



# Western Reserve Section

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

*Crier - Issue 2 - 2020*

## National News

Since so many events have been cancelled this summer, watch your email for the virtual tech sessions and virtual car shows. Information comes either from the national office, in the CLICK email that you receive or from the Greater Washington Section. You can check their website at: [gws.mbca.org](http://gws.mbca.org). The next event is a Concours Judging Clinic on June 27.

National Elections are coming up in the fall. Voting will begin September 1. This is your chance to choose your national leaders.

## President's Letter *By: Rod Thompson*

As we all are coping with a restricted world during the pandemic, our club is attempting to find ways to enjoy our cars while maintaining safe distancing. Although the national and regional events have had to be canceled, the Western Reserve Section is planning at least three upcoming driving events. On Wednesday, July 8th our club has again been invited to display our cars in front of the pavilion at the Gervasi Vineyard in Canton. Since the Gervasi Estate covers 55 acres of formal gardens and ponds, with several outdoor restaurants as well as take-out food choices, our board chose this to be a safe venue for our club members to enjoy. I recommend that we bring our own lawn chairs and arrive in the late afternoon.

On Saturday, August 1st we will hold Old Car Fun Day. We will meet at my home in Hunting Valley for a late morning drive along the Chagrin River valley, returning to my home for a box lunch. Again please bring lawn chairs.

On October 17th we will hold our Fall Leaf Tour and luncheon. Our annual Clambake and People's Choice Car Show will be held at DTJ Taborville on September 20th.

I hope you can join us for these three events which incorporate driving our cars in the countryside and outdoor dining.

## Gervasi Cruise-In

Mark your calendars for our **6th annual** evening at the Gervasi Vineyard Cruise-In!!

### [Gervasi Vineyard Cruise-In 2020](#)

**The MBCA Western Reserve Section** is the featured club on Wednesday July 8th from 5-8 PM for the weekly cruise-in at one of Ohio's best destinations – the Gervasi Vineyards in Canton, OH (1700 55th Street NE, Canton, OH 44721). The GV Cruise-In will feature our cars on the brick walkway near the pavilion.

**Admission is free—but pre-registration is highly recommended**—contact MBCA member **Richard Self** ([selfrich@sssnet.com](mailto:selfrich@sssnet.com) or 1-330-837-0502) with the year and model of Mercedes-Benz(s) that you will be displaying. This allows Richard to plan the display in advance.

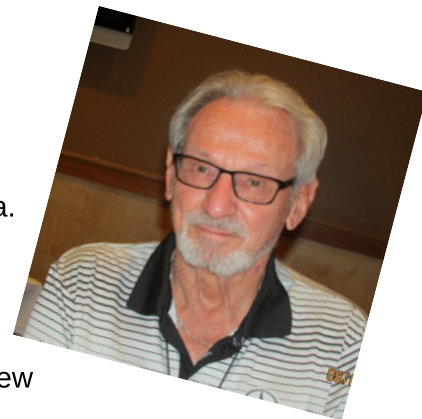
*As expected, there have been some changes made due to COVID-19.* Many of our members have had dinner during the event in the past, and that is still possible!! The restaurants are open with social distancing including table spacing, number of guests at a table, maximum occupancy, and other guidelines as specified by the State of Ohio. Complete details are at [gervasivineyard.com](http://gervasivineyard.com).

The cruise-in starts at 5 PM, but we can start placing cars around 4:30. When you arrive, let the parking staff know that you are with the featured club so they can assist you in getting to where you need to be.

Once you have entered the Cruise-In showcase lot, Richard will direct you to either the brick drive or the main showcase lot.



# Paul Bailey Feature Article



Paul Bailey was born on October 4, 1929 in Lafayette, Indiana and grew up in a neighboring small town, Williamsport, Indiana. Williamsport had a population of about 1,000 at that time and has almost doubled in size since then. Besides Paul's birth October of 1929 was also notable because Black Tuesday, October 29, is often sighted as the beginning of the Great Depression. All banks were closed on that date. While growing up Paul's parents frequented Chautauqua, New York where they interested Paul in Music and the Arts. Paul grew up with music in his home.

Paul began his college studies at Butler University in 1947 and interrupted his studies to go into the service. Following his service to our country Paul completed his education at Indiana University (IU), receiving a B.S in 1956, with a major in Business/Personnel and a minor in Accounting. Paul likes to say that he was a student at IU in the "Pre-Bobby Knight Era". While at Indiana University, Paul performed in the Dance Band, both singing and playing the Bass Violin, utilizing talents encouraged by his parents and nurtured with visits at Chautauqua.

After his graduation from IU, Paul began a one-year training program with Oscar Mayer where he worked as a purchasing agent until 1974. Paul indicated that the Oscar Mayer Company was a well-run family company and an excellent place to work. The family company was later sold to Kraft Foods. (please note photo of Wienermobile)

In 1968 Paul moved to Danville, Illinois and worked at TEE-PAK, a company that made cellulose casings for the hot dog industry.

In 1974, Paul began working for Ingersoll Milling, a non-union company in Rockford, Illinois that made Scalpers and Transfer Lines. The Scalpers made/bored Aluminum blocks. When the industry slumped, Ingersoll kept their employees working making Quonset huts which were used for among other things, garages. Paul had his own inside parking space!

Paul was widowed in 1991 and retired for the first time. He bought his first Mercedes Benz in 1993, an S500 which was two-tone grey. Paul has owned at least 4 different Mercedes Benz automobiles including a 1988 Signal Red 560SL, which he still has. This car was featured in the invitation to his 90th birthday party. He had a gorgeous red, with camel color leather interior and black accents 2015 SL550 and his current daily driver is a 2018 Pearl White Mercedes Benz which is currently getting two and a half months to a gallon of high-test gasoline. Other cars of interest that Paul has had include a 1983 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow and a 1993 Zimmer. The Zimmer was manufactured in Florida, utilizing a Pontiac frame and a Ford 351 V8 engine. His Zimmer was a cream-colored coup. For those that may not know what a Zimmer is, its design resembled a late 1930's Mercedes Benz 540 K. (see picture) About 100 Zimmers were made each year and sold new for approximately \$85,000.

In 1994 he came out of retirement and took a position with Elan' Furs, a fur coat retailer, that was based in Chicago and Indianapolis. In this position Paul organized up to 15 fashion shows per year to assist in marketing the furs. He joined the MBCA's Indy 500 Section 1994. Paul first met Frank and Mary Alice Cozza and Gary Goodman in approximately 1998. Paul started track events for our MBCA Region in 1999. They were held at Indianapolis Raceway Park which was renamed O'Reilly Raceway Park at Indianapolis and is now known as Lucas Oil Raceway. This Raceway included a 0.686-mile oval track, a 2.5-mile road course and a 4,400-foot drag strip which is among the premier drag racing venues in the world. Frank, Mary Alice, Gary and Paul along with other members worked together to teach defensive driving classes, did judging, and ran autocross events. It was not unusual to spend \$10,000 on award Trophies for the Judged Concours d'Elegance StarFest Events.

Paul became an officer in the Indy 500 Section of the MBCA in 2002. He initiated the Indy 500 Managing Board in 2002. This section had 250 members when Paul was its President. Paul organized and ran a Fur Fashion Show at the 2002 StarFest. Members served as the models for this fashion show. This was one of the highlights of the 2002 StarFest, MBCA's largest national event which draws members from around the United States and Canada.

Paul was widowed for a second time in 2014. In 2015 he moved to Salem, Ohio where he became engaged to Joanna Hovanic, his "Red Headed Greek Girl", as he affectionately calls her. Paul currently serves as Vice President of the Western Reserve Section of the MBCA where he has run and assisted with multiple club events including a tour of the John Kufleitner's Galleria of Vintage, Classics & Pristine Cars followed by a dinner at the Salem Golf Club in 2019.





# Tech Corner *By: Ted Gottfried*

## New Members 3-8-20 to 6-17-20 WELCOME!

Michelle Fountaine  
Scott Radcliffe  
Carl Halleen  
Peter Bihuniak  
Phil Yanchar  
Rick Norris  
Kenneth George

## Renewals 3-8-20 to 6-17-20 We're glad you're back!

Terrance Stahl  
Frank Omerza  
Nicholas Brown  
Werner Heidemann  
Stanley Kolenda  
Thomas Rousher  
Terry Thomas  
Ronald Armenti  
Dana Pawlicki  
Richard Buys

Editors Note: This Technical Article was written by Ted Gottfried, originally presented in the June 2013 Crier.

Disaster: How could this happen? On Monday June 3 I received a phone call from the owner of a 1971 280SL that I had done a considerable amount of work on in 2001. When that car left my place it was running well and looked great. Now then 12 years later the car has traveled only 300 miles and it was flatbed trucked to me on June 7. A lot of problems have developed. Wonder why? Battery: Brand new battery in 2001 has never been maintained. Completely dry with exposed plates. Technique by owner was to jumper cable to start car. No wonder the starter would no longer turn over. I purchased and installed the correct Mercedes battery. The car now starts as designed. Gasoline: About 15 gallons of gas remained in the tank completely broken down chemically. Really stinky! Fortunately, I had relined the tank 12 years ago using the RENU epoxy system. Very little rust was in the fuel system. Back flushed the fuel pump and it ran well with good pressure. Took stale gas to Hazardous Material Waste Disposal Center in Stow. Put in 10 gallons of fresh BP 93 gasoline together with 20 Gallon size Techron injector cleaner, thus double strength. Installed a new fine mesh filter. Tested pressure flow at cold start valve and fuel system was good. Ignition: Fortunately I had also previously installed an electronic Per Tronix trigger element in the ignition distributor replacing the original breaker contact point system. Also, I installed the latest generation Bosch Plus Spark Plugs: Spark was good to go. General: Motor oil and filter change, brake fluid flush, and coolant flush and replacement were all done as would be in any regular service interval. Every 2 years for brake fluid and every 3 years for coolant by spec. All zerk fittings took grease. Driver Door Window Regulator: Guides had separated from the regulator and the regulator had to be welded where the scissoring arms had fractured. The window now winds up and down just fine. Protection: The following products were used: 1. Fine 0000 steel wool and lacquer thinner was used to polish all bright-work. 2. Meguiar's NXT treated all paintwork. 3. Meguiar's Mirror Glaze Clear Plastic cleaner made the soft top window look better than new. 4. Nicko Koutavas formula glass cleaner is fantastic, 50 percent water, and 50 percent Isopropyl Rubbing Alcohol! This glass cleaner is absolutely the best that I have ever used. OK, Car is serviced and ready to go. I test drove it 50 miles. Just wonderful. EPILOGUE: An old car needs to be driven and maintained to preserve it. A Mercedes can live nearly forever if maintained and driven properly. The gravity of this investment neglect is overwhelming. A vintage car is like a woman-it needs to be treated with respect.

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## Western Reserve Section CRIER

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## Western Reserve Section of MBCA Schedule of Events

As we try to move forward but maintain safe health practices, we are presenting the following events as of now:

**July 8 — Gervasi Winery Cruise-in.** We will again be the featured car club and be able to park our cars along the walkway. Specific information is included in this **Crier**.

**August 1 — Old Car Fun Day and Scenic Drive** This event is described in the President's Letter with the information needed to add this great day to your calendar. A flyer will follow.

**August 16 — Spread Eagle Brunch and Ice Cream Social.** This popular event has been again put on our calendar. The Spread Eagle Tavern will be limiting our attendance to 40 people. So when the flyer is sent the end of July, be sure to sign up early. It will be a first come, first served event. We are invited to return to the home of Mary Alice Cozza for our traditional day of social time and an ice cream social.

**September 20 -- Annual Clambake** and People's Choice Car Show at **DTJ Taborville**. Enjoy an easy afternoon at this private club and show off your favorite car for a people's choice car show. A flyer will be sent near the end of August with specifics.

**October 14 till October 17 — Fall Leaf Tour** Our tour this fall will center around Canton. We currently have a reservation for lunch in a well-known tavern with several other venues being secured.

**Board and Membership Meetings** As social distancing and limited group size continues, our board meeting have been held on **Zoom** on our regular dates (first Tuesday of the month). If you wish to be included in these meetings, contact Rod Thompson at: [renold.thompson@clevelandship.com](mailto:renold.thompson@clevelandship.com)

Watch our website for notifications of our return to Brewster's for our meetings.

Other events that we've had on our calendar have been cancelled by the vendors. We hope that next year we can return to our active summer schedule.