

Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Louis Chapter

BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

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December 2004

NEW MEMBER WHITEY MORRISON AND HIS 1938 CENTURY OPERA COUPE

Whitey Morrison of Belleville, rejoined our club this summer at the regional meet. He had joined at Bobby's Custard in 2000 but hadn't attended meetings. He let the membership drop and joined the Lakers Car Club on the East side where he attends regular cruises. He says Jerry Reid talked him into joining us again.

But this Buick story begins with Whitey's sister. She was at a streetrod show in Jonesboro, Arkansas, in early 2000 and saw a great streetrod. She called Whitey and told him, "This car is you!" She pes-

tered him for 3 weeks until he finally went to Arkansas to see it; he bought the 1938 Buick Century Opera Coupe on the spot. The owner said the restoration and modifications were made in Pennsylvania by a car dealership. So Whitey has some follow up work to do in order to establish the early history, but there is quite a bit of mechanical history to review since he bought the car in May of 2000. It appears that a '72 Buick donated its engine, transmission and steering column to Whitey's car. In the past three and a half years all of the mechanicals have

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Photo by Fairview Heights Photographer, Charlie Cima

UPCOMING EVENT: December 5 Holiday Party at C J Muggs

NEW MEMBER WHITEY MORRISON (Cont'd from p. 1)

been rebuilt or upgraded except the rear end.

Of course there have been leaks to fix. Finding wheel cylinders for 1938 Buick brakes was a challenge. Bob Galas of Galas Motorsports in O'Fallon, Illinois, did the engine work on the Buick 455 using parts from Poston in Alabama. Naturally a great streetrod deserves some chrome under the hood, but Bob Galas' engine work provided the power to back up the pretty face. And the dual exhaust and stainless steel Magna-Flow mufflers allow that high-lift cam sound to rumble through.

Whitey enjoys the car shows and he finds that people walk by other great cars to look at the '38. I believe the unusual shape draws people; it's the long hood that common Chevys and Fords don't have. And only 1991 of these 66S models were produced so you rarely see them. With a great and unusual car, the trophies pour in: 64 trophies from 71 shows the last few years. You may remember that Whitey got two trophies including the 'Hotel Employees Choice' at our regional this year. I'm sure he is excited about contributing to our newsletter but he is also eager to see the next *Northern Rodder* magazine, which should have an article about his car.

Whitey describes himself as a Chevy man but let's encourage him to keep that Buick and stick with our chapter.

'38 Buick, Model 66S - streetrod Whitey Morrison, Belleville, Illinois

Color:

Tri-coat Candy Apple Red over Gold base with Black Fenders

Engine:

455 cubic inch from '72 Buick
Bore: 0.030" over, Federal Mogul 9:1 pistons
Poston CS118 camshaft, Holley 750 cfm carburetor, Edelbrock Performer Intake manifold.
Balanced and assembled by Galas Motorsports

Transmission:

GM Turbo 400

Chassis:

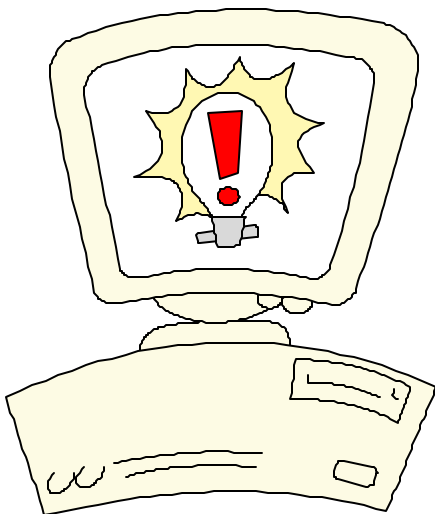
Original '38 Buick frame and front end. Original '38 Buick drum brakes operated by a dual master cylinder. Coil springs and tubular shocks.

Body and Upholstery:

Bodywork, paint, rechroming, glass etching, and cloth upholstery was done in Pennsylvania by a previous owner.

Wheels and Tires:

Tru-Spoke 15" wire wheels
BF Goodrich 215/70R 15 front, 235/60R15 rear



TECHNOLOGY MARCHES FORWARD!

Our chapter now has a new improved website.

www.gatewaybca.org

Adam Martin has set up the new website. Please check it out, put it in your favorites, and be sure to thank Adam. This website is already linked with the BCA website.

We plan to list members on the website. How much information should we put out on the web? City? Cars? Street?



Photo by Fairview Heights Photographer, Charlie Cima



Catch me if you can.

Whitey is expecting to see more photos since your editor showed up apparently snapping quite a few shots. But can you expect your editor to have the film threaded in correctly?

Gateway Chapter Holiday Party

Sunday, December 5th at 3 PM

Program

We will try to keep most of the time for visiting and dinner. There will be a business meeting but we will continue the practice of keeping the December meeting short and upbeat.

Menu

We will be ordering from the regular menu. The menu allows wide variety from burgers and fries to more expensive steak dinners.



Gifts

Again this year we are giving rather than exchanging. In addition to the opportunity to give Toys For Tots, you will have the opportunity to write a check to Wings of Hope. Do not feel obligated to do either but then again, you might even want to do both. For several years Chris and I have really enjoyed splitting a spending limit and shopping for toys. I end up with balls and model cars and she naturally finds dolls and stuffed toys.

C J Muggs Restaurant

101 W. Lockwood, Webster Groves

DIRECTIONS

Take I-44 to the Elm exit (280)
Turn North on Elm & drive 0.9 miles.
Left onto Lockwood for 0.1 mile
C J Muggs is on your right.

There is free public parking behind C J Muggs and it can be reached from Gore or from Lockwood. The lower portion which is covered is reached from Gore.

