

VAIR STREET JOURNAL

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CORVAIR CLUB

APR/MAY 2005

We Remember Vaun Hamlin 1929-2005

We were just talking tonight at the WPCC meeting about how Vaun may be doing... This was on the Virtual Vair list tonight.

March 22, 2005

Corvairland lost one of the great ones today. Vaun Hamlin, formerly of Pittsburgh and now of Sun City Center, Florida passed away this afternoon, peacefully, in East Bay Hospital.

Vaun was the proud owner of the 'Vair that graced the cover of the June, 2004 *CORSA Communique*, and what a car it is.

He was proprietor of Hamlin's Garage & Body Shop in the Pittsburgh suburb of Bridgeville for over 50 years. Before he retired to Florida he did a typical corvair thing; he painted his 4-door, hardtop, Monza with some amazing prism paint. Depending on where you were, and where the sun was, the car was either gold, or plum, or violet and dozens of shades in between.



Vaun Hamlin

He set records with tricked-out dragster Greenbriers and all of the Hamlin trucks were — Corvairs.

Vaun came to Florida and infused the small group of Corvair fanatics that traveled with him and his wife Charlotte with knowledge and enthusiasm that only a true Corvair lover could share.

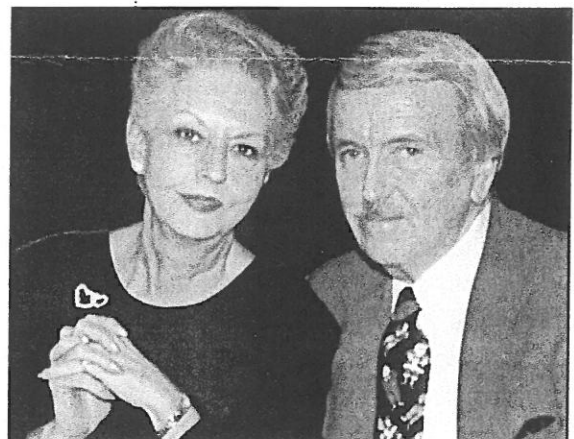
Generous to a fault, he took me under his wing when it was time to rebuild/repaint/rehab our '64 Monza convertible. During that process he drove the 70 mile roundtrip from his place to mine, got me to work way before decent people are awake, and saw to it that I learned all the neat bodywork tricks you

learn after 50 years in the business. No, he didn't let me cut corners, but we didn't work stupid either.

If you get the feeling from this tribute to a great Corvarian that I admired him, and will miss him, you're right. Of late he suffered a recurrence of lymphoma which was treated with chemotherapy. He thought he had it beat, but little by little, and much to his frustration, the medical problems increased. He spent his last three weeks in the hospital, fighting all the way, until there just wasn't any Vaun left any more.

Final arrangements are much in the air at this point. Our small, outlaw band of Corvarians will be gathering 'round Charlotte to give her every bit of support we can, and somewhere on my '64 there's gonna be a plaque that says "Vaun was here."

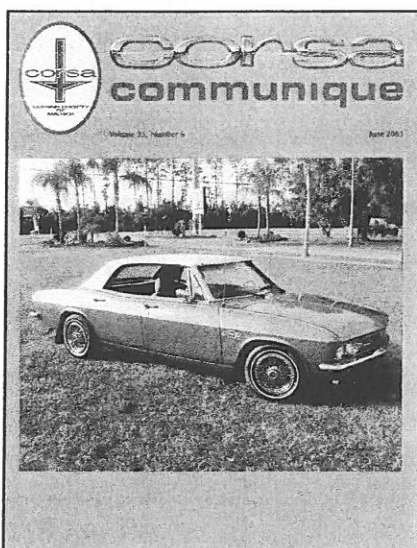
Arjay Morgan
'63 Monza convert
missing Vaun



Charlotte and Vaun

This article is from an e-mail that was submitted by Bill Young on 03-23-05

See **We Remember** on page 2



Vaun's Corvair on the cover of the June 2003 CORSA Communique

We Remember Vaun Hamlin 1929-2005

Vaun L Hamlin Jr., was born on August 18, 1929. He died on March 22, 2005 in Sun City, Florida at the age of 75. He had been married to Charlotte Nester Hamlin, the love of his life for over 51 years. Vaun had one sibling, Audrey (John) Vogel. The obituary continues by saying that he is survived by extended family members and a tremendous number of friends, as Vaun never met a stranger.

Numbered among that tremendous number of friends are many members of the Western Pennsylvania Corvair Club. Vaun was an active member of WPCC. Right next to him was Charlotte, is wife.

You could figure on the Hamlins being at a Club event darned near 100% of the time. Vaun loved Corvairs and Corvair people. He was a social person.

Vaun took great pride in everything he did, and it showed. His cars were impeccable. His knowledge of cars and Corvairs was something to be envied. If there was something you needed to know, you only had to ask Vaun. It was rare when he didn't know the answer, and if he didn't, he could always put you onto someone who did.

Something I'll never forget about Vaun was an expression he used when he was explaining something; for clarifi-

cation and to make sure you were on the same track with him, he'd say, "follow me?"

Back in 1984 during my first tenure as editor of the Vair Street Journal, Vaun gave me some photos and a story about his Lighting Express Corvair. I published the article and the photos, including one featured on the cover of that issue, and with your permission I herewith republish the article because it says a lot about the man who was Vaun Hamlin. Please note the title.

Luke

Vaun Hamlin Remembers

from the January 1984 *Vair Street Journal*

When I purchased a Lakewood wagon, someone had already tried to test the strength of the roof. It had been rolled and hard. The neighbors close to the body shop were questioning my sanity, but I just said "Wait".

The roof was cut off and lowered 2 inches and changed to fiberglass. A good roll cage was constructed. The rear end was made into a truck with a thin plywood bed. The sideboards were aluminum, covered with wood decal. The floor was reinforced aluminum also. Weight was removed in various ways, such as plastic seats, reinforced aluminum door panels, both upholstered in naugahyde.

All windows were fixed position and made of plastic. The front suspension was altered, making the main member from two inch steel tubing. The suspension arms were lightened by drilling them full of holes. Front brakes were eliminated. Stopping the car was done by parachute and metallic rear linings. Fuel for the car (gasoline) was in a two gal. can up front, which was constructed of fiberglass, one piece.

The 1,705 pound vehicle ran the drag strip for three years in C Gas Super-charged, and was never defeated in class. Also, it never blew apart, and one year at Pittsburgh International Dragway, it came in the top ten, for which no supercharged car did in the existence of the strip.

The car started off it's first

season with a mild engine, equipped with a Paxton super-charger and headers. By the last season in 1963, it had become 155 cu. in., with 140 heads which had larger exhaust valves installed (total head work was over \$1,000.00). Mr. Harvey Crane took an interest in the project, and furnished a computer grind cam which was really wild, Separate tuned intake and exhaust pipes helped the engine produce good horsepower, and a sound, thru megaphones, like you never heard before. The resonance would loosen the valve covers and crankshaft pulley in one 1/4 mile run, till we Locktited them in place, and safety wired the valve covers.

We used Champion racing

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Vaun Remembers from page 2

spark plugs, a converted Delco distributor from a turbo Corvaire (pressure retard), and fired with a racing Mark Ten capacitive discharge ignition system.

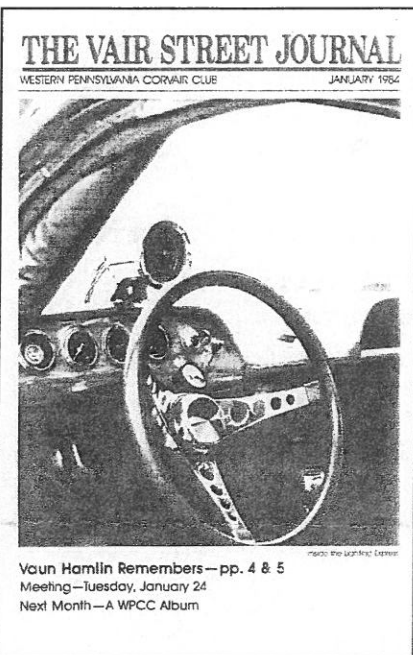
Although the car left the starting at 6,000 RPM, we lost only one clutch in the three seasons. We had no transmission failures, quite a few universal joints though, and the power ran thru 3.89 rear end gears. For those who are not familiar, when you left the starting line,

perhaps 15" from the surface. It was neat and exciting to see 120-125 MPH runs, the best being 11.57 seconds, at Keystone Dragway. We also ran at Mercer, Akron and Altoona, where the car was a crowd pleaser (except to the losers). In the money for competition eliminator, we rarely got to the top, but second place was fairly common. It was a sight to see a car with 155 cu. in. engine that's not known as a racer, run against a 490 cu. in. Hemi Mopar, and either win or give

cial oil for the blower, and the 4 barrel Carter carburetor from the 'hot' Studebaker setup. It looked like you could walk thru the secondary openings into the manifold.

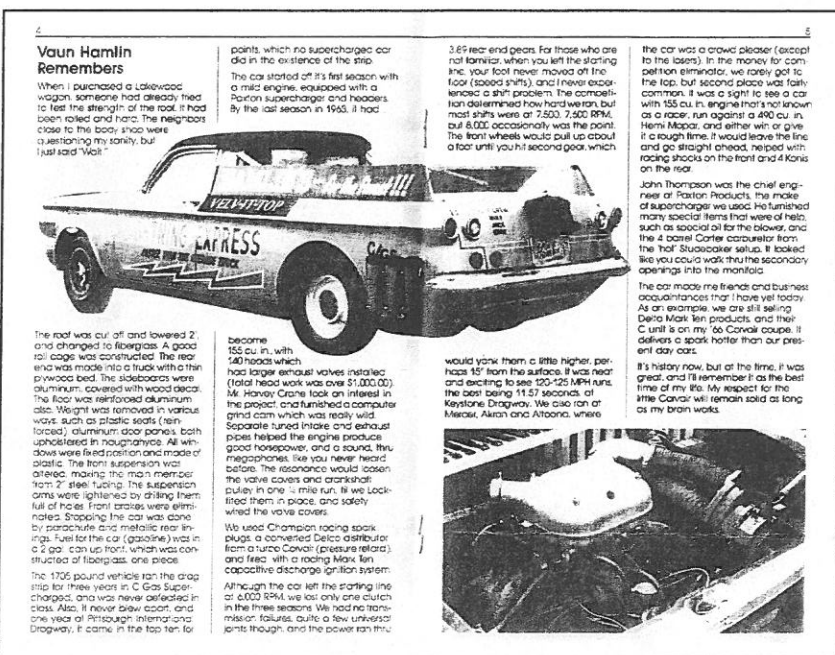
The car made me friends and business acquaintances that I have yet today. As an example, we are still selling Delta Mark Ten products, and their C unit is on my '66 Corvaire coupe. It delivers a spark hotter than our present day cars.

It's history now, but at the



Front cover January 1984 *Vair Street Journal*

your foot never moved off the floor (speed shifts), and I never experienced a shift problem. The competition determined how hard we ran, but most shifts were at 7,500, 7,600 RPM, but 8,000 occasionally was the point. The front wheels would pull up about a foot until you hit second gear, which would yank them a little higher,



Center spread from the January 1984 *Vair Street Journal*

it a rough time. It would leave the line and go straight ahead, helped with racing shocks on the front and 4 Konis on the rear.

John Thompson was the chief engineer at Paxton Products, the maker of supercharger we used. He furnished many special items that were of help, such as spe-

time, it was great, and I'll remember it as the best time of my life. My respect for the little Corvaire will remain solid as long as my brain works.



Minutes of the March 22, 2005 WPCC Member Meeting

Officers Present:

- President, Don Cekus
- Acting Treasurer, Al Friend
- Secretary, Pat Greenwald.

Board members present:

- Tim Desmond
- John Gundlach
- Bob Hieber
- Steve Puskas
- *Vair St. Journal* editor, Charles Lucas.

The meeting was called to order by President Don Cekus.

Don introduced and welcomed new member Jim Steigerwald of Cranberry.

The treasurer's report given by acting treasurer, Al Friend, showed a balance of \$2390.67. Al announced that \$964.00 was sent to the Central Pennsylvania Corvair Club to help with up-front expenses for the Corvair Days event in September. It is expected that this, plus our share of any profits, will be returned to us after the event. Also, a \$300.00 deposit has been left with the LaVilla restaurant for next year's holiday party.

Don talked about the September 9-11 Corvair Days mini-convention in

Mechanicsburg, PA. Events planned include the concourse and valve cover race on Friday, the rally and econo run on Saturday, and the funkana on Sunday. WPCC has agreed to help staff the hospitality room.

Tim Desmond reported on the plans he is making for the May 21-22 trip to the Ohio Amish country. The trip includes a very full day of activities on Saturday because the Amish businesses are not open on Sunday. Members should make reservations by April 29th at the Amish Country Inn in Berlin: (330)893-3000. Mention WPCC to get the \$79.00 rate, which includes a full breakfast and use of the pool, sauna, and whirlpool.

Bob Hieber reported on some of the activities of the Legislative Council. Because of the mass transit money woes, there has been discussion of possible bills to increase all motor vehicle fees, an annual fee for antique cars based on value, and adding another .5% transfer tax. Also discussed were new regulations for tinted windows, the banning of cell phone use in zones over 25 mph, and a \$1000 fine for misuse of handicapped

placards.

Don talked about the April 10th trip to the Meyersdale Maple Festival. Those planning to attend should call Don.

Al announced that he and Ralph Shearer are working out details for the August 20th trip to Gravity Hill in Bedford, PA. Stops include the Compass Inn, an old stagecoach stop, in Laughlintown, covered bridges, and an Amish restaurant.

Don talked about the desire for a new meeting place to replace the one in Murrysville. Les Walter suggested John Harvard's Brew House on Rt. 22 in Wilkins Twp. Les will check into it. It was also agreed to start the meetings at 7:30. Look for details in the newsletter.

Bill Young generously offered use of his heavy-duty trailer to members who have a need. Also, Bill asked if the club is interested in having a web site. He offered to create one.

Respectfully submitted,



Pat Greenwald, secretary

New location for WPCC May Meeting

If you read the minutes of the March meeting above or attended the that meeting, you know that Don Cekus has been looking to replace King's in Murrysville as a meeting place for the WPCC. It's been a pet project with him over the past year.

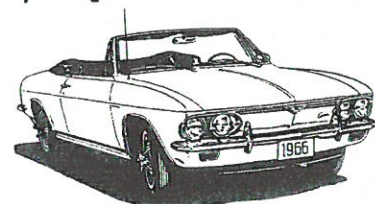
Les Walter did in fact check on the possibility of having meetings at John Harvard's Brew House and that's exactly where the Tuesday May 24th meeting will convene. The business meeting starts at 7:30. You'll find information for getting there as follows:

John Harvard's Brew House
3466 William Penn Highway
(Business Rte 22)
400 Penn Center Boulevard #3466
Pittsburgh (Monroeville), PA 15235
(412) 824-9440

- *From PA Turnpike Monroeville Exit*
 Take the US-22 Business Route West toward Monroeville. John Harvard's is beyond the Monroeville Mall and long bridge. It is in the same lot as Sears on left at the (light) top of the rise.

• From Pittsburgh

Take I-376 E/US 30E/US 22 E toward Monroeville. Take the US-22 Business exit 16 toward Monroeville. John Harvard's is on the right at the (light) top of the rise and in same lot as Sears. If you get to mall you've gone too far.



WPCC Current Roster of Members

	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	e-mail
1	Adamson, Richard & Doris	251 Lilac Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146	412-372-3452	
2	Artzberger, Bill & Irene	305 Golf Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15229	412-364-6842	
3	Artzberger, Jim & Sandy	1300 Cattail Lane, Sewickley, PA 15143	412-749-1432	
4	Bachman, John A. & Joyce	402 Elfinwild Lane, Glenshaw, PA 15116	412-486-2478	
5	Baker, Don & Joanne	12461 Larimer Avenue, North Huntingdon, PA 15642	724-863-3770	
6	Brier, Dick & Carol	493 Sleepy Hollow Road, Pittsburgh PA 15228	412-563-4591	
7	Brill, Bill & Jean	502 Kenmore Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601	724-837-5082	
8	Buccigrossi, Emerick & Letty	1502 Fernledge Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101	412-486-7691	emandletty@aol.com
9	Capozzoli, John & Carol	3830 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017	724-745-1207 cell 412-583-4137	
10	Cekus, Don & Mary Ellen	286 Hillcrest Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15237	412-364-8224	corsal1@att.net
11	Cekus, Dwayne & Joy	108 Prosser Drive, Monongahela PA 15063	724-258-7778	
12	Cekus, Ken & Toots	28 Center Avenue, Monongahela PA 15063	724-258-8514	
13	Clapper, Ed & Wendy	158 Ridge Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001	724-375-1461	
14	Costantino, John & Clare	305 3rd Street, Freeport, PA 16229-1141	724-295-2675	
15	Dandois, Dick & Marie	11844 Route 286 Hwy W., Homer City, PA 15748-7803	724-726-5606	dindy2@earthlink.net
16	Desmond, Tim & Michelle	107 Hivue Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237	412-761-3926	
17	DiMartino, Alfred & Rose	72 Stratford Drive, Irwin, PA 15642	724-863-0985	
18	Falsettoni, Willa	1554 Butler Plank Road, Glenshaw, PA 15116	412-486-4638	
19	Fabyonic, Dave & Janice	38 Sierra Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15239	724-327-7361	davidfab@usa.net
20	Fabyonic, David Jr. & Melisa	313 Oak Wood Circle, McDonald, PA 15057	412-257-4554	
21	Friend, Al & Carole	6000 Great Oaks Drive, Export, PA 15632	724-325-2588 W 888-311-4183	afriend@pclient.ml.com
22	Greenwald, Pat	415 Crestview Drive, Plum, PA 15239	412-795-5719	pggreen233@netzero.com
23	Goehring, Earl & Diane	140 Whitestown Road, Harmony, PA 16037	724-452-8823	
24	Gundlach, John & Gayle	228, McKay Road, Saxonburg, PA 16056	724-352-4205	
25	Hackl, George & Marlene	420, Hulton Road, New Kensington, PA 15068	724-224-2482	
26	Hamlin, Charlotte	2207 Arbor Glen Court, Sun City Center, FL 33573	813-633-6684	hamlinchar@aol.com
27	Heatherington, Jim & Suzanne	128 Sharp Road, White Oak, PA 15131	412-672-0914	suzanne@heatherington.com
28	Hieber, Bob & Donna	1679 Brodhead Road, RR3, Moon Twp, PA 15108	724-457-9712	bhieber@processengineering.com
29	Jones, Judy	3205 Bel Air Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15227	412-882-2109	wandjjones@aol.com
30	Kreisel, Curt & Elana	1141 Sunrise Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243		
31	Lamolinarie, Patrick & Patricia	103 Jacobs Street, Pittsburgh, Pa 15234	412-885-1511	
32	Lane, Robert & Ella	259 Lutz Road, Zelienople, PA 16063	724-452-0540	ellie@zbzoom.net
33	Lucas, Charles & Sarah	236 W. Marigold Street, Munhall, PA 15120	412-462-6735	chasjlucas@aol.com
34	McDonald, Paul & Joyce	258 Evans City Road, Butler, PA 16001-2711	724-287-5671	
35	Morgan, Robert & Margaret	344 Ridge Road, New Brighton, PA 15066	724-846-6040	
36	Puskas, Stephen	458 Whitestown Road, Butler, PA 16001	724-482-1165	
37	Schifano, Charlie & Connie	223 Blackridge Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601		
38	Shearer, Ralph & Joanne	30 Clover Drive, Latrobe, PA 15650	724-539-8645	
39	Steigerwaldt, James & Diane	506 Quail Drive, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066-4074	724-776-0935	
40	Sweet, John & Charlotte	1264 Walnut Street, Stoneboro, PA 16153	724-376-4335	jasvair@certainty.net
41	Terrazzano, Ron	4470 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver PA 15009-9141		
42	Tyger, John & Barb	8399 Rte 954 Hwy. N., Creekside, PA 15732	724-397-2043	jtyger@yourinter.net
43	Watkins, Kerry & Linda	209-1/2 S. Third Street, Youngwood, PA 15697	724-925-1962	
44	Walter, Lester	100 Thompson Lane South, North Huntingdon, PA 15642	724-863-8437	timerles@aol.com
45	Bill & Dana Young	126 Pennsylvania Ave. Bridgeville, Pa. 15017	412-220-3896 C 412-260-8359	william.h.young@verizon.net

This Roster of Members is compiled for you from our list of paid-up membership dues. We apologize for any keyboarding errors or omissions of information.

If you would like to correct or update your listing, please forward the correct information to:

Charles J. Lucas • 236 W. Marigold Street • Munhall, PA 15120 • phone 412-462-6735 • e-mail chasjlucas@aol.com

VAIR STREET JOURNAL

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CORVAIR CLUB APR/MAY 2005

Next Meeting

May 24, 2005

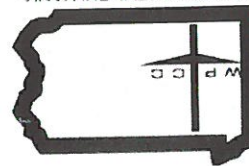
John Harvard's Brew House • 3466 William Penn Highway
 (Business Rte 22) • 400 Penn Center Boulevard No. 3466
 Pittsburgh (Monroeville), PA 15235
 Dinner at 6:30 p.m. • Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Never forget 09-11-01



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Western Pennsylvania
 Corvaire Club
 236 W. Mangold Street
 Munhall, PA 15120
 WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
 CORVAIR CLUB



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Cass Scenic Railroad—June 11&12
 Details from John Gundlach at Tue. Meeting

WPCC Meeting Location

Note above and see page 4 for directions

RECOVERING

As this Journal is being made ready for printing I have learned that Jean Brill is recovering from an accident. If you wish to send her a card the address is:

IHS Nursing Home
 950 Weatherwood Lane
 Greensburg, PA 15601