

# VAIR STREET JOURNAL

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CORVAIR CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2003

## A Look Back

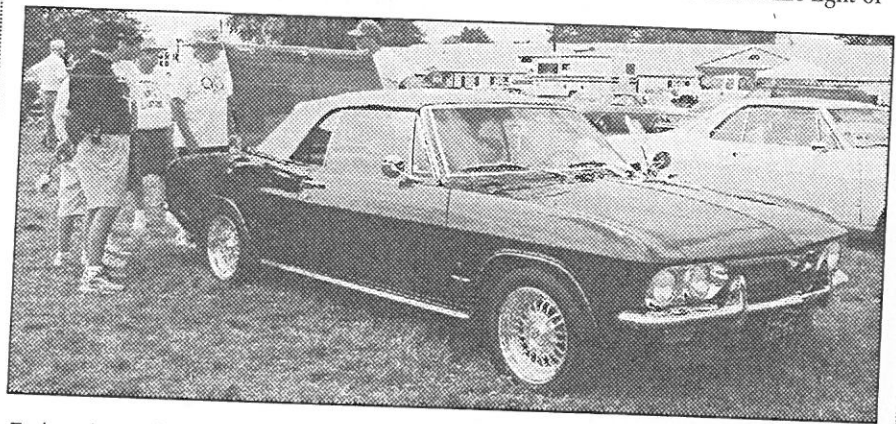
### The 2003 International Corvair Convention in Carlisle

The plan was for us to meet at the Hempfield Service Plaza on Wednesday morning at 8:30. At 7:15 I was checking my single piece of luggage to make certain I hadn't forgotten anything. The Corvair was washed, waxed and looking pretty good, if I say so myself. The skies on the other hand weren't looking so great at that moment. It was 7:25 and I was just passing time because I was ready to leave but I wasn't sure how long it would take to drive out to Hempfield. "If I'm early, so what?, my friend, Earl (Goehring) will probably be arriving early too".

Out in the garage, the Lucas luggage was stowed in the trunk along with the

camera; the snacks were on the front passenger seat (Sarah was not yet home from work but was unable to attend the

the way it did during the last part of the 2002 Brentwood Parade—shutting down when I'd come to a traffic light or



*Truly a beautiful automobile, bar none. Put this car next to anything current and it can hold its own*

convention because of work). The convertible top was up. The air temperature was pleasant, but the sky's to the east looked heavy with rain. No matter, I was on my way to the Corvair Convention.

The heavy overcast appeared to be moving ahead of me, so that when I arrived at the Hempfield Service Plaza, the Corvair's was still dry. I fully expected to see Earl's red '63 coupe among the cars in the parking lot. It was not. Inside McDonald's, I found a window seat and waited for him to show up.

At exactly 8:30 Earl pulled unto the parking lot. "I could have stayed in bed for another half hour", I thought. After a couple of "good mornings" we were on the road in nothing flat. It was a pleasant trip all the way to Carlisle, well, almost. This was my first visit. I was amazed by number of tractor trailers coming and going on every road and in every direction. My Corvair was behaving poorly,

stop sign. With the roar of the truck engines that surrounded me, I didn't know when to shift after restarting the engine and moving forward again because of the truck engine noise. A tachometer would have been helpful.

When we were parked in the Clarion Hotel's parking lot I was relieved and glad to see the trucks from a distance.

See **A LOOK BACK** on page 3



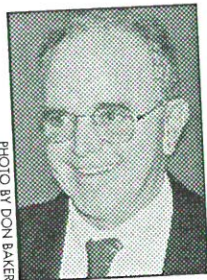
*Yes friends, those are Corvair sneakers. I couldn't believe it either, but the man had his feet in them.*



*Gayle Gundlach keeps the sun out of her eyes as she eyes husband John's beautiful blue '64 convertible.*



## The Prez Sez



Don Cekus

Even though the weather could have been a little more cooperative, this has been a fairly busy year for club events.

I would like to have seen a little more participation by some of our members, but vacations, family matters and medical emergencies seemed to have taken over some of our plans.

If anyone wants to plan a fall foliage trip or other type of fall event, please let us know at our next regular meeting on September 23.

In the next *Vair Street Journal* I will include the Holiday Party menu and directions to the La Villa restaurant on Route 8.

To the next president, I would suggest that we add a meeting or two to next year's calendar. I think this would help to finalize more club events and possibly get more people involved. We can open this issue for discussion at the September meeting.

Respectfully,

Don Cekus

## Thank you!

Thanks to the members of the WPCC for all the good wishes during my recent surgery. The cards and calls made me realize what a special group of people you are, and I know all your prayers and good wishes were a big part of my successful recovery. Thanks, too, for your concern and good wishes regarding Suzanne's recent bout with pneumonia. Goodness, it's been an interesting summer, so far!

Suzanne and I look forward to seeing you all very soon,

Sincerely,

Jim Heatherington

## Minutes of the July 22, 2003 WPCC Member Meeting

### Officers Present:

- President, Don Cekus
- Vice President, Steve Puskas
- Treasurer, Bill Brill;
- Secretary, Pat Greenwald

### Board members present:

- Bill Artzberger
- Emerick Buccigrossi
- Jim Heatherington

The meeting was called to order by President, Don Cekus.

The minutes of the May 27th meeting were accepted as printed in the newsletter. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$3249.08. There are 40 members.

Don welcomed back an old member, John Graf, new member, Don (Chip) Castoldi, and guest Ryan Zeller.

Don, Steve, Al Friend and Tim Desmond reported on the Corsa convention: a very nice week with lots of excellent cars, many vendors, and interesting tours to Gettysburg, Lancaster, and Harley Davidson. In the concourse Al, Don, and John Gundlach received gold

awards and Steve received a bronze award. Steve also placed second in the autocross. It was wonderful to see and spend time with Vaun and Charlotte Hamlin who were up from Florida.

Don reminded everyone of the June 15th date for the 2004 Corsa Convention next year in Kentucky. He also suggested that, due to the number of events, the club should add an additional meeting next summer.

Don asked for a show of hands of those planning to attend the trip to Cambridge Springs event. Departure is at 1:00 pm from King's on Rt. 910.

Don thanked those who participated in the Crafton and Canonsburg parades. The club will probably not be participating any longer in the Brentwood parade.

Don asked Les Walter to pick a jacket from the catalog and bring it to the next meeting. Don also asked if anyone has any ideas for a design for a new club logo.

Steve reported that the Tour-Ed Mine event is set for August 2nd. Those

interested should meet at the mine at 1:00 pm.

Don Baker passed around model Corvairs he got from Corvair Underground.

Don Cekus announced that the holiday party will be at the LaVilla restaurant on Rt. 8 in Gibsonia on Sunday, December 28th.

Don asked Bill Artzberger to look into King Ludwig's Castle for a possible club event in August or September. The trip to the Mountaineer Race Track Car Cruise in Chester, W. Va was very nice and Don would like the club to put this on the calendar again for August 30th. Anyone interested in attending should call Don or Emerick.

Les Walter reminded everyone of the Ogelbay Park Good Zoo Car Show and Swap Meet on August 22, 23, and 24.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Greenwald, secretary



**A LOOK BACK** continued from page 1

I'm not sure if it's just me or if everyone the same experience, but every time I attend a convention I want to see everything immediately. Can't do that of course, so the question is, "what do you look at first"? I start by getting a snippet of the first thing that catches my eye, but then I tear myself away because I know I am missing something around the next corner or in the next room. It goes on like that until I'm settled.

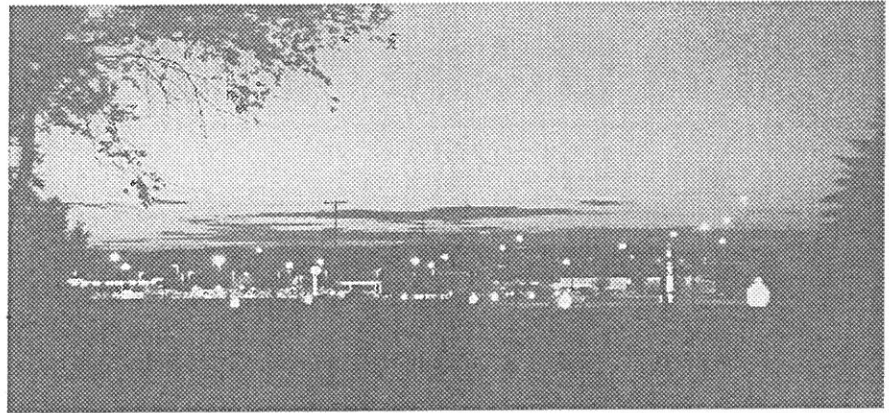
After registering and dropping our bags in our room, Earl and I did what I described above. We eventually ended up outside and met up with Don Cekus who proceeded to tell us of the passing of his mother and that he, Mary Ellen and Willa would be going back to Pittsburgh for the funeral and returning to Carlisle. If that wasn't enough, he told of Suzanne Heatherington having pneumonia. (see "Thank you" p 2) Receiving bad news at a happy event is like some-



*John and Charlotte Sweet, our vendors from Stoneboro, PA, take a "brake" to pose for the WPCC camera*

one knocking the wind out of you—not a whole lot of fun, to be sure.

We talked a while, offered our condolences to Don and then headed in the direction of the concourse.



*The view from the Clarion Hotel shortly after sunset*

It was a great convention even though we didn't stay for banquet. I even managed to come home with some



*Just "hanging out" are Steve Puskas and Don Baker. Note that Don is reading his favorite publication, The Vair Street Journal*

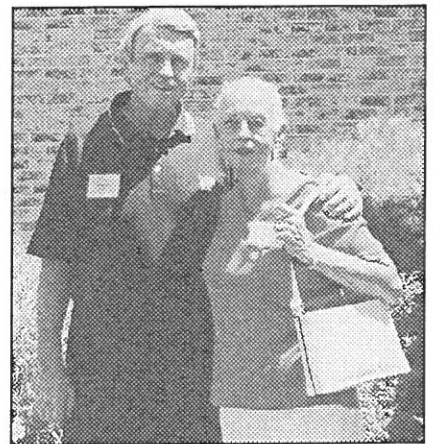
money. The new carpet that I bought should definitely help the Corvair's interior appearance. The loops on the old one are pulling up everywhere. Earl bought some much needed components for the air conditioning unit he plans to replace in his coupe.

One of the best things about Corvair events such as the convention are the opportunities for socializing with Corvair friends, especially at breakfast, lunch and dinner time. It's a great opportunity to relax and enjoy good food and good conversation.

I'd like to add a word of thanks to Steve Puskas for solving the stalling problem that I was having with my car. The rear most edge of my engine was missing the rubber seals that keep heat from working its way up into the engine

compartment. Also the boxes that house the thermostats were not sealed as they are suppose to be for summer use. Thanks Steve!

Even though he was not able to bring his beloved Corvair, it was great to



*Vaun and Charlotte Hamlin, members from that southern state of Florida smile for the WPCC camera*

see Vaun Hamlin and his lovely wife Charlotte, who made the trip from Florida to be with us in Carlisle. It was wonderful to see them again.

That pretty much sums it up for me. But I have to say that if I'm not terribly busy at work, and my mind wanders a bit, thoughts go back to Carlisle, the Corvair Convention and how much I'd rather be there. I hope to see *you* in Lexington, KY, next June.



# The Crafton Parade

BY BOB HIEBER

On a warm summer evening, June 30, members of the WPCC gathered for the annual Crafton Days Parade. Don Cekus had 2 cars, one driven by his friend Justin Toia, Pat Greenwald with her early red convertible, and Bob Hieber with his '66. The parade started on schedule as usual and the crowd seemed to

look forward to the Corvairs on parade.

After an enjoyable tour of the parade route we all went to Kings Restaurant on Route 60 for some good, local, healthy desserts. Yeah right! We departed Kings well filled and went our separate ways still taking in the first taste of summer.

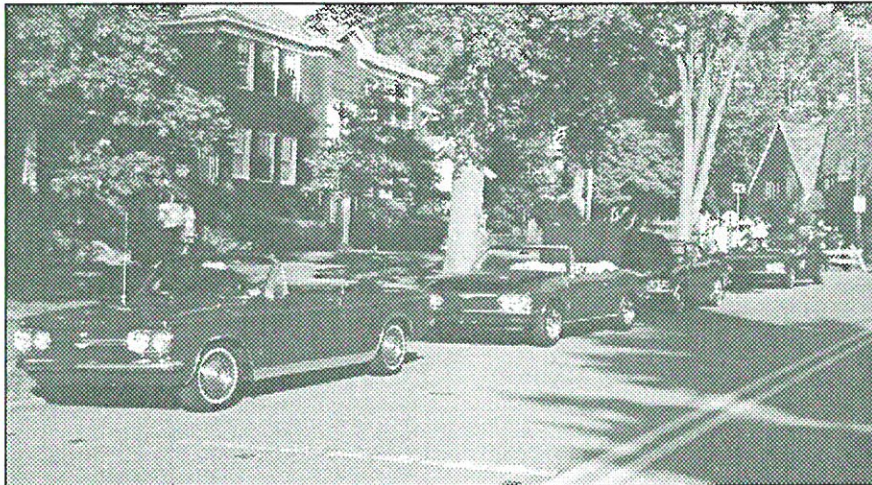


PHOTO BY BOB HIEBER

*The Corvairs await the start of the Crafton Parade. First is Pat Greenwald's red '64 convertible, backed up by Don Cekus' two cars, a late convertible and a late coupe. Bob Hieber's late coupe rounds out the Corvair line-up.*

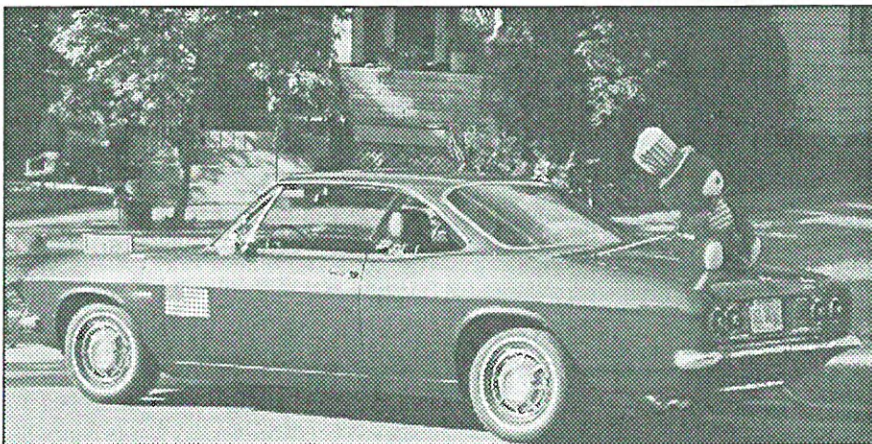


PHOTO BY BOB HIEBER

*Last though it might have been, Bob Hieber's Corvair certainly stood out.*

# Tour-Ed Mine

## underground exhibit

BY BOB HIEBER

Saturday August 2 opened as most days this summer, rain and threats of rain. Even with the threat of bad weather WPCC turned out 5 Corvairs for the event. The sun managed to show its face for a few seconds. Don Cekus had his new red '65 convertible, Pat Greenwald drove her new '65 Corsa coupe, Steve Puskas brought his '66 convertible, Bob Hieber had his red '66 coupe and we were glad to see Roger and Cheryl Hughes with their Aztec bronze '66 convertible.

The tour was a real education into how the miners lived and worked in the early years. It is hard to believe the hardships both the miners and their families endured to supply us with the prime source of energy for all our needs.

The trip into the mine while riding the actual cars used by the miners left no doubt that the miners were a breed of their own. When we exited the shaft, comments were heard about not understanding how anyone could possibly spend a whole day working in those conditions.

When we finished viewing the exhibits above ground, the group departed for Nick's Casablanca, a restaurant specializing in Italian cooking. Upon arrival, there was some confusion, as the owner had failed to inform the staff to expect the Corvair people. To their credit the manager made the necessary arrangements and we got a private room as promised, and enjoyed an excellent and reasonably priced meal.



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CORVAIR CLUB  
**HERSHEY BUS TRIP**



- Departs from the Allegheny County Airport at 2:00 A.M. Saturday, October 11, 2003.
- Arrives at Hershey, PA at approximately 6:30 A.M. Saturday Morning
- Departs from Hershey at 5:00 P.M. Saturday Evening
- Returns to Allegheny County Airport at approximately 11:30 P.M.
- The bus seating is limited to 48 persons and is rest room equipped
- Cost \$30.00 per person
- The bus will stop for Breakfast and Dinner (not included in price)

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# VAIR STREET JOURNAL

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CORVAIR CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2003

Next Meeting

*September 23, 2003*

King's Restaurant • Route 910, off I-79 at Exit 73 (old exit 22)  
 Dinner at 6:30 p.m. • Meeting at 8:00 p.m.



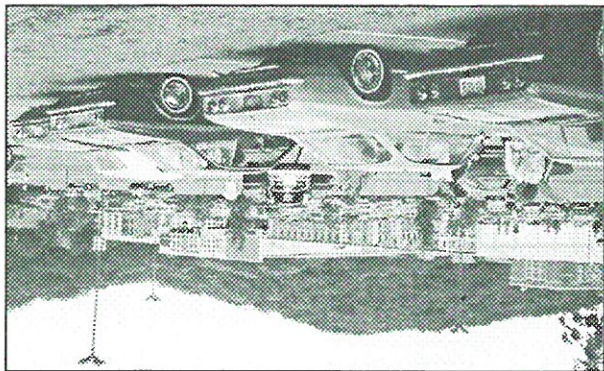
*Never forget 09-11-01*



158  
 Western Pennsylvania Corvair Club  
 236 W. Marigold Street  
 Munhall, PA 15120

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Corvairs at Mountaineer Race Track.  
 Owners are: Bob Hieber, Emerick Buccigrossi,  
 Pat Greenwald and Don Cekus.