



BUMPER TO BUMPER

Marques Gone By *Duryea*



The first Duryea, built in 1893, on display at the Smithsonian

We probably have all seen the AACCA logo with the Duryea on it. Most probably know it is there because it may be the first American automobile but, what do we know beyond that?

Charles Edgar Duryea was born December 15, 1861 at Canton, Illinois and died September 28,

1938 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. James Frank Duryea was born October 8, 1869 at Washburn, Illinois and died February 15, 1967 at Saybrook, Connecticut.

Charles had been in the bicycle business and had a talent as an inventor. At the 1886 Ohio state fair, he saw a gasoline engine

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November 23rd, 2013 Meeting

The May meeting will be at Sagebrush Steakhouse; 1505 E Dixie Drive, Asheboro, NC; 5:00 PM.



We will be voting for next year's officers, please mail your ballot to arrive by Friday, November 22 or bring the ballot with you to the meeting.



ZOOLAND REGION OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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that, seemed to him, to be sufficiently compact to power a carriage or wagon. By 1891 he had completed a design, and with his brother, Frank, he then constructed a car and engine in a rented loft at Springfield, Massachusetts. The car made a successful run in the streets of Springfield on September 22, 1893. The vehicle had a one-cylinder, gasoline engine and a three-speed transmission mounted on a used horse carriage. It had a top speed of 7.5 mph. In later years a controversy marred relations between the brothers; Charles claimed that the model was completed to an operable state under his guidance, while Frank asserted that he perfected the engine and transmission while Charles was in Illinois. The disagreement eventually led to a law suit that continued until 1938, when Charles died.

In 1894 Frank developed a second car with a more powerful two-cylinder engine. It was that car that he drove in America's first automobile race on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1895. The race was 54 miles from downtown Chicago to Evanston, Il. and back. There were nearly 100 entrants but, only six cars showed up on that snowy day. In addition to the Duryea, two electric and three gasoline powered Benz autos imported from Germany. The race started at 8:55. After some

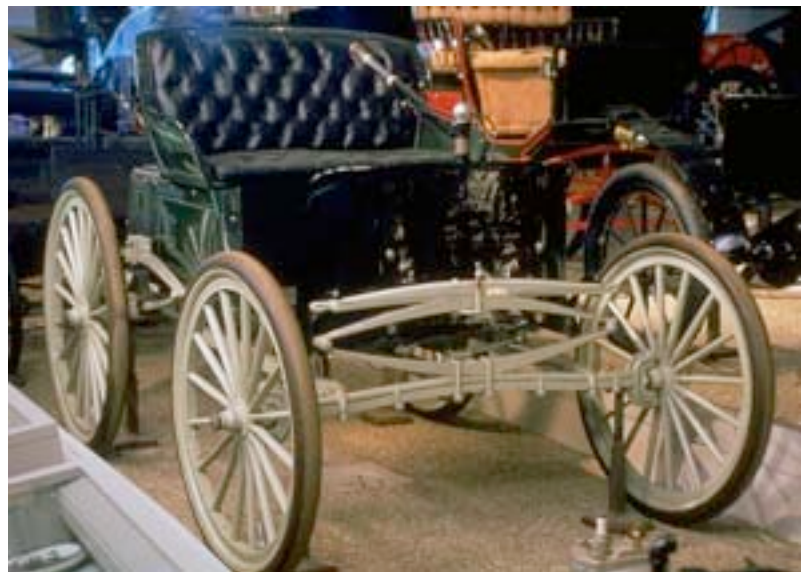
breakdowns and other issues, the Duryea crossed the finish line at 7:18 PM. The average speed was 7.3 mph and the prize was \$2000. Only one other car finished, crossing the line at 8:53.

At the end of 1895, Charles organized the first American company for the manufacture of gasoline automobiles. In 1896, the Duryea Motor Wagon Company of Springfield, Massachusetts, hand assembled thirteen identical motor vehicles. This is considered the first instance of serial production of American cars. Two of these raced in the London to Brighton Emancipation run. The auto driven by Frank Duryea was the first to cross the finish line.



Charles E. Duryea, driving one of the cars he invented, c. 1895

In March of 1896, Charles and Frank offered for sale the first commercial automobile, the Duryea motor wagon. In May 1896, a New York motorist, Henry Wells, hit a bicyclist with his new Duryea. The rider suffered a broken leg, Wells spent a night in jail and the nation's first traffic accident was recorded. Another first for the Duryea Motor Wagon.



The only known surviving 1896 Duryea, at The Henry Ford Museum

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The company was moved to Peoria and began experimenting with three-wheeled vehicles. The brothers began to argue and the company was dissolved in 1898. Frank remained in Massachusetts and joined the Stevens Arms and Tool Company, and ultimately produced the Stevens-Duryea automobile, which lasted until 1927. The Stevens-Duryea Company produced the first six cylinder engine marketed in America.



1911 Steven's-Duryea tourer

Charles moved to Pennsylvania and, for the next several years, tried many unsuccessful ventures in automobile manufacture. In 1901 Charles Duryea and Sternbergh incorporated the Duryea Power Company, manufacturing a variety of things, including automobiles. By March 1902 Duryea was producing one three-wheeled, three-cylinder auto each week. By 1905, Duryea's fifty workers were manufacturing sixty cars per year,

including the four-wheeled Phaeton which, sold for \$1600. Fighting among the partners caused the business to collapse in 1907. Charles then began producing a new model call the Buggyaut. The two-passenger model, complete with top, sold for \$700. The Buggyaut never achieved the success that he had envisioned and Charles closed the garage in 1914.

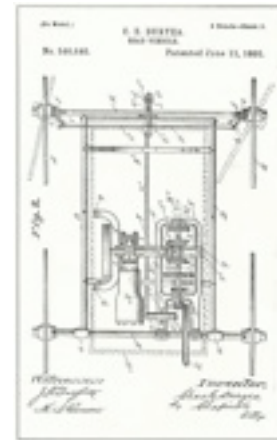


1904 Stevens-Duryea

In 1916 Charles made another attempt at a car for the people, the Duryea GEM. The Duryea GEM combined the comfort and stability of an automobile with the simplicity, handling, and economy of a motorcycle. It achieved 65 miles per gallon and sold for \$250. Lack of funding forced Duryea to drop the project and no more than a dozen were built. This was the last that Charles would produce.



J. Frank Duryea and Arthur Rice, at the first auto race in the United States.



Tidbits

The Christmas party will be December 7, 2013; 5:00PM; Hilltop Bed & Breakfast, 306 N Main St, Randleman, NC. A buffet dinner will be served. We need to know how much food to prepare. Please RSVP, with number attending, by November 30. You may respond by email, jtaillon@reagan.com, call me, Joe, at 336-685-9710, returned the card included with your printed copy of the newsletter, or let me know at the November meeting. Mark your calendar, we will not mail an additional notice of the party.

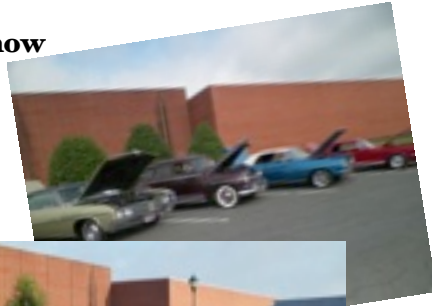


<http://www.hilltopbedandbreakfastnc.com/>





Zooland Members at 23rd Annual Show



Zooland Cars at Nascar Days

Calendar

November 2nd, 2013

Shelby Taillon Birthday

November 4th, 2013

Reece Amick Birthday

November 14th, 2013

Bill & Pat Wright Anniversary

November 18th, 2013

Pat Pugh Birthday

November 25th, 2013

Audrey Lambert Birthday

December 1st, 2013

Ava Hooker Birthday

December 7th, 2013

Zooland Region Christmas Party

December 11th, 2013

Dolores Routh Birthday

August 16th, 2014

Zooland Region 24th Annual Car Show

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