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A Weekend To Remember In The Antique Car Hobby

By Jerry Gordon & Tom Kenney

Chesapeake Region sponsored car shows on consecutive days at traditional Baltimore spring events, a first for us. On Friday, May 4th, the Club returned for the third year for the 90th Flowermart, which was held in the streets around Washington Square in the historic downtown Mt. Vernon neighborhood. Our car show, which had easy access to the square, was on the east plaza's brick paved street in front of the well-restored 1800s town houses that are across the plaza's park from the Peabody Conservatory.



the 31st Baltimore Symphony Decorators' Show House – Long Crandon, which was on the Stella Maris campus near Timonium. It was truly an elegant setting with beautiful landscaping and wide expanses of lawn. And for any member who wanted to attend another street fair, it became a three-day weekend with the TowsonTown Festival on Sunday. All this fun activity and we're just getting started on the car show season!

90th Flowermart

We had 17 cars displayed on a beautiful spring day, perfect weather for flower shoppers, spectators, and car buffs. It's dubbed "Baltimore's rite of spring" because thousands of people come out to enjoy one of the most fabulous street fairs in existence. Dozens of organizations offered a wide variety of flowers and plants in their street side booths. Additional booths surrounded the square and side streets offering arts and crafts, curios, *Continued on the next page >*

Pictured above is Gary Wilmer's 1950 Mercury, which won first prize for the best restored car at the Flowermart car show.

Pictured on the right are Anna & Bob Peirce receiving the Sponsor's Choice award from Holly Lanahan for their 1955 Buick at the Decorators' Show House car show.



The next day, Saturday, May 5th, the Club had a car show at



Mary Allen sports a Flowermart hat



Lemon Stick booth had long lines all day



First Place ribbon at the Flowermart

Flowermart - continued

food, and public service information. There were stages in several locations with continuous live music performed by local groups and artists. And as usual, there were contests in many categories and some new features like the "urban forest", which was displayed at the base of the Washington Monument. If you wanted to see local politicians, there were sightings of several past Mayors (Tommy D'Alesandro III, William Donald Schaefer, and Kurt Schmoke) and, of course, current Mayor Sheila Dixon.

Everyone we saw was having a good time walking around the square and side streets celebrating the fine weather, slurping the traditional lemon sticks, and looking at the crowds dressed in spring finery and wearing all those fancy hats. Oh those hats! They are the one tradition that sets Flowermart apart from other festivals in Baltimore.

We had the usual spectator traffic looking over our antique cars. Club members placed their chairs under the plaza park's shade trees and ate the really delicious box lunch provided by the Flowermart committee.

As the afternoon wore on, Julius Zulver, who is an antique car buff and a Flowermart Board member, inspected our cars judging them in two categories – best restored and best original. First place ribbons were awarded to Gary Wilmer's 1950 Mercury – best restored, and Thelma and Dave Johnson's 1956 Thunderbird – best original. Other ribbon winners were: Second Place - Paul Habicht's 1959 Cadillac, and Pat Wenderoth's 1928 Studebaker; and Third Place – Tom Kenney's 1955 DeSoto and Jerry Ross' 1954 Kaiser.

But you know, all of our cars looked great in the beauty surrounding Mt. Vernon and this unique traditional event. Our members really appreciated the opportunity to be



First prize for the best original car at the Flowermart - Thelma & Dave Johnson for their 1956 Thunderbird.

a part of the 90th Flowermart.

Participating in the Flowermart car show were: Mary & Ed Allen, 1957 Chevrolet; Jerry Gordon, 1964 Lincoln; Paul Habicht, 1959 Cadillac; Thelma & Dave Johnson, 1956 Thunderbird; Anne & Tom Kenney, 1955 DeSoto; Lois & John Krupinsky, 1956 Ford; Anna & Bob Peirce, 1955 Buick; Boots & Art Petrucci, 1964 Corvair; Laurie & Doug Robinson, 1978 Thunderbird; Jerry Ross, 1954 Kaiser; Paula & Gary Ruby, 1961 Chevrolet; Frank Ruehl, 1937 Buick; Bill Schmuck, 1956 Buick; Pat Wenderoth, 1928 Studebaker; Mary & Harry Wilhelm, 1963 Ford; Gary Wilmer, 1950 Mercury; and Julius Zulver, 1987 Rolls Royce.



New members Paula & Gary Ruby's 1961 Chevrolet at the Flowermart

31st BSO Decorators' Show House

Well, for those of us who didn't get enough car show time on Friday, we were right back the next morning, May 5th, at the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Decorators' Show House, which was in another truly beautiful place – the Stella Maris campus near Timonium. Quite a change in scenery from the Flowermart in downtown Baltimore to the wide-open suburban setting in northeast Baltimore County.

Each year this fund raising event supporting the Symphony's educational efforts is held at a different location. A rather grand house, often a Baltimore landmark, is entirely re-decorated, both inside and outside, by local interior designers and landscapers. This event showcases each firm's design talent. There were 32 design and landscape firms for the 2007 Show House – Long Crandon, which was built in 1921 by W. Wallace Lanahan.

Long Crandon's imposing façade hints at a house with many rooms. We counted more than 18 and when you consider all the hallways, staircases, and other nooks and crannies, the house is of mansion proportions. The layout is a colonial center hall with what looks like side wings added later.

In the entry foyer, we found an imposing two-story room that was beautifully decorated and featured paintings and prints covering the walls and up the main staircase. It looked like an art gallery. The scale of the house continued into most of the rooms leading from the foyer. Each room had a different decoration theme emphasizing architectural features. Of course, one could buy many of the decorators' items at the end of the Show House event, which ran to May 20th.

The Club had 24 antique cars under the
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Weekend - continued

flowering shade trees on the landscaped lawns in front of Long Crandon. Besides a participation plaque and the Sponsor's Choice award, each member who brought an antique car received two admission tickets to the Show House, which were priced at \$20 each at the door. The Show House brought out 45 Club members to look at the wonderful new decorating schemes in this grand old mansion. By far, this event was the largest attendance of members' spouses (we counted 19) at one of our car shows. Gear heads and interior designers, what a combination!

The Sponsor's Choice award was determined by Holly Lanahan, whose grandfather had Long Crandon built. Holly was assisted by Lindsay Harris. They took their responsibility seriously, coming outside a couple of times to look at late arriving cars. They finally selected Anna and Bob Peirce's 1955 Buick Century four-door hardtop.



*Evelyn & Pat Wenderoth's
1982 Rolls Royce*



John Gambo's 1961 Metropolitan

Club members and guests participating were: Ray Adler, 1972 Volvo P1800; Mary & Ed Allen, 1959 Buick; Pat & Ed Butler, 1932 Buick roadster; Larry Butcher, 1938 Lincoln; Bud Currey, 1965 Pontiac; Barbara & Buzz Diehl, 1967 Pontiac; Rich & John Gambo, 1961 Nash Metropolitan; Helen & Jerry Gordon, 1961 Cadillac; Angie & Ben Gugliuzza, 1955 Chevrolet; Ginny & Paul Habicht, 1959 Cadillac; Joan & Neal Haynie, 1969 Thunderbird; Martin Herman, 1969 Ford Shelby Mustang; Mary Lou & Bob Johannessen, 1963 Studebaker Avanti; Thelma & Dave Johnson, 1956 Thunderbird; Anne & Tom Kenney, 1955 DeSoto; Lois & John Krupinsky, 1956 Ford; Nancy & Bob Lynch, 1970 Cadillac; Terry & Dan Materazzi, 1956 Corvette; Anna & Bob Peirce, 1955 Buick; Boots & Art Petrucci, 1964 Corvair; Joan & Walton Meyers, 1953 Pontiac; Ruth & Jerry Ross, 1954 Kaiser; Evelyn & Pat Wenderoth, 1982 Rolls Royce; and Mary & Harry Wilhelm, 1963 Ford.



Our cars under the flowering trees



Long Crandon - built in 1921



*Lois & John Krupinsky's
1955 Ford*



*Pat & Ed Butler's
1932 Buick*



*Joan & Neal Haynie with their
1969 Thunderbird*