

## News Release



### "Tommy and "Peg" at the Studebaker Drivers Club International Meet

#### What IS the Studebaker Drivers Club?

The Studebaker Drivers Club (SDC) honors the Studebaker automobile and all of the Studebaker-related products. SDC sponsors an annual International Meet where Studebaker owners from across North America bring their Studebakers and families for a week of events, displaying their vehicles, sharing information and memories, and participation in concours judging.

The International Meet is the annual showplace for our club each year. The International Meets are hosted by a local SDC chapter and held in various locations. In addition, the SDC is organized into several zones, each zone having an annual Zone Meet that attracts Studebakers from across their area and beyond.

Across the US, Canada, and around the world, SDC has more than 10,000 members and over 100 chartered SDC local chapters. Membership in the Studebaker Drivers

Club is a prerequisite for joining a local chapter. Most SDC members are also members of at least one local chapter.

*You don't have to own a Studebaker in order to join the Studebaker Drivers Club, you just have to have an interest in them. Of course, if you own a Studebaker vehicle, whether factory stock or modified, you'll really benefit from an SDC membership, not the least of which is a subscription to our award-winning monthly magazine, Turning Wheels.*

### **Who are Peg and Tommy?**

In 1908, the federal government ordered two custom-built battery powered coaches which were subsequently delivered to Washington, DC in 1909. These two vehicles were used in the Capitol to transport U.S. Senators and Representatives in the 760-foot underground tunnel connecting the Russell Senate Office Building with the Capitol. Our goal is to enhance the International Meet this year by "bringing-together" two "very-special" Studebaker vehicles for the first time in 80 years.

### **Why we are doing this:**

The Keystone Region Chapter of SDC is leading the effort to coordinate SDC's International Meet Committee, Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, The Studebaker National Museum in South Bend, Indiana, and the William E Swigart Jr Museum in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania to bring these two historical vehicles together for the first time since their separation in 1939.

In 1912, they were placed in storage and subsequently sold at auction in 1939. *Peg* currently resides at the *Studebaker National Museum* in South Bend, Indiana, and *Tommy* is currently part of the *William E Swigart, Jr. Automobile Museum* in Huntingdon, PA.

### **What has happened thus far?**

**Tommy has been** restored by students of the **Automotive Restoration Technology** curriculum at **Pennsylvania College of Technology**, and was subsequently, recognized with an award at Florida's prestigious **Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance** in 2018 - the first student project ever judged at the renowned show. **Tommy** is now on temporary loan to the **AACA Museum** (Hershey, PA) for the "**Studebaker Cool**" exhibit there where over 50 Studebakers are on display through October 12, 2019. **Keystone Region Chapter** of the **Studebaker Drivers Club** has been instrumental in placing many of its chapter members 'Studebakers in this exhibit, along with **Tommy**, in its restored condition.

Because of the "electric" connotation it represents, having **Peg** and **Tommy** together at the same location presents a unique opportunity to prove electric cars are a wave of the future. Our intent is to have a current electric vehicle present on the grounds to represent the current technology used in electric vehicles.

**Peg** is currently in an unrestored state at the **Studebaker National Museum** in South Bend, IN. We have been successful in negotiating with the Board of Directors and Executive Director of the Museum, **Pat Slebonick** to bring **Peg** to **Mansfield** in September for the **55<sup>th</sup> International Meet**, sponsored by the **Heart of Ohio Chapter**, where it will be part of an historic reunion. The **Swigart Museum** has teamed with **Pennsylvania College of Technology** to transport **Tommy** to **Mansfield**. We are appreciative of their willingness to assist us in bringing together these two historic vehicles for the first time in nearly 80 years.

### **Our Audience for this:**

Our intended audiences are the registered members of the **Studebaker Drivers Club** attending the **55<sup>th</sup> International Meet** in **Mansfield**, but, along with this, we want to expose the general population of the Ohio area to these two vehicles. Our promotion of **Peg** and **Tommy** at the meet, along with the related media attention will bring potential new members to the **Studebaker Drivers Club**, and a new focus on the **Studebaker National Museum**. Students of **Pennsylvania College of Technology** who worked on **Tommy** to get it running for the first time in 25 years and were at **Amelia Island, Florida** to help accept the award will be in **Mansfield**. The **Heart of Ohio Chapter** of **SDC**, in cooperation with **Keystone Region Chapter** of the **Studebaker Drivers Club**, **Pennsylvania College of Technology**, the **Swigart Museum**, and the **Studebaker National Museum** have worked to

bring these two important vehicles, **Tommy** and **Peg**, together at this historic meet. The enthusiastic students of the **Automotive Restoration Technology** curriculum at **Pennsylvania College of Technology** will be at the meet to present an overview of the restoration process that was used with **Tommy**. The Penn College students responsible for the restoration of **Tommy** have documented the process of restoration of the vehicle and they are VERY interested in attending the meet and demonstrating the capabilities of the **Automotive Restoration Technology** curriculum at Penn College. A PowerPoint demonstration of the technology used to recreate "impossible to find" pieces of this vehicle will amaze the onlookers. It should be noted that the Keystone Region Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club is the sponsor of a scholarship fund named "**Studebaker Drivers Club Keystone Region Scholarship**" to provide funds for needy students in this curriculum. We believe in this curriculum and in training future restoration technicians.

### **Our Goal:**

Is to bring **Peg** and **Tommy** to the 55<sup>th</sup> International Meet in Mansfield, OH this summer to:

1. Showcase these two historic Studebaker vehicles;
2. Create interest in Penn College's **Automotive Restoration Technology** Program by showing the capabilities of the curriculum, along with the work accomplished by the students in the program;
3. Boost interest in people attending the Studebaker National Museum in South Bend this summer and in the future;
4. Show, in very real terms, just how the technology used then is still very much with us. As we know, Studebaker, in addition to building wagons until the early 1900's, was very much capable of not only producing horse and gasoline-propelled vehicles, but also electrically propelled vehicles;
5. Show a comparison of current electric vehicle design in the early 1900's and how it matters now.

We anticipate having **Peg** and **Tommy** at the International Meet from Thursday morning, September 12 until Saturday afternoon, September 14, following the presentation of trophies at the Saturday Car Show. **Secure storage of the**

buggies during the International Meet will be provided in a safe, temperature-controlled environment, with access to the vehicles ONLY during the times the building is open. Because the International Meet this year is closed to the public until Saturday morning, we anticipate a large contingent of viewers during Saturday when the meet is open to the public.

Denny Foust, for SDC's International Meet Committee