

FEBRUARY 1986

THE CHECKERBOARD NEWS

CARS FOR SALE

'82 (June) 4-Dr., Original Owner, Propane, Jump Seats, AM-FM-Radio-Cassette/Rear Speakers, 26,000 miles, E.C. \$11,000; Ray E. Denison, 150 Francis Dr., Battle Creek, Mi. 49015 (616) 964-4566 (after 5:30pm)

'82 4-Dr. V-6, A.T., 28,000 Original Miles, Ready to Go, Last year made, Excellent, \$4500.00. (212) 881-0254 (Evenings)

'81 "Limo", Jump Seats, A.C., Tinted Glass, P.S., P.B., Dark Blue-Black Vinyl Top, 75,000 Miles, G.C., \$8500.00; Daniel Dawson, 3130 Dublin Rd., Columbus, Oh. 43220 (614) 771-1481

'79 N.Y. City Cab, Jump Seats & meter-6 Cyl., needs Trans. & Title, Make the kids happy for \$1200.00 (914) 241-1466 NY.

'78 4-Dr. V/8 Eng.-98,000 Miles, E.C. (little rust) Light-Gray, New Brakes, Mary Conner, 118 Armsby Rd., Sutton, Ma., 01527 (800) 343-6134 (ask for Jack Conner Jr.)

'76 "Limo" P.C., "Loaded", "Seeing is believing", \$21,000.00. (919) 846-0508, Raleigh, N.C.

'71 Aero-Bus, 8 Pass. Dr., Tailgate Style (wagon) Silver/Blue, E.C. (perfect for group trips or large family) \$5000.00/B.O. (pictures on request) Mr. Lawrence J. James, 4532 NW. Inverness St., Bremerton, Wa. 98312 (206) 698-0661

'78 "Limo" V/8-90,000 'tender lovin' care miles, New Trans., New Brakes, (front) Rebuilt front end, Body completely redone & new Paint Job, Vinyl Roof, \$10,000.00 (negotiable) Miriam D.-Roemischer, 141 Bellair Drive, Dobbs Ferry, NY. 10522 (914) 693-1576

'80 A-11, '70 A-12 (never a taxi) V/8, A.T., Jump Seats; James P. Briggs, 214 N. Galveston St. Arlington, Va. 22203-3354

'69 4-Dr. 67, 129 original Miles, never driven in the winter, previously owned by Eric Darling of the "Roof Top" singers popular in the '60's & '70's in N.Y. City. Present owner will deliver to any place in USA. Pictures on request (contact me, Don. McHenry for pictures (6) six) Jim Phillips Foreign Auto, 111 Lafayette Ave., Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424 (716) 394-0190 (work) & (716) 394-1856 (home)

'68 A-12E Custom "Limo" Good Paint, Reclining seats, A.C., AM-FM.-Vinyl Top. (retiring, have two, need only one) \$5,000 (313) 646-7322

'67 4-Dr. V/8-283 Cu. In. A.T., New: Valves (rebuilt Hd.) Carb, Fuel-Pump, Radiator, Muffler & Brakes. White/Michlin Tires, A-12 Model 161,000 M.; D. Tong, P.O. Box #881332, San Diego, Ca. 92108-0027, asking \$3500.00 (619) 260-8538

'66 Wagon, V/8, \$900, G.R. Thomas, P.O. B-586, Stillwater, Ok. 74076 (405) 1372-8720

CARS & PARTS WANTED

'80-'82 Late low Mileage Diesel; Gary Miller, 1337 44th St., Kenosha, Wi. 53140 (414) 652-0750

'74 Wagon (Good Cond.) & "A-8" MODEL, SHOP & PARTS MANUALS; Ben. H. Merkel, Berkshire Rd., Gates Mills, Oh. 44040 (216) 423-3822

Used CHECKER in or around this area: Matilda E. Kraus, 8829 Ft.-Hamilton Pky., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11209

4-Dr./Jump Seats; Lynn Pelletier; 721 Portland A., #2 Saint Paul, Mn 55104

Pre-73 Bumper; B. Hinkley, Box 14, Newark, NY. 14513

Dr. Lks. '64 4-Dr. P. Hill, P.O. Box 6915, San Francisco, Ca. 94101-6915

'69 Bumper, Nick Dardone, 19 Wellington Court, Brooklyn, NY. 11230

(OVER)

Parts Source

Mrs. Helen Alexander, Cab Service-Parts-Corp. 1157 Monroe St., Chicago, Il. 60607 (312) 421-1121-Main Warehouse (new Parts)

Tri-Us Auto Parts, 32-76 47 St. Astoria, NY. 11103, (718) 728-9444,

(Rebuilding) Checker Southeast Corp, 350 SE. 9th St. Pompano Beach, Fl. (305) 941-8766-Marv. Winkoff, Pres.

(Restoring & etc.) Loyal Diagnostic Cr., 28 Cotton Ave., Brooklyn, NY. 11218, (718) 438-4019 Ask for "STEVE"

(Parts Advice-Interchange-Spec's, Send S.A.S.E.) Mr. Paul Willer, 3290 Hartman Rd., Sodus, Mi. 49126

New Service: 1/24th Scale Model "Checkers" \$35.00, completely, finished model of a "GENUINE" "CHECKER" "CAB" (yellow)--or--, finished to your 'liking' to match your present paint job. (your personal checker) (might take a little longer but well worth it!!!) The member taking on this 'huge' task is none other than our "Chief Designer" Mr. G. Richard Thomas, P.O. Box-586 Stillwater, Ok. 74076 (405) 372-8720

Authentic Photographs of Checkers from 1922-1973 will be available about the middle or end of 3/86. For more information contact: Ben. Merkel, Berkshire Rd, Gates Mills, Oh. 44040 (216) 423-3822

Taxi Literature

For Sale/Trade (for police car literature) Dodge: '65, '71, '72, '79, '82; Ford: '80, '81, '82, '84; Ply: '79, '82 (2) All E.C., \$2.00 (all/\$20.00 Postpaid, Also 2-8 page photo-copies of '54 Fd. Taxi Cat. \$1.00 Ea. Wanted: To trade or what have you '60 Cker. Lit. & Photos for police car literature (have 8-page '60 chec. Superba Cat.); Early/Late Chec. Stationary (letterhead, Bus. Cards, Env.) to buy/trade, Ken. B. Richmond, 7315 S. Hosmer ST. Apt. 203 Tacoma, Wa. 98408-1217

Publicity Column

"ATTENTION CALIFORNIA MEMBERS" Checker Party on April 26, 1986 at Mrs. David Rhinehart Bassett (Kathryn) 1080 N. Holliston, Pasadena, Ca. 91104 (818) 794-7973 (vintage dress optional) (also bring your "Family Tree", any member visiting, also stop) Membership Dues... All new members from this Feb. on are being issued membership cards. This will inform club members how they stand in relationship to the Annual \$5.00 Dues. Some club members are ahead, some a little behind. I'm going to set up a little 'code' system. When you get your present 'Newsletter', there will be a "RED X" for members that will be due by the April newsletter (some a couple of weeks into May) together with the date recorded when you paid your Dues last. Now some people I've notified two, three & four times, "NO MORE AFTER THE SECOND NOTICE" (this means a "RED XX" (two x's) means no more 'newsletters' after that. I'm going to coincide next Jan. '87 "The Checkerboard News" to start the year off with \$5.00 Dues at the same time. (most car clubs do this so keeping the dues accounts up to date doesn't cause any problems so no club member feels 'slighted') The next 'newsletter' will be in April, then July, then Oct, & then Jan. (before it was Feb., May, Aug., & Nov.)

SPRING CARLISLE '86: I'll be at space #IC-49 (infield, same place I was in spring '85, infield is flat, no more race track) 4/17-20)

ANNUAL DUES \$5.00, Next "CHECKERBOARD NEWS" in April '86. "ON THE ROAD AGAIN": DON. E. MCHENRY, 469 TREMAINE AVE. KENMORE, NY. 14217 (716) 877-3358 about 380 Members-Belt Buckles, \$8.00 Incl. Post.

Articles keep coming in & also 'Biography Experiences'. I'm trying to THANK all of you individually, sometimes 'I miss' but "THANKS AGAIN"!!!

Dear Don,

I believe in Checkers. I'm a rural mail carrier for the post office. I bought my first Checker in '69 with a 4-cyl perkins diesel engine. Good road engine but starting and stopping on a rural mail route was hard on the engine and it didn't hold up too well. Rebuilt the engine at 70,000 miles and was completely worn out at 160,000 miles. Installed a 235 cu.in. but never could get it lined up so I junked it. I bought a used '70 with 70,000 miles and put 320,000 miles on it. Bought a new short block 250 cu.in. and drove that 180,000 miles. Bought a new '74 Checker with 350 cu.in. V/8 (only one available because of a previous strike). Put 75,000 miles on that '74 and sold it to my brother in Wash.DC. who had the body restored while he was working overseas. He had just driven from West back to Wash DC. The "350" used too much gas for a rural route car. I bought a '77 (250 cu.in. 6-cyl.) and put 192,000 on that. Sold it to a rural carrier in Victoria, Tx. and he is still driving it. I bought a '78 used and put 40,000 miles on it as a family car. It had a 283 cu.in. V/8. I sold it to an artist in Huston to carry her paintings in.

I bought an '82 in 4/'82(229-V/6) and have used it as a family car, has 63,000 miles on it. My last 'Big-Three was a '67 Ford (only 6,000 miles on front brakes and 9,000 miles on rear. On Checkers I get 50,000 miles in front and 35,000 in the rear. since they went to disc on the front, before I was getting about 55,000 miles (rear) and over 50,000 miles (front).

We have another carrier who drives an '82 on her route who had some 'problems'. Charlie Needham said her husband 'tinkers' with it too much, was the problem. Charlie Needham has become a very close friend of my whole family. If one of my children go to Fort Worth, Tx. they always stopped to see him. He did not treat you as a car dealer but treated you as a friend.

We have so much fun on our trips with our Checker, as you can tell I believe in Checkers. I hope these two hold up until I can retire. I have about two years before I'm eligible to retire. I had a letter with my '82 LP. stating it was one of the last ten to come off the line before it closed. I wish I could have preserved this last Checker but I needed it to run the route.

I have a '70 in my pasture that has some parts on it but the body has rusted badly. We are on the Gulf coast south of Houston, Tx. and that salt climate is hard on car bodys. My daughter asked me last week why I didn't get rid of that old car but it's never been wrecked and the bumpers are perfect.

Until next time, James K. Cammack  
Brazorie, Texas

12/4/'85

Dear Mr. McHenry,

Thank you for including me as a member of the "Greatest Car Club in America". Enclosed is a check for \$5.00 annual dues for The Checker Car Club of America.

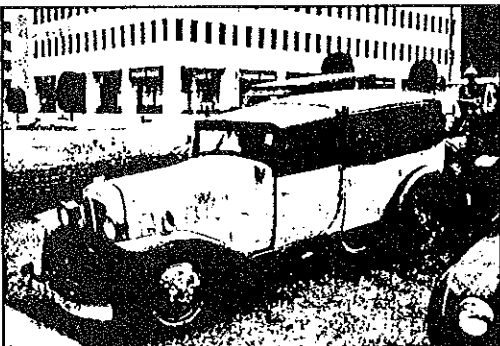
From your Newsletter, it seems Checker Car owners all wax nostalgic in remembering their first "encounter" with a Checker I can tell you that I certainly feel that way.

My first meeting with a Checker occurred in Aug. 1978 when I arrived in N.Y. City, Manhattan, a city for which I also have an on-going love affair with. I hopped into a cab from JFK Airport a cab that at the time was the largest automobile I had ever been in. I was on my way to begin med school, and as we whizzed along the Long Island Expressway, over numerous bridges, through Harlem, I was totally mesmerized both by The City and this Checker cab. The sheer spaciousness of the Checker interior was a delight and seemed madness during those energy-conscious times. The fare was nearly \$30.00, but frankly I thought they would charge me extra for the space that I did not use in that cab.

As I explored the Big Apple, I soon realized the whole City was filled with Checker Cabs, usually of the Yellow Cab Co. variety. It was like a Disneyland this NYC. At present I'm the proud owner of a '67 4-Dr. Checker Marathon, which I,m slowly restoring.

Thank you for your time and you may print the above "confession" if you wish.

Yours sincerely, Dominic J.F. Tong MD.  
San Diego, Ca.



This rare 1931 Checker taxi once carried Carole Lombard in the 1934 film, *Twentieth Century*. Needing some TLC, it sold for \$5,600.

CAR COLLECTOR

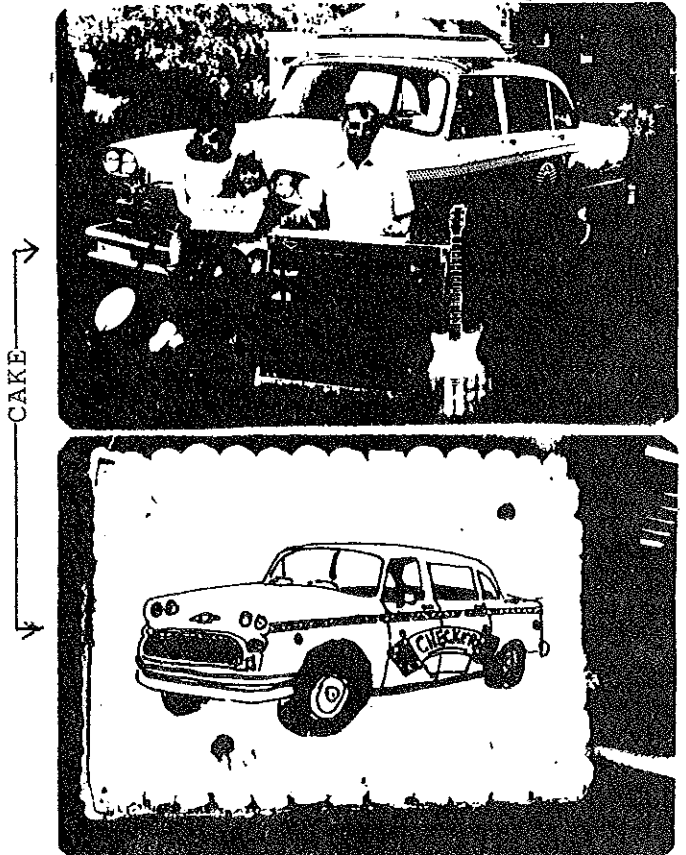
December, 1985

If you were looking for a taxi, this was the place to be. In addition to a Checker, two Yellows, two Austins, a Lanchester and a Fiat built originally as cabs, at least a half-dozen others had been fitted out as taxis. This group included a rare 1929 Stearns-Knight 8 sedan that Jim Brucker recalled as being, "One of the most reliable cars we had." It sold for \$4800, certainly a reasonable price for this seldom-seen Classic. My favorite was the 1931 Checker, which had a lot of flamboyant styling touches — quite different from the drab cabs the firm produced in their final years. If nicely restored, this Checker could easily be the star of a collector car show. The new owner, who paid \$5600, probably has one of the few, if not the only, Checker Cabs of this vintage in existence.

Dear Don,

I thought you might like these pictures. I had a three way family party. First was farewell to my daughter and her family going back to Ca. Second was my sisters birthday. Third was honoring the restoration of my '77 Checker Cab. Automobiles and Music have been my lifes work for 56 years I got my start when I was eight years old. and learned the guitar when I was fourteen years old.

Yours truly,  
Joe Naccarato  
Hurley, N.Y.



Queen City Cab, 9/11/'85

Dear Don,

Please send Aug. newsletter with Logoes so I can vote too. I'm a drummer, classic motorcycle collector and also operate three Checker Cabs(2)'78 & (1)'81. Seven of my sixteen years of driving cab have been driven with Checker I'm happy to say. My cabs have been called the best in the state, always clean with a careful driver. Checker has made cab driving fun.

See You Later: Rich, Richard Petkovits  
Seattle, Wash.

The final curtain rings down on almost 60 years of motion picture car rental as the Pacific Auto Rental and Movie-world fleets are sold at Auction.

by Bill Snyder

4-inch 'colored' "CHECKER CAR CLUB OF AMERICA" 'Patches now available, \$2.50 each, (including postage) also "TIE TACKS": 70¢ each (incl. postage)

The Checker Car Club of America was organized in May 1983 for the Preservation, enjoyment and exchange of information on Checker automobiles from 1922-1982, (ceased production). Ownership is not a prerequisite of membership. A quarterly Newsletter is sent out.

" WELCOME ABOARD "

Don. E. McHenry