

# The Driving Force



**The real Big Mouth of the South**



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS - VOLUME 20 — NUMBER 3  
Winter 2015 - Fourth Issue of 2015

*Ride along as the BDE roars ahead*



## **Shifting gears with the Directors**

### **Skip Petsch, Senior Director**

Hi everyone we had a great time at the Florida tour. I lived in central Florida when I was a kid and visited some of the places we went to. Things have changed a lot since then. We have the May tour all set up and ready. Hope all who can, will come to Georgia and enjoy themselves. It's time to put the Buicks in the garage for the winter, and start checking them out taking care for any issues and getting them ready for spring. It will be here before you know it. The holidays are fast approaching I hope everyone has a happy thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

Be safe hope to see everyone in May

Skip Petsch  
Sr director

### **John Daily, Middle Director**

The car is put away for the winter, something all you folks in warm climates don't have to do. Kathy & I are sorry we couldn't make Florida, & hope you all had a good tour. Sounds like next Fall's tour is progressing. Due to events going on, we haven't done anything new on our tour for 2017. However, we should be able to get back on it after the holidays. We were able to spend Thanksgiving with our son at his new home in SE New Hampshire. We are looking forward to the 2016 tour in the South. We wish you all a very merry X-mas & a happy New Year.

John & Kathy Daily

### **Frank Cwikla, Junior Director**

We have been busy putting all the cars away for the winter. Planning on going to Arizona for the winter. Have been looking on going to Reedsburg, Wi. for the spring tour in 2018. Their are many nice places to see in this area. Close to Wi. Dells, Baraboo, Spring Green and Steven Point. The Baraboo circus would be a nice place to go. We had a wonderful trip to Croatia in summer. Went to many beautiful places. Wishing every one a happy holiday season.  
Frank Cwikla

### **Isabel Lenny, Membership chair**

We are having beautiful weather in early November, and I would love it if it lasted well into the winter months. It sounds, from all the people I have heard from that were on the Florida Tour, that everyone had a wonderful time.

We were sorry to hear that Alice Westfall has passed away. Our deepest sympathies go out to John, J.D., and the entire Westfall family. Alice was a very special person and will be missed by all.

REMINDER: Dues are due by December 31st. If you need a renewal form, please let me know. (in this issue, editor)

Ed and I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season."

Isabel Lenny

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Please welcome the following new members:

Alan and Joy Oldfield BDE #420 Cedar Rapids, IA Email address: adoldfield@aol.com

**Connie, Darrell, Dick, Linda, Wendy and I would like to thank the members who offered their help on the welcoming committee at the 2016- 50th anniversary meet in Allentown. Frank and Kay Cwikla, Linda Hall and Ellen Cavanaugh, have stepped up and will help where possible.**

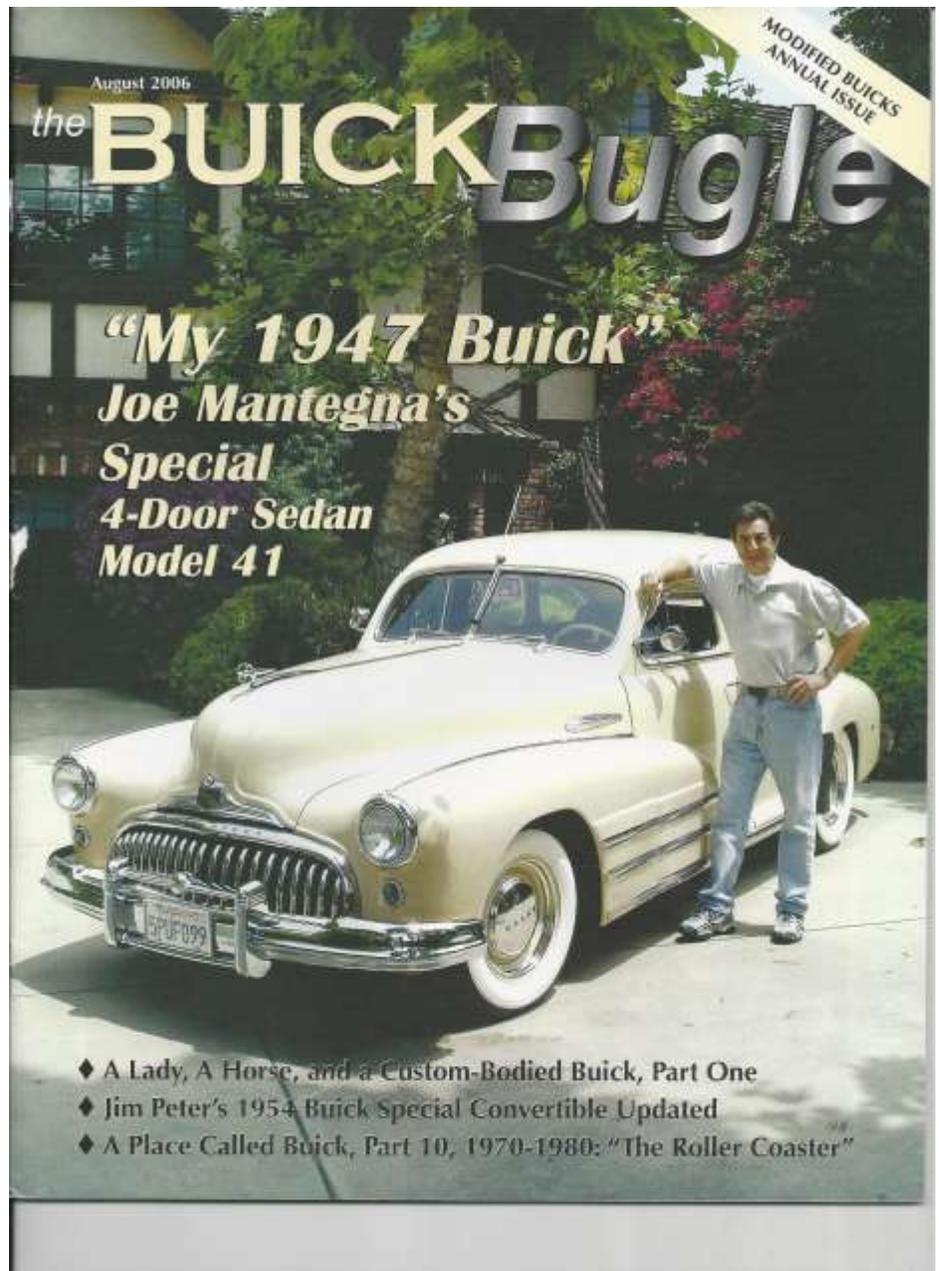
**If you are going to the meet in Allentown, please consider volunteering to help the welcoming committee, many hands make light work, we all want to enjoy this celebration.**

Did you know??

**The BCA has a very famous person in it's membership, Joe Mantegna. # 5414. He owns a beautiful 1947 Buick Special which was featured on the cover of the August 2006 Bugle and he wrote an article about the car.**

Well! If you are a fan of **"Criminal Minds"** on CBS, set your PVR/VCR to record the January 20, 2016 **episode, as Joe's** 1947 Special will be featured on the show. There is also a 1970 Opel on the show that Joe owns too.

Thanks to Mike Stemen for this update about Joe.



**2015 BDE Fall Tour - Altamonte, Florida  
Hosted by Charlie Steffy and Paula Liska - October 18-23**

Wendy and I departed on Friday morning using our usual way to get to the border, driving across country roads instead of freeways. We had to do a couple of short hops on freeways to finally get to the border at the Peace Bridge. Our first night was at Bentleyville, PA, a short distance from Pittsburgh. The next morning we headed down into West Virginia for another visit to Tamarack, the large building where all the wonderful creations by the local crafters is sold. We had lunch there and fueled up for the long drive to Chattanooga, TN our second overnight.



On Sunday morning we continued on our way to Altamonte, leaving I75 in Florida for a nice scenic drive across country. We arrived at the Embassy Suites right on schedule @ 4:30 p.m. to be warmly greeted by our fellow BDE members. This hotel is large and has a big atrium surrounded by the rooms on three sides. The atrium was our "hospitality room" where we enjoyed our breakfasts (cooked to order if wanted) and our evening get together for the managers "cocktail hour". Some of us made this our evening meal with free drinks and snacks.



On Monday morning we started our tours with a drivers meeting at 7:15 a.m. in the DARK!!!, now that is a first for this group. Our destination on that day was Weeki Wachee Springs on the west side of I75. It is famous for its underwater mermaid show, with gals swimming with mermaid tails and breathing air through long hoses as needed. The amount of air controlled their ascents and descents. The show was about 30 minutes long.



We also watched an "animal show" with local reptiles.

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After our buffet lunch we took a boat cruise on the river which contains the 117 million gallons of fresh water that the springs put out each day, and flows to the Gulf of Mexico. Some of the members



made a stop at the Citrus Tower, however there is no citrus fruit to see in the area now. We drove back to the hotel, and enjoyed the cocktails and snacks for dinner.



Tuesday, another meeting in the dark. We were heading for the Atlantic coast and a visit to Daytona International Speedway.

On arrival and after personal pit stops following a long drive, we boarded the trolley for our tour of the track.



John was our leader and he gave us a lot of information about the history of the track and told us that the owners were spending 400



million dollars in improvements to the stands, elevators, and other items to make the visits on race days even more enjoyable. Our group had a longer tour than the other group; we were in the stands, they were not. The seats in the stands are all painted different colors to give the effect that they are full of people for TV. In the lobby there is a cut away model of a real race car. It does not look very comfortable.



After our visit to the track, we drove to an old shopping mall to visit "The Living Legends of Auto Racing", a small museum with cars and memorabilia. The owner gave a talk about Buick in racing.

Departing the museum we headed further south on the coast road to our lunch stop, "North Turn Restaurant" which is located near the area where the race cars came off the sand and onto the pavement in the early days of Daytona racing. We had a great lunch with a back drop of an angry sea with big waves breaking on shore.



After lunch we drove a short distance to visit the Casements, the former winter home of John D. Rockefeller. In his lifetime he was the richest man in the world. He lived in this house until his death in 1937 at the age of 97. The home was built in 1913 by the Reverend Harwood Huntington and purchased by John D. in 1918. We had great docents to take us around and show off this magnificent house.



Wednesday, finally a meeting at a normal time. We were heading to "Gatorland" where we had our group picture taken in front of a large alligator mouth.

During our visit there, we saw lots and lots of alligators, including a white one, saw some alligator "wrestling", had a BBQ lunch in the rain and watched alligators jump for food in a large pond. We also



watched a show about snakes and spiders. Check out the Boa Constrictor and the very nervous gal holding the head end.



Leaving Gator Land we headed to Pioneer Village a fairly new development, where vintage homes from the early days in Florida are being moved to a park and set up as a village would have been back then.

From there we drove to Osceola Heritage Museum and Visitor Center where we had a great young gal give us a tour and lots of information.

### Wendy in an eagle nest



Departing the Museum we headed for Old Kissimmee, where Paula had arranged to have a street closed off so we could have our vintage Buicks on display during the dinner hour, while we enjoyed the food from the many small eateries on the street. Nice to see the interest from the local people for our cars. Only the older cars were parked there.



Thursday, Happy Birthday to me, where did 74 years go? I know that the past 25 years or so have been enhanced by our involvement with our Buick families on both sides of the border and the "old car" hobby in general, so Thanks one and all for being there.

We headed south to Lake Wales and the BOK tower and gardens, plus a visit to the Pinewood Estates. Bok tower is known as the Singing Tower due to the 60 bell carillon, one of the worlds finest. The tower is 250 feet tall and is situated in a beautifully landscaped 50 acre garden designed by Frederick Law Olmstead. The tower is not open for tours, however there is a concert each day at 1 pm and 3pm.



On our visit the concert was live not recorded. There is an area where you can sit and watch the person playing the carillon on a television screen. We also had a guided tour of the Pinewood Estate Home, built in the 1930s by Charles Buck, a former executive of Bethlehem Steel Company. We enjoyed a nice box lunch in the cafeteria.



Friday morning we had a short drive via some very nice streets to Winter Park, where lots of high



A couple of the homes seen on our pontoon boat ride

priced homes are located around a few lakes. We had a nice boat ride to check out the homes, one had over 30,000 square feet. After the boat ride we could wander the touristy street and have lunch prior to our visit to the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum which houses the largest collection of Tiffany glass in the USA, no photographing allowed.

That evening we had our banquet, with lots of fun prizes drawn for. Of course the main event at a fall tour is the passing of the famous "Traveling Trophy". This year's honorees' were John and Ellen Cavanaugh.

Congratulations to our new King and Queen.

Pictures by Rich Gibbs and Keith Horsfall



### Coming events for Buick People

**May 14-19, 2016 BDE National Tour—Callaway Gardens, Georgia**  
**July 27 - 30, 2016, Allentown, Pennsylvania, BCA 50th Anniversary**  
**October 3-6 Fall tour, East Peoria, IL, Bruce and Inez Norgard**  
**2017 National Tour—Michigan, John Daily**  
**2017 Milwaukee. WI BCA National**  
**2017 Fall Tour, Nashville, Ellen Cavanaugh and Courtney Shenkle**

#### CONTACT INFORMATION FOR B.D.E. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

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### For Sale:

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**Another angel in the heavens, we will miss you Alice**

**Alice Anne Westfall, 85, of North Lewisburg, passed away November 1, 2015 in her home surrounded by her family. She was born November 5, 1929 in Hawthorne, NJ, the daughter of Prosper and Alice Eva (Hall) Backman.**

**Alice graduated from Fair Lawn High School in Fair Lawn, NJ, Ohio Wesleyan University, and obtained her Master's Degree in Education from Wittenberg University. She enjoyed sports and was a cheerleader in college. Alice taught the North Lewisburg firemen first aid for their first time in 1951. She served as a 4-H advisor and a Girl Scout Leader, as well as serving on the Literacy Council. Alice helped start the library in North Lewisburg while serving on the Library Council. She was a guidance director at Triad High School, Marysville High School, and Springfield School for Pregnant Girls. Alice was a member of the Ohio State Teachers Association, the Buick Club of America, the Central Ohio Buick Club, the Champaign County Cruisers, and the Buick Driving Enthusiasts. She enjoyed sewing, cooking, and gardening.**

**She is survived by her husband of 64 years, John Leonard Westfall; daughters, Sherri Lynn (Robert) Crowder of North Lewisburg and Dorianne "Dee Dee" (Jack) Harshbarger of DeGraff; sons, Bart Allen Westfall of Ward, AR, JD (Roxanne) Westfall of Roswell, GA, and Karl (Nancy) Westfall of Racine, WI; 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchild; as well as sister, Lila Backman O'Meara Judkins of Towson, MD.**

**She is preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Theresa Backman.**

**Alice's family would like to give special thanks to Loving Care Hospice and to Alice's exceptional group of caregivers for their loving care and support.**

**In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Loving Care Home Health & Hospice, 779 London Ave., PO Box 613, Marysville, OH 43040, or the Woodstock Community Church, PO Box 85, Woodstock, OH 43084, or to the donor's favorite charity.**



**Jimmy Knapp went to the big ranch in the sky on Wednesday, November 18, 2015. Jimmy and Janice were fixtures on BDE Events for many years till he began to have health issues. We will miss you Jimmy and will keep Janice and family in our prayers**

#### **Jimmy Knapp Obituary**

**METAMORA - Jimmy D. "Snapper" Knapp, 74, of rural Metamora passed away at 11:33 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015, in the emergency room of OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. He was born on Feb. 12, 1941, in Woodward, Okla., the son of YuVonne O. and Mescal A. Huen Knapp. He married Janice F. Carrico on Nov. 26, 1966, in Paducah, Ky.**

**Surviving are his wife and two daughters, Kimberly (Thomas) Dempsey of St. Peters, Mo., and Shawna (Kevin) Collins of Washington, Ill. Also surviving are one granddaughter, Cadence Dempsey, and two halfbrothers, W.R. Lutz of Carson City, Nev., and Jake Lutz of Victoria, Texas.**

**One sister, Marilyn Prokop, and one halfbrother, Don Lutz, preceded him in death.**

**He enlisted in the U.S. Army proudly serving his country starting in 1963, being honorably discharged in 1965. He worked as a structural ironworker and was an assistant business agent for 35 years with Local 112 in East Peoria before retiring in 2001.**

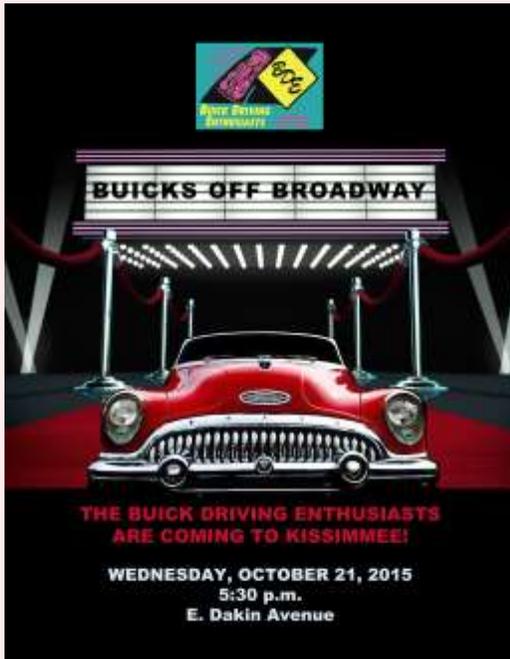
**Jimmy attended auctioneer school in Iowa. He donated his time to Ducks Unlimited and the Mennonite Relief Sale. He was also an announcer at various events over the years including the Illinois State Fair, Heart of Illinois Fair, horse shows, horse races and truck and tractor pulls. Jimmy was a member of Hilton Masonic Lodge 1143 AF&AM, Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Peoria as well as a member of Mohamed Shrine Temple, both in Peoria.**

**Jimmy had many accomplishments in his life, including earning his private pilot's license in the late 1960s.**

**Visitation for Jimmy will be from 4 until 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, 2015, at Mason Funeral Home in Germantown Hills. His members of Hilton Masonic Lodge will conduct masonic rites at 6:45 p.m. Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2015, also at the funeral home. Burial is scheduled for 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2015, at Camp Butler National Cemetery in Springfield, Ill., with military honors.**

**In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in his name to Illinois Cancer Care, Illinois Neurological Institute of Central Illinois or Spring Bay American Legion. Notes of condolences may be sent using [www.masonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.masonfuneralhomes.com).**





One of the "small" houses on the lakes, in Winter Park

Now this is real alligator Wrestling, way to go Bob!!!



Don't they make the perfect couple?



**A Word of Thanks!!! My wife, Mary Ann and I , have now been on three BDE tours, and really enjoy them and the fellow members of the BDE. I want to thank one member in particular, Charlie Steffy, who was so kind and helpful to me on the recent tour of Florida in October. A little background, about three weeks prior to the tour, I purchased a 1996 Buick Roadmaster through ebay in Plantation, Florida. I had planned on driving from Pennsylvania in my 1995 Roadmaster for the BDE tour, but then saw this 96 on line with 41,000 miles, in the color combination I had been looking for, for several years. As I needed to get down to Florida, to do the transaction and only being a couple of weeks from the upcoming tour, I called Charlie to see if it was possible to store the car at his house in Altamonte Springs until the tour. Charlie graciously agreed , even storing it in his garage, and giving me a ride my motel. Charlie also guided me to a tire center where I had to purchase 4 new tires for the car since the old ones were shot. Charlie then drove the car to the host hotel so that when we flew in on the 18th, the car was waiting for me in my designated spot with the other Buicks. The night we arrived, we decided to go to Downtown Disney for dinner, only to have the car quit at Disney and after diagnosing , a bad alternator, had to have the car towed on a rollback, back to the host hotel. Again, Charlie came through with a phone number for a reputable garage to have the car towed the next morning. Missed the first day of the tour as was stuck in the garage most of the day awaiting a re-built alternator.**

**My wife and I are very appreciative of the kindness of Charlie and all the fellow BDE'ers who pitch in to help fellow Buick members who need any kind of mechanical aid, etc. We look forward to many more BDE tours and want to thank Charlie and Paula for a job well done on this recent BDE tour.**

**Dennis Snell, BDE #403**