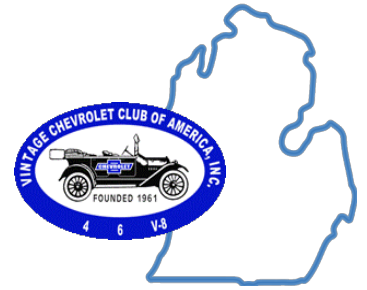


# The Chevy Chatter

## Lower Michigan Region



### At the Root: The Flint Road Cart

Kettering University Archives

The humble Flint Road Cart, the genesis of the industrial giant that became General Motors, wasn't actually started in Flint. In 1886, William C. ("Billy") Durant was running late to a meeting, and reluctantly accepted a ride from a friend named Billy Algoe on his new road cart. Surprised by the (relatively) smooth ride, Durant asked Algoe where he purchased the cart; from the Coldwater Road Cart Company came the answer. Shortly thereafter Durant departed on a train to Coldwater Michigan, determined to invest in a company that could produce a product that would no doubt "sell itself." The head of the Coldwater firm, however, had no interest in taking on investors—but offered to sell the company, the tools, and three road carts to Durant for two thousand dollars. Durant agreed to the price if the rights to the patent on the seat were included. With no intent to continue the manufacture of road carts, that was agreed to by the Coldwater owner. Durant left on the next train to Flint, walked from the train station to Citizen's Bank, and was soon seated in front of Robert Whaley to ask for a two thousand dollar loan. Whaley, impressed by Durant's presentation, agreed to loan Durant the money, whereupon Durant returned to Coldwater to collect his new company.



Durant agreed to the price if the rights to the patent on the seat were included. With no intent to continue the manufacture of road carts, that was agreed to by the Coldwater owner. Durant left on the next train to Flint, walked from the train station to Citizen's Bank, and was soon seated in front of Robert Whaley to ask for a two thousand dollar loan. Whaley, impressed by Durant's presentation, agreed to loan Durant the money, whereupon Durant returned to Coldwater to collect his new company.

After returning to Flint, Durant ran into a friend named Josiah Dallas Dort. Dort previously had been impressed with Durant's business acumen, and decided that he would join in on Durant's next business venture. So when Durant told him about the Coldwater Road Cart, Dort asked to buy in. Durant was eager to take on a partner who could manage the day-to-day business of the company, and agreed to make him an equal partner if Dort could come up with one thousand dollars. Between his life's savings, and those of his mother, Dort was able to come up with the money, and Durant found his business partner. That settled, Durant soon left on a sales trip to Chicago and a large fair in Wisconsin. He returned to Flint a week later with sales orders for three thousand road carts.

Not having a factory or work force of their own, Durant and Dort instead chose to contract with an established Flint wagon manufacturer, William A. Paterson, to build the road carts for them. Paterson agreed to do so at a fairly reasonable price, but then attempted to cut out Durant and Dort as "middlemen." The partners then pulled the tools and patent from Paterson, and cast about in search of an empty building to establish a factory. Finding an empty building on what was then called South Street, the two men were able to negotiate a lease for the building (now located at 303 W. Water Street) that had been built in 1880 but never used by the Flint Woolen Mill. The partners then set about hiring a work force, and were soon turning out road carts to fill those orders. The men quickly expanded their line of offerings to include farm wagons, surreys, and buggies in a wide array of colors and custom features. In short, vehicles "for every purse and purpose."

## From the Driver's Seat

Hello members!

Can you believe that we are celebrating the arrival of spring? I don't even have my projects done for the dust off tour! The seats I purchased for my 1953 Sport Coupe are in need of a makeover, so I am sourcing out a person to do the stitching for me.

I am praying for sunshine for the dust off tour. Last year, most of our outdoor events were shared with rain. Andy has a great driving route for Saturday, and Sunday will be the Gilmore Museum show.



Whenever we get together, I am going to ask for everyone to share new ideas for our club, new projects that you are working on, or new technologies or skills you have. So please keep that in mind for the next time we meet!

I am working with the Sloan show for the summer fair to provide adequate parking for the club. Be sure to check out the website [SloanAutoFair.com](http://SloanAutoFair.com) for more details.

See you at the dust off tour!

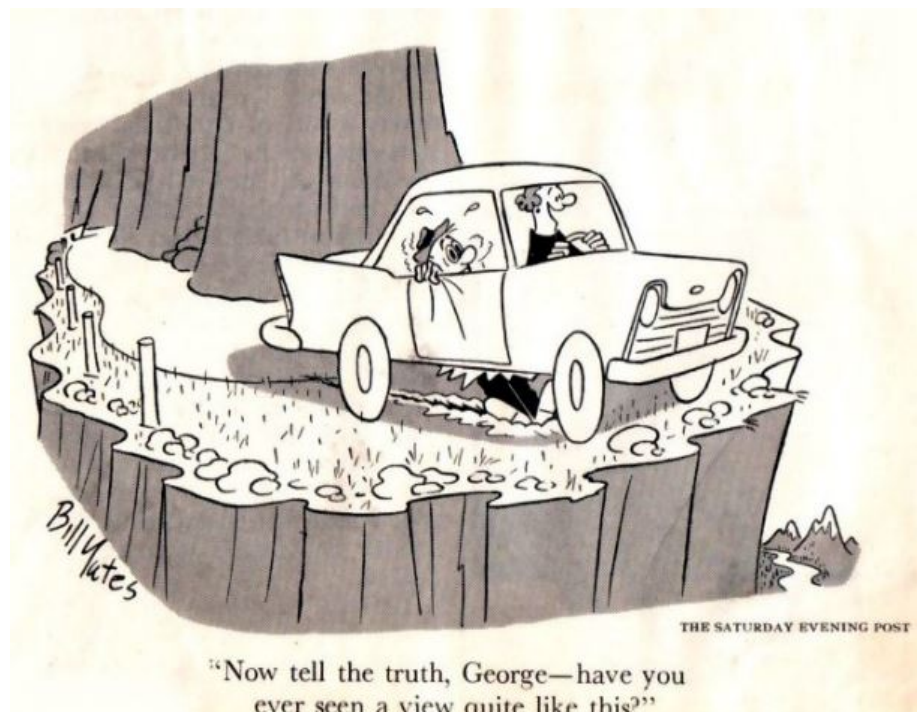
- Jim

### Birthdays

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mike Schrauben
- 4<sup>th</sup> Deb Schultz-Pawlosky,  
Ruth Riederman (R.Jennings)
- 5<sup>th</sup> John Vass
- 11<sup>th</sup> Tim Mehl
- 14<sup>th</sup> Judy Oswald
- 15<sup>th</sup> Bonnie Reinke
- 24<sup>th</sup> Barbara Sparks
- 25<sup>th</sup> Joyce Randall

### Anniversaries

- May 5, 1978  
Bruce & Mary Granger
- May 10, 1980  
Gary & Pam Mehl
- May 1, 1999  
Paul & Deb Pawlosky



## Spring Dust Off Tour

Reservations for the Spring Dust-Off Tour were due by April 30<sup>th</sup>, but there is still time to get a late registration in! Please call Pat Mehl at 269-217-1253 by May 5<sup>th</sup> if you're interested in any part of this 3-day tour, covering Kalamazoo, Barry, Allegan, & Cass Counties. Please see the April Chevy Chatter for details.

Candlewood Suites (our host hotel):  
3443 Retail Place Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048  
269-270-3203

**From the east**, take I-94 Exit 80 to the roundabout. Follow to the south, go through second roundabout. Go to the first stop light, take a left onto Midlink Dr. follow to the north, Candlewood Suites is on your left.

**From the west**, take I-94 exit 80 to the roundabout, follow to the south (right). Go to the first stop light, take a left onto Midlink Dr. Follow to the north, Candlewood Suites is on your left.

Nearby Restaurant Recommendations:  
Michelle's (6:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) - Northwest corner of Vanrick Dr. and Sprinkle Road. Go to the light at Midlink Dr. and go across Sprinkle Road. Immediately on your right.

The Crew (5 a.m. - 10 p.m.) - Take a right on Sprinkle Road (north) from Midlink Dr. Go through both roundabouts. At second roundabout, take the 3<sup>rd</sup> turn - Cork St. (heading west). The Crew is the first turn on your left.

Denny's (24 hours) - Take a right on Sprinkle Road (north) from Midlink Dr. Go through both roundabouts. At second roundabout, take the 3<sup>rd</sup> turn - Cork St. (heading west). Denny's is the first turn on your right.

## 56th VCCA Central Meet

**July 14-18, 2019**  
**W. Lafayette, Indiana**

There is still time to make your reservation for the 56th Central Meet, hosted by the Indiana Region.

Visit [VCCA.org/Calendars](http://VCCA.org/Calendars) for registration forms, or see pages 5-6 of your April Chevy Chatter. Contact Harold Doremire, Meet Chairman, 765-463-2918 or [hwd@doremire.org](mailto:hwd@doremire.org) for more information.

Registration ends June 13<sup>th</sup>.



Vertical Parking Lot, Circa 1937  
Believe it or not, the last time I was in NYC, I saw a few of these parking garages still in use!



## Upcoming Events

May 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Dust Off Tour  
Detail & Registration in April Chevy Chatter

June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sloan Museum Auto Fair  
1pm General Meeting, Crossroads Village (23<sup>rd</sup>)

July 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 56<sup>th</sup> Central Meet  
Details & Registration in April Chevy Chatter

July 27<sup>th</sup> Summer Picnic  
Woodland Park, Ithaca, MI

August 3<sup>rd</sup> Red Barns Spectacular & Swap Meet  
Gilmore Auto Museum – Hickory Corners

August 17<sup>th</sup> Back to the Bricks, Downtown Flint

September 15<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting  
Sloan Museum; Golden Memories Car Show

October 5<sup>th</sup> Mothball Tour  
Canton, MI to Grass Lake, MI

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> ACCA Car Show/Swap Meet,  
Hershey, PA - Details in G&D

October 20<sup>th</sup> Board & Membership Meeting  
1p.m/2p.m. Board Elections  
Junction of Hope Restaurant

November 2<sup>nd</sup> Awards Banquet  
The Vault Deli, Mason, MI

# WANTED

**2 Piece Rear Bumpers for a 32 Chevrolet**  
**Please contact:**  
**MomPitt2003@yahoo.com**

## In Fond Memory

**Keith Allen Major**

**January 23, 1929**  
**to**  
**March 23, 2019**



## 2019 Lower Michigan Region VCCA Officers

**Director:** Jim Schott  
james.schott@outlook.com

**Assist. Dir:** Andy Mehl  
phantomman69@hotmail.com

**Secretary:** Mike McCarty  
michaelrrrmccarty@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Pat Mehl  
jakobs.grama@gmail.com

**Historian:** Bruce Granger  
brucedgranger@yahoo.com

**Sunshine:** Denice Thomas  
denicet10354@yahoo.com

**Membership:** Phyllis Rickabus  
daphyrick@yahoo.com  
LMR VCCA Membership, 2894 Island  
Point Drive, Metamora, MI. 48455

### Ex-Officio Board Member-

Brian Granger granger59@yahoo.com

### Board Members

Richard Beach rbeachs3@aol.com

Lloyd Henige mhenige57@yahoo.com

Pam Mehl realbrowneyes2@yahoo.com

Bill Anderson old50grit@comcast.net

### Chevy Chatter

Corrie Mehl

ChevyChatterMI@gmail.com

The purpose of the VCCA is to promote interest in the preservation and restoration of vintage Chevrolet manufactured vehicles, 25 years old, or older. Ownership of a vintage Chevrolet is not a prerequisite for membership. LMR region dues are \$20 per year. To become a member, an applicant must be a National VCCA member in good standing. National dues are \$40 yearly.



**JUNE 22 & 23, 2019**  
**at Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad**  
**2018 VEHICLE REGISTRATION**  
**ALL MOTORIZED VEHICLES WELCOME**  
**Please One Vehicle per Form – Form May Be Copied**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Best number to be reached at during Fair) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

VEHICLE YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ MAKE \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ (Confirmation by e-mail only)

Fees In Advance (Must be postmarked by June 16, 2019)		Fees Day of Show	
Non Judged Vehicle	\$15.00 each \$ _____	Non Judged Vehicle	\$20.00 \$ _____
Judged Vehicle	\$20.00 each \$ _____	Judged Vehicle	\$25.00 \$ _____

For 2019 we will have awards for the Best GM-original, Best GM-modified, Best Ford-original, Best Ford-modified, Best MOPAR-original, Best MOPAR-modified, Best Rat Rod, Best Truck, Best Lowrider, Best Foreign, Best Orphan, Best Youth owned, Best Woman Presented, Best Paint, Best Interior, Best Engine, Best Millennium (2000 or newer), 3 Military Awards, and our TOP 25. In addition, there will be awards for One Fine Ride (Judges Choice), the Best of Show Original-Restored, the Best of Show Original, the Best of Show Modified, and the Executive Directors award for Best of Show. **Only Judged vehicles are eligible for awards.**

**Please check if your vehicle is one of the following:**

Vehicle is a Low Rider \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle is a Rat Rod \_\_\_\_\_ Female Presented \_\_\_\_\_

Age of owner under 26 \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle is a Truck \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle is an Orphan Brand \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle has been modified \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER is a VETERAN of our Armed Forces \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_

Register your car, bring a friend for two days, saves \$13 off regular gate admission.

*By registering my vehicle at the 2019 Sloan Museum Auto Fair, I agree to the following. I accept & assume all responsibility for any injury to me, my agents, employees, or my property for any reason relating to the 2019 Sloan Museum Auto Fair. I expressly release the Flint Cultural Center Corporation, Genesee County, and Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission and all associated groups from liability for such loss or injury and that I have vehicle liability insurance to cover an incident. I understand that information from the registration form and any photos or other media forms obtained of my vehicle may be used by the Flint Cultural Center Corporation, Genesee County, and Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission or any of its entities for publicity purposes. I also agree that any and all forms of media obtained at the show may not be used for any commercial purposes without written permission from the Flint Cultural Center Corporation, Genesee County, and Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission.*

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Form must be signed for all registrations. Vehicles that do not have a signed form will not be allowed on the show grounds.

Questions? Please contact Linda e-mail: [lwalters@richind.com](mailto:lwalters@richind.com) or 810-348-8741. Please do not call after 8:00 p.m. EST

Make checks payable to **SLOAN MUSEUM AUTO FAIR**. PLEASE DO NOT MAIL CASH.  
**Mail Form To:** Sloan Museum Auto Fair, 817 E. Kearsley Street, Suite 3B, Flint, MI 48503.  
 Register online at [SloanAutoFair.com](http://SloanAutoFair.com). **\*\*NOTE: there is a fee of \$2 for registering online.**

**YOUR REGISTRATION FEE HELPS THE SLOAN MUSEUM MAINTAIN, PURCHASE AND RESTORE VEHICLES. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

For additional information about the Sloan Museum Auto Fair or to register online please visit: [SloanAutoFair.com](http://SloanAutoFair.com).

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date Processed \_\_\_\_\_

May 2019

Thank You to the Following Sponsors of our LMR newsletter

**DISCOVER**  
PURE MICHIGAN  
**EXPERIENCE**  
NORTH AMERICA'S LARGEST  
AUTO MUSEUM



**GILMORE**  
CAR MUSEUM

6865 Hickory Rd, Hickory Corners, MI 49060

269-671-5089 GilmoreCarMuseum.org

1-888-ANTIQUE jctaylor.com



55 Years Experience  
Agreed Value Coverage  
Superior Claims Service

Protect Your Antique With J.C. Taylor

**ALEX RAPANOS**  
REGIONAL TERRITORY MANAGER

141 RIVER'S EDGE DRIVE, TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684  
P +1-248.566.6658 W HAGERTY.COM  
E ARAPANOS@HAGERTY.COM



**HAGERTY.** FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE CARS™



**Printmill**  
printing | graphics

4001 Portage Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001  
Phone: 269-382-0428  
www.printmill.com

Follow the VCCA on Instagram @VCCA\_Official and don't forget to follow the VCCA facebook page!

*11431 Four Mile Road  
Battle Creek, Michigan 49015*

**Chevy Chatter Editor**