

*"If it burns fossil fuel, I like it"* — Lee Herbermann

– Eastern Regions Vice President –

Transportation has always been of the utmost interest to this young lad born in Pittsburgh in the early forties. Days spent with pedal cars, wagons, bicycles and even a long trip on a scooter that wore out his shoe were early signs that he liked to move about in mechanical things.

A Pontiac Straight Eight and telephone lines were his first views of the open road. His assigned seat in the family car was the middle front. Being too short for a good view out of the windshield, his view was the radio speaker grille and the blue sky. It seemed as if forever before he could ride shotgun.

As his friends headed for the ball field, he headed for the area service stations and garages. At fourteen, he was overjoyed to get a weekend job at one of the service stations. The money earned and saved provided him with his first car. Despite the fact that the '37 Buick was five years older than he, had bald tires on the ground and two flats in the side mounts, he knew that he would be going places. After completing the necessary work to get the car in top condition, he realized that one car would not be enough, so he dragged home another Buick—this time a '36. Lee waited until he was nineteen to buy his first brand new car.

His enthusiasm for cars necessitated jobs (mailboy), college (Robert Morris), military service (Navy Seabees) and then a career. Employment by Gulf Oil for over thirty-eight years, most in marketing and sales, has enabled him to continue his personal relationship with cars and other transportation vehicles.

Spare time lead to a part-time career as a realtor. Selling properties placed him in a good position to acquire rental properties, which then lead to another part-time career managing his acquisitions. Hobbies also turned into part-time businesses. It was only a matter of time before collecting petroleum memorabilia, oil company promotional toy trucks, cars and parts would turn into businesses.

Two-wheel excitement, yes! Lee rides and has raced motorcycles competitively. He contributes racing motorcycles with exotic names like Husqvarna, KIM, Triumph, Penton

and Bultaco in enduros and cross-country events to formulating some of his fondest memories. Age and aches have replaced competitive racing with much slower paced touring. Two-wheel excitement is now found on a Gold Wing.

Things can always be found in his garages: Petroliana, including a eleven foot visible gas pump; English sports cars, presently a MG; a few motorcycles and, of course, Cadillacs. One garage, set up as a wood working shop, offers a quiet retreat, but Lee admits that he is not able to spend enough time there.

Time is always found to help with his favorite charities. Gasoline retailing and petroleum-related clubs also get some time to help keep the industry strong. He claims to play golf only for business purposes.

Of course, there is involvement in many car and other hobby clubs. As a senior master judge with the AACA, he is able to satisfy his old car appetite by viewing the smorgasbord of cars presented at national events.

As for the CLC, Lee was involved in the establishment of the Pittsburgh Region over fourteen years ago. Since that time, he has served the region in every capacity including director. While serving on the national board of directors, Lee formulated the procedure for and chaired the committee selecting the first recipients of the Newsletter Excellence Award. As we can see, he is moving forward. When the position of eastern regions vice president became available, Lee was nominated and selected for the job. Each of the region vice presidents have an important and time consuming job.

What does the future hold for Lee? Retirement comes first; then there will be time for a greater contribution to charities, consulting and his hobbies. Lee is a strong believer that you must put something in before you can remove anything. One last item, there will be some travel as well, but it is a safe bet, conveyance will not be accomplished by any vehicle that requires a plug and an electrical outlet. □

