

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

Ohio Program is Model for New VMCCA Opportunity

High School Car Shows

by **Walter A. Stockert**

Editor's Note -- The Board of Governors has endorsed VMCCA Chapter participation as sponsors of high school car shows. The Dover High School program in Ohio serves as a model, and the Board encourages VMCCA Chapters to initiate student car shows in schools in their communities.

VMCCA sponsored High School Car Shows are judged in two categories: cars 1984 and earlier, and cars 1985 - 2004. A detailed packet about the Dover program is available from the Office of the Secretary – appoint a Chapter coordinator for this new program, and call 1-800-428-7327

We have all said at one time or another that we needed to get the kids involved - or - if the young people don't step up, then 20 years from now there will not be an old car hobby.

Our Editor has repeatedly told us about the changes that are coming within our hobby, and many of us find ourselves driving as a daily driver what has become an antique. So what has motivated us to acquire and refurbish a piece of high-priced junk into a relic of great treasure from days gone by?

The romance of a dream out of the past to drive a car like "Mrs. Got-Bucks" swished past you in when you were only able to dream of the freedom a car represented to you and your friends. Or, was it the enchantment of a vehicle for its artistic and mechanical ability? For whatever reason, most of us bring to this hobby a part of our personal motivation that has its roots in the early high school days of our lifetime. Then when the time was right, we moved forward with this long nurtured dream and pursued with a passion, today's hobby!

Young people are the future, and it is to this end that I can only be a messenger carrying to you an idea of proven quality that

your Board of Governors has chosen to accept, and one which I have witnessed, that creates great enthusiasm in young people.

What was presented to your Board was a complete and

detailed program with a "how-to-do" list from start to finish for any high school. The car show is made up of cars that are primarily driven by the high school students, but is under the complete



John Stockert with his 2000 Ford Mustang GT, the first place winner at the Dover High School Car Show.



VMCCA judge Dick Barnhouse with his 1942 Dodge D22 at the Dover High School Car Show.

organization of the school itself. Our part of this program is to take this packet of material and present it to our local school principals and ask them to review it and be willing to help as a judge or advisor and/or member of the presentation team.

In a small capacity, Dick Barnhouse and I have been involved in this program at Dover (Ohio) High School for the past five years. Mike Gunther (a great teacher) has developed this program over this period of time. I



Winners of the Dover High School Car Show are honored at an awards ceremony.

have been so impressed with the attitudes of the students who have taken this and moved forward. I see such great promise for this to open doors for preservation, safety, and future leaders within our hobby. This also affords us an opportunity for us to intermingle with the people who are the future of the hobby.

The VMCCA Board adopted this program on June 23, 2004. The Cadillac LaSalle Club Board adopted this idea on June 25, 2004. Hence, I am asking you also to request this package - 17 pages from our Secretary - read and study it and then present it to your local school. If we entice just one more school to accept this concept, it is a success, but I am convinced that we will have a very great reception of this idea and program. In turn, we will reap great rewards for the hobby

in the very near future.

I am so enthusiastic about this program and realize that our organization cannot cover the vast area that we all represent. Therefore, it is with great gratitude that I thank VMCCA and CLC for accepting this project, and it is with this momentum that I have approached the Classic Car Club of Ohio and AACAA past presidents to review this program and present it to their Boards.

It is truly fun to work with leaders!

These young people that we are reaching out to, do drive their cars and there are no trailer queens in the lot. Hence, they are prime candidates for the Club that Tours!

Walter A. Stockert serves as Region Director of the VMCCA Buckeye-Keystone Region. Contact him at barbarastockert@adelphia.net or call 330-878-5008.

Carol Dengler Lacey Scholarship at Alma College

Gerard Lacey of the Detroit Chapter, Great Lakes Region, invites the children and grandchildren of VMCCA members from all over the USA to investigate the Carol Dengler Lacey Endowed Scholarship at Alma College, a 4-year private college in Alma, Michigan.

Gerry Lacey created the scholarship to honor his wife, Carol Dengler Lacey who now suffers from a progressive degenerative malady similar to Alzheimer's. Lively and vigorous in earlier years, she and Gerry are both graduates of Alma College, class of 1949.

Founded in 1886, Alma College is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church and has always maintained high academic standards. Its student body includes about 1200 fulltime students.

The Carol Dengler Lacey Scholarship Committee is seeking candidates who are independent-minded students or disadvantaged students who have aggressively pursued their educational needs. Such students carry on in the spirit of Carol Dengler Lacey who waitressed and modeled her first two years and was a student assistant teacher her third year.

In describing Carol's pursuit of means for her education, Gerry says, "Carol also did some 'pearl diving' in the kitchen of Alma's dining hall." He adds, "I admired her fortitude and independence."

Interested applicants may call Alma College Advancement Vice President Carol Hyble or Regional Director Brent Dominee at 989-463-7155. Write for information to Alma College Advancement, 614 Superior St., Alma, MI 48801 - 1599. The scholarship is renewable for students who maintain a 3.0 GPA.