

N.C. Transportation Museum

News Release

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Antique Car Show at the N.C. Transportation Museum Saturday, Oct. 14 ***Dedication ceremony for 1939 REA Truck at 1:30 p.m. in memory of Lester Brown***

SPENCER, N.C. — Classic car enthusiasts will converge upon the N.C. Transportation Museum (NCTM) on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. for the 22nd annual Antique Car Show. The show is hosted by the Furnitureland chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA). At 1:30 p.m., a 1939 Railway Express Agency truck will be dedicated by the N.C. Transportation Museum Foundation in memory of Lester Brown, Board member and volunteer since the late 1970s.

For more than 25 years Lester was one of the museum's strongest advocates for automobile-themed events and exhibits. Former president of the Furnitureland chapter of the AACA and a resident of Salisbury, Brown was the creator and show chairman for the annual AACA Antique Car Show, Studebaker car show, and Antique Truck Historical Society Show at the N.C. Transportation Museum.

In 2002, Brown donated an unrestored 1939 REA Truck to the museum's foundation, calling the truck the "missing link" in the museum's interpretation of North Carolina's transportation history. The Railway Express Agency (REA) was a nationwide operation that moved packages to and from railroad terminals until the 1960s, similar to modern companies like UPS and FedEx.

After nearly five years of work by Roger Lyons Restorations in Sanford, and thanks to monetary donations from the Hornets Nest Region of the AACA and many others, Brown's vision finally became a reality – just in time. Brown passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 11 after a battle with pancreatic cancer and less than a week after overseeing delivery of the 1939 REA truck to the NCTM. He was diagnosed with the disease only three weeks ago, but fought to see the truck complete and in place at the museum.

To honor the memory of Lester J. Brown for his commitment to the NCTM and to the preservation of North Carolina's transportation history, the N.C. Transportation Museum Foundation will dedicate the 1939 REA Truck in memory of Brown at 1:30 p.m. in front of the Master Mechanics Office during the AACA Antique Car Show.

For more information about the dedication ceremony or the AACA Antique Car Show call 704-636-2889 or visit www.nctrans.org.

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The North Carolina Transportation Museum, located in historic Spencer Shops, the former Southern Railway repair facility for steam locomotives, is part of the Division of State Historic Sites, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, www.ncculture.com. The museum offers free admission and is conveniently located just a few minutes off I-85, Exit 79 in Spencer, N.C., and about an hour from Charlotte, Greensboro or Winston-Salem.