

This Date In History

Eva (Corvair Lady) McGuire

This date in Corvair History...May 14, 1969...

May 14th commemorates the 55th anniversary of the last day of Corvair production which took place at the Willow Run Assembly Plant in Ypsilanti Twp., Michigan, with the press, Willow Run officials, and some GM Executives in attendance.

In its last year of production, a total of 6,000 1969 Corvairs were built at Willow Run. On May 14, 1969, at the historic time of 1:30 PM, the last made Olympic Gold Monza coupe (car #6000) rolled out of the plant, was placed in a covered truck, taken downtown to GM's garage, and was never seen again. This left the Corvair world an unsolved mystery as to its whereabouts all these many years as it was never issued an MSO nor was it ever registered. My confidential sources told me that car #6000 was scrapped due to the infighting of those who wanted to own the last made 1969 Corvair.

There were a few historic pictures taken on May 14, 1969, and Mr. Joe Strayhorn, former Senior Reliability Engineer and Superintendent of the 6,000 1969 Corvairs made, was the last known person to be photographed in car #6000. I've attached some photos from that day including some very rare ones I'm privileged to share from the private collection of Mr. Strayhorn when I first interviewed him several years ago. Unfortunately, Joe has since passed away.



There were also a couple of news clippings about those last Corvairs including car #6000 and a photo of the next to the last Corvair, car #5999. Car #5999 wouldn't start; resulting in a backfire condition, and the car had to be pushed aside to make way for car #6000 to roll out.

I had a former Willow Run auto worker relay this little unknown gem of a story on the last day of Corvair production... When he and his fellow workers saw the last made car passing by, those who wore hats took them off and placed them over their hearts to pay homage and tribute to a car they were Vairy proud and honored to make. That says a lot about how these guys felt about making our favorite air-cooled vehicle.

Corvair Fun facts: Mr. Linus "Pete" Rausch was the only known gentleman who was photographed in two historic Corvair production moments at Willow Run: As the Corvair Plant Manger in 1959, he officially drove the first production made 1960 Corvair (car #1) off the assembly line and was also photographed in the last made 1969 Corvair (car #6000). The

first and the last. This would make for a good trivia question for Corvair aficionados.

Due to a high demand of Novas being made (producing around 57 cars an hour with three Corvairs running on the line in between); the Corvair was taken off the main assembly line in mid November of 1968. From there, a separate "Corvair Room" was created to hand assemble the remaining 1969 cars. On November 15, 1968, the firsthand assembled pilot line car (#2195) was built. According to Joe Casey, Supervisor of the Corvair Room, they only built one convertible in a day because he said, "They were a pain in the a\$\$ to make."

Other facts: Corvairs were produced for model years 1960-1969 with a U.S. production total of 1,786,243 vehicles made (with the vast majority of them being made at Willow Run = 1,397,698 out of that total). The grand total number of 1,786,243 Corvairs made does not include Canadian or CKD cars built which would put the ultimate total just over 1.8 million. The dream began in 1960 with just over 250,000 cars made in the U. S. In its last year of production, a total of 6,000 1969 Corvairs were built at Willow Run (of which 521 were convertibles).

For rare film footage taken on May 14, 1969, of the last Corvair made (car #6000), please click on the link below for the Walter Cronkite news report announcing the last day of production (by the way, the announcer made a mistake, the first day of production was July 7, 1959 (not July 5th): youtu.be/VNKWHnvMWc4

For those who would like to learn more about the Corvair history, please click on our page and like to follow.

By: Eva "Corvair Lady" McGuire, Creator/Historian,
Meet the Makers of the Chevrolet Corvair

Activities and Events

Lin Parro

May

May 20-23, Tu-F, CORSA National Convention, San Luis Obispo, CA

Details and/or updates will be announced at all upcoming CCE general meetings prior to the event. Convention details in the Communique and on the CORSA website.

Friday, May 30th, Rolling Meadows Cruise Night, 5-8 PM
Meadows Christian Fellowship, 2401 Kirchoff Road, Rolling Meadows, IL

For a good spot may want to consider arriving around 4p or earlier. Food and beverages available for purchase. For more information visit the church's Facebook page called "Meadows Cruise Nights" or website: cruisenight@meadowsfamily.org.

June

General Meeting: Parking Lot Beauty Contest

This is a members participation activity. Everyone who has a Corvair drives it to the meeting to form a small car show. Members who are participating in the contest will need to register their car. All members, whether you have a Corvair or not, will receive a ballot to vote for their favorite car in the following

categories; Early Open, Early Close, Late Open, Forward Control, and Work in Progress. Ballots will be tallied during the business portion of the meeting announcing winners at the end of the break. All winners receive bragging rights for the year.

Friday, June 13th and 27th, Rolling Meadows Cruise Night, 5-8 PM

Meadows Christian Fellowship, 2401 Kirchoff Road, Rolling Meadows, IL

For a good spot may want to consider arriving around 4p or earlier. Food and beverages available for purchase. For more information visit the church's Facebook page called "Meadows Cruise Nights" or website: cruisenight@meadowsfamily.org.

Saturday, June 14th, Milwaukee Corvair Club 55th Anniversary All Corvair Show, 9 AM-3 PM

Foxx View Lanes, 2440 Sunset Drive, Waukesha, WI.
For more information go the club's website: milwaukeeecorvairclub.org.

July

July 10-13, Th-Sa, Detroit Area Corvair Club Homecoming

Wyndom Garden, 2900 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI
Look forward to a free buffet breakfast for hotel registrants, free lunch each day in Ken Pepke's World Class Hospitality Room, indoor and outdoor swap meet each day, Road Rally on Thursday. On Friday evening enjoy a cookout/picnic followed by an automotive related movie. Saturday will be the Valve Cover races followed by a live auction of various items. Seems like a good alternative if you're not going to CA. For more information go to detroitcovairs.com/homecoming.

August

Sunday, Aug 3rd, IRM, Union, IL

CCE works the show car gate. Workers get into the museum for free. More information to come.

Friday, August 8th and 22nd, Rolling Meadows Cruise Night, 5-8 PM

Meadows Christian Fellowship, 2401 Kirchoff Road, Rolling Meadows, IL

For a good spot may want to consider arriving around 4p or earlier. Food and beverages available for purchase. For more information visit the church's Facebook page called "Meadows Cruise Nights" or website: cruisenight@meadowsfamily.org.

Saturday, Aug 9th, Mt. Prospect Corvair Cruise Night, 3-8 PM

Metra Station – East commuter lot at the SE corner of Northwest Highway and Maple.

Sunday, August 17th, CCE Picnic, 11 AM-CC

Pottawatomie Park, River Pavilion. 8 North Ave., St. Charles, IL

Grill preparations will begin around 11 AM to be available for use by 12 Noon. Paul Polster has volunteered to bring his six foot grill. Jeff Wentz has volunteered to bring the charcoal and lighter fluid.

Everyone brings their own food, cooking utensils, picnic papergoods. There will not be a potluck unless you want to coordinated among yourselves. Unfortunately alcohol is NOT permitted. CCE will be providing pop, water and ice.

Please note vehicles are NOT permitted to drive to pavilion to unload or to assist anyone disabled. Plenty of attractions and activities, go to the Park's website for information. All family and friends are welcome.

Sunday, August 24th, The Geneva Concours d'Elegance,

10 AM-4 PM, located on Third Street in Geneva, IL.
Visit website genevaconcours.net for any information.

That's it for me, if you have any activity ideas for club outings, general meetings, or know of any non-CCE upcoming events, **don't be shy**....please send them my way to Lin Parro at (cell) 708-932-9966 (if texting, please identify yourself-thank you) or email to lindaparro@gmail.com.

Thanks everyone!

CORSA News You Can Use

CORSA Board of Directors

Spring is here! By now, many of us are on the road with our Corvairs, heading out to car shows, club meetings, and events. We hope you are enjoying your cars and supporting the chapter events in your area. Check out the list of events here [CORSA News & Events \(corvair.org\)](http://CORSA News & Events (corvair.org)). Send us your events if it's missing from this list.

Membership renewals: Consider renewing your membership NOW before the dues increase takes effect in a few weeks on June 1st. A two-year renewal gives you two extra months of membership- a great deal. Share this news with other Corvair owners too! [Join - Renew - Contact \(corvair.org\)](http://Join - Renew - Contact (corvair.org)).

Convention News: California, here we come! It won't be long before Corvairs are seen on the streets of San Luis Obispo. Log in and get registered now and be sure to book the hotel before the room block dates expire. We have great rates set up. Register by April 20th for discounted convention rates. Book the banquet too- there will be prizes! CORSA News & Events, [CORSA Headlines \(corvair.org\)](http://CORSA Headlines (corvair.org)). Start working on your cars for 2026: Mark your calendars for June 22-26th in Gettysburg, PA.

Communique Magazine: Recent issues of the Communique have highlighted Chapter events, member cars, and technical information. Your feedback helps us shape the content. Share your articles and photos! Our editor, Don Keefe, is here to help if you have questions. Publications & Galleries, [How-To Submit Articles \(corvair.org\)](http://How-To Submit Articles (corvair.org)).

Did you know: members can list cars or items for sale for free in the Communique? With pictures too? This is a great benefit and way to find and sell items to the Corvair Community corvair.org/go-shipping.



Classified Ads

For Sale: '66 Monza sport sedan, 110-glide, LA-built and sold new in California, so it has an "L" in the VIN and two working fan belts. Sandalwood Tan over Fawn interior. Owned 33+ years, 114K miles; not concours ready. There is some rust, but an excellent driver/club events car. Appears largely stock. I'm the fourth owner. **Many** correct options and tasteful, discreet additions. Includes indoor storage cover (w/CORSA logo) and four reconditioned, painted, 13" wheels w/valve stems, three sets of front OEM floor mats, working clock, original Protect-o-Plate, etc. Infrequent use and storage forces sale, see picture, \$7,750. Ed Thompson, Milwaukee area, CCE member since 1980. q53.832@gmail.com, 414-379-1025. [submitted 2025-05]



Moving Sale: Two late model coupe rear windshields, one tinted, one clear, plus some sheet metal. Fred, (630) 843-1270.

Spring Dust Off Pictures

John DiProva

These are pictures from the CCE Spring Dust Off on April 13 at Dell Rhea Chicken Basket on Joliet Road in Willowbrook, IL.

Members And Their Corvairs



More Spring Dust Off Pictures

