

“Artist”

(Cont. from front)

those times of painting that I realized a lot of folks love the simple scenes that I capture.”

The Tobacco Barn painting is one of McFerron’s best examples, he pointed out, as well as his previous paintings of Burdette Farm, Cleft Rock, and the Brodhead Café. He said he strives to capture a moment in time that reflects the lives that have existed in Rockcastle County.

Not only is McFerron using his passion to bring out the beauty in Rockcastle County but he says he is also using his talent to partner with Citizens Bank of Mt. Vernon to benefit Relay for Life.

“I just finished an illustration of the old Mt. Vernon Depot and have partnered with Citizens Bank to sell it. 35% of the proceeds will go to Relay

for Life via Citizens Bank,” McFerron continued.

Along with sharing his skill with a great cause, McFerron added that he is also working on two paintings of a Native American Indian and what he would have looked like existing in eastern Kentucky in the late 1700s. It’s no secret that he will continue to produce great works that represent not only Rockcastle but eastern Kentucky as a whole.

McFerron said he always hopes to preserve and display the true beauty of Rockcastle County. He even noted that he will be continuing this venture happily, for many years to come.

“I believe I will always paint and be influenced by the areas of Rockcastle county to my last days.”

You can follow McFerron on www.markmcferron.com or www.etsy.com/shop/markmcferron.



The Tobacco Barn by Mark McFerron

Strange... But True?

by: Tonya J. Cook



Cursed Car Kills Actor, James Dean, Part II

James Dean lived much less than an ideal childhood, with his mother dying when he was only nine years old. This forced his father to send him to live with an aunt and uncle where soon he was sexually abused by a minister. Dean came back to California after high school graduation to attend UCLA, majoring in Drama, after deciding against pre-law.

Dean registered as a homosexual, avoiding the draft, and was said to have had relationships with men as well as women during his brief but iconic days as an actor. He also dabbled in the occult and is said to have been cursed by a girlfriend that was involved in black magic, whom he spurned.

This briefly recaps the background of actor James Byron Dean as noted from last week’s column of “Strange But True?”. This week, we will look at his love of fast cars and racing, and his untimely death.

Dean loved to race and bought fast sports cars. The most famous car being a rare 1955 silver Porsche Spyder, one of only ninety ever made. The car is now almost as famous as James Dean, himself. Dean had a rather explicit nickname around Hollywood, as it was said by some directors that he was difficult to work with. His nickname was “Little Bastard”, which he had painted on the back of his Spyder, and the number 130 on the front.

Several of his friends said that the car was trouble, and actor Alec Guinness even went so far as to say that it would probably be his death. “Giant”, Dean’s last film, had just been finished filming, so James Dean and his racing crew headed for Salinas, California, for an upcoming race. A Porsche factory-trained mechanic, Rolf Wutherich, rode along with Dean.

The morning of the day of his death began simple enough. They all had coffee and donuts in Hollywood, with James Dean wearing his favorite red jacket, as he wore in “Giant”. The day wore on, with Dean being stopped for speeding at 3:30 PM by Officer O.V. Hunter. By 5:45, James Dean would be fatally injured.

About 5:45 PST, the Spyder was going an estimated 85 miles per hour when a Ford coupe driven by 23-year old Donald Turnupseed made a left turn, and the Ford and Spyder collided almost head-on. The Spyder flipped, but landed on its wheels. The Ford was 39

feet away as a result of the impact.

Donald Turnupseed was only slightly injured with a few bruises. The other passenger in the Spyder, mechanic Rolf Wutherich, had some broken bones. James Dean was extracted from his car yet alive, but he had internal injuries and a broken neck, along with other fractures. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the Paso Robles War Memorial Hospital at 6:20 PST by Dr. Robert Bossert. James Dean’s last words are thought to be, “That guy’s gotta stop...he’ll see us.”

Both drivers, Turnupseed and Dean, were neither charged with any crime. Turnupseed granted only one interview after the crash, and has remained silent concerning the incident since. He did say that he had killed Dean and lived with a lot of remorse. Donald Turnupseed died from cancer at age 63 in 1995. James Dean is buried in Fairmont, IN, in Park Cemetery, about a mile from where he grew up on his aunt and uncle’s farm.

Now, for the fate of the silver Porsche 550 Spyder. To stress the importance of safe driving, the California State Highway Patrol had the car taken to various high schools. The transport wrecked, throwing George Barkhuis from the vehicle and the Spyder landed on him, killing him.

On the one year anniversary of Dean’s accident, a fifteen year-old boy looking at the car on display was run over by the car. The bolts securing the vehicle suddenly snapped as if by unseen hands, crushing the boy’s legs.

In transportation again, the car slid from the bed of a truck, causing a fatal accident. A boy stole an emblem from the car, resulting in a serious gash on his arm. Two tires from the car were bought by a doctor, and both tires blew out at the same time resulting in a non-fatal accident. Another accident occurred when parts of the engine were used in another car. Death, accidents, and a trail of bad luck follow this car.

The most mysterious of all is that the car was en route from California to Florida, but seems to have vanished “into thin air”.

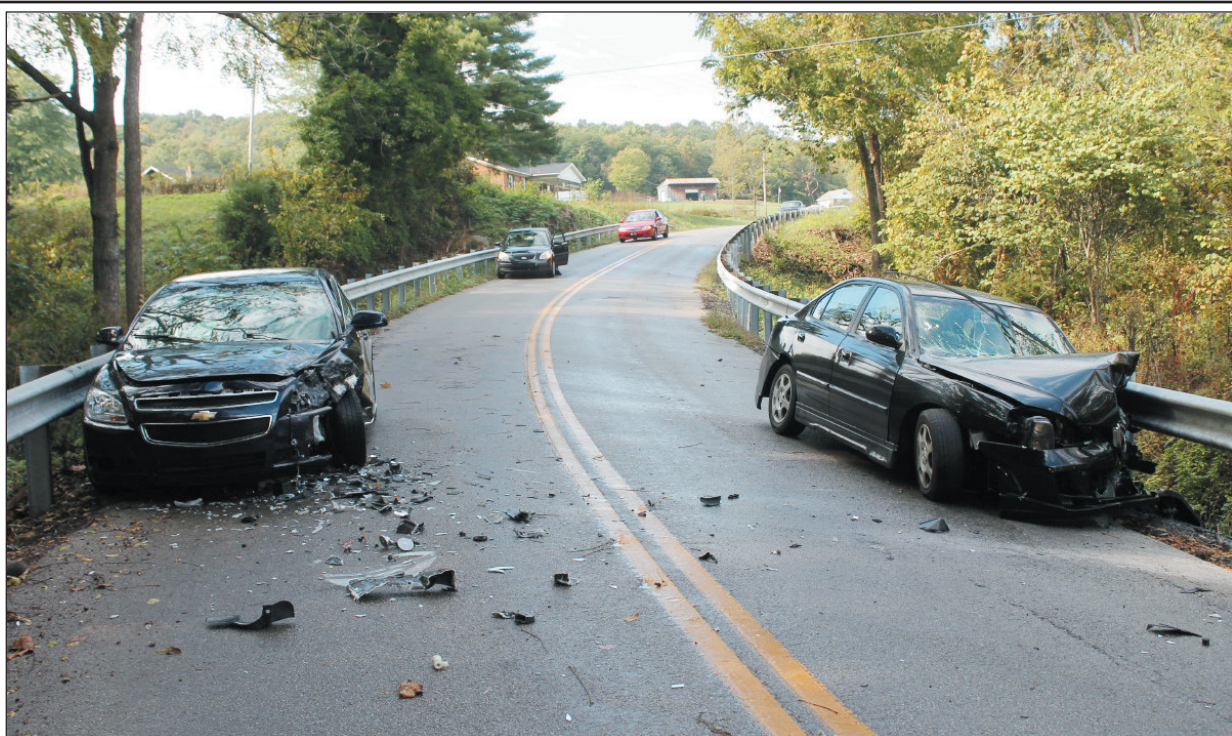
Famous car customizer, George Barris, has built a replica of the Spyder. He said, “The car took off by itself and ran into a building. It hit the wall and broke a light. I don’t know how it happened. It’s mystifying.”

Sources:

themountainpress.com

Wikipedia:qls.net/w5sss/dean.html

Underworld Tales



Mt. Vernon Fire and Rescue responded to a head-on collision last Thursday on Old Brodhead Road in Mt. Vernon. Authorities say Jeremiah Caudill, 17, Brodhead was traveling north on Old Brodhead Road when he hydroplaned on the slick roadway and collided head-on with a Chevy Impala driven by Stephanie Ross, 17, of Livingston. Ross and her passenger Nicole Hatton, 17, of Mt. Vernon were transported by ambulance to Rockcastle Regional Hospital where they were treated for non-life threatening injuries and released. Caudill refused treatment at the scene. Officials say all three were wearing their seatbelt at the time of the collision.



The 2013 Homecoming king candidates are shown above front row from left: Carson Noble, Thomas Burdette and Lucas Gentry. Second row: Justice Masters, Austin Brown and Erik Durham. Third row: Avery Bradshaw, Ryan Moore and Sam Pensol. Back row: Dakota Molina, Cody Brown and Derek Wynn.

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