



# ETCetera

Era of Excellence    Volume XXX, Number 10 October, 2017



**ETC Flathead Reunion in Ligonier PA September 2017**

Dedicated to the preservation and restoration of 1926 - 1954 Pontiacs  
Published monthly by the Early Times Chapter of the Pontiac Oakland Club International

[www.earlytimeschapter.org](http://www.earlytimeschapter.org)

# President's Message

October 2017

**Welcome Tanya Lervik**, our new ETCetera editor. Tanya grew up in the Seattle area, has traveled extensively around the world, and now makes her home outside of Washington, D.C. Both she and her husband, Colin Baker, are relatively new to the old car hobby. I am sure that many of you will get to meet them in their 1940 sedan at future events. Both love the art deco style of the pre-war cars. She has substantial editing experience, both in her professional career and leisure time activities. She is not, however, a technical expert on automotive design or maintenance. So please provide her with your experiences. Send her your articles.

**Annual Flathead Reunion** - The idea for a yearly event for early Pontiacs (and Oaklands) came from the Luken and Woodruff families back in 2004. The Early Times Chapter has now held these for 13 years, 2005 through 2017, and with the two we held in California, 2012 and 2016, this was the 15th Flathead event! It has been quite a run. We've stuck to the original goals; build the ETC group of member households, help members get their cars on the road and more reliable, and to get out and drive our vintage Pontiacs more. To that end, I believe that we've been quite successful. If you have been to a Flathead, you will have seen an almost party atmosphere. In fact, I have wondered when some sleep. There seems to be groups gathered when I come down to breakfast, and right up to when I must quit and go to bed. And these are families, who for the rest of the year, are often separated by multiple states. Notice the word families. These have not been just another "car guy" event with wives at home. There is as much going on between the women as the men. Then there is the word 'reliable'. Considering the distances families drive their ETC cars to each Flathead, stories of breakdowns on the trips to or from are unusual. These were good cars in their days! This is why we own them. And they can still be enjoyable, reliable transportation today. As to "drive the cars more", we give an award each event for "Longest Distance Driven". I would have to check the records, but it seems that the winners of this award have often driven close to, or even more than 1,000 miles. I believe that the original goals and the event design, have worked well. If you have not attended a Flathead Reunion yet, consider putting it on your family's calendar. In the east, the event is always the Wednesday through Saturday in early September, immediately following Labor Day weekend. West coast events have been in spring, but a specific week has not yet been settled upon. Watch for more on this topic.

**The 2017 Flathead Reunion** is over and, judging from the comments, everyone had a great time. Elsewhere in this issue Ron Thomas has written about it. Considering the turn-out and the number of photos members have sent me, there will be more coverage in future ETCeteras. It was also the first big road trip for our fresh '37 restoration. It really ran well and was very

comfortable. Look for the Landvoigts in our '37 sedan in the future.

**2018 Flathead Reunion** – Kurt and Arliss Kelsey will be hosting the Flathead next year in **Ames, Iowa**. The dates are September 5th through 8th, 2018. Planning for a convoy from the east is already underway. Information will be coming in future ETCetera issues, but for now, mark your calendars.

**Arn**

# Flathead Reunion 2017, Ligonier, PA

By Ron Thomas



That's right, that's a Flathead. And last week we had twenty-eight of them show up in Ligonier, PA. We had a total of 68 people in attendance and they came from 18 states, that's right, **eighteen states**. The oldest cars were two 1928's, a sedan and a coupe. Most of the others were driven from their home states to Ligonier, but the '28's came on trailers out of necessity, and a '53 Panel Delivery

came on a trailer as a complete surprise to Roger Bentley, the owner. He was not expecting it and he was overwhelmed. Everybody who knew it was coming kept the surprise and it was great. Kudos to Andy Wise for making this happen. Andy brought the car from way over in Maryland just for this surprise on show day.



By the decades we had two in the 20's, four in the 30's, six in the 40's and sixteen in the 50's. We had at least one hard luck case, John & Di-anne Lennox, whose car gave out on them and had to be returned to their home, so they just changed cars and came anyway. I personally used up all of my brakes on the somewhat mountainous drive from Ohio to Ligonier, PA but luckily found a local mechanic shop with the ability to rebuild our master cylinder and two front wheel cylinders, so we were back on the road by Tuesday evening. One couple flew from California, and three people flew from Oklahoma. And we had eight

first time "Flat-headers". Quite a dedicated group of Flathead enthusiasts. Weather was a little cool, but hey, nobody's car overheated. Tour day on Friday was sunshine and blue sky as was show day on Saturday. We covered about a hundred miles on tour day and guess who had the only flat tire, again, (here's a hint, Jay VanAltvorst). Not quite up to NASCAR standards but finished and back on the road in about 20 minutes, and that really is pretty good for a 1928 Pontiac.

We had a great venue for the whole week and the downtown car show venue was wonderful. The public turnout was really appreciated and we even had a local TV station show up to interview several of our people. All in all, the town was very appreciative of our 5-day visit. No body went hungry and if you were there and did not visit the Ligonier Creamery for ice cream, you should be ashamed of yourself. My wife and I eat a lot of ice cream and this was some of the very best.

A group of about 26 arrived early on Tuesday and journeyed first to visit "Falling Water", a local home built by famed architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. This home was built for a wealthy family, the Kaufmann's who owned a large department store company in the Pittsburgh area. Unbelievable home set in the Pennsylvania Laurel Mountains. Well worth the time if you are ever in the area.

This is just a brief recap of a great week in the Pennsylvania Laurel Highlands. Stay tuned, more to come in future issues.







Roger Bently  
1953 PONTIAC CHIEFTAN - SEDAN DELIVERY

PLEASE SEND ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO:  
Tanya Lervik at [ETCeteraED@gmail.com](mailto:ETCeteraED@gmail.com)

Email submissions of ads, articles & pictures is preferred. All pictures need to be submitted as 300 dpi jpg files.



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Ornament on 1930 Pontiac Custom Sedan at Annual Antique Autos in History Park in San Jose , CA (Photo/Robert Guzzetta)

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# Highlights

When Tanya told me that she had a page to fill in this month's ETCetera. I wondered just what to do. Then a thought came to me. I had collected a number of photos from the members which I didn't know where else to put them, but which were worth sharing. So here goes.

At the Flathead Reunion in Ligonier we had a lot going on beyond things which you would not have seen in the schedule we published. There was biking, bowling, and even dancing.



In fact, we had so much packed in that some didn't seem to know if they were coming or going.



Of course, there were differing opinions.

Then there were things that happened which I still don't understand.



Hershey also had a lot happening. Again there was biking



We had our own PortaJohn which was very popular. And again there were things just hard to understand. But the old saying, "What happens in Hershey, stays in Hershey" is true.

Join your fellow ETC at an event next year and see for yourself!



**Arn**



Charlie (Charlene?) Chaplin likes flathead Pontiacs!

Annual Antique Autos in History Park in San Jose, California (Photo/Robert Guzzetta)