

JONATHON'S LETTER TO STUDEBAKER DRIVERS CLUB PRESIDENT, DENNY FOUST.

Hi Denny.

I hope this message finds you well! I'm writing to you with regards to my grandfather, **Pete Yuen**, who is in my opinion, someone deserving recognition in the SDC.

He is a Distinguished Member Award Recipient, Avanti Owners Association International, 2016, Canadian Chapter. My grandfather is an Honorary Member, B.C. Coastal Chapter, and now, an Honorary Member Vancouver Island Chapter. He was acknowledged as an Honorary Member for the Vancouver Island Chapter about 15 years ago, but he declined to accept the honor as he felt that it was unfair as others in the club that were equally deserving but not given the recognition. My grandfather believes in fairness. His kindness, willingness to help others and his gentle nature have earned him a great deal of respect from those whose lives that he has touched.

Editors -Award:

- Herb Keller Award for newsletter creativity while being editor, 7 years for the Vancouver Island Chapter
- B.C. Coastal Chapter: Editor 3 years in the 1980's, and for 3 years in the 2000s

Awards:

- Three (3)- First place newsletter awards in the 2000s for the Studebaker Packard Post, newsletter of the SDC, B.C. Coastal Chapter.
- The SDC awarded him with the John Brichetto Award for contributing to the chapter editors during the SDC International Meet in Tacoma. He was told that it was a very prestigious award as the only other person to receive the award was Larry Swanson. He knows that his material sourcing team-mate, Susan Lusted, has since received the award. Granddad likes it that Susan has been given recognition as it is fair and well deserved.

He supplies material to newsletter editors:

- He wrote, "That's What I Heard," monthly column -15 years, sent to chapter editors in the Pacific Can-Am Zone through the post office.
- Currently, still writing "Odds 'N' Ends" column for distribution through Susan Lusted to other chapter editors to use as filler if they choose to do so on a monthly basis since November 2013. Additionally, since 2022, he has teamed up with Susan Lusted for sourcing material to share with the SDC Chapter Editors to help make their task easier and be able to produce more interesting and informative newsletters. Due to his age, 95 at present and he will be 96 in the spring, he has asked a couple of members if they would be interested in continuing to source material for the chapter editors at a time when he will no longer be able to do it. He has planned for the future as he wanted the sourcing of material to be perpetuated and the members, Roger Hill and Jack Gregory have volunteered to do that.

Pacific Can-Am Zone Events:

- For him, every SDC meet, and event was a study and a learning experience as to how can we host an event that will be most memorable. Small things like attention to small details makes a good event into a better event. In planning for future events, he would weed out negative issues and accentuate the positive points in meets that he has attended.

Presentation Awards and Table Prizes:

- He has now made and donated over 2,000 items. Table prizes were being donated because he noticed that often, one person would win a lot of prizes while others at the table would not win anything. In having “table” prizes, someone else at the table was sure to win it. He has donated many items for raffle prizes to other chapters hosting Pacific Can-Am Zone Events, mostly Studebaker/ Avanti car profile clocks. One of the Avanti profile clocks was donated for a fund raiser for the National Studebaker Museum.
- Made non-functioning, coveted wooden wheels with hub caps to represent 2 eras of the Studebaker production: The Wagon era and the automobile era. One of the wheels are on display in an Australian Museum. Apparently, there is a wheel somewhere in Scotland and others have been won by SDC Members in the USA and Canada. Larry Swanson was presented with one of the wheels that was made into a coffee table. Granddad supplied the table legs, and the Seattle-Tacoma Chapters donated money for the glass tabletop in 1982, during the SDC International Meet.

Club Membership:

- Member for over 50 years in the SDC (International) and B.C. Coastal Chapter. Member over 35 years in Vancouver Island Chapter. Member, Canadian Avanti Owners Association since 2014.

Cars:

- 1947 Studebaker Champion purchased in 1970
- Truck: M16 (Does not have either vehicle now.)
- 1962 GT Hawk hybrid with '53 front end/fenders, hood, grill, trim. He does not have this car either.
- His present collector cars are a 1988 Silver Anniversary Avanti and a 1927 Model “T” Ford coupe Street rod.

First Pacific Can-Am Zone Meet:

- He attended the 1974 at Olympia, WA., Co-hosted by Greater Seattle and the Tacoma Area Chapter.

Past Club Positions:

- National: Regional Director.
- B.C. Coastal Chapter: Membership Secretary, treasurer (About 10 years)
- Vancouver Island Chapter: Editor, 7 years

50th Wedding Anniversary:

- In recognition for his contributions to the SDC, many chapters in the Pacific Can-Am Zone donated money in his honour, which was sent to the Studebaker National Museum.

Event Involvement:

Planning Committee Member:

- 1975 Western Canada Zone Meet. This was a year prior to the B.C. Coastal Chapter being a part of the Pacific Can-Am Zone.

- 1980 Pacific Can-Am Zone Meet
- 1986 Pacific Can-Am Zone Meet: This was EXPO year in Vancouver. The planning committee consisted of only 3-chapter members. My grandfather was one of them and the only member that is still in the club today. As members of the planning committee, they asked the chapter members for “autonomy” as there were many decisions and issues to be taken care of and with only 3 members, decisions were made quickly. The event was phenomenally successful with 320 persons attending the awards dinner. Since then, the Pacific Can-Am Zone Meets have only drawn 160 to 180 persons. My sister, Sarah, was just a baby during the time of the meet, and it was 2 years prior to my birth.
- 1991 Pacific Can-Am Zone Meet
- 1995 Pacific Can am Zone Meet
- 1999 Pacific Can-Am Zone Meet: This was the event that my grandfather invited Larry and Pat Swanson to be guests of the B.C. Coastal Chapter. Everyone enjoyed their company. Larry presented many memorabilia items to my granddad.
- 2011 Pacific Can-Am Zone Meet

Note: When he was on the planning committee of the preceding events, he was always the self-appointed person working with the event chairperson, he would be their consultant and “Right-Hand-Man,” so to speak.

- In Addition--- Planning committee member for 2 Northwest Overdrive touring events for the B.C. Coastal Chapter and also on the planning committee for 2 of the Vancouver Island Chapter’s Northwest Overdrive touring events. Participated in many other Pacific Can Am Zone Events hosted by other chapters in the Pacific Can-Am Zone.
- SDC International Meet, Tacoma, WA.: With my grandfather leading the way, 4 generations of the Yuen/Wong families were in attendance. He made a Studebaker profile plaque for each table for the dinner as attendance prizes. He met with a couple of the Sherwood Egbert girls and presented them each with an Avanti profile plaque. One of the girls, Nancy, was ecstatic. Larry Swanson was granddad Pete’s guest for the dinner. This would be the last SDC International Meet that Larry would attend.

Granddad Pete attended the Avanti International Meet in St Louis last year with my mom and dad. They had a great time. Granddad made a remark to my parents, “This meet is different than others that I have attended.” “How so?” they asked. He replies: “In the past meets, I go to the event to meet people but the difference at this meet is that people present (many that I had never met before), came to greet me, to thank me for what I do for the club.” So many wonderful memories, he says.

Thank you for reading and please feel free to reach out with any questions!

Warmest regards,

Jonathan Wong