

Member Spotlight

Bob Paster

By Monica Ledwon

This month's Member Spotlight features a long time Gateway Chapter Club member, Bob Paster and his family's 4 door 1927 Standard Six Series 27 Buick.

Born and raised in the Clayton area of St. Louis, Bob attended Clayton High School, attained a BA degree in History from the University of Pennsylvania and later received his law degree (Juris Doctorate) from Washing-



ton University. He currently manages his own legal practice in Clayton and will also offer a 10% discount to Gateway Buick members for any of their estate planning needs. See www.robertpaster.com for further details of his practice.

Bob's interest in old cars comes from the shared DNA with his father and grandfather. When he was just three months old, Bob's father, Jim, made the decision to buy the '27. It was first found in a barn in Illinois and owned by a traveling salesman who was trying to unload the car thinking the transmission was defective. Unbeknownst to the seller, Jim and his grandfather discovered there was nothing wrong with the transmission, but that it had the old backward shift pattern similar to that in a Dodge (down and to the right for 1st; up and to the left for 2nd and down and to the left for 3rd). Lucky for them that they were able to convince the seller to sell them the car at an excellent price thinking he was selling them a car with a bad transmission.

This 1927 Buick, Model 27-27, has been a cherished automotive member of the Paster family ever since. It sports original dark blue paint with black fenders and a pristine mohair interior covered with protective original seat covers made for the vehicle. The 3 generations of the Paster family (Bob, his father Jim and his grandfather – since passed) have enjoyed family drives in the Buick and have maintained and repaired it as needed over the years. They are proud to report that the car has been kept as original as possible through decades of family ownership. As Bob's dad, Jim likes to say, "for lawyers, we're not bad mechanics". A new vinyl roof was installed, and wooden wheels were sanded and stained.

Bob says that when something breaks they fix it such as a vacuum pump. Simply remove the part, replace the gasket and reinstall. This says something about the ease of working on old motors. Once, when a brake light switch failed, Bob's dad found that a switch from a Model A worked just fine to solve the problem. They are very self-sufficient when it comes to the mechanical needs of a 90-year-old car.

As a hobby, Bob writes for a local bi-weekly publication called Town and Style. Each month he submits a commentary and review of various models of automotive exotica like Aston Martin or Bugatti. Here is the link to read some of Bob's articles: www.townandstyle.com/category/leisure/driven/

Members of the club may not see Bob very often save for the annual Forest Park Concours de 'Elegance at the Easter Show. He is busy with his law firm and raising four kids. Bob's son, Steven, has also inherited the automotive bug and is an automotive enthusiast as well. When he helps Bob and Jim work on the Buick, he is the 4th generation of their family to work on the car. Bob hopes he will continue the family tradition of repairing, enjoying and appreciating old cars, especially Buicks.