was called. Among those answering the call was Edward Hook, a gentleman that had long before fallen in love with old cars. Mr. Hook was an avid collector and had amassed almost *FIFTY* vintage cars by 1953. Mr. Hook's 'fleet' was contained in numerous garages throughout his Walbrook neighborhood and anywhere he could negotiate space.

March 13, 1955...

Therefore it was begun, the Chesapeake Region Antique Automobile Club, in a Y.M.C.A. auditorium on Sunday, March 13, 1955. These young men probably did not realize on that day the gift they have given to the beneficiaries of their dreams and their efforts. The gift is a glittering gem and because of it, a long standing fraternity of men and women has formed and flourished. It's now, 60 years later, safe to say that the devotion of its members to those marvelous

automobiles of yesteryear is only surpassed by the camaraderie they enjoy and the respect they hold for each other. Old acquaintances, and new ones alike, aren't forgotten. Although Willard, Karl and Ed have passed on to their rewards, their hearts beat continually to blend with ours at the center of the constantly aging and vigorous organization they began. As our anniversary year begins, we hereby propose a toast to Willard, Karl and Ed and also to us--that the year ahead is highlighted with happiness, health, good cheer--and that the memories we make are framed with diamonds.

