



47th Annual POCI Convention - July 26-21, 2019 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

previews by Gary Schuck

Pennsylvania earned the nickname “The Keystone State” because, like the stone that secures the center of an archway, its location at the center of the original 13 colonies resulted in a pivotal role during the birth and formative years of the United States.

Pennsylvania and the Automobile

Pennsylvania earned the nickname “The Keystone State” because, like the stone that secures the center of an archway, its location at the center of the original 13 colonies resulted in a pivotal role during the birth and formative years of the United States.

Pennsylvania also played an important role in the early development of the

automobile, with more than a hundred different makes produced in the state during the early years of the 20th century. Most lasted only a few years and are now lost to history, but a Duryea — some of which were built in Reading, Pennsylvania — survives as the centerpiece of the Antique Automobile Club of America’s distinctive logo.

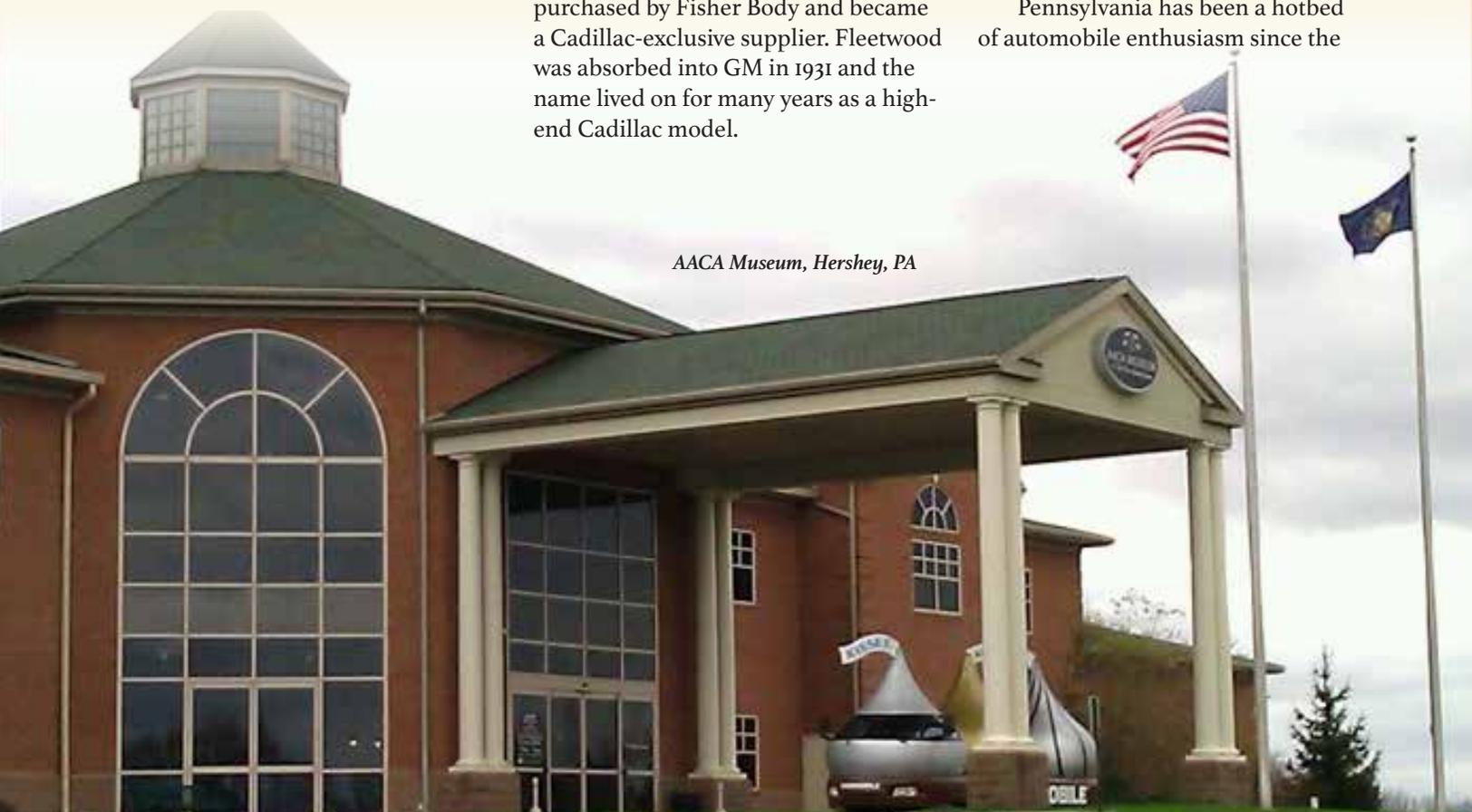
Fleetwood Metal Body produced custom coachwork for various luxury cars in the Pennsylvania town of that name from 1909 until 1925 when it was purchased by Fisher Body and became a Cadillac-exclusive supplier. Fleetwood was absorbed into GM in 1931 and the name lived on for many years as a high-end Cadillac model.

At the other end of the spectrum, the humble Jeep has its origins in a 1940 design by Bantam Motors of Butler, PA. While two hours away and not included as a POCI convention activity, the Museum of Historic Vehicles in Boyertown is highly recommended for those with an interest in cars and trucks produced in the local area.

AACA Hershey Tour

Pennsylvania has been a hotbed of automobile enthusiasm since the

AACA Museum, Hershey, PA





This is a scene from the first POCI convention in Camp Hill, PA. Note the Plexiglass Pontiac in the background. At the right is a rare example of the dash plaque from that first convention.

early days of the hobby. The Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) — considered the largest and perhaps most prestigious auto club in the world — was founded in 1935 by 14 early enthusiasts in the city of Philadelphia. Today, the AACA headquarters and research library, as well as the AACA Museum with its ever-changing assortment of 85 to 100 cars on display, can instead be found in nearby Hershey, PA. The museum also houses a bus collection and a gallery dedicated to 1948 Tucker automobiles and related items.

Hershey is only an hour's drive from Gettysburg and bus tours to the museum will be offered on Tuesday and Friday during the convention.

To auto enthusiasts, the name "Hershey" is synonymous with the huge AACA Fall Meet, but to most people, Hershey means *chocolate* in the familiar brown wrappers recognized all over the world. In addition to the museum, our tours will visit "Chocolate World" to view a demonstration of chocolate manufacturing and to see a sample of virtually every Hershey product made. There will be something for every taste — *pun intended* — on this tour, so be sure to sign up when you register!

POCI History in Pennsylvania

The roots of the Pontiac-Oakland Club International also run deep in Pennsylvania. As some of you know, our club was founded by Don Bougher in 1972 after he was unable to locate a replacement radiator shell for the 1926 Pontiac he was restoring. If all goes according to plan, that same '26 Pontiac along with the rusty radiator shell that started it all will be on display in the lobby of our host hotel at the 2019 convention.

While Don lived in California and later moved to Oregon, the very first "Tribal Gathering," as it was called, took place in Camp Hill, PA. On October 7, 1973, approximately 30 Pontiacs and Oaklands participated in a show at Don Barlup's Pizza Drive-In restaurant. After serving as president of both POCI and AACA, Don remains an active member of the Keystone State Chapter (KSC) and is lending

his expertise to convention planning.

For the past year, KSC member Ralph Keller has been on a challenging quest to locate as many of the cars as possible from that 1973 gathering. Some have been scrapped, some survive in modified form, a few are in the hands of the same owners, and some remain unaccounted. His goal is to bring as many as possible back to Pennsylvania for special recognition at the 2019 POCI Convention. It is still a work in progress, and the final results will be revealed in Gettysburg next July.

On Friday afternoon,



Ralph Keller will also host a seminar covering the early history of our club. Ralph joined POCI in 1974 and a year later became co-founder, first president, and newsletter editor of the Keystone State Chapter. Ralph will be joined by some special guests with firsthand knowledge of the early years. Both newer members with an interest in our roots and pioneers with memories to share are cordially invited to join what should be a very interesting and informative discussion. *JSN*



Don Bougher's 1926 Pontiac.