

**CHECKER CAR
CLUB OF AMERICA
CHECKERBOARD
NEWS
April 1995**



From the Editor...



**Steven D. Wilson
Editor & President**

Welcome to the annual Roster Issue. A huge amount of time and effort is put into the preparation of this roster. So many names and addresses - - - so little space. A big thanks to you Roy Dickinson, our Chairman of Membership and Ads.

At long last, your editor has completed the cataloging of my library of manuals. I do not have all years covered by any means, but I am surprised at what is there. Just completed is the reprinting of a service manual and supplement (described elsewhere on this page). Eventually, we will pursue reprinting of other manuals, if sufficient interest is shown.

Urgently needed for my library are the following:

- (1.) **Shop Service Manual**
A-11, A-11E, A-12, A-12E
Starting Nov. 1977
Serial No. 80000
- (2.) **Supplement for above**
Starting Nov. 1978
Serial No. 90000

Does anyone have them? Please contact me.

The following members have shared their listing files with me and have been of great assistance. **Russell Ottens, Ben Perlin, Bruce Uhrich, Terry Vaught and Rod Walton.** I get a tremendous amount of inquiries for data on Checkers and make a major effort to help, but WHEW! Also, many inquiries regarding the value of prized Checker. There are persons who make a business of appraisals; however, not me. I suggest they check major old car publications such as *Old Cars Weekly* or *Hemmings* for appraisers.

A CHECKER OWNER IS NEVER ALONE; unless He/She has not paid their dues.

Now Available



Shop Service Manual Reprint

Models A-11, A-11L, A-12, A-12L, A-12W
1962 - 1964 with Continental Engines
\$15 plus \$5 shipping and handling (via Priority Mail)
Please use order number: SW-1

Shop Service Manual Supplement

Models A-11, A-11E, A-12, A-12E, A-12W;
also, A-12W6M, A12W8M
1964 - 1968 with Chevrolet Engines
\$9 plus \$5 shipping and handling (via Priority Mail)
Please use order number: SW-2
This supplement does not include carry-over data from Manual #SW1.

Both Manuals for \$30, including Priority Mail and handling.

**Early CHECKERBOARD
News Discovered**

My heartfelt thanks to **Erich Anderson** and **Lowell Teisberg** for supplying me with early newsletters by **Don McHenry**. The earliest letter is dated May 26, 1983, and likely is the first document. Does anyone out there have anything earlier? I doubt it. These issues contain a treasure trove of information including the origin of the club logo.

Mr. Anderson bought his first Checker in 1967 after retiring from an assignment in Venezuela and has been an active member and of great help to Don McHenry and your current president.

Mr. Teisberg sold new Checkers from 1965 through the early 1970's and visited the factory during that time.

Both Messrs. Anderson and Teisberg showed up in the 1984 roster and are still there to this day.

**Checker - Alive and Well in the
Zoo, Kalamazoo, that is!**

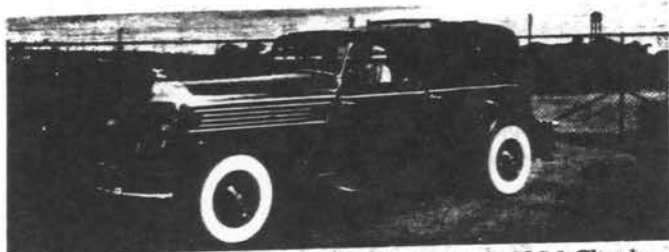
Often, I hear that Checker went bankrupt in 1982. Absolutely not so! After building the world's best taxicab and specialty cars for 60 years, the company shifted gears and became a major supplier to the auto industry. Making such parts as doors, fenders, tailgates, and frames.

Checker also acquired a major trailer manufacturer by the name of Great Dane, watch for the name as you pass semi's on the road.

The original factory is now known as CMC Kalamazoo Inc., a Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of Checker Motors Corp. Alas, no Checkers though.

ONE OF THE GOOD OLD BOYS COMES HOME!

by Rod Walton



In August, we were fortunate to obtain a 1936 Checker, which, to our knowledge, is the only one in existence. Steve Wilson was contacted by a Mr. F. W. Roe from Bay City, Texas, approximately six years ago. At that time, he was in the process of restoring the Model M, trying to get it back to it's original specifications. Many phone calls later and after the car was nearing completion, Mr. Roe asked Steve if we would be interested in purchasing the vehicle. We really didn't have much interest until the Checker line went down and decided it would be nice to have the car for our "museum" (old showroom).

From the information that was available to Mr. Roe, the Model M was originally used in Chicago as a cab and eventually ended up in Miliona, Minnesota. Mr. Roe bought the cab from a Mr. Edward Suckow in 1964 in Miliona. Mr. Suckow had originally bought three of the Model M's. He turned one into a pick-up. Later the pick-up and the third Model M were sold for scrap metal, leaving our 1936 Checker the only one left in existence.

We should all feel fortunate to have a bit of our company's history back with us. If it wasn't for a phone call six years ago, and Steve Wilson's perseverance, our collection of Checkers would be lacking a valuable asset.

REBA McENTIRE - CHECKER FAN

The following letter was received from member Sam H. Zealy:

Dear Steven: Two weeks ago in my Checker Marathon, I took my daughter to the touring concert presented by the Country Music Headliner Reba McIntire and her entourage. After a couple of opening acts, the Greensboro Coliseum stage lit up with two huge monitors on either side with a music video of Reba being driven through the countryside in the back seat of a grey Checker Cab! The sellout crowd of 18,000 cheered and for the next 90 seconds we were watching this video and waiting for her to appear in person.

Then, two bright auto headlights flashed on the stage, and a grey Checker (it actually looked like a shrunk-down sized Checker) motored onto the stage. It stopped and then she exited the back seat, and the celebrated car then rounded the stage and drove off.

How exciting an entrance this was and all the friends around us were cheering me on. My grey '67 Marathon with checkered decals on the roof and was parked outside that night. My old faithful Checker and I fantasized about being this singer's cab and driver.

Sincerely, Sam H. Zealy, Greensboro, North Carolina

CHECKER'S IN THE MOVIES

	Year
Batteries Not Included	'87
Big Man On Campus	'92
Blue Collar	'78
Broadcast News	'87
Carlito's Way	'93
Cemetary Club	'92
Coneheads	'93
Continental Divide	'81
Crossing The Bridge	'93
D. C. Cab	'83
Desperately Seeking Susan	'97
Forrest Gump	'94
FX-2	'92
Ghost Dad	'90
Ghostbusters	'84
Ghostbusters II	'89
Hat Full Of Rain	'57
Home Alone II	'93
Last Action Hero	'93
Leaving Normal	'92
Moscow On The Hudson	'84
Mr. Destiny	'92
Mr. Mom	'84
My Father The Hero	'93
My Own Private Idaho	'92
Out Of Towners	'70
Prince Of Tides	'91
Romancing The Stone	'89
Scrooged	'88
Sleepless In Seattle	'93
Super Mario Brothers	'92
Tales Of The City (PBS)	'93
Taxi Driver	'70
Teenage Mutant Turtles III	'93
The In-Laws	'79
The Jazz Singer	'80
The Mask	'94
The Turning Point	'77
Tootsie	'82
Whispers In The Dark	'92

Courtesy of Bruce Uhrich

STATION WAGON PROD

Cal Yr	Built
1959-65	N.A.
1966	521
1967	413
1968	408
1969	286
1970	108
1971	132
1972	150
1973	177
1974	023*
1975	000

*Last-Chassis #45222

It Was LOVE

95 ROSTER

at First Sight

by Stephanie Jeremiab

The following is a poem I wrote because I felt bad for my Checker at car shows...she's still "in progress!"

I may not be a muscle car
Built for speed and power,
Or have the popularity of
A Mustang or Impala.

"Built to last" is my middle name
And that I sure can do,
The last of us rolled off the line
In nineteen eighty-two.

Though I'm not so glamorous
And luxury I do without,
I'm sturdy and dependable
And loved a lot, no doubt!

The Jeremiah's rescued me
Back at the end of May,
They've got me running smoothly,
And bodywork's on the way.

So please excuse my rough spots,
I know I've got a ways to go,
And admire me for what I am
'Cause one day I'll steal the show!

NEWS FROM GREAT BRITAIN

Alan Pritchard is doing great things with his '81 New York Taxi. Colin Peck has prepared & mailed issue No. 7 of his newsletters; a great feat when you consider the limited amount of Checkers in Europe. Good job, Colin.

COMING NEXT ISSUE -

Wheelcovers and the various designs are a topic that Bruce Uhrich has researched.

REMEMBER: Our FaxNumber is
(602)933-5022.

Late Additions

Steve's Hodge-Podge

Did you know... We have the 1994 World Trivia Champion as a member? Vintage Motorsport Magazine awarded Sean Vagle of California the honor. He asks, "Wasn't somebody running a Checker in NASCAR races during the early 60's? Anyone know?"

The passenger style instrument panel was dropped during Model Year 1971.

Power steering was standard equipment on all Checkers starting in 1974.

Power brakes were standard by 1971 and were front disc type.

Member Norman Zunker has an outstanding museum in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, with forty restored cars including a 14,000 mile 1963 Checker.

A 1929 Model K Checker has been added to the car collection of Stan Smith of Boalsburg, Pennsylvania. I hope he has a picture for the July issue.

The double-ended Checker pictured in the January issue got broadsided and was parted out in 1990, according to Paul Jasiewicz of Virginia.

Nice to hear from G. Richard Thomas, who signed up a new member with a 1941 series A-1. Mr. A. J. Baudendistel of Windsor, New York.

Our good friend and founder, Don McHenry, tells me that the Tenth Annual Checker Car Show at Das Awkscht is on schedule for August 4-5-6. Contact Don for details.

Question from Gary Spaulding... Will a 1981 V-6 engine fit into a 1978? Contact him at P.O. Box 196, Levant, ME 04556-0196, Phone: 207-884-8330

note
2/2/Jan 95



PETER YANELLO'S BEAUT IN N.Y.

CHECKER MEET - BIG APPLE CHAPTER

Sun, May 7, 1995. Liberty State Park,
N. J. Call Mike Angelich (516)673-0496