

Double Clutch



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Kevin Karnes' 1975 Diamond Reo Royale



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Celebrating 50 years 1971-2021

President's Message

Fellow Members

Recently, I have been spending a good part of my waking hours reminiscing about the people, places, and things that played a key role in laying the foundation for my interest in history and our truck hobby. Within weeks, we lost two cornerstone members that were vital in developing my interest in antique trucks. I spent the evening watching the three part DVD series, Truckers on Trucking that was commissioned by the Keystone Chapter several years ago. This collection showcases some of Central Pennsylvania's true pioneers of the industry who worked tirelessly to overcome daily obstacles that would help them earn a living with trucks. A number of the storytellers featured on the series have left us to carry the hobby, and their passion, forward.



Who will fill their shoes? A better question is, who will fill our shoes when our path ends? I am also an active member in the Antique Automobile Club of America, the American Truck Historical Society, The Hudson, Essex, Terraplane Club, and the REO Club of America. One obvious constant in each of these organizations is the diminishing presence of youth and vitality to carry the torch forward.

Considering the disenfranchised youth in our midst and the motif "If you can't beat them, join them" we have expanded our presence in the social media world. Thanks to Mary and Suzanne Skurnowicz (ATCA Director), daughters of VP Steve Skurnowicz, we have joined other hobby groups with a solid presence on Instagram and YouTube. The sisters are encouraged by the constant increase in followers eager to see and hear about the trucks that built America. I have struggled with my perception of a modern truck driver;

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Dedicated to the
Preservation, Restoration and
Operation of Antique Trucks



by Kevin Karnes

If I had to guess, I think everyone has that one or two trucks that are at the top of their wish list. For me it's the Diamond Reo Royale. This is the reason why.

In 1975 my dad worked for a local hauler, Allen Baylor. He purchased two new Royales at the same time; one blue and white that had a Cummins for him and a green and white one with a Cat for my dad. For a seven-year old kid, that truck was a large car. It had a righthand power window, two high back air ride seats and aluminum wheels all the way around. When it would sit in our driveway, I would be getting in it as my dad was getting out.

After spending over twenty years of looking I never thought I'd end up buying two Royales within two years and both while at the same truck show two years apart. Every year Spencer Trucking holds a show the second Sunday of July in Watsonstown, PA. In 2017 we went to the show with our GMC Astro. Our oldest son called us there and said a yellow and black 1975 Diamond Reo Royale was just listed online for sale in upstate NY. It was a single axle with a 318 Detroit and 13 speed; my specs as everyone says. I called right away, talked to the owner, and I told him about my love of

the Royale, and why. He said he would hold it for me so I could stay until the show was over around 3pm. However, within an hour the post was blowing up and I decided I needed to go NOW. My son, and a fellow chapter member, and I left the show and headed to NY.

Even though the truck had been sitting for a few years, it was complete and I bought it on the spot,



Allen Baylor's 2 Royales, my dad's was on the left.

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our FORMS tab.**

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