

The Daugherty Award

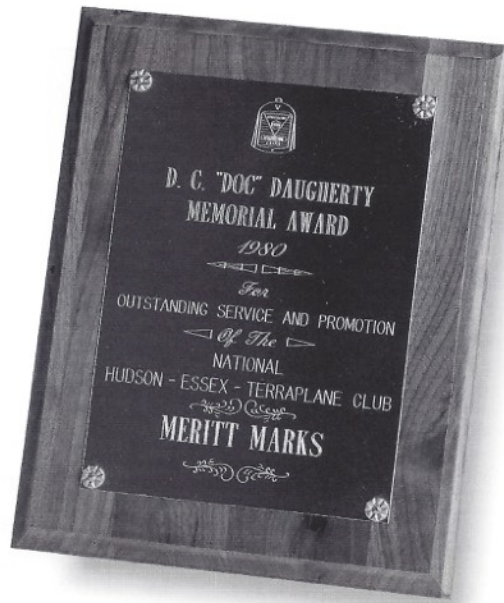
1980 ~ 2002



HUDSON~ESSEX~TERRAPLANE CLUB, INC.
& HUDSON ESSEX TERRAPLANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

D.C. "DOC" & THELMA DAUGHERTY

Memorial Award



The D. C. "Doc" Daugherty Memorial Award for outstanding service and promotion of the Hudson-Essex-Terraplane Club was adopted by the Club's Board of Directors as a National Award in 1980. The award is given annually to one or more members of the Hudson-Essex-Terraplane Club, or their spouses, who have performed outstanding service for the Club.

The Board of Directors in 1980 established the D. C. "Doc" Daugherty Memorial Award by stating: "One or more awards shall be, each year, given to a member of the Hudson-Essex-Terraplane Club, Inc. who has given meritorious service."

Doc Daugherty gave countless years of service to the Hudson Club and he promoted Hudson's tirelessly and enthusiastically. After his death in 1980, the Memorial Award was established. Doc's wife, Thelma Daugherty, died in 1999, and in July 2000 the Club's Board of Directors re-named the award the D. C. "Doc" and Thelma Daugherty Memorial Award.

DOC & THELMA DAUGHERTY

By Jonathan Battle

D.C. "Doc" DeLisle C. Daugherty was born on July 3, 1910 in Bloomington, Maryland. Doc went to live with his maternal grandmother in Morgantown, West Virginia as a child, after his parents were divorced. Except for a short period when he lived with his reunited parents in Indiana, he resided in Morgantown into his 30's. Doc's first job was at the Montgomery Ward store in Morgantown, where he managed the auto and tire department from 1930 to 1938.

Thelma Stone was born on August 30, 1909 in Kingwood, West Virginia, where she grew up. She graduated from high school in Scottsdale, Pennsylvania, where she had been living with her aunt. Then she moved to Morgantown, got a job with the local Montgomery Ward store, and met Doc. Despite the store's policy against employee fraternization, Thelma fell in love with Doc, and they were married on July 6, 1936.

From 1939 to 1942 Doc was employed at Chittum's Buick



Thelma and DeLisle in the 1940's.

garage, and in 1942 he went to work at a DuPont defense plant. He was inducted into the Army late in 1943 and he and Thelma traveled throughout the U.S. while he served in weapons training during World War II. He had reached the rank of Sergeant when he was honorably discharged in October, 1945. Doc and Thelma returned to Morgantown where he became employed as a sign painter for the Hayden



Doc owns sign company in 1953.

Chemical Co. In 1947 the Daughertys moved to Front Royal, Virginia and Doc took a job as a sign painter. In 1950 he and a friend started the United Sign and Advertising Company in Front Royal, and he took over ownership in 1953.

In 1931, Doc purchased his first Hudson, a 1927 Essex Speedabout nicknamed "Skeeter." From then until his death (except for a 12-year association with a 1938 Buick) "Doc" was a Hudson man. He joined the newly-formed H-E-T Club in 1960 as member #187 and immediately became an enthusiastic supporter. He was Club Treasurer from 1961 to 1965 and served as President from 1965 to 1969. He served from 1974 to 1975 as one of the first Eastern Region Directors, and in 1975 he was awarded the honorary position of President Emeritus.

Meanwhile, the Daughertys had been busy hosting Hudson meets. In 1962 Doc and Thelma sponsored the third annual H-E-T National Meet, in Front Royal, Virginia.

DOC & THELMA DAUGHERTY



Thanks to Doc, Skyline Caverns played host to the annual H-E-T Eastern Regional in Front Royal, Virginia for 40 years.



"Doc's Meet" is the second-largest annual gathering of Hudson lovers held every year on or near Mother's Day weekend.



Doc always ended the meet with a gracious "Y'all come back!"

DOC & THELMA DAUGHERTY

In April of 1964, Doc welcomed a few Hudson friends to his sign shop during the course of the Apple Blossom Festival's antique auto show in nearby Winchester. Thelma cooked for everyone! The get-together became an annual affair known as "Doc's Apple Blossom Meet" and attracted Hudsonites from hundreds of miles away. As it grew in size and stature, the meet expanded into a three-day event, outgrew the sign shop, and eventually evolved into the Club's Eastern Regional Meet.



Doc stands with "Big Red" in Arizona during the Transcontinental Run.

A tireless promoter of the Hudson and the H-E-T cause, Doc composed many letters to national car magazines reminding them of Hudson's numerous contributions to automotive development. He wrote countless articles about Hudsons published in the *White Triangle News* and in chapter newsletters, and he corresponded with Hudson enthusiasts from around the world. A gifted illustrator, his superb automotive artwork graced many Hudson meet programs, place mats, signs, brochures and pamphlets. The H-E-T Club logo was designed by Doc. In 1966 he helped organize the "Transcontinental

Run" ("TCR"), the fiftieth anniversary re-staging of the Hudson promotional coast-to-coast run in 1916. "Doc" and Thelma drove the TCR in "Big Red," their 1954 Hornet sedan.

A man of many interests, "Doc" was an avid hunter, fisherman, and gun enthusiast. He was a Civil War buff and an

eager reader. Active in community affairs, he belonged to several fraternal, service and veterans organizations. On the other hand, Thelma's favorite pastime was a rousing game of cards! Canasta, Hearts, Michigan Poker — it didn't matter, Thelma played it and played it *aggressively!*

Though childless, the Daughertys loved children and their house was a second home to the "adopted" sons and daughters of friends, relatives and neighbors. They also cared in their home for Thelma's brother during his last illness, and for Doc's mother during her final years.



Doc types an article for the WTN.

DOC & THELMA DAUGHERTY

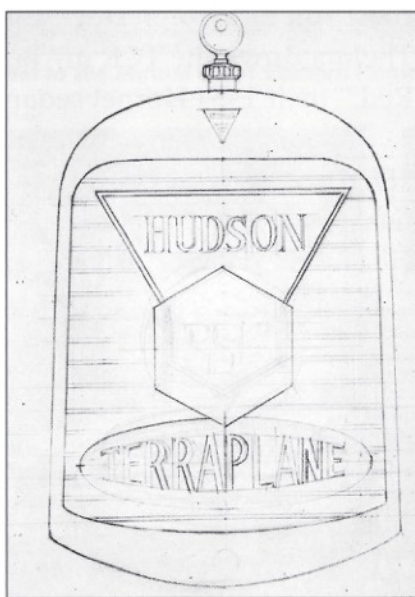


Thelma attends the dedication ceremony for "Doc's" memorial in Front Royal.

They welcomed fellow Hudson enthusiasts from around the world into their home on Manassas Avenue and attended many Hudson functions.

In July of 1974, Doc suffered renal failure. Thelma taught herself how to administer dialysis at home, and for the next six years, through her invaluable help, Doc was able to travel to Hudson meets and to keep up his Hudson activities. However, in late December of 1979 he became seriously ill and entered the hospital for the last time. It was there, on July 17, 1980, that he passed

away. In 1981, the Club dedicated a bronze memorial plaque lo-



Doc's sketch for the H-E-T Club logo.

cated near the driveway to the Skyline Caverns in Front Royal, site of the all-Hudson car show that caps the annual "Doc's Meet" weekend.

Thelma continued to hold the annual Front Royal meet with the help of several friends, but the onset of diabetes and a worsening heart condition in the 1980's caused her to relinquish that responsibility, as well as many other activities. A heart pacemaker implant in the early 1990's gave Thelma a second wind, allowing her to be more active and even to travel to the New Jersey National Meet in 1995 with her good friend Dean Devault, whose husband Lyall had been a boyhood friend of Doc's.

In her final years, Thelma continued to serve as a gracious hostess to visiting Hudson enthusiasts and a "mother" to old and young alike. She passed away in her 90th year, on November 14, 1999. At the 2000 National Meet, the Board of Directors voted to re-name the D. C. "Doc" Daugherty Memorial Award the D. C. Doc and Thelma Daugherty Memorial Award. ▼