



Capital Classic
2005 At Gettysburg

A Special Edition of
“HEALEY HIGH ROADS”
The Newsletter of the
Capital Area Austin-Healey Club
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unless noted otherwise

Preparations for *CAPITAL CLASSIC*, the “Signature Event” of the Capital Area Austin-Healey Club had been underway for months. Event Chairperson Herman Farrer had written several articles for the Club Newsletter describing the main elements of the event and had made presentations at meetings. Chatter amongst members who were planning to attend picked up on the Club E-mailer list and pretty soon driving groups arriving from different geographic were formed.

Several members with a bent for Civil War history, led by Mike and Felicity Gillette, tracked the line of Lee’s “*Invasion of the North*”, crossed the Potomac from Virginia near Williamsport, MD. and approached from the north and west. Not to be outdone, several more of us met near West Friendship, MD. and followed the route of Meade’s army, arriving from the southeast. And so on Friday September 16th we converged on the historic town of Gettysburg as did the opposing forces of the Confederacy and the Union in late June, 1865.

Rather than meeting on the battlefield we came together in the lobby of the *Gettysburg Motor Lodge* where Herman and Susan had set up the Registration Desk. Leila Farrer had brought along numerous polymer pins that

she sold to raise funds for “Katrina relief”. With several hours of free time until the evening’s activities, members took the opportunity to stretch their legs from the drive up, and a number of us walked to the adjacent Visitors Center and toured the “High Water Mark Trail” on Hancock Avenue.



Dan Healey and Kris and Steve Garrett

Friday evening’s activity was cocktails and dinner at the historic Gettysburg Hotel and following our meal noted Lincoln historian and author Dr. Matthew Pinsker spoke about Abraham and Mary Lincoln.. It was fascinating learning of small yet significant facets of the Lincolns’ personal lives, and our speaker “put a face” on the First family and events during and after the Battle of Gettysburg.



The Farrers and Dan Healey in the hotel lobby



Dr. Pinsker addresses the dinner guests.

Saturday morning we queued our cars up in the hotel parking lot and wound our way out of town to go on a Battlefield tour, led by Dr. Pinsker. The tour started at Oak Ridge where the first encounter between the opposing forces took place on July 1, 1865.



Dr. Pinsker demonstrates the advantage of "Interior Lines Of Communication" using several Capital Classic attendees as models. (Dean Turner photo)

We proceeded across the beautiful countryside along Seminary Ridge, stopping at sev-



Along Seminary Ridge. (Dean Turner photo)

eral of the most important points of the battle along the way where Dr. Pinsker continued his narration of the critical events of the epoch battle. After visiting the bloodsoaked



Healeys in procession along Seminary Ridge.



Site of Pickett's Charge: A view toward the Union Army's position on distant Cemetery Ridge.



Dr. Pinsker speaking at Little Round Top.

fields between Seminary Ridge and Cemetery Ridge we wound our way through the Peach Orchard and Devil's Den to ascend Little Round Top. From its heights we had a commanding view of the battlefield and Dr. Pinsker spoke on the events of days two and three of the Battle.

Our caravan ended with a procession down Hancock Avenue, past the many monuments and the High Water Mark and on to the hotel parking lot. From there we walked to the National Cemetery, the site of Lincoln's famous

The afternoon event was a visit to the shop of Bud Weikert, who was a very active restorer and racer of Healeys and other cars in the 1970's through the 1990's. He restored my car for its previous owner in 1995 and I was eager to meet him and see some photos that he said he would share with us.

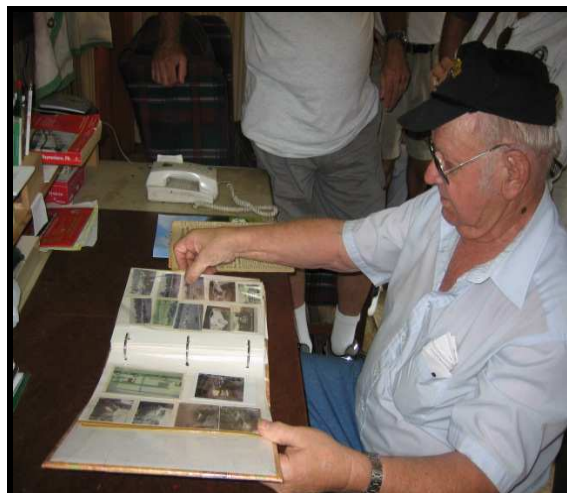
After a pleasant drive about 15 of us descended upon the small burg of Blue Ridge Summit, about 15 miles west of Gettysburg. We arrived at Bud's shop and met he and his son who was driving the last car that Bud did in 1998. Fol-



Soldier's National Monument at the cemetery



“Gettysburg Address” speech in November, 1865. Dr. Pinsker spoke with us about the significance of the speech and answered questions, following which the Battlefield Tour was concluded.



lowing a tour of the shop Bud showed us a number of photos from “the old days”. He promised to send me copies of a number of photos taken of my car when it was disassembled for painting and we said our goodbyes.

At Bud's suggestion a number of us ate lunch at the nearby Summit restaurant, which offered good home cooking and friendly, if not quite sudden, service. Fol-

walked around town or did some shopping . Still others took advantage of the good weather and hotel's two pools and relaxed.



Charlie Baldwin and Steve Garrett at The Summit



The Farrers and Anil Fatterpaker hanging out.

lowing lunch a number of us (Kris and Steve Garrett and Shaun Miller and myself) decamped to the Eisenhower Inn and showed off our driving skills on the Go-Kart track.

Saturday night was "Dinner On Your Own". A number of us drove to nearby Fairfield and ate at the historic Fairfield Inn.



Kris Garrett in the lead at the Go-Kart track



Other participants spent the afternoon taking in more extensive tours of the Battlefield and related sites while some folks simply

The schedule for Sunday was an observation-type rallye to be followed by lunch. After breakfast and checkout we again lined our cars up in the hotel parking lot and received

Finish—the historic Dobbs House Tavern in Gettysburg, where we had a room to ourselves for our luncheon.



driving instructions from now-rallyemaster Herman, and off we went on a three-hour 60 mile tour of the countryside. We left Gettysburg heading south and wound up coming back into town from the northwest!



Charlie and Eileen Baldwin arriving from the west!

One of the prettiest and trickiest sections was near the Bullfrog Creek Bridge:

If you'll compare the picture to the left to the one below you'll see that different drivers found ways to arrive at the same spot from different directions!

Deviousness notwithstanding, everyone managed to finish the run and eventually arrived at the



Eddie Bunch and Charlie arriving from the east!



After ordering off the “Bill of Fare” from our serving wench dressed in period costume we had one more opportunity to share some food, laughs and fellowship.

Herman graced us with some closing remarks, thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and took credit for the great weather that extended throughout the entire weekend.

Speaking for myself I think this was a great Capital Classic, one that will set a high standard for future events. And worthy of note, it marks a first in that we had several folks in attendance who were *not* members of our club, yet from all reports they seemed to have been included into the fold and made to feel at home. This places the possibilities for future Classics in a whole new perspective.

Plans for next year's *Capital Classic* will no doubt be discussed at upcoming meetings and members who would like to participate in the planning and organizing are encouraged to step forward at their early convenience.

A late note—Herman announced the results of the rallye over our emailer list on Tuesday, and the winners are:

- 1st Place: Shawn, Tammi and Healey Miller
- 2nd Place: Missy and Bob McKenna
- 3rd Place: Charlie and Eileen Baldwin

See ya'll next year!



THE RALLY'ING MILLER FAMILY