



*Steam Cars at Granogue
The Auburn Heights Steam Car Tour
June 20, 2007*



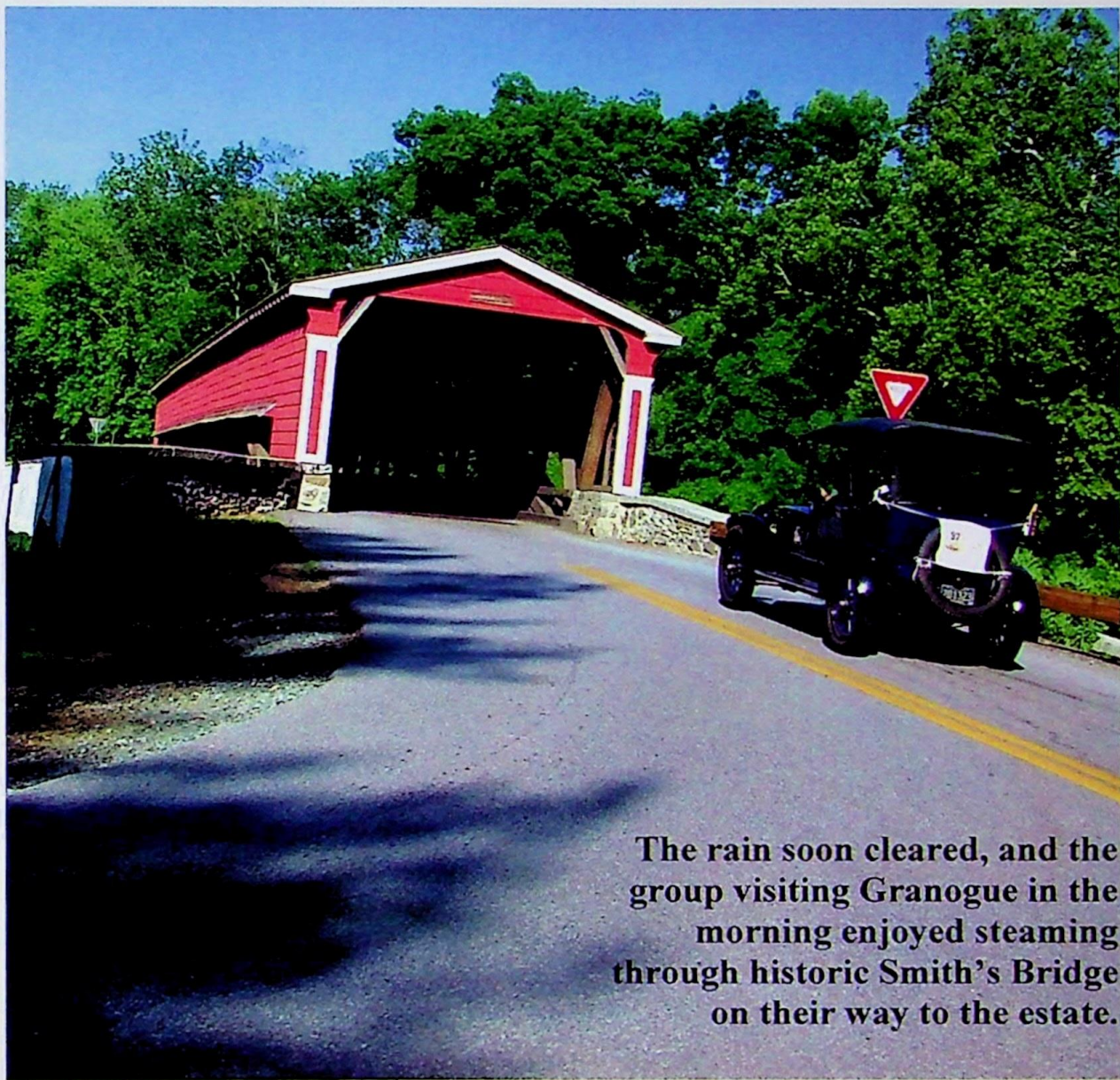
The steam cars that visited Granogue on Wednesday, June 20, were part of the Auburn Heights Steam Car Tour, which brought 60 steam-powered autos to Delaware for a week of back-roads touring and tinkering. The Tour visited the Marshall estate, Auburn Heights, in Yorklyn on Monday. The week's other itineraries took them to Chesapeake City, MD, the Pennsylvania Dutch region and Chester County's hunt country.



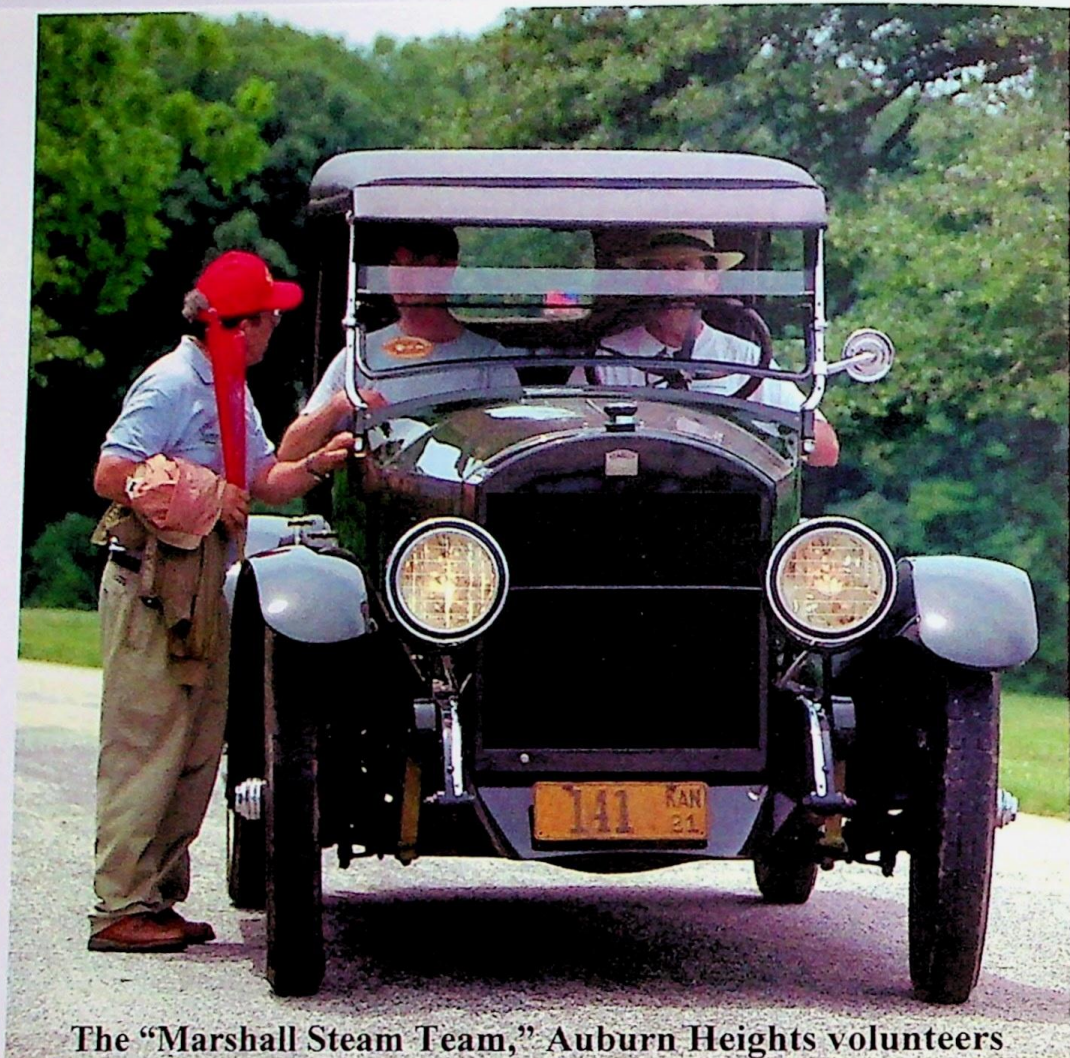
Wednesday got off to a wet start, but it didn't dampen our enthusiasm as we prepared for the day's tour to Hagley and Granogue.



With 60 steamers and 240 people, the Tour split into two groups for the day. One group went to Hagley in the morning, then visited Granogue in the afternoon. The other group visited Granogue before going on to Hagley. Nobody would get lost along the way and all would meet at Granogue at midday for lunch - we hoped!



The rain soon cleared, and the group visiting Granogue in the morning enjoyed steaming through historic Smith's Bridge on their way to the estate.



The "Marshall Steam Team," Auburn Heights volunteers wearing bright red hats, welcomed the steamers to Granogue and directed them to the parking area.





The steamers made a particularly handsome sight in Granogue's front courtyard. As the photo at the right shows, Auburn Heights' "red hats" were busy showing the arriving steamers where to park.

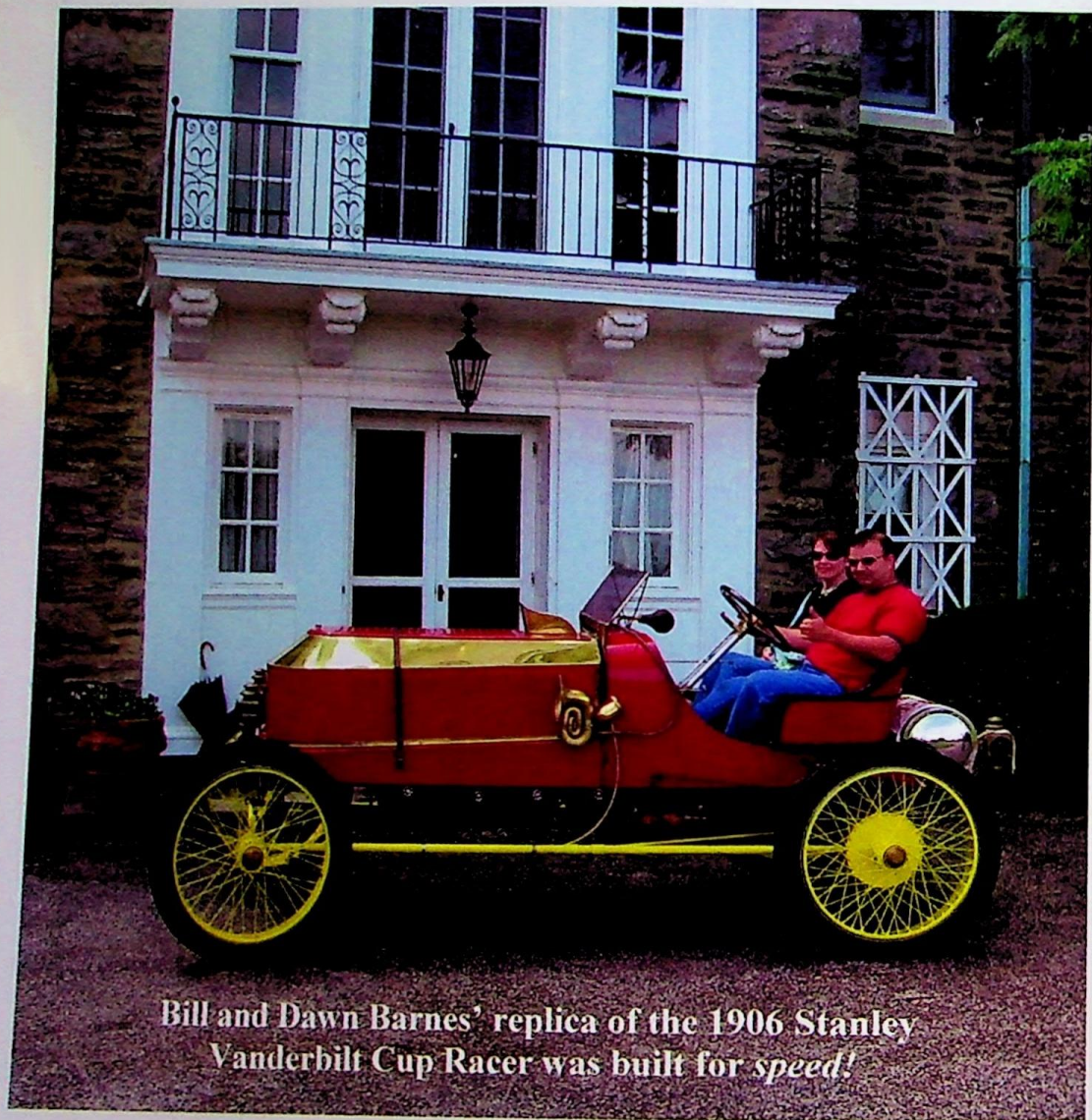




A procession of beautiful old steamers paused at Granogue's classic front entrance to allow the visiting steam car tourists to disembark. Ray and Barbara Lindsey of Bohemia, NY, arrived in their 1913 10-hp Stanley.



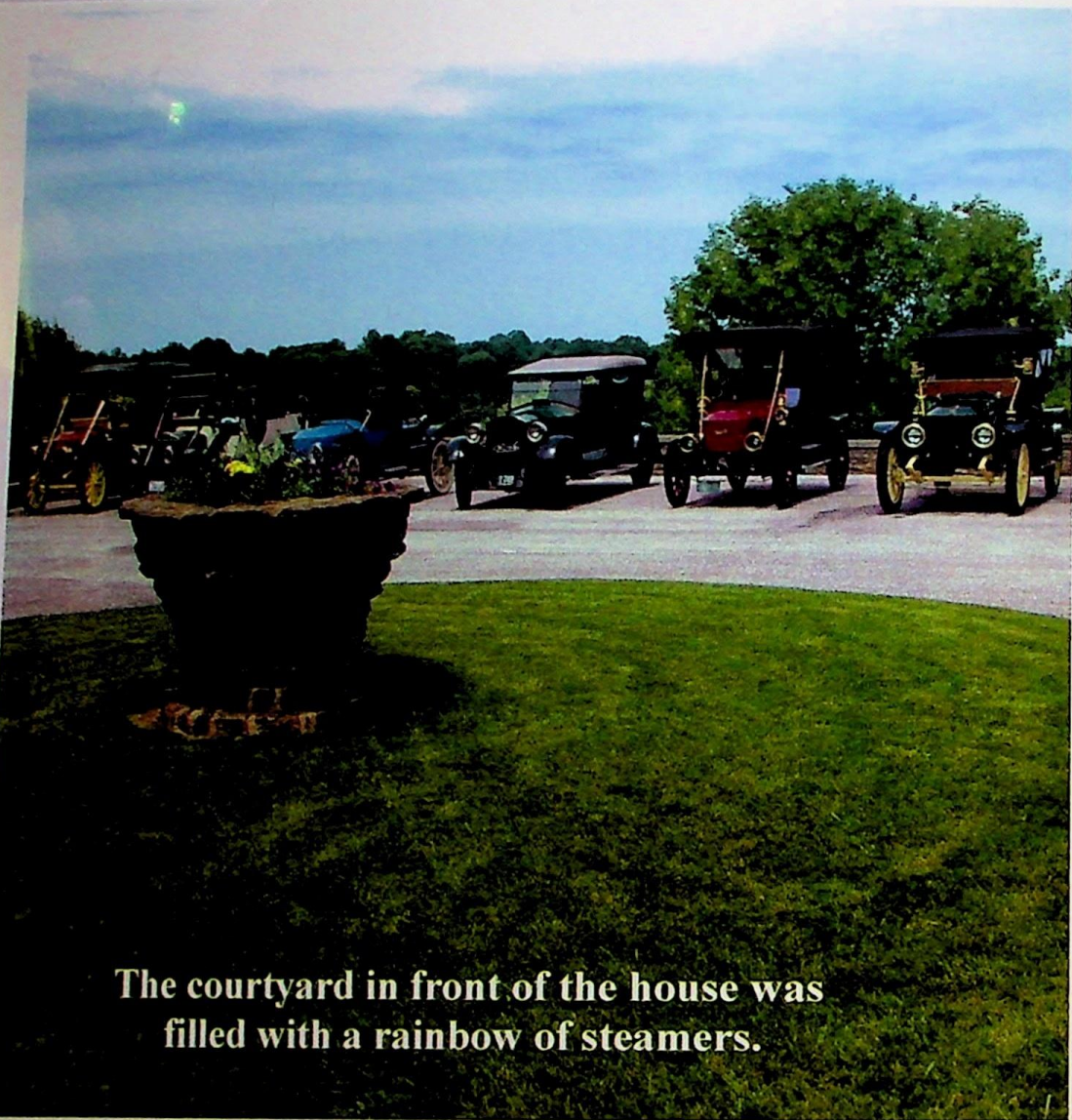
**Lorne and Ruth Ann Richards brought this 1910
White Steamer from their home in Poughkeepsie, NY.**



Bill and Dawn Barnes' replica of the 1906 Stanley Vanderbilt Cup Racer was built for speed!



Owner Bill McCleary brought this handsome 1907 Stanley Model K Semi-Racer to Granogue from his home in Ontario, Canada. Top speed: 70+ mph.



**The courtyard in front of the house was
filled with a rainbow of steamers.**



Visitors were intrigued with the courtyard's "bouncing board." Barbara duPont was happy to show them how to use it.





Steam car drivers and passengers got a special treat when Terry and Cindy Tobias arrived in this handsome “two horsepower” rig.



The horses drew lots of attention from the tour participants, such as steam car owner and lifelong farmer Morris Paley of Connecticut...



... as well as from a local resident who, judging from the shovel, has some prior experience with equine visitors.



Cindy Tobias, youngest member of our hosts' family present for the occasion, arrived in the oldest vehicle (*above*)... while her father, Irene (*facing page*), eldest member of the family, opted for the newest conveyance, FAHP member Jim Per-sonti's motorcycle.





Daughter Cindy and son-in-law Terry tended to their horses; husband Irene rode the motorcycle; mother Barbara chatted with her guests... the duPont family's courtyard was a busy place this morning!



The Tobias' horses were the perfect complement to the steam cars. Both the horses and the steamers would have been right at home on a country estate like Granogue on a sunny June day in the years leading up to World War I.



Adding to the activity in front of the house, Curt and Sheri Fullom pulled up in their 1910 Stanley and Sheri jumped out to “prick the jets” to clear an obstruction in the car’s burner.



Quiet returned to the courtyard as the guests filed into the house and headed for the buffet luncheon which awaited on Granogue's patio.

We had two seatings for lunch under a tent on the patio. Lunch was a great opportunity to catch up with friends. Even the youngest tour participant, six months old, appeared to be having a good time.





Ruth Marshall (*left*) and Barbara duPont enjoyed their lunch together. No doubt their menfolk were elsewhere talking about cars.



Irene duPont appeared to enjoy greeting his guests at lunch...



...as he welcomed each group and shared with them some of Granogue's history.



Hostess Barbara duPont showed some of the tour members around the living room.



Meanwhile, Irene told another group about his illustrious ancestor, Pierre Samuel duPont, and the role he played in bringing about the Louisiana Purchase, one of the key events in the evolution of the fledgling United States into a world power.



The group headed back outdoors, where Jim and Sue Keith of Virginia showed Irenee their 1911 Stanley touring car, with its fender-mounted serpent.



Steam Car + Steam Serpent = Steam Excitement



Serpents proved to be popular steam car accessories among steam car owners on the tour. This one came from Iowa...



... and this one slithered all the way from Colorado for the tour.



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Keith Valesh, a dentist from Oelwein, IA, brought his 1910 Stanley, which boasted not only a serpent, but also a working steam calliope mounted on the running board!



Keith “serenaded” Barbara duPont with his steam calliope.

Steamers often need some tinkering. The boiler of Auburn Heights' 1914 Stanley was low on water when the car steamed into Granogue. Tom Marshall (*third from right*) supervises Steam Team members as they fill the boiler with the garden hose. Later (*facing page*), FAHP members Bill Rule and Jim Personti check the results.







Our visit to Granogue was truly a unique experience!

On behalf of Tom and Ruth Marshall, as well as the members of the Friends of Auburn Heights Preserve and all the steam car people on our tour, THANK YOU for providing us with such a memorable day!