

## 2002 Meet at South Bend

When I took the '39 to the meet in USA, after meeting with 15 members and their cars from the west coast at my hotel in Baltimore, we all went to the docks to get my shipped in car, great fun, the customs people were quite surprised that anyone would ship a vehicle into the US just to go to a meet, then shock horror, when they could see that it was a r/hand control vehicle, cameras by the handfull, and so it was all the way to the meet and the return, when on I 6 up in the green hills of Virginia in a temperature of 110f it all went quiet and I steered it on to what they call the wrecker lane. Those in front backed up.

What's the problem? It just quit, tried firing it up, nothing, lifted the lid, but it's way too hot to get the side panels off to access the engine, several broke out cold drinks and snacks while we waited.

After a bit highway patrol arrived, as soon as it was reported about all these 'old timers on the wrecker lane' there were a lot more, all they wanted to get pics of the cars, and of course when they spotted the '39 not only being 'out of state' but out of the USA, and the guy has shipped it in to go to an old car meet, we had a 'bear in the air' yup and the supervisor turned up to see the fun.

After the engine cooled off some of the guys who knew far more about Studebakers than I do quickly worked out that the fibre timing cogs had broken, and why had I not changed them when I rebuilt the engine ?.

So I told them the engine had not been rebuilt, not even taken the head or the sump off, so I had about 20 people amazed that this was so, then I pointed out that the total mileage was as on the recorder, this meant a further round of picture taking.

Then one of the club members from just outside Baltimore remembered there was a man not 20 miles away who only worked on Studebaker cars, a 'phone call was made and a FREE wrecker truck was called, enormous thing, more talk more photos, most of the state, town and freeway police left, wrecker man was very surprised that there was no tow point on the Vehicle, then when I told him that the method of

towing was to put a strap or rope around the overrider [USA] bumper[UK] a LOT more picture taking as the '39 slowly went up onto the sledge of the wrecker.

He could not get his head around that the vehicle was made in the USA with r/hand control.

Got to the repairing man in a forest, followed by a guy and his wife from Washington DC, repairing man had the cogs in stock, but he said he had to finish a Packard before he could do my job, and no problem about driving it to the docks in Baltimore, in fact after a lot more talk about a, 'to him' very unusual vehicle, it became clear, he was busting to drive it.

So, I finished up staying with a retired submarine captain and his wife in Washington DC and being taken around DC to see the sights, White House and all.



Drive your Studebaker ? I do.

That oil is from a previous Stude, we all got a pic at the former house of Mr Studebaker