

Dennis M. Manner

Receives BHA Award at Buick Heritage Alliance Gala

By Bill Anderson, **BCA #?????, Location?????**

Dennis M. Manner, who retired in 1996 as Assistant Chief Engineer GM Powertrain, was awarded the BHA Award for "his significant contributions to the performance heritage of Buick automobiles and its preservation". He is the third person honored by having his name included on BHA's 100-year trophy.

His many contributions to Buick performance included developing:

- the camshafts used in the 401 and 425 nailhead engines;
- the 2-4 bbl carburetor option for the 425 engine;
- the Stage 1 option for 400 and 455 engines and Stage 2 performance components for the 400/430 and 455 engines; and
- the 1975 Indy Pace Car.

A racer at heart who loved to prove his engineering on the track, Dennis was Buick's official representative to the NHRA and several private race teams from 1965 to 1972. Dennis was promoted to a senior manager with GM Powertrain in the 1970s. In that capacity, he oversaw the development of the Turbo V-6 base engines powering the Grand National series that was the fastest production car in 1987.

In the 1980s his personal interests turned to car restoration. He acquired and restored the first 1966 Riviera manufactured with the Stage 2 nailhead engine; only 179 of these unique were produced by Buick, although dealers equipped others with the Stage 2 components. Dennis has been a BCA member since 1982. He has continually shared his knowledge of Buick performance since then with BCA members as



BHA's 100-year trophy.



Dennis M. Manner, winner of the 2014 BHA Award, holding the plaque he received at the BHA Gala in Portland last summer.

well as members of the ROA, GSCA, and Buick Performance Group.

About 250 guests enjoyed the BHA's third gala that included a silent auction, entertainment provided by Country Classics, and a sit down dinner. The auction featured a wide selection of collectible literature, automobilia and the use of a member's resort home; over \$2500 was raised. The Country Classics band treated the guests to a musical trip back in time evoking memories of the 50s and 60s – cruising the loop, drive-ins, and sock hops. The BHA kept the refreshments flowing to encourage the party, but some left early. They missed a real treat later in the evening when Linda Hall, BCA member from Australia, joined the band for a rousing rendition of Jerry Lee Lewis' Great Balls of Fire.

Plans are already underway for the 2015 BHA Gala in Springfield Missouri. It will be another evening when the BHA can thank its many supporters and provide National Meet participants with entertainment and raise some money with a silent auction. Guests will be able to enjoy a selection of main courses for dinner and learn who will be presented with the BHA Award in 2015. ♦



Entertainment provided by the "Country Classics" who got people up off their feet and dancing to 50s and 60s tunes.