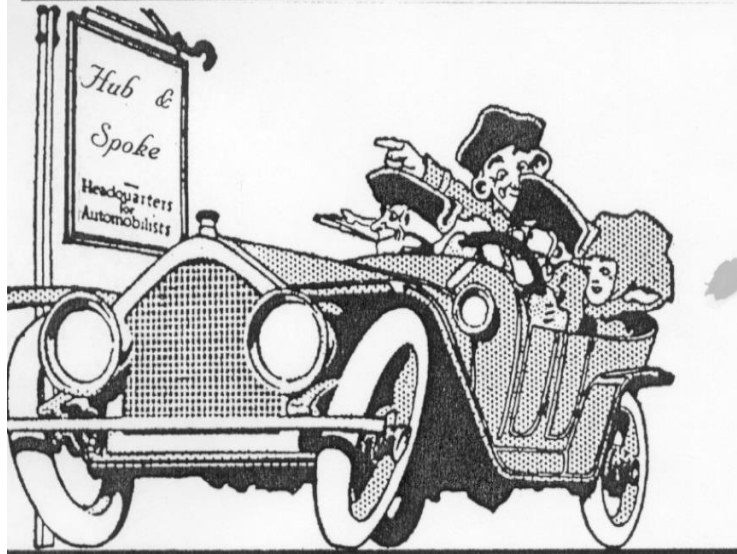


**OCTOBER Hub & Spoke Sponsors: Barbara Taylor & Otto Vallastro - 1947  
Chrysler Royal**



**The Hub & Spoke**  
Newsletter of the Lynchburg, VA Region, AACA



**November, 2015**



## **THE HUB AND SPOKE**

Lynchburg, VA Region, Antique Automobile Club of America ***A Club for All Lovers of Old Vehicles***

Volume 46 #10 November, 2015

### **2015 LYNCHBURG REGION OFFICERS**

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- President, Charles Thaxton, 434-525-0767 ([chalin68@verizon.net](mailto:chalin68@verizon.net))
- V. President C. J Leighton 434-528-5435 ([Cjl1359@comcast.net](mailto:Cjl1359@comcast.net))
- Secretary, Terrie Linton, 434-946-9811 ([TerrieKLinton@hotmail.com](mailto:TerrieKLinton@hotmail.com))
- Treasurer, Ron Blalock, 540-583-0437 ([ronblalock@gmail.com](mailto:ronblalock@gmail.com))

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Sunshine, Elizabeth Williams, 434-821-8213 ([c.williams@jetbroadband.com](mailto:c.williams@jetbroadband.com))

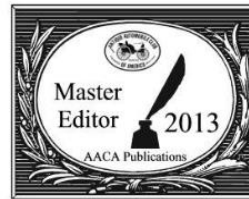
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The Hub and Spoke is an official publication of the Lynchburg Region AACA as is the Lynchburg Region's website:

<http://lynchburgva.aaca.com/>



### **Spoken From the Hub November 2015**

Charles Thaxton

After racking my brain to find something to talk about for this month's Spoken From The Hub article, the answer fell in my lap. Ron Blalock gave me an envelope, which he obtained from Jan Peterson, containing quite a bit of information on the history of

the club. There were newspaper clippings dating from 1971 up until around 1990 about the cars and people in this club. This brought my attention to the many really talented people we have as members in this club. We are fortunate to have members who have restored many valuable antique automobiles and are still restoring cars today. These restorations are every bit as professional as any restorer you could find in Hemmings. When you consider the craftsmanship and attention to detail that a person has to achieve to get a top award from AACA it is remarkable that we have so many members with this ability in this small club. Each and every one of these people are willing to share their knowledge and sometimes parts to help the club members with their restorations. It is up to us as new members to contact these people and try to absorb some of this knowledge. You would think that we would have people lining up to join this group. I was never aware how much and to what extent this existed until I began to participate in the activities of the club. What I am saying is that you must get involved in this group to fully appreciate the talent we have available for our membership. It is our responsibility to learn as much as we can from these members to carry on the knowledge and pass it on to the next generation.

As a new member I really have enjoyed discovering some of these facts about our members and I hope to avail myself of this treasure trove of information they have. I would challenge all new members to contact the older members and learn some of the things these members know and are willing to pass along. Many years ago I had a friend tell me, "You only get out of an organization what you put in to it".



### Minutes for October 26, 2015

#### Meeting Lynchburg Region AACA

26 members present.

The October meeting was called to order by President Charles Thaxton. We recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag. We then had a "moment of silence".

**Sunshine** A THANK YOU note was received from Coretta Owen for gift certificate from Charley's. Members shared that Ray Owen is home from hospital and Mike Sperazza had gall bladder surgery. **Secretary-** Terrie Linton noted that the minutes from August were sent out by Charles to members. A motion to accept was made by Otto and seconded by Charles. Liz asked that we let her know of any members needing Sunshine from her.

Secretary's report was in the Hub & Spoke. A hearty round of applause was given to Tony for his editing and taking charge of the publication. He asked that we keep him informed of news and pictures to go in the publication.

- **Treasurers Report-** Ron gave the Report. A copy was passed around to the members. He has not made the change over to a different bank yet. There were problems with another account to be changed (ODMA)
- Charles told us about parades coming up. CJ had applications for Bedford (\$10.00 fee per car) and Lynchburg (\$50 fee for each antique car, \$100 for 6 cars) we will discuss this and other Parades in the area at our next meeting. Reggie will tell us about a parade in Big Island. AltaVista will hold a parade. Call Chamber of Commerce there for an application.
- Ron & Joyce will host the Christmas Party at their home on December 12 in Bedford at 2:00. Club will provide Cold cuts and paper goods. Members asked to bring a covered dish of their choice. We will get map and directions at November meeting.

- Charles shared that the trip to Oak Ridge Estates was suggested by Jan Peterson several months ago. Otto made the arrangements. It took place on October 24 with 9 cars and about 12 members.
- October 3 was to be A DAY AT THE POINT. It was cancelled because of heavy rain. October 9 was to be another day to display our cars at Court Street United Methodist Church. It too was cancelled. It will be re scheduled for the spring.
- A donation of \$100.00 each to Sinks/Spangler will be sent to them by our Treasurer. A motion was made by Otto and seconded by Tony.
- Reggie told us that he will drive for a wedding on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Charles will go with him in case he is needed if headlights get temperamental for back up. The club will accept a donation of \$150 to \$200 for this service.
- Sara asked that we sell the \$140.00 gift certificate she had for Jan. It is for Lynchburg Car Wash. A motion was made after discussion to have a raffle and do this at the Christmas Party. C J made the motion, Randy seconded. Another motion was made by Randy and seconded by Ron to have the raffle available to ONLY club members. Price is to be \$5.00 each.
- After discussion about where to have lunch it was decided to go to Liberty Station on November 14. Ron will check on use of room for 1:00. We need about 15 people.
- A permanent nominating committee of 3 was agreed upon. It consists of Ron Blalock, Reggie Goolsby and Terrie Linton
- Since Terrie was the only person in costume the club decided to vote her as

the winner of the Costume Contest. She will get a free dinner next month.

- The 50/50 was won by Tony Simmons.
- Otto did the Auction
- CJ shared about a trip to Maine and his participation in a Model T tour. He went to an assisted living facility to show his car and got a nice note from the residents.
- Our next meeting is November 23.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20



Editors Note:

By popular request, a larger type font for The Hub & Spoke is now used for easier reading!

**October Hub & Spoke Sponsors: Barbara Taylor & Otto Vallestro**



Otto's been a member of the Club since 1972.

He's has served as president for three terms and was honored with our annual Participation Award so many times that the members gave him the plaque.

Barb is fairly new to the old car world. She and Otto grew up in Lynchburg and went to the same schools.

After their spouses passed on they met again and have become a "couple." Barb has become an involved member of the club as well.

Their latest antique car was a 1947 Chrysler Royal that is as close to original as a car can be without a major restoration. It now has moved on to a new owner.

Currently, they are driving a pristine 1960 Valiant by Chrysler (the model was renamed Plymouth Valiant starting in 1961). It's powered by the venerable "Slant 6" which has an excellent reputation, plus it's equipped with Air Conditioning!



**Upcoming Events** Joyce Blalock

**Note: November 12<sup>th</sup> Blue Ridge Parkway Tour has been cancelled.**

**November 14, 2015** Lunch at the Liberty Station Restaurant, Bedford, VA 1:00 PM.

**November 30, 2015** Monthly Club meeting at Charlie's Restaurant. Vote for 2016 Club officers.

**December 12, 2015** Holiday Dinner at the Blaylocks. 2PM – bring a covered dish.

Information about various local Holiday parades is still under review. All info will be discussed at the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. See page #15 of this Hub & Spoke for additional parade information.



## Trip to Roanoke Transportation Museum

**September 26, 2015** Tony Simmons Pics – C.

Thaxton & Museum website



along the Roanoke River. Although all modes of transportation were represented, the Museum focused on telling the story of Roanoke's rich rail heritage.

In 1976, a private non-profit corporation was established to operate the Museum, and in 1983 the Museum was designated as the Official Transportation Museum of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Subsequently, the Museum was renamed the Virginia Museum of Transportation.

Disaster struck the Museum in 1985, when floodwaters surged through the Museum leaving behind \$1.4 million in damages. Norfolk Southern came to the rescue, generously donating the 1918 vintage N&W freight station to be used as the Museum's new home. The Museum is now housed in a 45,000 square foot building adjacent to active Norfolk Southern mainline tracks on 5.75 acres of land in downtown Roanoke.



The Museum's collection includes approximately 2,500 objects, including more than 50 pieces of rolling stock—locomotives and other rail cars—including the largest collection of diesel locomotives in the South. The Museum has expanded its collection to include automotive, aviation, transit, and other artifacts and frequently exhibits loaned objects. The Museum exists to preserve Virginia's transportation history and to honor the workers whose talents created the transportation marvels in our collection.

A successful Club trip was taken to the Roanoke Transportation Museum with lunch following. Here's info from the Museum's website ([www.vmt.org](http://www.vmt.org)):

*"The coming of the railroad to Big Lick in the 1850s changed the little hamlet into the City of Roanoke, today Virginia's largest city west of Richmond. The Museum's extensive rail collection and exhibits interpret the rail industry's rich history and its impact on Roanoke and beyond.*

*The legendary Norfolk & Western Railway, headquartered in Roanoke, was a true American success story. In its Roanoke Shops, the Norfolk & Western created the world's most powerful steam locomotives. Only at the Virginia Museum of Transportation can you see and board the last two that still exist: the massive Class A 1218, known as the 'Mercedes of Steam,' and the sleek Class J 611, the most advanced passenger steam engine ever built."*

*The Roanoke Transportation Museum, originally formed as a partnership of the Norfolk & Western Railway and the City of Roanoke, first opened its doors in 1963 in Wasena Park*

The museum has over twenty antique vehicles:



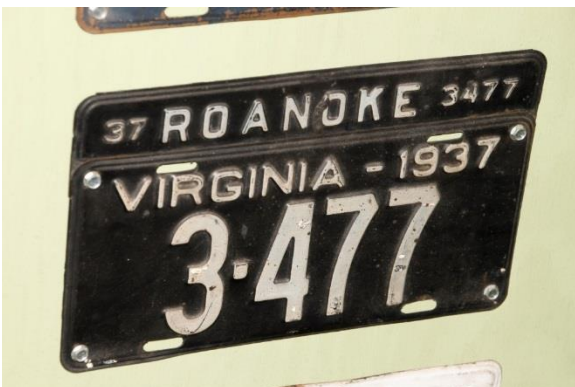
'28 Willys Overland Whippet



'62 Studebaker, '65 Corvair



'55 Studebaker President "Speedster"



'25 Ford Motel T Depot Hack



### **1923 Piedmont**

Again from the Museum's website: "Piedmont Motor is the only automobile company ever chartered in the State of Virginia. The company's primary vehicle was a touring car with either a 6 cylinder (Model 6-40) or a 4 cylinder (Model 4-30) engine. Both models carried 5 passengers.

- During its brief period of existence, the Piedmont Motor Car Company produced approximately 3,000 vehicles. At its peak, output reached 5-6 automobiles per day. Although the company claimed that the cars were not "assembled" (from purchased parts manufactured elsewhere), only the body was produced at the Lynchburg plant. Piedmont was the brand name of cars sold through the company's network of agents. However, cars were also produced for other companies such as Bush (Chicago), Lone Star (Texas) and Alsace (Europe).

*Piedmont's short life is attributed to price and management issues. The vehicle had no special features or performance advantages, yet it was priced (at \$1,500 - \$2,000) hundreds of dollars higher than the popular Ford Model-T. Sales agents for Piedmont frequently complained that delivery of vehicles was poor because international markets and other companies consumed production capacity. Unable to deliver ordered cars to their customers, the agents began to focus on other lines. Only three Piedmont vehicles are known to exist. The Virginia Museum of Transportation is proud to exhibit one of the three, a 1923 Piedmont 4-30 Touring Car.*

- *Manufacturer: The Piedmont Motor Car Company. Lynchburg, VA. The only automobile manufacturer ever chartered in the state of Virginia*
- *Production era: 1917 - 1922*
- *Passengers: 5*
- *Top speed: 45 mph*
- *Cost: \$1,395. Wire wheels (instead of wood) an extra cost*

#### *Museum display model*

- *One of only three known to exist*
- *Found in New York State after a 17 year search by Tom Cox, Co-Chair of Star City Motor Madness and former President of the Museum.*
- *Gift of the Star City Motor Madness Committee in 2010"*



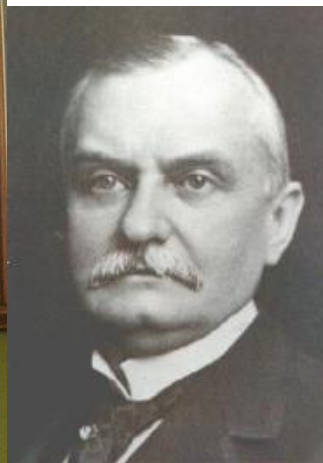
The End



**Oak Ridge Estate Tour October 24, 2015** Tony Simmons, Pics by Tony, R. Goolsby, C. Thaxton



LAACA members were given a guided tour to the mansion located on Oak Ridge Estate. The original land goes back to a land grant in 1750 and after passing through various hands became the property of the Rives family who constructed the original portion of the mansion around 1802. Property changed hands again after the Civil War and after some ups & downs in business the estate was purchased in 1901 by Thomas Fortune Ryan.



Ryan was Nelson County, VA born and it was he who expanded the original building to a fifty room Colonial Revival mansion. He also had constructed a race track (circa 1909), chapel, railroad station, reservoir, telephone station, movie theater, elaborate green house, and many other buildings.



Where did Ryan get his multiple millions? (Info obtained from Wikipedia):

*"In 1872, Ryan opened a [brokerage firm](#) with two partners, Lee, Ryan & Warren, in New York City.*

*In 1873 Ryan married his former boss's daughter, Ida Mary Barry, whose family were devout Roman Catholics. They had seven children. In 1874, his firm purchased Ryan a seat on the [New York Stock Exchange](#). At the same time, Ryan became active in politics, especially the [Tammany Hall](#) machine that controlled much of the city's operations, giving him political and industrial contacts across the city.*

*Ryan's fortune began in [public transit](#). In 1883, he founded the New York Cable Railroad and bid on the proposed route from [lower Manhattan](#) to [Midtown](#). After numerous legal and financial problems, in 1886 Ryan reorganized his cable railroad as the [Metropolitan Traction Company](#). By 1893, construction of Ryan's rail system was underway on [Broadway](#). Metropolitan continually acquired additional lines so that by 1900 it controlled 3,000 cars and 300 miles of track the majority of New York's streetcar operations.*

*Ryan's most profitable investment was tobacco. Having invested in its stocks throughout the 1890s, Ryan joined tobacco assets in 1898, forming The [Union Tobacco Company](#). Shortly thereafter, he merged Union Tobacco with his greatest competitor, [James Duke](#) of North*

*[Carolina](#), forming the [American Tobacco Company](#). Together Ryan and Duke developed the [British-American Tobacco Company](#) to protect American tobacco trade in Europe. Upon his death, Ryan also had major holdings in [R. J. Reynolds](#) and [Liggett & Myers](#).*

*In 1905, amid public outcry, Ryan purchased the \$400-million-strong [Equitable Life Assurance Society](#), a major factor in the insurance industry. Although Ryan strove to make Equitable more responsive to its policy holders, public reaction to his purchase was overwhelmingly negative. His reputation for cutthroat business dealings in the streetcar and subway businesses made the public distrustful. In 1909, Ryan sold his Equitable stock. Also in 1905, Ryan's Metropolitan street car system was threatened by New York's increasingly popular [subway system](#). He merged Metropolitan with [August Belmont, Jr.'s Interborough Rapid Transit Company](#). But the joint company's finances were shaky, and Ryan pulled out. **Meanwhile, some \$35 million that Ryan had raised in a bond issue were misappropriated (stolen!).** Ryan was investigated for corruption in 1908, but the grand jury brought no charges.*

*Meanwhile, Ryan was making fortunes with coal mines, banks, public utilities and railroads. He owned [Royal Typewriter](#) and backed the maker of the [Thompson submachine gun](#). At one time Ryan had controlling interest in 30 corporations."*

Unfortunately, the house was vacant from 1970 until 1989; then the property was purchased by the Holland family. Thus began an era of restoration of the house and property including an expanded carriage house and steeplechase track. Our Classic & Antique vehicles looked quite natural parked around the property as did we:



All eyes were on Rob Harris, our Club's clock expert, as he closely inspected the many clocks in the mansion.



Reggie Goolsby has close ties with the property because his grandfather was the manager of the greenhouse for three years starting in 1919. The greenhouse had an unusual crystal rotunda plus a steam boiler in the basement and its own power plant.

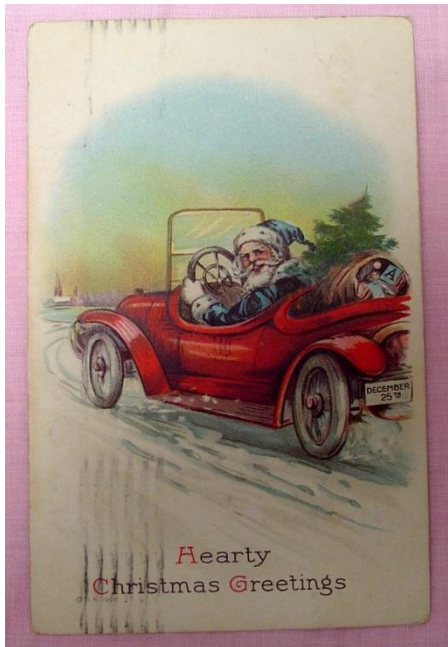




Oh my! Don't we live in a beautiful part of the world!

Have you been to “Hershey”? It’s both terrific and overwhelmingly large. The event required 800 volunteers throughout this year. Pictures of the 2015 fall event are courtesy of AACA Speedster:





## 2015 Christmas Parade Schedule

Big Island Christmas Parade: Sunday, December 6th. Lineup begins at 1PM at the James River Visitor's Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Parade starts at 3PM. No charge for entry. We will be entered as a club.

The Bedford Christmas Parade: Saturday, December 5th 11AM

Theme: "It's a Wonderful Life"

Deadline for registration: Friday Nov. 20th 11:00 AM

Cost per car: \$10 If we are late it is \$15

The address online for registrations:

<http://centertownbedford.com/christmas-in-bedford/christmas-parade-2/>

The Altavista Christmas Parade: Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Staging at 5PM; 7:00PM start time.

Theme: "Season of Lights"

Deadline for registration: November 13<sup>th</sup>. No charge for entry.

Address for online registration [www.altavistachamber.org](http://www.altavistachamber.org)

[434-369-6665](tel:434-369-6665).

Appomattox VA. Christmas Parade: Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> (to avoid all of the other parades)

Theme: "A Winter Carnival" No charge for entry. Staging at 2PM. Starts at 3PM

Deadline for registration is one week before the parade.

For more info, go to: <http://www.appomattoxcountyva.org>

Amherst Christmas Parade: Saturday, December 5th at 6:30 PM until 9 PM

Theme: "Christmas in the South"

Line up will be on North Main Street at 5:30 PM

Deadline is November [434-929-8146](tel:434-929-8146) to get a form.

Lynchburg Christmas Parade

\$50 per individual vehicle or \$100 for six vehicles.

At the October LAACA Club meeting, the attendees expressed that the charge was too much!

Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 5PM

**Bedford Parade December 5, 2015**

**Registration Fee \$10.00 (*\$15.00 for late entries*)**

**Name of Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Vehicles and/or Participants:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Length of Entry:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief Description of Entry:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Send Entries to:**  
**Bedford Main Street, Inc.**

**Post Office Box 405, Bedford, Virginia 24523**  
**Phone 540-586-2148**

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Friday, November 20th at 5:00p**



# HOLD HARMLESS FORM

**Saturday, December 5, 2015 11:00 AM**

Bedford Christmas Parade – Saturday, 12/5/15 Phone: 540-586-2148

In consideration of the acceptance of my/our organization's application for entry in the Bedford Christmas Parade, I/We hereby waive, release and discharge any and all claims for damages, for death, personal injury or property damage which I/We may have or which may hereafter occur to me/us as a result of my/our participation in said event.

This release is intended to discharge in advance Bedford Main Street, Inc. as the organizer and lead member of the parade staff, other parade staff members, officials and any involved public entities and their respective agents and employees from or against any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my/our participation in said event, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities mentioned above.

I/We further understand that accidents occasionally occur during parades and that participants in parades occasionally sustain personal injuries or property damage, as a consequence thereof. Knowing the risks, nevertheless, I/We hereby agree to assume those risks and to release and hold harmless all of the persons or entities mentioned above who, through negligence and carelessness, might otherwise be liable to me/us, or my heirs or assigns, for damages.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form with your completed registration application and \$8 entry fee to:

Bedford Main Street, Inc.  
PO Box 405  
Bedford, VA 24523

Deadline for entries is November 21st @ 5PM, or when the maximum number of entries is reached. **Any entry received after this date will be charged \$10 to participate.** You will receive confirmation of your entry via e-mail once it has been processed. Bedford Main Street, Inc. and the parade staff reserves the right to reject any entry on the basis of appropriateness or space availability.

If there are other questions or concerns, please call us at the Bedford Main Street, Inc. office at 540-586-2148 or e-mail us at [bedfordmainstreet@gmail.com](mailto:bedfordmainstreet@gmail.com).

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