



**OUR 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**1978-2003**

## History of the Saint Louis Gateway Chapter Buick Club (1978-2003) by Ed Keil

### ***In the Beginning***

It was a cool late winter evening when on March 9, 1978 seventeen soon-to-be members of the Gateway chapter gathered for their first meeting. Bob Louden sent out the notice to get things started, and they met at Mallory Buick located at Page and Lindbergh. Mallory had a '57 Roadmaster on display that night to create a friendly atmosphere and backdrop for the beginning of our club. Those present were the first officers: Bob Louden, Director, Warren Peter, Assistant Director, and Fred Zahn, secretary/treasurer. Other founding members present were Warren's wife, Pat Peter, Bob Louden Jr. and his brother Dave Louden, Jeff Watkins, Ray Fellenstein, Jim Hall, Bob & Kevin Huff, Joel Haffner, Willard Coplin, Fred & Laura Weber and David & Laurie Weber. Only 2 of the 17 founding members are still on our roster today (Jim Hall and Jeff Watkins). Photographs of the first meeting are at the end of this article.

### ***In Loving Memory***

Thoughts on our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary are of the passing of members as we recall sharing with them the experience of our love for Buicks and the spirit of friendship within our club:

<b>Don Atkinson</b>	March 1992
<b>Laura Weber</b>	January 1995
<b>Bob Semple</b>	February 1997
<b>Bob Jones</b>	July 1998
<b>Frank Kunkel</b>	October 1998
<b>Ken Weinland</b>	May 1999
<b>Norman Goad</b>	May 2000
<b>Robert Powell</b>	January 2001
<b>Steve Bisesi</b>	September 2001
<b>Warren Peter</b>	September 2002
<b>Ray Fellenstein</b>	April 2003

We also remember the loss of close relatives of our members:

<b>John Peter</b> (son of Warren & Pat Peter)	August 1987
<b>Anthony Bisesi</b>	January 1993

(son of Steve & Micki Bisesi)

**Wally Berger** June 1998

(father of Phil Berger)

**Richard Kroening** Dec. 1999

(son of Bob Kroening)

**Elizieathin Pegg** June 2001

(father of John Pegg)

**Charles Kunz** March 2003

(father of Bruce Kunz)

### ***Membership Numbers***

Although Bob Louden had sent a letter to the BCA National Office the day after the first meeting, our chapters chartering was not announced by the BCA in the Bugle until the February 1979 issue when it was reported that our membership had grown then to 32 members. Our membership grew to 67 Households by our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but as long ago as 1982 it was about that same level. Many people have come and gone, but our lowest membership in the early 1990s was in the mid-40s. A review of our rosters shows that we hit a maximum of 83 households in May 2001. Our most recent roster in April 2003 records 77 households and 126 voting members. There has always been a requirement in our club to have all our members belong to the BCA, but there are 15 of the 77 currently that do not have a BCA number. Some of these are new members who may have applied for membership in the BCA, but there are also a few procrastinators and others who have allowed their membership to lapse. There are long-time members of the BCA in our chapter. The five members that hold the lowest numbers are: Marvin Randolph (01602), Jim Hall (05137), Jeff Watkins (06915), Monica Ledwon (10582) and Bob Kroening (10942).

### ***Our Officers***

Bob Louden remained our director for the first three years, after which Harry Honig was elected. Harry was KSDK Channel 5 Director of Advertising and Promotion and also free-lanced for radio and TV

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commercials. Harry is one of our honorary members. Our longest reigning directors were Ed Gibbs and Jeff Watkins, both serving 4 continuous years each. Bill Landers is starting his second term as director and in April 2005 will have completed 4 years as well as 2 years as assistant director. The longest serving assistant director was Rich Metzger who served for 6 years. Steve Dodson served as assistant director for 4 years and 2 years as director. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer have also seen our members serving for extended terms. Monica Ledwon and Ed Keil each was secretary for 4 years. Mike Frank served as treasurer for 6 years and our current Treasurer, Hank Deglman has been in that roll for 7 years and will have 9 years in this job in April 2005. A complete summary of our elected officers through the years is included at the end of this article.

### ***Our Board of Directors***

At the October 1997 meeting, Paul Meyer introduced the changes that created a Board of Directors for our chapter. The Board consists of the 4 elected officers along with 4 additional members to form an 8-member group. Two members are elected from the membership at large. The editor of the newsletter and a past director completes the group. The creation of the Board was intended in part to dispel the perception that a clique was running our club, especially when the elected officers were serving consecutive terms. It was also hoped that this selection of members would give continuity to our operations and groom new talent for our elected offices.

Ed Keil made the necessary changes to our by-laws and a ballot was included in the December 1997 newsletter to approve the changes by vote for those who could not attend the December meeting. The voting was conducted and the by-law

changes to incorporate the Board of Directors were approved with only one dissenting vote. The by-law changes required establishing the Board by election of the at-large members at the April '98 meeting. Paul Meyer asked for a motion to waive this requirement in favor of establishing the Board at the meeting. The motion passed by vote. Ballots were passed out with names of four of our members who had been contacted and were willing to serve. Steve Bisesi and Bill Seibel were elected as our first at-large Board members. Our first Board of Directors meeting took place in January 1998. There is a complete record of our Board members at the end of this article.

### ***Our Honorary Members***

We have four lifetime honorary members in our chapter. Our honorary members pay no dues and are entitled to all the privileges of membership in the Gateway chapter except the right to vote and hold office. These members are nominated by the Director and approved by two-thirds of vote of the general membership present at the meeting to consider such approval. Honorary members are Harry Honig, Fred Weber, Ruth Atkinson and Pat Peter.

When we were chartered as a chapter in the BCA in March 1978, Bob Loudon was our first director. Bob left after three years and fortunately Harry Honig, also a charter member, took Bob's place and kept our chapter going during a rough period when our group was still small. Harry was a television personality on KSD TV for many years and also did some radio commercials for car dealerships. He would also announce our chapter events. Because of his dedication Harry was awarded honorary membership. Harry is retired and lives in Spring Lake Michigan.

In the middle 1980s Fred Weber owned a printing business and some of our

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meetings were held there in the chapter's early days. He donated a 1956 Century 4-door hardtop for the purpose of raffling it to raise operating funds (see the paragraph on raffle cars on page 5). Instead of being raffled, it was sold for \$1000 and this amount was donated to the club. This money eventually put us in a position to join the Heartland Region. As a result of Fred's generosity and his support by letting us use his place of business for our meetings we granted him honorary lifetime membership. Fred still resides in St. Louis.

Don Atkinson and his wife, Ruth, were very active and enthusiastic members of our chapter. They went to nearly every activity. Don died in 1992. Ruth remained active and maintained contact for a while even after moving to Columbia, MO where she continues to reside. Ruth is still a member of the BCA. The Atkinsons were so popular with our members that Ruth was awarded a lifetime honorary membership.

In October 2002 we voted in our newest honorary member, Pat Peter, the widow of Warren Peter. Warren was our first assistant director and a charter member of our club. Pat and Warren were noted for their vigorous support and hospitality during the early days of our chapter.

### ***Our Connection to the BCA***

Paul Meyer, our chapter's director from May 1997 to April 1999, ran as a candidate in 2000 for the Board of Directors of the BCA. He finished fifth out of nine candidates for the three Board positions. In February 2001 Carl Finer resigned from the Board for health reasons. When the candidate who had finished in fourth place in the 2000 election turned it down Paul was asked to complete the term. Paul accepted and completed Carl's term from April 2001 to June 2002. Paul was asked in April 2002

to fill Cecil Don's term as treasurer of the BCA after Cecil's death. Paul was a candidate again in 2002 and was elected to the Board, finishing in first place out of the four candidates running. Paul resumed his position on the Board in July 2002 and was elected treasurer for a one-year term. Paul will continue as a member of the Board until June 2005. He will be eligible to run again for a second 3-year term.

### ***Where We Meet***

In the first two years the club met at the homes or at the businesses of the members. The Loudens, Zahns, Peters, the Huffs and others took their turns hosting the meetings at their homes, and Fred Weber allowed us to meet at his place of business (Beaumont Graphics on Market Street) a number of times. In March 1981 a regular meeting place was established at the Farm and Home Savings & Loan, first in Des Peres and then from January through July 1984 at their Webster Groves location. For a short time again our club met at the homes of members. Then in January 1985 we began meeting at Lemmons Restaurant, located at 5800 Gravois. This was our meeting place for both the summer and winter until May 1992. We met at Chuck-A-Burger on St. Charles Rock Road a few times beginning in 1988, then it became our regular summer meeting place in May 1992 and has remained our summer meeting place for the past 11 years. Lemmons remained our winter meeting place through the winter of 1994.

After leaving Lemmons we met at Damons on South Lindbergh during the winter of 1995-96. We met at Duffy's at the Henry VIII Hotel on North Lindbergh during the winter of 1996-97. From 1998 to the present time various south county restaurants became our winter meeting locations: Sunset Grill (formerly Damons), Ruby Tuesday, Tsevis' Pub and Grill, Bandanna's, Growler's Pub and O'leary's

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Pub where we have met since the winter of 2001. During this period we returned North on a couple of occasions: Hatfield and McCoys and Old Country Buffet, Both on St. Charles Rock Road.

In 2001 we combined some meetings with car-related tours to the GM truck plant in February and Dent Wizard Training Center in April. Meetings have also been combined with our Picnic/cook-out at the Kunz Plantation in October 1999, May 2000, May 2001 and May 2002.

There has been a desire for some time to find a central West County location for year-around meetings. This has been researched by a number of committees, but no suitable restaurant has been found.

### ***Our Newsletter***

There was no formal newsletter until the first issue of the *Gateway Gazette* was published in August 1982. The newsletter editor is an appointed office, and we have been fortunate to have dedicated individuals in that position. During the early years the director sent out meeting notes, notices of meeting places and the other activities. Our first newsletter editor was Frank Peterson. Our longest serving editors who shouldered that responsibility were Monica Ledwon for 8 years and our current editor, John Waltz for 6 years. Monica and John also served as secretary while also performing their newsletter responsibilities, Monica for 4 years and John for 2 years. A summary of our newsletter editors and elected officers can be found at the end of this article.

### ***Not much has changed***

Many of the same issues that confront us today as a social club within the BCA were the same topics of discussion in the past. Back in October of 1980, Bob

Louden read a letter from the BCA to the members. It stated that all local club members must belong to the BCA. In the February 1988 newsletter Ed Gibbs addressed a complaint from a member who no longer attended because the meetings had gotten too formal. Sound familiar? Incidentally, in that same issue there was an announcement of our tenth anniversary celebration in March 1988 at Lemmons Restaurant.

### ***Our previous Anniversaries***

At our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March 1988 the club picked up the cost of drinks and appetizers for that get-together at Lemmons Restaurant, and at the April, 1988 meeting plaques commemorating the ten-year anniversary were presented to 11 of the founding members. After our financially successful BCA National and with the advent of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year we rewarded our members at our 1997 Christmas party at Braswells on Gravois by paying for their meals. Our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting on March 5, 1998 was at Ruby Tuesday Restaurant in Sunset Hills Plaza. In the March 1998 newsletter there was an article by Ed Keil summarizing our first 20 years. Letters recalling the early years of our club from Ed Gibbs and Warren Peter appeared in the April 1998 issue of the Gazette. They are repeated at the end of this article. Our founding director, Bob Louden, was invited to our April 1998 meeting where he spoke and gave some insight into the activities associated with the beginnings of the Gateway Chapter. Still celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> year, we paid for our member's meals at the Pere Marquette Lodge in October 1998 after our car display at Wally Berger Buick in Alton, IL.

### ***How We Support Ourselves***

Our continuous source for financial support has been our yearly dues. Dues was initially \$6, increasing to \$8 in March '81, then to \$10 in May '83. It is currently

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a bargain at \$15. It's is not clear when we began the \$15 dues level, but it has been there for at least 15 years, and inflation over this period would put its value today at over \$23. Various activities were conducted through the years In order to supplement income from our dues. The club raffled four Buicks. We bought three, and one was donated by one of our members. In 1989 the club sold raffle tickets for a Las Vegas trip. Marge Ogelsby arranged the travel plans. The drawing took place at Lemmons Restaurant in March '89, and the club netted about \$1400.

In recent years we have supplemented our dues income with the profit from the Heartland Regional Meets. The share of profit from our '94 Regional Meet got a boost from the proceeds of the raffle of a quilt that was made and donated by Nancy Keil. We netted a little over \$3200 from our Regional and we kept \$458.94 after sharing the profit with 6 other chapters.

The largest supplement to our funds came from our hosting the '97 National BCA Meet. We netted a little over \$3600. Part of the profit from our National Meet was from the raffle of a Route 66 quilt and road sign. Other profit came from the sale of Buick items (buckles, earrings and hats). These were such good sellers that our club voted in February 1998 to purchase more of these items to sell at various Buick Meets. We also decided to sell the remaining 90 buckles through an Ad placed in the Bugle in November 1997. Mail order sales were successful and only 31 remained in July 1998. They all sold at the National Meet in Danvers, MA (Boston). Attempts to obtain more buckles failed when it was determined that our supplier was the only source for this item, and they had been unable to obtain additional components for the buckles from their source in China. We canceled our Ad in the Bugle in August 1998.

In order to keep more of our supplemental income we have also eliminated the expense of liability insurance by canceling the policy that had been in effect before 1994. The yearly cost was about \$250. We now rely on the BCA's liability umbrella policy to protect us for all of our club-sponsored activities, but it requires all of us to be BCA members and to be individually insured. Exemption from sales taxes beginning in 1994 and investing \$5000 of our clubs account in a CD in January 2000 have also helped us to retain more of our supplemental income.

### ***Our Financial Status***

We have been in pretty good financial shape through the years due to the income from all of the activities to supplement our dues. In June 1983 it was reported that our bank account was \$4251.12. This good news was undoubtedly due to the profit from the first car raffle. Following our successful National Meet in July 1997 and after consolidating our club and show accounts we had nearly \$6500 to work with in February 1998, the highest amount in our club's history to that point. It climbed from there to a maximum of nearly \$8000 in January 2002. In February 2003 it is nearly \$7200 with about \$400 of that in our 2004 Regional show account along with \$1667 seed money from the Heartland Region. Our CD has produced about \$700 in interest over the past 3 years. Careful thought is going into budgeting our funds for the 2004 Regional so that we will produce enough income to share with the other 8 Heartland chapters and maintain a secure financial position.

### ***The Raffle Cars***

The first was a 1952 Special 4-door, Model 41D. It was reconditioned by club members and raffled at the Horseless

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Carriage Club Show held at Northwest Plaza Shopping Center in September 1982. A woman from Woodriver, IL won the car then sold it in early 1983. The raffle was a good moneymaker. The second car raffled was a 1956 Special 4-door Riviera Hardtop, Model 43. The drawing took place at Northwest Plaza in September 1983 at the Horseless Carriage Club Show. The winner had a choice between the car or \$1000 cash. The winner chose the cash. The club then had to find a buyer for the car. It was finally sold in January 1984 for \$1750. Expenditures for the car's purchase and reconditioning were about \$2200. The loss was more than compensated by the raffle ticket sales proceeds. According to Jeff Watkins the third car was a 1964 Riviera, but no other information is available as to how we obtained it, how the raffle was conducted or how successful it was financially. The fourth car was a 1956 Century 4-door Riviera Hardtop, Model 63, donated by Fred Weber. This car was damaged when Fred Weber's Packard ran into the back of it when one of the cars was being taken for repair work. A decision was made not to fix the collision damage, and the car was sold in 1992 for \$1000 at Earl's Classic Cars in Warrenton, MO to a resident of Highland, IL who reportedly restored it. Photographs of three of the raffle cars are at the end of this article.

### ***We became tax-exempt***

In July 1994 we became a tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c) (7) for social clubs. Ed Keil started the submittal of documents to the IRS in February 1994. As a result we are exempt from Federal income tax, but more importantly, we are exempt from Missouri sales tax. This served us well in saving taxes associated with the large expenditures we incurred in conducting the 1994 Heartland Regional Meet and the 1997 National BCA Meet.

The \$21,000 banquet at our '97 National would have cost us nearly \$1500.00 in sales tax alone. It's easy to see that a portion of the funds we have today is the result of the tax savings. We renewed our tax exemption in 1999, and thought that we would have to go through the renewal procedure again in 2004 with the 5-year cycle. But in July 2002 we received a letter from the Missouri Department of Revenue (DOR) stating that our tax exemption will no longer have an expiration date. However, we are required to submit a registration change request to the DOR when our address, phone number or responsible persons (officers) change.

### ***We Help Others***

We have been a generous group. Records show thank-you letters for donations to various charities. We gave \$250 to the Multiple Sclerosis Society in December 1987 and \$250 to Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in January 1988. We also have been active in our community, having donated to the Road Paving Fund of the Museum of Transport in November 1989. In more recent years we donated to Marygrove School the model race car set worth about \$200 that we had purchased for our Regional Meet in 1994. In 1996 and 1997 we supported the St. Louis Society for Children and Adults with Disabilities with displays of our member's cars at their fund raising events. We also donated \$100 both in 1997 and 1998 to The Wheels in Motion Show to help raise funds for children terminally ill with cancer. The donation to the Wheels in Motion was the last charitable contribution until January 2002.

The membership voted in August 1998 by 15 to 13 to curtail donations to charitable organizations in favor of donating exclusively to car-related organizations, like The St. Louis Museum of Transport (MOT). In June of 1998 donations to the MOT amounted to \$170, including \$100 in

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memory of Wally Berger and \$70 in the form of a Buick script radiator badge for the museum's 1912 Buick bus. Donations ebbed except for those to the MOT made in remembrance of our deceased members from May 1999 to September 2002.

In January 2002 a motion was made at our meeting that we again include charitable organizations along with car-related activity as recipients of our donations. By a vote of 27 to 3 the motion passed. It wasn't until October 2002 that we committed some of our funds to charity. We voted to donate to the Children's Miracle Network in memory of Steve Bisesi a sum of \$171.50 which was the amount collected from snow cone sales at the 2002 Heartland Regional Meet in Rockford, IL. We voted to add an additional \$78.50 from the club's account to bring the total to \$250. In September 2002 we also collected \$180 from donations for snow cones at the Wheels in Motion car show in St. Louis. We gave the full amount to that organization, the funds going to benefit children in their fight with cancer.

### ***Joining the Heartland Region***

We are fortunate for the efforts of Jeff Watkins who lead the effort for our chapter to join the Heartland Region in 1992. As a result we have received over the last 11 years nearly \$4000 as our share of the division of profit from the Heartland Region Meets. Not bad for an initial investment of \$500 to join the Region and about another \$800 for contributions to the other 8 chapters when they hosted Regional Meets. It has been a good financial investment returning a net profit to us of nearly \$2700. All Heartland Regional Meets have been profitable except one. The Mid America Chapter lost considerable money in their Meet held in June of 1999. It cost our chapter \$400 in addition to our earlier

contribution of \$100 for their hospitality room.

### ***Our Big Shows***

Our history would certainly not be complete if we did not mention the tremendous effort put forth by our members in conducting the Heartland Regional Meet in 1994 and the BCA National Meet in 1997. These were very successful activities that put our chapter in the forefront. We were known nationwide within the BCA. The member providing a good share of the planning and execution of these events was Mark Bunce. There were thoughts in the past of hosting the big one. The minutes from the July 1985 meeting addressed an investigation into hosting the BCA National Meet in St. Louis in 1988 or 1989. Thoughts and dreams became a reality in 1997 through the guiding hand of Mark Bunce. Certainly there were many others who sacrificed to bring about this successful event. Their names are not mentioned here, but the basis for their accomplishment can be summed up in the words of Greg Fallowfield, the founding director of the BCA, in one of the very early BCA newsletters: "This is YOUR Club - its success depends on your active participation."

We are preparing for our hosting of the 15<sup>th</sup> Heartland Regional Meet in August 2004. It is our turn in the rotation with the other 8 participating chapters in the Region, and we'll do it again in 2013. The Board of Directors, along with other members has met several times in the planning and distribution of work required in making this activity a big success. The hotel selected is the Holiday Inn in Collinsville, Illinois. A contract has been negotiated with them. Fund raising activity is in progress with the mail-order sale of the same Buick buckles that were successful sale items at and after our 1997 National Meet. Trophy, dash plaque

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and shirt activity is in progress. Tour planning is in the works and a registration form will soon be prepared in order to have it completed before Buick's 100-Year celebration in July 2003 in Flint, MI.

### ***Buick Corporation and Local Dealers***

Our first association with The St. Louis Buick Dealer's Association and the Buick Motor Division of General Motors came in the planning phase for our 1994 Heartland Regional Meet. This Regional Meet was the first of its kind in the St. Louis area. There had been several public displays of our member's cars including local Buick dealers, but neither Buick in St. Louis nor our chapter had been involved with a major event involving nearly 250 cars and establishing a host hotel and tours for our attendees expected from throughout the Midwest.

We needed funds to ensure having a quality Show and we sought Buick's support. In the autumn of 1993 we contacted Jack Anderson, the President of Laura Buick in Collinsville, Illinois and at that time also the President of the St. Louis Buick Dealers Association. Understandably Mr. Anderson wanted some recent background of how Buick had supported BCA shows. We provided him with the details for five previous BCA events and as a result received \$2500 from the St. Louis Buick Dealer's Association. For our National Meet In 1997 we received not only \$2500 from the St. Louis Dealers but also \$2500 from the Buick Division of General Motors.

There has always been a good relationship of our chapter with the Buick dealers in Metropolitan St. Louis. We have supported Illinois dealers, with displays of our Buicks at Wagner in Belleville, and Wally Berger in Alton. Missouri Buick dealers are Ackerman, Lou Fusz and Sinclair. We have always been treated with hospitality with the

dealer providing food and drinks. Typically each dealer provided advertisement for these events and donated \$100 to help with our operating funds. The displays at Wagner were trophy events and the dealer paid for these.

### ***The Snow-cone Tradition***

Think of being at a car show on a hot summer day and someone offering you the cool, sweet and fruity tastes of a snow cone. The best part is that it's free or available for a small donation that will go for a charitable cause. The man behind this idea as well as providing the equipment and work to carry it out was a member that we will never forget. Steve Bisesi was our club's ambassador. When he saw an older Buick at a gas station or parked, he would find its owner, introduce himself and tell them about our club. Officially he was our membership chairman and was responsible for many new members joining our chapter.

Steve joined the Gateway Chapter in 1991 and began his snow cone offerings at our Heartland Regional Meet in 1994. He made a lasting impression as he moved with his cart up and down the isles between the show cars on a very warm September day. The attendees remembered the snow cone guy who added to the already notable hospitality room effort put forth by our ladies.

Steve really made an impression at the National Meet in 1995 in Lisle, Illinois (Chicago). There he tended to BCA members from across the nation, and the tradition was born. The last time that our Heartland Region members saw Steve was at the Regional Meet in August 2001 at Dubuque, IA, hosted by the Hawkeye Chapter. Steve died a month later. We have carried on Steve's snow cone tradition and will continue in memory of the snow cone man and our Ambassador, Steve Bisesi.

***The Future***

We seem to have been at our best when working together on some project, whether it was the preparation of a Buick for raffle, a tour, a show at a local dealer or the planning and conducting the Regional and National Meets. We pulled together and made it happen. That spirit will ensure that there will still be a Gateway Chapter for a long time to come. When someone writes something for the 30th or 35th celebration, many names on the roster will have changed by then, but I bet that there will be a couple of early members still active. What the members say then will be what they say today: That they joined the Buick club because They like Buicks, and thought they could get help in locating parts and information. What they will also say is that meeting some very nice people and the friendships that developed were just as important as the cars. Let's continue to have fun, enjoying our Buicks and each other. After all, this is a social Club!

**Happy 25<sup>th</sup> to the Gateway Chapter!**

*A special thanks goes to Jeff Watkins for his recollections of the early years of our Chapter, and for the notes, letters, newsletters and photographs that he provided that made part of this article possible.*

**Ed Keil**

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### Gateway Chapter Officers and Editor of the Gazette (1978-2003)

Elected officers take office May 1st in odd-numbered years for a 2-Year Term

<u>Year</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Assistant Director</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Gazette Editor</u>
			<u>Sec./Treas.</u>		
1978	Bob Louden	Warren Peter	Dr. Fred Zahn		-----
1979	Bob Louden	Warren Peter	Dr. Fred Zahn		-----
1980	Bob Louden	Bob Huff	Vi Huff		-----
1981	Harry Honig	Chuck Greener	Melvin Callico		-----
1982	Harry Honig	Chuck Greener	Melvin Callico		Frank Peterson
1983	Frank Kunkel	Ed Gibbs	Tom Ledwon		Harry Honig
1984	Frank Kunkel	Ed Gibbs	Tom Ledwon		Monica Ledwon
1985	Ed Gibbs	Ralph Knost	Frank Peterson		Monica Ledwon
1986	Ed Gibbs	Ralph Knost	Mike Frank		Monica Ledwon
1987	Ed Gibbs	Rich Metzger	Monica Ledwon	Mike Frank	Monica Ledwon
1988	Ed Gibbs	Rich Metzger	Monica Ledwon	Mike Frank	Monica Ledwon
1989	Pat Ogelsby	Rich Metzger	Monica Ledwon	Mike Frank	Monica Ledwon
1990	Pat Ogelsby	Rich Metzger	Monica Ledwon	Mike Frank	Monica Ledwon
1991	Jeff Watkins	Rich Metzger	Mike Frank		Monica Ledwon
1992	Jeff Watkins	Rich Metzger	Mike Frank		Lance Diehl
1993	Jeff Watkins	Ed Lanfer	Bob Semple		Lance Diehl
1994	Jeff Watkins	Ed Lanfer	Bob Semple		Mark Bunce
1995	Russ Miller	Steve Dodson	Ed Keil	H. Deglman	Mark Bunce
1996	Russ Miller	Steve Dodson	Ed Keil	H. Deglman	Mark Bunce
1997	Paul Meyer	Steve Dodson	Ed Keil	H. Deglman	Mark Bunce
1998	Paul Meyer	Steve Dodson	Ed Keil	H. Deglman	John Waltz
1999	Steve Dodson	Bill Landers	Culus Jones	Kathy Perry	John Waltz
2000	Steve Dodson	Bill Landers	Culus Jones	H. Deglman	John Waltz
2001	Bill Landers	Dave Stukenbroeker	John Waltz	H. Deglman	John Waltz
2002	Bill Landers	Dave Stukenbroeker	John Waltz	H. Deglman	John Waltz
2003	Bill Landers	(to be deteremined)	Herb Morris/ Sharon Morris*	H. Deglman/ Gail Simon*	John Waltz

(\* ) Sharon Morris appointed assistant Secretary in April 2003, Gail Simon appointed assistant Treasurer in April 2003

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## Gateway Chapter Board of Directors

At-Large Members take office May 1st in even-numbered years for a 2-Year Term

<u>Year</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Past Director</u>	<u>Gazette Editor</u>	<u>At-Large Members</u>
1998	Paul Meyer Steve Dodson Ed Keil Hank Deglman	Jeff Watkins	John Waltz	Steve Bisesi Bill Seibel
1999	Steve Dodson Bill Landers Culus Jones Kathy Perry	Paul Meyer	John Waltz	Steve Bisesi Bill Seibel to Jan. 1999 (He asked to be replaced) Bob Kroening Feb.–Apr. 1999
2000	Steve Dodson Bill Landers Culus Jones Hank Deglman	Paul Meyer	John Waltz	Steve Bisesi (2 <sup>nd</sup> term) Bob Kroening
2001	Bill Landers Dave Stukenbroeker John Waltz Hank Deglman	Steve Dodson	John Waltz	Steve Bisesi to Sept. 2001 Ed Keil (Dec. 2001-Apr. 2002) Bob Kroening
2002	Bill Landers Dave Stukenbroeker John Waltz Hank Deglman	Steve Dodson	John Waltz	Ed Keil Herb Morris
2003	Bill Landers (to be determined) Herb Morris/Sharon Morris* Hank Deglman/Gail Simon*	Steve Dodson	John Waltz	Ed Keil to April 2004 Herb Morris to April 2003 Dave Smith to April 2004

(\*) Sharon Morris appointed assistant Secretary in April 2003 (1 vote at Board of Director meetings)  
Gail Simon appointed assistant Treasurer in April 2003 (1 vote at Board of Directors meetings)



### From left to right:

David Weber, Laurie Weber (with infant) in front of Jim Hall, Kevin Huff, Ray Fellenstein, Laura Weber, Warren Peter, Pat Peter, John Peter ?, Bob Huff, Joel Haffner, David Louden, Bob Louden, Bob Louden Jr., Jeff Watkins.

### Not Shown:

Fred Zahn, Willard Coplin and Fred Weber

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**From left to right:**

Ray Fellenstein, Jim Hall,  
Joel Haffner, ?, Warren Peter  
Pat Peter, John Peter ?,  
Fred Weber, Bob Huff,  
David Louden, Fred Zahn  
Bob Louden, Jeff Watkins  
and Willard Coplin

**Not shown:**

Kevin Huff, David Weber,  
Laurie Weber, Laura Weber  
and Bob Louden Jr.



1952 Special 4-Door  
Model 41D  
>Raffled September 1982

1956 Special 4-Door Hardtop  
Model 43  
>Raffled September 1983  
>Sold January 1984 for \$1750



## History of the Saint Louis Gateway Chapter Buick Club (1978-2003) by Ed Keil



1956 Century 4-Door Hardtop, Model 63  
>Donated by Fred Weber  
>Sold in 1992 for \$1000

>Note the damaged area  
on the left rear

### **Ed Gibbs wrote in March 1998:**

*I don't remember exactly what sparked my interest in the antique car hobby. In 1981 I decided to buy a mid '50's GM convertible (non-Chevy). I got hold of a "Hemmings" from someone and found a few prospects – A '53 Skylark in Mississippi that had been painted with a brush – I passed. A '57 Olds 98 in Indians and a '54 Cadillac Eldorado in Illinois were also passed up. Then I called White Plains, N.Y. on a '56 Buick Roadmaster "rag top". My wife and I flew up and drove the black and white beauty home.*

Now I needed to find people with similar interest and a source for parts. Enter Ray Fellenstein, long time old car nut, and charter member of the Gateway Buick Club. I went to my first meeting in the spring of 1982 at the Farm and Home Savings and Loan on Manchester Road. Everyone I met seemed very nice, but a few stood out, such as Harry Honig, Aaron Ford, Frank Kunkel, Bob Huff, Bob Louden and Chuck Greener.

Harry and Frank preceded me as Chapter Director. After Bob Louden's initial term expired. I became Frank's VP so I suppose it was only natural to step into his shoes. This was in 1986 and then I became the only fool to succeed myself in '88. Some where in that time span we moved the meetings to Lemmon's Restaurant on South

Gravois, with an occasional summer meeting at Chuck-A-Burger.

Our meetings were very informal and usually ended up as nothing more than chitchat about who went to what car show and what everyone one was working on at the time. We never had much more than 3 to 4 hundred dollars in the treasury and no one cared, since we were a non profit bunch of old car buffs.

One of the fondest memories I have is working on our raffle cars. We did a '52 and '56 (both 4-door Specials) and a '64 Riviera. We'd sell tickets for a year and give the cars away at the show at Northwest Plaza. I recall driving the "Riv" over to Pinkneyville, IL to sell tickets at a car show and spent more on gas than I made ion ticket sales! By far my best memories of the Buick Club were all the new friends I met and enjoyed. The National Meets were terrific places to go to. I went to most of these from '83 to '92 and renewed many of these

friendships at the '97 Meet here in St. Louis. Congratulations, you guys did a great job.

Although golf has become my passion, I still own the '56 Roadmaster convertible and finally finished my '73 Riviera GS Stage 1 two years ago. I drive both of them from time to time, but am pretty well burned out on car shows. The memories and friendships will always be with

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me, but the cars can be had for very large sums of money.

### **Warren Peter's Response in March 1998:**

We very much enjoyed reading your well written interesting article in the March *Gateway Gazette* I am sorry it has taken me so long to answer your letter of February 7. I really don't remember much about the first meeting of the Buick Club. I know that Bob Loudon called people and asked them to attend the meeting. I think it was he who appointed me the first assistant director after the group appointed him the first director. It was a friendly group right from the beginning. I think that David and Laurie Weber brought their new baby to the meeting. As I have always been fond of Buicks we were very glad to be a member of the Buick club. We have enjoyed the club a lot over the years. Our son John who was killed really enjoyed the club. He brought our 1924 Buick to a show and got a trophy. I can still see him driving the car into our driveway holding the trophy out of the window. John helped Aaron Ford work on the engine of the '24. He learned a lot and really enjoyed working with Aaron.

*We spend our winters in Florida so we cannot be as active in any of the automobile clubs as we might like to be, but we still enjoy attending a meeting whenever we can. We think that it is wonderful that the club has so many capable and willing hard workers as it has. Thanks for your letter. We will see you when we come back to St. Louis, meanwhile, greetings from sunny Florida. We have been lucky. Much of the disastrous weather has occurred very close to us but not exactly where we are.*