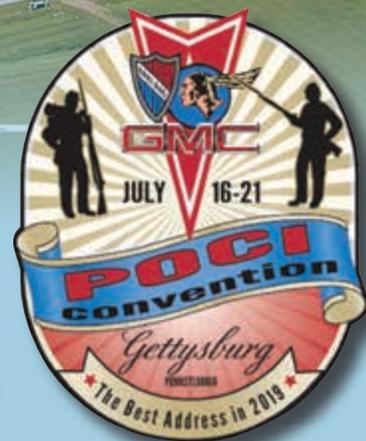# Gettysburg! is your Address for the 2019 Convention...

story by Gary Schuck

The next POCI international convention will take place between Monday, July 15 and Saturday, July 20, 2019 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. POCI pioneers with 40- and 45-year membership pins may recall that this will not be the first time our club has gathered in this historic location. If the slogan *'80s the Date for the Keystone State* strikes a familiar chord, perhaps you brought one of the 357 Pontiacs and Oaklands to the show field or were among the 600 people who attended the awards banquet at an event more than double the size of any previously held.

With approximately 100 members concentrated in the eastern half of Pennsylvania, the Keystone State Chapter has maintained a continuously active schedule since being chartered as POCI's second official chapter in 1975. When the POCI convention was held in San Diego in 1977, the KSC sponsored a three-day, 100-car regional "mini-convention" for those unable to travel to the West Coast. The chapter went on to host large and successful POCI conventions again at Gettysburg in 1980 and at nearby Downingtown, PA in 1988.

For 2019, the KSC will share convention host duties with the neighboring Delmarva Chapter, which was issued POCI charter number 99 in 2011. With about 35 members, this group serves the state of Delaware and the eastern portions of Maryland and Virginia on the Delmarva Peninsula between the Chesapeake Bay

Sponsored by the Keystone chapter

and the Atlantic Ocean. Together these two chapters offer the experience and the enthusiasm to make 2019 one of the largest and most memorable conventions ever!

In 1863, the strategic location of Gettysburg astride the route chosen by Confederate General Lee for his invasion of Union territory during the American Civil War was a factor in determining the location of a pivotal three-day battle between North and South. Today, that same strategic location translates into convenient access for POCI members traveling to the convention by road, rail, or air. Gettysburg can be reached from nearby Interstates 70, 76, 81 and 83 without encountering urban congestion. Harrisburg, with an international airport and Amtrak rail terminal, is only 45 miles to the north — less than an hour's drive on good roads. The Baltimore-Washington International Airport is about 60 miles distance to the south.

Equally strategic is the location of our convention site at the intersection of Routes 15 and 30, just outside of town and convenient to all the attractions in and around Gettysburg. Our host hotel, the Wyndham, is located on the beautiful campus of Gateway Gettysburg along with the Courtyard Marriott hotel, several restaurants, a movie theater and a brew pub surrounded by 100 acres of paved parking and grass fields.

Were it not for the climactic events of July 1-3 in 1863, Gettysburg would probably have remained a sleepy little town like many surrounding communities in the rolling hills of south-central Pennsylvania. The battlefields, preserved as the 6,000-acre Gettysburg National Military Park complemented by a museum and visitor center, honor the 165,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who fought and the 7,000 fallen who paid the ultimate price for causes in which they believed. While Civil War history is central to the Gettysburg experience, this charming borough with a population of only 7,700 has also evolved into a family-friendly tourist destination with activities to suit nearly every interest. Future articles will describe the many exciting opportunities in store for those who join us at the 2018 POCI Convention.

Our slogan "The Best Address for 2019" is a lighthearted reference to the famous Gettysburg Address delivered by President Lincoln at the dedication of a cemetery for Union soldiers in November of 1863. Be sure to mark your calendar and make Gettysburg *your* address for the third week of July in 2019! *SSN*

At the 1980 Gettysburg convention, Robert Raab took home Best of Show honors with his 1929 Oakland Roadster.