

Tom Marshall's Weekly News, March 28, 2005

Clarence Marshall and Early AACA (1941-1956): Some think my father, T. Clarence Marshall, was a charter member of the Antique Automobile Club of America. Far from it, he didn't know of the club until 1942, seven years after its founding in Philadelphia. I'm not sure Hyde Ballard was a charter member either, but he was active in the club by 1938, and being interested in steamers and Packards, he heard of this man in Yorklyn who had one or more Stanleys. My dad had the Model 76 roadworthy and licensed by the spring of 1941, used it quite a lot around here that year, and at the end of June 1942, the Model 740, his second Stanley, arrived. It was about this time that Hyde first called here and met my dad. He was invited to attend an afternoon meet at Mary Ballard's parents' home in Merion, Pennsylvania, where she and Hyde were living at the time. My dad went over in his 740, but he wrote to me: "I should have taken the 1913, the 740 is not old enough." That day he met the likes of Sam Baily, George Hughes Sr., Ted Brooks, Ralph Weeks, Joe VanSciver (father of our new member, Joe III), and Tom McKean. Possibly Earle Eckel was there with his 1914 Stanley roadster. My dad joined AACA immediately and became about the 75th member. In February 1952, he was elected president of the club at the Annual Meeting, held at the Franklin Institute, and served one year.