

# ***THE FORWARD PRESS***

November 2021

NEWSLETTER OF CLUB AVANTI NORTHWEST CHAPTER – AOAI



**Dream 1965 Studebaker Dealership**    Artist: Tony Randazzo

**Holiday Party Saturday December, 11th at  
1:00 pm, Azteca Mexican Restaurant 17555  
Southcenter Pkwy, Tukwila, WA 98188**

***If you have not paid in 2021, DUES ARE DUE!***

***See page 4***

## Another Black Avanti by Paul Shuffleburg

R4499 is a 1963 R1 Avanti Black, black interior, power shift automatic, tinted glass, power steering, TT, White sidewalls, electric washer, radio, and seat belts. The car was purchased new by Henry Bibeau, Chief of police in Barre Vermont at North End motors in Barre, VT. The car was then bought by a Tri-Spokes-Chapter SDC member on June 22, 1993, from Parkside Auto Sales in S. Barre, VT for \$7500. The drove the car until 2008 when they ran over a speed bump and cracked the exhaust manifolds. Rather than repair them they put the car in storage Where it remained until their passing a year and a half ago. Their children replaced the manifolds and had the gas tank cleaned before selling. I picked the car up on September 22nd and drove it 248 miles from St. Albans VT. to Arundel Maine with no problems. This is my first Avanti and I am surprised how comfortable it is to drive. I enjoy driving it more than my 51 Commander or my 62 Champ PU. This one is a keeper.





**R4499**



**Renewal Form and Membership Application** - CLUB AVANTI NORTHWEST Dues are \$15. AOA membership is required - AOA Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Current E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ We Must Have This!! Phone numbers: \_\_\_\_\_ Avanti(s) owned –

Serial Number(s) not required \_\_\_\_\_ Make check out to: Club Avanti Northwest - Mail check with your application to: Alan N. Basile, 17731 Spruce Way, Lynnwood, WA 98037 Joining Our National Club is easy. Just log on to AOA.ORG and click on the membership tab.



**“Headless Horseman” Avanti  
Dennis Adams**

# From the President

Hello to all Club Avanti Northwest members and their families. For those that are so inclined, our Christmas party, is being hosted by the Greater Seattle SDC. The date is Saturday December 11 at 1 pm. at Azteca Mexican Restaurant 17555 South Center Parkway in Tukwila . It will be good to see old friends that I haven't seen since the Mud Mountain Dam picnic. With the beginning of the rainy season, many of us will put our Avanti away for the winter. a good wash, wax and vacuum are good pre-storage preparations. For those with Avanti's with leather seats or interiors a good cleaning and leather conditioner application before storage are important. Of course, an oil , filter and lubrication should be done. Once your Avanti is cleaned and dried it is time to consider a battery tender to keep the battery charged, I use a Duracell 4 amp which I plug in about every two weeks for about 24 hours. Now it is time to fit your Avanti with a car cover to keep the dust bunnies at bay. Just a little reminder, both Al and I have the Avanti Calendars for 2022, get yours now!

Mary West added the following :

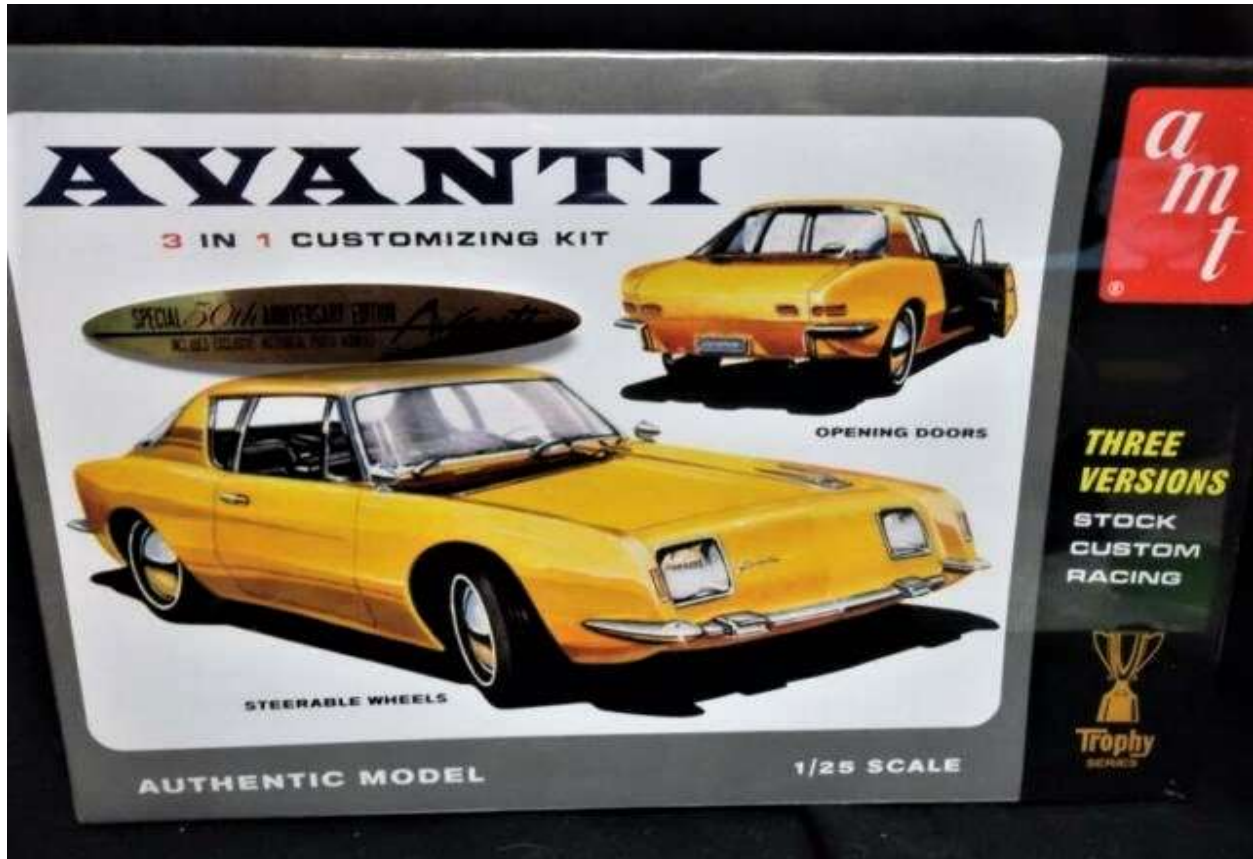
Hi All,

The Christmas party will be Sat. Dec. 11th at 1:00 PM  
Azteca Restaurant 17555 Southcenter Pkwy, Tukwila, 98188.  
We will order from the menu individually, and pay our own tabs.  
PLEASE RSVP TO MARY WEST 425.413.3958  
IT'S OK TO LEAVE MESSAGE - I CHECK THEM OFTEN.  
\*\*\*\* Please wear a mask, and we can remove it while eating



# Model Building

by Lance Lambert



When I was a kid my favorite hobby was building model cars. Delivering the Tacoma News Tribune every day for a few years provided me with about \$30 a month spending money. Every "payday" I'd go to the hobby shop and buy a new AMT model. I left that hobby behind when full size cars came into my possession. A few years ago I plunged back into the model building hobby and focused on "fantasy" builds that combined parts from various kits (kit bashing) and various odds & ends. The parts & pieces for my latest creation include '55 Chevrolet, '56 & '63 T-Birds, '59 & '60 Fords, '62 Chrysler Turbine car, Kurtis Kraft midget race car, Grumman F9F jet & North American F86 Sabre jet kits, Rapture fuselage, RC helicopter rotor blades, Lego pieces, Scotch tape spool, faucet washer, hair spray dispenser nozzle, toothbrush & felt pen covers, bread bag clips, Union Pacific Railroad & storm trooper decals and a lot of scrap pieces of plastic. I wanted to build something that would make people smile and that goal has been met.





## **DANGEROUS SIGN** by Lance Lambert

A few days ago, the members of the *Cars of the Jet Age* car club took a tour of my garage. They listened to a few stories about how various signs, automobilia and petroliana came into my possession, and why I preferred specific companies such as Studebaker, and Signal gasoline. The passion for Studebakers dates back to when a customized 1950 four door Champion drove by Jason Lee Junior High School and stunned my classmates and me with the realization that goofy looking bullet nose "Stupidbakers" were actually good-looking cars. Many decades later the

prettiest 1950 Champion that I had ever seen took up residence in my garage. It was preceded by a 1962 Lark and 1970 Avanti II and followed by a 1963 Avanti.

The love of all things bearing the dramatic Signal gasoline logo started when I was a 12-year-old kid spending time together at the Signal gas station located a few blocks from my home in Tacoma, WA. A restored Signal pump was a birthday gift several years ago to celebrate reaching the age of 50 in reasonable mental and physical condition.

The Cars of the Jet Age club members asked a few questions, the first being what is always the first question from a garage guest: "How do you figure out where to hang the signs, and can you find the room to display more signs?"

To me the space in the garage is one giant Rubik's cube. The cube shifting begins when a new sign comes through the door. Sometimes it is obvious that one sign can be moved to another location, or perhaps even gleaned from the collection. I've been collecting signs for 50 years, but I'm still pleasantly surprised when a location for the new addition, after weeks of hiding, makes itself known. A sign may have been propped in a corner for weeks or even months waiting for some sheetrock real estate to become available. Then I will walk into the garage not even thinking about it and, just like when a Rubik's cube colors are accidentally lined up correctly, the perfect location for the patiently waiting sign appears before my eyes.

The garage is full of magic, but there is also a bit of evil lurking among the steel and porcelain sheets that long ago attempted to influence shoppers in their decision of what oil product or automobile to purchase.

A few years ago, there was a 1' X 6' sign hanging from the ceiling that eye-poppingly displayed the word *CORVETTE* in large, brushed metal letters. I was under the impression that the sign was safely secured by the two large screws twisted tightly into the ceiling. I was wrong.

Below the sign was parked one of the best daily drivers that I've ever owned; a 2006 Mustang convertible. It was burgundy in color, lowered three inches, and rode on custom mag wheels. In my mind turning that steed's ignition key always turned me into the neighborhood's Steve McQueen. I loved that car, but apparently the sign above it did not.

For decades there has been a friendly, and sometimes not-so-friendly, rivalry between Mustang and Corvette owners. I have owned one Corvette and three Mustangs and think the jousting between the various owners is silly. I did not know that one evening there would be a showdown between the marques in my garage.

I heard the fight while sitting in the family room about the garage. The Corvette sign hanging over the Mustang decided that it had enough of sharing the same space and was going to show it by giving the convertible's hood a good thwacking. The sign dislodged from the ceiling and, like a Messerschmitt BF109 diving down upon an unaware P51 Mustang, it opened fire and made a direct hit. The impact was serious enough that the previously pristine engine cover now resembled actor Kirk Douglas' chin. The Corvette sign, however, did not come out unscathed. About half of the metal letters popped off and were now strewn on the Mustang's hood and



surrounding area. Despite the aftermath of the battle in the Rubik's room, when I entered the garage something positive appeared before my eyes. A friend had given me a Firestone sign that had been waiting for a place to be hung, and the area previously occupied by the fallen and now broken Corvette sign provided the needed space. Problem solved!

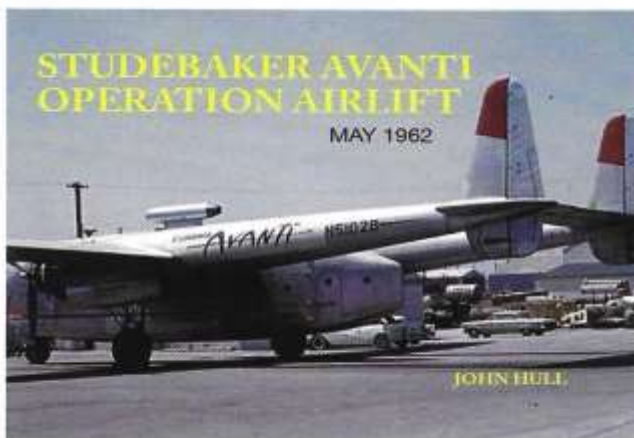
The pieces of the Corvette sign are now stored and waiting to be rejoined; the Mustang has a new owner, and a newly arrived 2005 Crossfire convertible daily driver is parked under a securely installed Firestone sign.

I shared this story with the Cars of the Jet Age members, so hopefully they left the garage informed, entertained and encouraged to do a better job of securing signs than their host.



# Hull-O-Ventures, LLC

*The Automotive Experts all agree that John Hull's new book is the definitive work on a most interesting time in Avanti and Studebaker history.*



*Unsolicited Review:*

John Hull's new book "Studebaker Avanti Operation Airlift May 1962"

Just got this book a couple days ago and I am thoroughly enjoying it! The photos and detailed information, including correspondence from Sales VP Lew Minkel to Sherwood Egbert while he was hospitalized in Boston, is fascinating stuff. I can strongly recommend this book. It's on the AOAI website.

—Bill Pressler  
Kent, OH

**HULL-O VENTURES LLC IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE  
THE PUBLICATION OF A NEW BOOK INVOLVING  
THE STUDEBAKER AVANTI.**

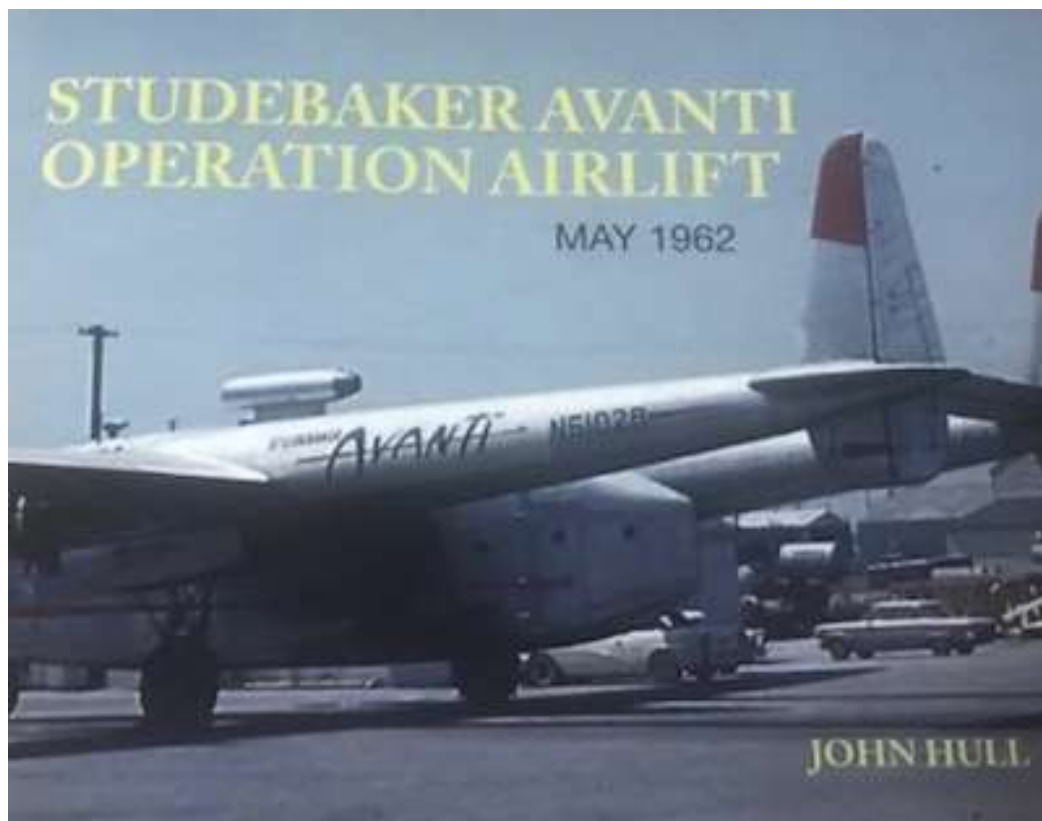
Author John Hull spent hours researching this fascinating story of the Avanti's introduction to its dealer body. This new 91-page book reflects the planning, internal memorandums, newspaper accounts, flight logs, and factory photos of this monumental event. This airlift was one of the most unique undertakings ever by a major automobile manufacturers.

**Cost \$29.95**

**Order your own copy ONLINE at [www.aoai.org/shop](http://www.aoai.org/shop)  
or mail a check or money order to:**

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John Hull  
2862 Stoney Creek Dr.  
Elgin, Illinois 60124

*The Automotive Experts all agree that John Hull's new book is the definitive work on a most interesting time in Avanti and Studebaker history.*





## Remembering Bruce Lee, and his time in Seattle, on the 80th anniversary of his birth

**H**E WAS A global martial-arts hero, showcasing strength for Asian males while living in Seattle. And now undergoing a 2020 revival is the late Bruce Lee.

Nationally, he's the focus of a book by daughter Shannon and a documentary film, the titles of each invoking Lee's fluid metaphor for mortality: "Be Water." In Seattle, where Lee lived from 1959 to 1964 (he is buried at Lake View Cemetery), a Lee exhibit continues at Wing Luke Museum, and a local former student of Lee just released a memoir of their friendship. All of this precedes the 80th anniversary of the superstar's Nov. 27 birth.

The memoirist, retired Mount Baker attorney Doug Palmer, was a Garfield High School senior when he began to bond with Lee. Four years older than Palmer, Lee was building a local reputation with gung-fu shows in person and on public-TV's KCTS Channel 9.

Lee's time in Seattle, Palmer says, was pivotal. While working at and living in a walk-in closet above Ruby Chow's restaurant at Broadway and Jefferson, Lee atypically welcomed students of all races to his gung-fu classes in the eatery's basement, area parks and a garage.

In October 1963, as a University of Washington drama/philosophy student, Lee expanded to a live-in studio for 10 months on the ground floor of the three-story University Way Apartments at 4750 University Way N.E.

In our "Then" photo, Lee stands at 4750 with gung-fu student Linda Emery, whom he married in August 1964 in Seattle. Two years later, Lee played Kato in the "Batman" and "Green Hornet" TV series, soon gaining Hollywood fame, followed by an untimely, mysterious death in 1973 at age 32.

Palmer's memoir brims with anecdotes about Lee, who was born in San Francisco and raised in Hong Kong. Lee's father was Chinese, and his mother Eurasian. Palmer says Lee proudly identified as Chinese, while his parents urged him to embrace diversity.

This helped him in December 1963, when Lee was discretely dating Emery, who is white. Palmer, who is white, was dating a Chinese woman at the same time. Both women's parents objected to interracial dating, so Lee and Palmer picked up each other's dates at the parents' homes, then switched partners.

Lee, Palmer writes, could be a challenge: "He liked the limelight and had a tendency to suck all the oxygen out of the room." This, he says, was "a small price to pay" to experience Lee's magnetism and cross-cultural vision. As Palmer notes, "We've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go." ■



COURTESY BRUCE LEE FOUNDATION

**THEN:** In late 1963 or early 1964, close to his 23rd birthday, Bruce Lee stands with gung-fu student and future wife Linda Emery as they look north outside Lee's studio at 4750 University Way N.E. The storefront later housed a ballet studio, a metaphysics school and a plasma center. Today, it's an art boutique.



JEAN SHERRARD

Clay Eals is a contributing writer for *Now & Then*. Check out Paul Dorpat and Jean Sherrard's blog at [pauldorpat.com](http://pauldorpat.com) for info on their award-winning book, "Seattle Now & Then: The Historic Hundred." "Now" photographer Jean Sherrard shares his 360-degree videos at the YouTube channel *Seattle Now & Then 360*.

**NOW:** Doug Palmer and his wife, Noriko Goto Palmer, long active in the local Japanese and Japanese American communities, replicate the pose of Bruce Lee and Linda Emery in the same spot. Palmer will speak about his memoir, "Bruce Lee: Sifu, Friend and Big Brother" (2020, Chin Music Press), at an online event at 2 p.m. Dec. 5, sponsored by the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience.







# ENDURANCE BUILT PRODUCTS

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We still have an ample supply of front mats and our other products, including headlight glass (square and round) 1/4 window seals, and improved design round and square headlight gaskets, as well as bumper ends. Thanks! See the ad in AOAI magazine

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# SEE YOU AT THE HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 11th

Christmas Party Saturday December 11th at 1:00 pm, Azteca Mexican Restaurant.  
17555 Southcenter Pkwy, Tukwila, WA 98188