

The Garland Napier Project— *One of the Best Kept Secret Collections in the Hobby*

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By Jason Harman

In West Virginia there are many nooks and crannies hidden amongst the mountains, with gems waiting to be discovered. One of the best kept secrets in the mountains of West Virginia is the wrecker and salvage business of Garland Napier, or “Napper” as he answers on his phone. Mr. Napier’s gems are salvaged cars acquired while working his business. He was born and raised on a farm in Wayne County, WV. He is a Vietnam Veteran and lived in town for a short period of time after being discharged from the military. His love of country life motivated him to buy a farm in Wayne County, where he began his salvage business.

Mr. Napier’s salvage yard is located one hour southeast of Huntington, WV on U.S. 52 on Whites Creek Road in Wayne County. Napier always liked antique cars, especially ones from the 1930s and began buying them in the 1960s. A ‘37 Ford was the first vehicle Napier brought to the farm and his collection has grown ever since.

As you drive into Mr. Napier’s salvage yard, you begin to see some of the amazing cars situated on 50 acres of rolling farm land. It is a site to behold for any lover of antique cars. The ‘46 Ford Coupes are interspersed with vehicle after vehicle representative of automobile manufacturers from around the world for the past 90 years. After he began collecting a few cars in the 60’s and 70’s, Mr. Napier said the next thing he knew he had two to three thousand cars across his land. Napier pointed out that the property was flooded once or twice over the years, which warranted the construction of an Army Corps of Engineers style of bridge at the property’s entrance. He recalled building the bridge

with his father in 1991.

Garland Napier’s vehicles were acquired in more ways than one. He first purchased to quench his love for antique cars, finding them in old barns or on lots. Napier found a second source of material through salvage picking up broken-down vehicles which were abandoned along the roadside. His third source came from his brother who lives in the “Lone Star State,” who ships or sells vehicles to him. Whatever the manner the vehicles are acquired Mr. Napier has accrued quite the inventory of vehicles which are for sale in one piece or piece by piece.

The salvage yard at Napier’s consists of recent vehicles such as, Ford Rangers and Tauruses, Geo Trackers, Toyotas, Nissans and vintage Vegas, VW Thing, Impalas, and Austin Healys.

Even with the assortment of newer vehicles, the antique lover cannot help but admire the four door Ford Fairlane, ‘46 Nash, ‘42 Buick, ‘46 Panel truck, and 1934 and 1942 Buicks. The 1935 and 1946 Nashs, chopped ‘49 Ford, ‘38 DeSoto, 30’ Studebaker and ‘33 Oldsmobile are mouthwatering to any collector looking for restoration material. As we

walk along what seems to be an endless field of cars my eyes wandered to the ‘31, ‘40 and ‘37 Pontiacs, ‘35 Chevy, ‘42 Chevy Coupe, ‘38 LaSalle and ‘32 Hupmobile, all of which I could imagine restored to their original luster. Walking along this proverbial wonderland museum of cars, I suddenly came upon my personal favorite - a 1950’s model firetruck. Whatever you may be looking for, whether it be a part or a whole vehicle, Napier’s salvage yard would be a good bet to find it.

Napier’s Salvage yard doesn’t crush the classics and not even the recent ones unless space is at a necessity. Only a few classics were lost over the years, due to corrosion. So if you’re looking for that unique part or vehicle from days long gone, contact, Mr. Garland Napier, at Napier’s Salvage and Towing, by calling 304-486-5070 any reasonable time or by email at napiersauto@hotmail.com

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A classic Pontiac front end with its Art-Deco influenced design.



Dinosaur of its time the Nash Logo and ornament was never mistaken.



A Plymouth sitting like a rock in a field.



Operational Buick still standing strong.



Stylish body with great hips. Waiting for some lovin'.



Searching for a Triumph of Ferrari?



Buick hood ornament still looking pretty.



'49 Ram truck and Gangsta mobile.



A 4-door project car up for adoption.



DeSoto still with many parts and looking good.



A 4x4 Jeep would make a nice weekender.



A Vega hiding amongst the rusty gold.



Many to choose from in the tall grass.



DeSoto ornament modeled after the explorer.



A firetruck for those big toy lovers.



Three cars along the gravel road.



Many cars to discover on the exploration.



A Nash for your next project.



VW Thing wants to become some Thing.



Cars stored in a garage waiting.



The entrance at Garland Napier.



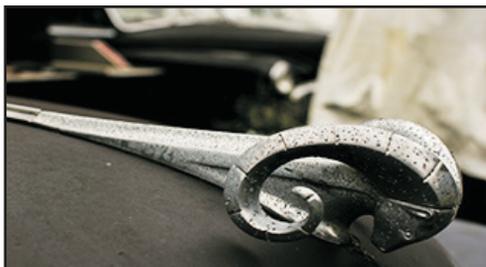
A cargo hauler looking for work.



One of numerous hood ornaments.



A Studebaker in a field of dreams.



Power Ram ornament looking strong.