

Journal of the Hudson-Essex-Terraplane Historical Society
Dedicated to Preserving the History and Products of the Hudson Motor Car Company

Volume 7 Fall & Winter 2005 Issue 2



A fantastic 1936 HUDSON RS Convertible owned by HET Historical Society Members, Eldon & Esta Hostetler, Middlebury, Indiana

# The Hudson-Essex-Terraplane Historical Society, Inc.

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News of the Society is published in **The Hudson Triangle**, a semi-yearly publication of the Hudson-Essex-Terraplane Historical Society, Inc. - a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana. Charlie Nau, Editor, is located at 8605 Pheasant Dr., Missoula, MT 59808. It is published every six (6) months in May and November of each year.

## PLEASE

## Don't Forget

Tell your friends, relatives and your neighbors about our fine organization.

We never know who will be interested in joining with us until we ask!

### **National Report**

By Dennis Flint

Wednesday around 5 O'clock, the Hudson products started to line up for the trip to Harraah's Auto Collection. All were encouraged to fill their mighty HET's with as many people as possible for the short trip across town. 425 club members attended the party at the museum and a countless amount of HET cars and trucks that played taxi were in the parking lot.

This was the first event of this kind that I have attended that did not run out of food. The Northwest Chapter provided the sodas and waters. Everyone had a good time, and hopefully everyone noticed the sign that listed the HET Historical Society as the sponsors of the show. Everyone deserves a round of applause for getting that many members back and forth. It was a big undertaking and no one was left behind. If anyone has questions, please give me a call at (916) 332-1535.

#### MY INTEREST IN HUDSON AUTOMOBILES

By Eldon and Esta Hostetler

I grew up near Shipshewana, Indiana on the Pashan Farm. Pashan was a small town with a General Store and a post office before Shipshewana had one. It was a large farm of 280 acres.

In 1936 a local Amish boy left the area for Texas to follow the wheat harvest north. I was 14 years old at this time. Dad had many young men help with corn harvest in the fall. He did not expect Ervin Yoder to return in time to help with the corn harvest. But one day soon after the start, he drove in with a new 1936 Hudson Terraplane, 4 door se-

dan, tan in color with semi-automatic shifting next to the steering wheel.

I was allowed to drive this car several times to go from farm to farm. With this automatic shifting, it was "big time stuff" as far as I was concerned. All other cars had shift levers off the floor. You

had to be 18 years old before you could get a driver's license. Those were 4 long years for me. However, when I turned 18 in 1940, 1 purchased a used 1938 Hudson with the same shifting setup. My Amish grandfather loaned me \$350.00 to buy this car if I promised not to tell mother he did this. I kept this promise. I drove Hudsons until they merged with Nash and have driven mostly Chryslers since.

I had a good fortune in my life which made it possible to collect old Hudson cars. My wife, Esta, suggested I get into a hobby to divert some of my energy. She had also been taught to drive in a Hudson car. This is how and why we got started

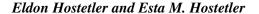
collecting the ones we drove at first. However, when we went back into older models it got very interesting. Hudson had many different model cars for sale many by many different coach builders. We were lucky to find many of these that needed restoration and did this to bring them back for display. Today we have 48 unusual Hudson, Essex, Dover, and Terraplane cars. Hudson merged with Nash in late 1954 and this merger became American Motors, Inc. They made big cars for 3 years and then put all sales and production into the Rambler models.

In August 1992, we purchased the first 8 acres of land and in August 1997, an additional 10 acres next to it. The plans were to put a museum on this land for the tourists to see when coming to the

Flea Market. When we became aware of the museum tax problem in the State of Indiana, we started to look at other options. We found that a 501(c)3 set-up is the only way this could be done. However, when done this way, the project belongs to the community and managed by a local board.

In December 1997, before Christmas, we told the

6 children that we spoke to Norman Kauffmann, Shipshewana Town Manager, and asked him if the town would consider building a complex for the car collection if we would donate the cars and 18 acres of land to place it on. We would also put up an endowment for operation. Shipshewana, IN, already had 501(C) 3 status. They agreed to keep the cars together during our lifetime. It has taken all these years for the town of Shipshewana to complete a plan that is financially sound.



# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HUDSON ESSEX TERRAPLANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. JULY 27, 2005

- 1. The meeting was called to order by President Sue Figert Meyer at 9:00 a.m.
- 2. Lee Dodd made the motion to waive reading of the minutes of the 2004 meeting as all members received a copy, seconded by Clint Webb. Motion carried.
- 3. Treasurer's report was given by Dick Burgdorf. Motion was made by Charlie Nau to accept the report as read. Seconded by Bruce Smith. Report was approved. We have 69 life members, 30 contributing members, and 117 associate members.
- 4. The display at Harrah's Museum was just great. The displays will be moved to the **Towe Museum** and then to other sites.

<u>Natmus</u> - There\_are 4 cars on display plus the Overland and Essex which were donated to the HETHS by the family of Ron Kishpaugh.

<u>Hartford-Wisconsin</u> - There are three cars, a Hudson Hornet engine on an engine stand plus a neon sign.

<u>Shipshewana</u> - There is not much news. The state of Indiana seems to be holding up some of the issues to be resolved to progress forward. The site work is done. The property was donated by Eldon Hostetler. Eldon also donated cars to the city. There will be no ground breaking until all applications for utilities have been approved.

- 5. <u>Hudson Triangle Publication</u> We will continue to publish twice a year. Membership is asked to submit articles to the Editor for future issues. Hal Waddell suggested taking your issue of the White Triangle to Chapter meets as a promotion for new members.
- 6. Hal Waddell reported the Memorial Boards are for a death only.
- 7. John O'Halloran gave a brief report on the 1916 Hudson sponsored Trans Continental Race-driver, Will Patterson.
- 8. **By-law change** \$1,000.00 cash or equivalent gift in same amount of money for life membership. Motion by Clint Webb to accept. Seconded by Lee Dodd. Motion passed.
- 9. <u>Election of Directors</u>: Terms expiring are Larry Kennedy, Hal Waddell, and Dennis Flint. Motion was made by John O'Halloran, Seconded by Ken Poynter to unanimously re-elect the same. Motion passed.
- 10. <u>Call to Audience</u> Do we submit articles from the Hudson Triangle to the WTN? Yes, some.

Ken Poynter announced he has a great amount of memorabilia to loan to the HETHS.

See *Membership Minutes* on page 15

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE

## HUDSON ESSEX TERRAPLANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

**MONDAY, July 25, 2005** 

<u>Board Members Present:</u> Tim Burns, Audrey Charbonneau, Lee Dodd, Larry Kennedy, Dennis Flint, Charlie Nau, Bruce Smith, Hal Waddell, Clint Webb, Joe Stinnett.

Officers Present: Sue Meyer (President), Larry Kennedy (vicepresident), Richard Burgdorf (Treasurer), and Irene Williams (Secretary).

- 1. The agenda, a copy of which is attached, was approved.
- 2. Charlie Steiner thanked the HETHS for allowing him to speak at our meeting. He reported that Harrah owns the collection of cars at the city of Reno owns the building. He presented the society with a copy of a magazine which includes a list of cars at the museum. He reported 400 people are registered to attend the reception at the museum.
- 3. John O'Halloran presented a short history of racing during the years of 1916-1920. Will Patterson was a well known race driver during that time. John has discovered his collection of 245 articles of which 90% are Hudson related. Three (3) boxes of this collection are available for an offer of \$1,000.00. Some articles and pictures are perfect and some acid damaged. It should be kept as a collection. Copies could be shared with the HET Library and the Alpine County Historical Club. Hal Waddell made a motion to offer \$1,000.00 plus shipping to purchase the Patterson collection. Seconded by Joe Stinnett. The motion will be reviewed after a financial review of the HETHS.
- 4. Motion made by Charlie Nau to accept minutes of previous meeting with the following ammedments.
  - #10 Dennis Flint donated a 1956 Hudson Hornet to the Hartford Museum.
  - Glen Johnson's car is a Golden Hudson, not a Golden Hornet.
  - #12 Addition: \$600.00 was allocated for purchase of a color printer for use by Lee Dodd. Motion was seconded by Dennis Flint.
- 5. Dick Burgdorf presented the Treasurer's Report of June 30, 2005 Copies of the report were distributed to those in attendance. Motion was made by Charlie Nau to approve the report. Seconded by Hal Waddell. Motion carried.
- 6. Membership Report: Dick Burgdorf sent letters to continuing members. As a result, some paid up. Two letters were sent to 17 associate members.
- 7. Audrey Charbonneau continues to send packets to new members.

See **Board of Directors Minutes** on page 11

#### HUDSON ESSSEX TERRAPLANE MUSEUM

By Hal Waddell

At 10:30 A.M., 25 August 2005, history was made in a big way in Shipshewana, Indiana. You may have not heard of Shipshewana, Indiana. Therefore, here is your introduction!

Shipshewana is located in the far Northeast corner of Indiana. It is closer to Michigan than to Ohio. It is a beautiful little town, 565 population, mostly all being Amish. This town is surrounded by an almost 100% Amish farms filling the entire county. The Amish are very clean people who work hard and do not believe in owning or driving autos, farm tractors, electric lights or electric appliances.

Despite these restrictions, they have endorsed and approve of having an auto museum in town. This museum will join other activities that are designed to be profitable to the town. One being the largest flea market in the Eastern United States. This brings into town on most pleasant days around the year some 35,000 to 45,000 people shopping for antique furniture, china, cattle, etc. One must attend this monstrous sale to get the feeling of a great project. As an example, in the middle of the enormous grounds is an oversized barn. This barn has spaces marked out on the floor and people wishing to sell may rent a space. This is one big, big auction house. There are a half a dozen or more professional auctioneers on hand. They move around from space to space all singing their wares. Very confusing and very entertaining.

The Amish are good business people and are easily identified. The ladies wear long skirts and a cute little white bonnet while most of the men will be known by their beards of numerous

different sizes. The children all dress exactly as their parents and are very well behaved.

Back to the museum. Shortly after the Hudson Essex Terraplane Historical Society was founded in 1990, the subject of a museum cam up as a first class way to preserve the history of the Hudson Automobile and all that goes with it. Eldon Hostetler, a member of the HET Club, at that time had 37 cars in his collection. He showed great interest in the Historical Society and even went as far as to purchase several acres of land in Shipshewana. The town was invited to join a project to build a Hudson Museum.

They were very interested but wished to enlarge the original plans by adding a Visitors Center, a 150-room hotel and a water park. This of course would add to the interest in the project and it also would call for much more investment funds. For some time, this looked like a political football. And at times looked like it would never happen. Despite the time and the laws of Indiana, all the folks involved in going forward won out. Don't forget Elton and Seta Hostler had already offered the land and their collection of cars! Incidentally the collection in these past ten plus years has grown from 37 cars to 48 cars. All but two of these are Hudson products.

Going back to August 25th, it was announced that there would be a Groundbreaking Ceremony at 10:30 that morning. There was a large tent placed on the property, which had been cleared of all vegetation and next door to a Super 8 Hotel. This was the biggest and most in-See *HET Museum* on Page 13













Fall & Winter 2005 9 The Hudson Triangle

# HET Historical Society - Income State 7/1/2004 Through 6/30/2005

Category	Description	
INCOME		
300	<b>Mel</b> mbershife	100.00
	302 Contributing	4.200.00
	303 Associate	380.00
	TOTAL 300 Membership	4.680.00
310	Museum	
	311 Wisconsin Auto Museum	200.00
	TOTAL 310 Museums	200.00
320	Donations	
	321 Automobiles	28,000.00
	322 Memorial	975.00
	324 Employer Matching Funds	100.00
	TOTAL 320 Donations	29,075.00
341	Doc Daugherty Book	
	342 Book Sales	80.00
	TOTAL 341 Doc Daugherty Book	80.00
350	Interest	656.93
370	Fund Raising	
	371 Auctions	2,256.56
	TOTAL 370 Fund Raising	2,256.56
	L INCOME	36,948.49
EXPENSES	<del></del>	0.00
	egorized	0.00
500	Administrative Expense	162.32
506	Shipping Expense	1,000.00
507	Membership Pins & Plaques	633.00
508 520	Plaques & Name Plates Newsletter	157.11 226.75
521	Equipment	617.58
540	Museum Exhibits	500.00
	Towe Auto Museum Exhibit	500.00
	542 Wisconsin Auto Museum Exhibit	300.00
	543 NATMUS	300.00
	544 Traveling Exhibit	3,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		4,100.00
1017	L EXPENSES	6,896.76
OVERALL TO	TAL	\$30.051.73

#### **Board of Directors Minutes** from Page 5

#### 8. Other Reports

**Library Report** - Ralph Rochan continues to work on the materials. Motion made by Joe Stinnett to allocate \$1,000.00 to the library fund for the year 2005-2006 year to cover ongoing expenses. Seconded by Bruce Smith. Motion carried.

List of Property Location - Sue had a complete list.

#### 9. Museum Projects

<u>Hartford Wisconsin Automotive Museum</u> - There are several cars there and some memorabilia. Rent is \$300.00. Motion made to pay the rent, seconded by Bruce Smith. Motion carried.

<u>Natmus Museum, Auburn, IN</u> - We have 6 cars there. They get moved around some. Motion made by Charlie Nau to pay rent of \$300.00. seconded by Hal Waddell. Motion carried.

<u>Towe Auto Museum, CA</u> - Dennis reported they need an automatic continuous tape. He will pick up all the displays from Harrah's. Motion made by Bruce Smith, seconded by Lee Dodd to pay \$400.00 rent. Motion carried.

<u>Shipshewana</u>, IN - No change at this time. Motion made by Hal Waddell to keep \$40,000.00 on table. Seconded by Joe Stinnett Motion carried **Garlett's Museum**. No change.

A total of \$41,000.00 is allocated for museums.

It was suggested the displays from Harrah's be at the Natmus Museum in Indiana for the 2007 National Meet.

The price of the Doc Daugherty Book is now reduced to \$5.00.

#### Old business

- 10. <u>Hudson Triangle-</u> Even though the cost of publishing the Hudson Triangle is very high, we will continue to publish twice a year: June and November. Send all articles to Lee Dodd by May or October earlier if possible. Charlie Nau made the motion to allocate the amount of \$1,000.00 for the Hudson Triangle. Seconded by Joe Stinnett Motion carried.
- 11. Membership Plaques Hal Waddell reported:

Regular Members 36 Life Members 72 Memorial 56

Question was brought up: Should these be put in the museum? No action taken.

See **Board of Directors Minutes** on Page 12

#### **Board of Directors Meeting** from Page 11

- 12. <u>Web Page</u> Larry Kennedy continues to work with Lew Mendenhall. Some changes will be made. Some Hudson Triangle articles will be put on the web page.
- 13. <u>Auction Sale</u> We will continue the auction sales at the Nationals as space and time allows. The sale on donated non-Hudson items will continue to be offered on E-Bay.
- 14. **Audit Committee Report** Joe Stinnett and Charlie Nau have completed the audit and report favorably. All numbers are fine for the years 2000 through 2004 audit.

#### **New Business**

- 15. The Annual HETHS Auction\_will be held this Thursday at 8:00 p.m. on fifth floor of the hotel near the pool area.
- 16. A "thank you" note has been sent to the family of Ron Kishpaugh for their donation of the 1913 overland and the Essex.
- 17. **By-law change** after much discussion regarding the change, motion was made by Charlie Nau that by making a donation of tangible personal property which has a value of or excess of \$1,000.00 would declare the person as a Life Member of the HETHS. Seconded by Joe Stinnett. Motion carried.
- 18, Next Meeting Date The 2006 Annual Meeting of the HETHS Board of Directors will be held at 1:30 p.m. the day before the HET Board Meeting. The date of the 2006 Annual Membership meeting will be established at a later date.
- 19. <u>Election of Officers</u> All officers with the exception of Irene Williams are willing to serve for the ensuing year. Motion was made by Charlie Nau to elect Mike Cherry as new Secretary.
  - Seconded by Bruce Smith. Motion carried. Irene stated she has enjoyed working with everyone and will continue to promote and support the HETHS. She will continue to round up donations for the auctions. Moved by Hal Waddell and seconded by Charlie Nau to keep all remaining officers the same. Motion carried
- 20. Motion to adjourn by Bruce Smith, seconded by Lee Dodd. Motion carried. Adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Williams, Secretary

#### HET Museum from Page 6

teresting thing to happen in the area. Politicians came out of the woodwork to endorse the project. TV Station all the way from Fort Wayne came in on their helicopter. These were joined by some 5 or 6 other media of newspaper and radio. There were a total of 120 people in attendance all with flattering speeches, all supporting the Hostetlers, the town officials and the County Councilmen. Nearly everyone there was introduced.

Sue Figert Meyer, our HET Historical Society President was invited to speak. She in turn introduced the Historical Society Vice-President Larry Kennedy and Hal Waddell, senior board member of the Historical Society. HET Club visitors Howard and Carol Krontz and Norm Lovell from Indiana were also introduced. After all the speeches were over the golden shovel came out and all those who wished to dig were afforded the opportunity.

This celebration was designated for the first phase of the project. That being the first building which will house the HUDSON MUSEUM, Visitors Center and Gift Shop. It is to be a very large metal building with a wooden façade resembling a cattle barn along with silo. Target date for the ribbon cutting is projected to be the fall of 2006. Lets hope that many HETHS members along with HET Club members will keep this date in mind.

While driving in Indiana, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor because attached to the back of the carriage was a handprinted sign . . . "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

Hal Wadell



# HET Historical Society Balance Sheet 6/30/2005

#### **ASSETS**

Cash and Bank Accounts	
105 Keystone Bank Money Market	6,083.61
106 Keystone Bank - CD	55,619.65
<b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	61,703.26
OTHER ASSETS	
150 Automobile	61,000.00
TOTAL Other Assets	61,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	122,703.26
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
LIABILITIES	0.00
EQUITY	122,703.26
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY S	\$122,703.26

## **Groundbreaking Day in Shipshewana**

The following remarks were given by Sue Figert Meyer, President of Hudson Historical Society at the ground breaking ceremony for the new Shipshewana Town Center where the Hudson museum and the fabulous Hostetler Hudson collection will be displayed. The ground breaking ceremony was on Thursday, August 25, 2005.

Eldon had his 1929 Hudson Biddle & Smart bodied dual cowl Phaeton, his 1942 Commodore Eight woody wagon and his 1953 Super Wasp Hollywood at the ceremony. Sue drove her 1954 Jet Liner Club Sedan. Larry Kennedy, Vice President of the Historical Society, as well as Hal Waddell, Board Member of the Historical Society attended. Lee and Carol Pontius were present with their 1941 Hudson Six Deluxe modified coupe. Also present were Norm Lovell, Rex Benninghoff, Jan Appenzeller, and Howard and Carol Krontz.

#### **A Dream Come True**

By Sue Figert Meyer

Today is a historic day for Hudson Enthusiasts. It is a day that marks the beginning of a dream come true for owners of Hudson Cars. Thanks to Eldon and Esta Hostetler and the Town of Shipshewana, a museum dedicated to Hudson Motor Cars will become a reality.

Hudson Motor Car Company built Hudsons, Essexes, and Terraplanes from 1909 to 1954 in Detroit, Michigan. Thereafter, Hudson Motor Car Company merged with Nash Kelvinator Corporation to form American Motors. In 1959, a gentleman by the name of Meritt Marks started a club for people interested in collecting Hudson automobiles. The Hudson Essex Terraplane Club now has over 3,600 members. As early as 1965, Hudson Club members dreamed of a Hudson museum.

In 1990, the Hudson Essex Terraplane Historical Society was formed as a 501C3 organization. Its primary goal was to support the establishment of a Hudson museum. This dream has been difficult to see to reality. There are over 3,600 Hudson enthusiasts today who are excited to know of this groundbreaking cer-

emony. As president of the Hudson Historical Society, I will tell you that the credit is due to the years of dedication of Eldon and Esta Hostetler and the Town of Shipshewana in their persistent planning of this town center and museum. It has taken a long time, but your patience and persistence have paid off.

Eldon and Esta: not only have you made your own dream come true- that is the preservation of your fabulous Hudson collection- you have made a dream come true for all Hudson enthusiasts. On behalf of the Hudson Club and the Hudson Historical Society, we thank you and pledge our support for this wonderful endeavor.

#### **Towe Museum Update**

By Dennis Flint

Starting the first of November through the end of March, there will be an HET exhibit in Sacvramento. At this writing, we have four HET products; a 1931 Hudson Murray bodied sedan, a 1934 Terraplane sedan, a 1936 Railton and a 1952 Hudson Hornet that was in the exhibit in Reno. Also from Reno will be the story boards, along with glass cases full of memoribilia. Saturday March 11, 2006 will be Hudson day at the Towe Auto Museum. All members are invited.

#### HETHS Auction 2005......

by Charlie Nau

I wan asked this Spring by President Sue Figert Meyer if I would be the auctioneer this year of the annual HETHS auction held at the National. Apparently Paul Schuster was not going to be in attendance and without someone to put on the auction there was no use in even lining one up. I do the auction for our chapter each year so I said I would be glad to help her out.

Because of the location of the National this year, it was virtually impossible to have the duplicate or excess material from the HETHS library on hand to auction. It was decided to seek donations from all of the vendors in the parking garage and use that to see if we could get enough material to make the effort worth while.

On Thursday evening, July 28th the auction was slated to begin at 8 p.m. in the poolside room of the Nugget in Reno. When I arrived and looked over what had been donated, I thought to myself that this should take about 15 minutes to go through these items and we would not be making any big amount of profit from it. I was wrong! Items continued to show up and the auction continued for two hours and fifteen minutes! We came away with a profit of \$1329. The item that drew the most fun was the ice cold bottle of beer that sold for \$31. I didn't realize how hot it was and how much thirst had accumulated in the audience to bring such a furious bidding process to fruition to obtain that cold bottle of beer!

It was enjoyable watching the group having fun running up the bid for a good cause.

I want to thank my runners and helpers for making it all possible. They described each of the items, watched for the different bids in the outter reaches of the large room, and made sure we had the correct number of each of the bidders. My thanks goes out to Sue Figert Meyer, Erwin Sanchez-Flores, Joe Stinnett, and Larry Kennedy for their assistance and also to Irene Williams who did her best to keep track of recording who was doing what on each item. I had a fun time and am looking forward to helping out again with this auction at next years National Meet in Kearney, Nebraska.

If you have any Hudson memorabilia, parts, signs, vehicles, or whatever that you would like to donate to the upcoming auction, contact Sue Figert Meyer or myself and we will be glad to get with you to obtain these items. All contributions will be graciously accepted.

#### Membership Minutes from Page 4

Charlie Nau made it clear the HETHS paid for the Hudson display at Harrah's. He also stated to be sure to wear your nametags to the museum. If you do not have a nametag you will not be admitted.

Motion to adjourn made by Hal Waddell, seconded by Tim Burns. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m. Respectfully submitted,

Irene Williams, Secretary



# N-O-T-I-C-E

Do you have a neighbor who might be interested in your HUDSON vehicles? Tell Him about the Society!

Explain the different types of Memberships we offer!

Ask him to join with us!

We're interested in preserving the

History and Products
of the

# **HUDSON MOTOR CAR COMPANY**

**Charlie Nau - Editor** 

HET Historical Society, Inc. 8605 Pheasant Dr. Missoula, MT 59808 Postage Stamp



Mailing Address