

PRESENTATION OF BHA AWARD  
To Larry Stearns Beatty  
2021

Ten years ago, the Buick Heritage Alliance created an Award to recognize an individual's notable accomplishment that helps to fulfill the BHA's purposes, that include:

- acquisition, restoration, preservation, and display to the public of Buick automobiles,
- promotion of historical research, and
- the educational dissemination of information concerning the origin and development of the Buick automobile and the individuals who contributed to its history.

Individuals can earn the award by:

- (1) Exhibiting a Buick automobile of historic significance at a BCA national meet or elsewhere
- (2) Creating a literary work and/or performing historical research that expands the body of knowledge regarding Buick automobiles or individuals who contributed to the success of the marque.
- (3) Conducting educational activities that promote the public's awareness of, and appreciation of, Buick automobiles and/or Buick history.

The Award consists of a 5-foot tall 100-year permanent trophy that incorporates a cast bronze exact replica of the Buick script logo casting that originally adorned the top of the Manufacturer's Trophy presented by Buick at the original BCA National Meet in 1971. A plaque incorporating the casting is also presented to each winner.

Previously, the Award has been presented to such notables as Terry Dunham, Nicola Bulgaria, and Dennis Manner to name three.

For 2021, the BHA is pleased to present the award to Larry Stearns Beatty of Shellsburg, Iowa (a small town just outside Cedar Rapids).

For the preservation of a 1916 Buick D-Six-45 Touring Car in original condition.  
For widely sharing it and its history to increase awareness of early Buicks.

This car is a unique car with special provenance.

Over 73,000 of this model with a new 6-cylinder engine was produced in 1916 when Buick manufactured over 100,000 cars under the presidency of Walter P. Chrysler.

This car was purchased new by Larry's grandfather, Dana Stearns in nearby Mount Vernon, Iowa. Mr. Stearns was an adventuresome man and an amateur photographer. Under his ownership, the car made 4 round trips to California and back as well as several trips to Colorado and other western states. The car even traveled to the top of Pikes Peak. Roads then, if they could be called that, mostly dirt trails. Cross-country driving required ingenuity and perseverance. Mr. Stearns not only took many photos of these trips but also maintained diaries to document the conditions experienced.

When the car ultimately passed to Larry as a used, unrestored original with 123,000 miles, he decided to maintain its originality. Like his grandfather before, he maintains the car in tip-top operating condition. What you have been able to see today is a car with its original paint and upholstery. Only the top has been replaced long ago. The sheet metal is in excellent condition, a testimony to the good drivers and excellent care over the years.

Whenever Larry displays the car, as he often has in the last few years, it is accompanied with signboards holding enlarged captioned photos from his grandfather's collection showing some of the conditions experienced in those trips to California including camping out each night in the car and fording streams where there were no bridges.

Thank you, Larry, for preserving Buick Heritage.