

Corvairs of New Mexico Standing Award Francis Boydston Award

As approved by the Corvairs of New Mexico Board of Directors, October 20, 2004

Francis Boydston was a founding and charter member of Corvairs of New Mexico (CNM).

Francis' involvement in the Corvair hobby started long before CNM was organized in 1974 and continued after his departure from this earth as an influence and reminding force that good people take care of others, especially if they drive a Corvair.

Francis was always quick to provide help in solving Corvair problems and for many years was an authorized reseller of Corvair vendor parts and supplies. Francis was a mentor to many members and Corvair owners in their quest to learn and develop competencies in perpetuating the use of all things Corvair.

Francis was a long time Ultra Van owner and was a fixture at the Tri-State Meets. His influence reached far beyond the Tri-State Meets with his buying and selling of all models of Corvairs and Corvair powered vehicles. Even today, Corvair owners who have a former Boydston vehicle lay claim to that heritage.

To many, Francis embodied all of the positive social aspects of sharing in the Corvair hobby. He could easily be found working on some Corvair part or tinkering in his garage on a weekend afternoon. At the chapter meetings and Tri-State Meets, he was often found discussing obscure and difficult problems with other Corvair owners and experts and providing insight to fix problems. When these discussions occurred in his garage, Francis often had just the right part to solve the problem.

In keeping with Francis' participation, influence and support of Corvair activities within CNM and at the Tri-State Meets and even the Ultra Van Conventions, it is an honor for CNM to present an award in his name, including other CORSA chapters and their members who were also influenced by and continue to perpetuate the ideals and values that he embodied.

The following information was compiled from Enchanted Corvairs Newsletter articles written by CNM Newsletter Editor Jim Pittman:

Corvairs of New Mexico was founded in April 1974 and Francis Boydston was one of the founders. The club followed the trajectory of many Corvair clubs: We had not existed before General Motors terminated the Corvair in early 1969 but many of us had owned Corvairs for years and we wanted to get together with other Corvair owners to help keep our cars alive for years to come. Our club gradually coalesced into a robust organization with elected officers; monthly meetings; a board of directors; a monthly newsletter; and activities such as car shows, rallies, tours, tech sessions, swap meets and holiday banquets. Those who were more experienced mechanics helped others learn how to work on their cars and how to find parts.

Over the years the club flourished, due to the dedication of a core group of members and our good fortune that "enough" members had "enough" varied interests and skills to tackle just about any chore needed to support our local club and the national organization -- including putting on the very successful 1996 International CORSA Convention in Albuquerque. Francis Boydston served a term as treasurer and another term as CNM president. Despite his affinity for 1964 models (the number of 1964 Corvairs he owned defies enumeration) he worked on any and all Corvairs including Ultra Vans and always was a reliable source of parts and mechanical knowledge. His support for our CNM club, for CORSA and for Corvair parts vendors was unceasing.

When Francis died in 1997 our sense of loss was intense. At a CNM board meeting on September 17th it was proposed that a Francis Boydston Award be set up. We discussed how this award would be different from our Ike Meissner Award and proposed that while the Meissner Award would be for "Contributing Members" the new award might be regarded as a "Service" recognition award.

Saint Francis of Corvair: Francis Boydston 1923-1997
by Jim Pittman
Enchanted Corvairs Newsletter - October 1997
Corvairs of New Mexico

Most of us knew Francis as one of the founding members of Corvairs of New Mexico, a champion of 1964 Corvairs, a reference point for how-to-do Corvair maintenance and repair, an unfailing source of Corvair parts, and a friend. He is gone now and we no longer have him to call up to find out how to do something, or to see if he has that special part we need, or just to talk to (maybe I should say, "listen to") about Corvairs in particular and the state of the world in general. Francis was a good friend to me and was always generous with his time and knowledge. He used to remark that the editor deserved special consideration, but the fact is, he was equally generous to a lot of people, especially to members of the Corvair Club.

At the wake the other night several people told of particular memories they had of Francis. I kept waiting for somebody to tell the "Saint Francis of Corvair" story but nobody did. I'm not the best qualified to tell it, but someone should and it might as well be me. Here's hoping I don't distort the facts too much.

The story is simple and illustrates the regard we all had for Francis. Years ago we had a new member who, I thought, wouldn't really get along with Francis very well. He was an opinionated, irreverent, loud, brash person who always set his own course without much regard for what others thought of him. I'll call him "Bob" and he owned Corvairs and he heard about Francis as "the man to see" to get parts or to find out how to do mechanical repairs. Francis often remarked on Bob's blistering vocabulary, but actually they became friends. Anytime Bob needed anything, Francis would help him out; conversely, Bob did favors for Francis as well.

One day Bob went by Francis' place on a routine visit, to get a part or find out how to do something, then went on his way to finish up a project. That night Bob woke up at three in the morning and couldn't go back to sleep. He lay in bed, thinking about how Francis, once again, had so generously and effortlessly contributed to keeping a Corvair alive and well. Bob was struck by the idea of our Club's "Saint Francis of Corvair" and had an inspiration for an appropriate gift to show his appreciation. He immediately got up in the middle of the night, went out to the garage, found a large wooden panel, got out his new router and set to work. He made a big plaque with the words "Saint Francis of Corvair" in bold letters. He could hardly wait to finish it and take it to Francis.

Francis was of course flattered but accepted the plaque as his due. He hung it up in the garage for all to see, and of course when anyone came by and remarked on it, he would tell the story about how Bob made the plaque and presented it to him.

Many of us received more than our fair share of advice, parts, fellowship, and, yes, criticism from Francis over the years. He was always devoted to the well-being of the Club and always helped anyone who had any kind of Corvair problem. The "Saint Francis of Corvair" plaque was a symbol that all of us could see and acknowledge as very fitting to his place in the community and in our Club.

Everything that we now have in our Club is the heritage and contribution of many members over the years. We all have had some influence on the way the Club has grown and flourished. We have been extraordinarily fortunate in the particular mix of people and interests and skills we have had in our Club over the years. If any one person was representative of the spirit of Corvairs of New Mexico, it was Francis. We'll not soon forget him.



The Francis Boydston Award has been presented annually to a Tri-State CORSA Chapter member, in good standing, who best exemplifies the influence, support, ideals, and values that Francis embodied. It may be jointly awarded to members and spouses or jointly to separate members if approved by the reviewing authority as detailed below. As some members felt it was not appropriate for CNM to be solely responsible for the Award, at a meeting of CNM, PPCC and RMC representatives at the 2009 Tri-State Event in Taos it was agreed that henceforth each chapter will be responsible for managing the award in whatever way they see fit, when that chapter sponsors a Tri-State event.

To commemorate the occasion, the recipient shall be awarded a plaque suitable for prominent display:

**St. Francis of Corvair
Francis Boydston Service Award**

For
Outstanding Service and Contributions to
the Tri-State Corvair Clubs
And
Perpetuation of the Corvair

AWARD RECIPIENT NAME

YEAR

This award is bestowed in memory of
Francis Boydston, a CNM founder and friend.

In addition to the individual plaque, there may be a traveling plaque that has tags for the addition and date of each annual recipient(s). The cost of the award and engraving shall be borne by CNM. Two months prior to the next Tri-State meet, the designated committee responsible for the award should make arrangements to retrieve the traveling plaque no less than five weeks prior to the next award presentation.

The selection committee for the awards shall be comprised of at least three Tri-State Chapter members who will work with and report to the responsible committee. It is recommended but not necessary that at least one of the three members be immediate past award recipients.

Guidelines for consideration for the Francis Boydston Award shall, in no particular priority, be:

1. Attend meetings and plan, coordinate or organize individual Tri-State Chapter and/or Tri-State Meet activities or events
2. Share Corvair knowledge and expertise.
3. Encourage owners to preserve, maintain and share in the lore of the Corvair.

The presentation of the Francis Boydston Award shall be made at the annual Tri-State Meet Banquet or at a time and place designated by a majority of the Tri-State Chapter Presidents. The presentation shall be made by a club official, approved by a majority of the Tri-State Chapter Presidents, and supported by a representative of the recipient's Chapter.

**Service Award
for
Outstanding Service and Contributions to
the TRI-STATE CORVAIR CLUBS
and
The Perpetuation of the Corvair**

Name

20xx

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