

PAUL WILLIAMS – OUR '57 GUY

RMOG "SPOTLIGHT," MAY 2021

Paul was born in Lincoln, Nebraska and grew up in Hastings where he met his wife Jane while they were in high school. After graduation Paul and Jane went to Hastings College in Nebraska. After their freshman year (1954) they were married. Paul and Jane have been married for 67 years and have three daughters, eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Paul's first car was a 1938 Pontiac that cost him \$150. After six months he traded it for a 1941 Ford which he customized, installed a '50 Mercury grill and turned into a real hot rod. Then came his first Oldsmobile, a 1948 model 78 coupe. This car was followed by a red 1951 Super 88 2-door which Paul and Jane drove to Colorado on their honeymoon. It was a hot trek to Colorado and the transmission petered out on the way. It was going to cost all the money they had taken on the honeymoon to pay for the repairs, but the dealer gave them a break and asked if \$50 would work for them. What a break!

In 1960, Paul graduated with bachelor's degrees in Physics and Mathematics from Hastings College where he was President of his fraternity. After college, Paul and Jane came to Colorado and began an interesting and varied career. He worked for the White-Rodgers division of Emerson Electric and left after 16 years as National Merchandise Manager. Paul then started a heating and solar distributorship which he operated for four years. He then owned a Computer City store for 11 years before selling to the Tandy Corporation. Paul then purchased a distributorship from the Jim Barna Log Corporation and designed and sold log homes for six years before retiring in 1997. Jane worked for Adams 12 (district) Five Star Schools for 20 years as the Adult Education Coordinator before retiring in 1997.

Paul's love of Oldsmobiles came from his parents and grandparents, all of whom drove Oldsmobiles. Through the years, Paul and Jane have owned many Oldsmobiles. After the two-tone Green '48 and the '51, they had a 1953 Super 88, a 1955 98 2-door Holiday, a brand new 1957 Super 88 (J2) convertible with every option and a continental kit, a '57 Fiesta station wagon, a red '57 convertible, and a '57 98 Holiday 4-door. Pictures of some of Paul's cars are attached. The picture with Paul and Jane beside their '57 convertible was taken at the Kearney, Nebraska drag strip in 1957.

Through the years Paul restored and sold many Oldsmobiles and parts. At one time he had over 40 Oldsmobiles, most of which were project cars. He said "I loved them all!" All of the cars he restored, he did so back to original condition except for his last project, a 1950 Holiday 88 Deluxe, which he converted to a street rod. This car was pure Olds – 350 CID engine, TH-400 transmission and all the latest upgrades to the chassis. The Candy Apple Red paint job topped it all. One of Paul's greatest thrills was winning "Best of Show" awards for that car at Jim's Burger Haven in Westminster.

The only Oldsmobile the Williams still have is a 1997 Aurora that they purchased new in 1997. Paul said "That Aurora still runs, looks, and drives as good as any new car on the road today!"

Paul joined RMOC in 1986. He was showing his blue '57 98 4 door Holiday at the Boulder Elks Show, where he met one of the club's key players at the time, Al Russell. Al took Paul to his first RMOC meeting at the Jim Blum Oldsmobile dealership in Englewood; he decided to join the club at that time. Paul and Al were great friends for a long time. Paul provided the attached picture of himself portraying Al Capone sitting on the fender of Al's 1940 Oldsmobile.

Shortly after Paul joined the RMOC, he became the club editor, a position he held for several years. He designed the club's first logo (which is still used today) and created the first club newsletter in color. Paul chaired the first regional Oldsmobile car show in Northglenn (Denver) in 1993 and was editor of the event programs used for RMOC's two regional shows and the Oldsmobile National Show in Denver in 2001. Paul and Jane are also past chairs of RMOC's activities committee.

In addition to his involvement with RMOC, Paul was editor of the OCA '57 Chapter's newsletter and served as the chapter's President. He was also a member of the National Antique Olds Club. Over the years, Paul and Jane lived in Broomfield and Westminster but spent their winters in Mesa, Arizona. While in Mesa he started the LPG (Las Palmas Grand) Car Club and served several years as President. LPG's car shows were very popular with never less than 100 entries.

Paul and Jane have been to many OCA Nationals, their earliest ones being Omaha and St. Louis in 1980's. Paul said, "those were the days when we would all caravan to the convention, talking on our Citizens Band radios; such fun." For the 90th Olds Anniversary they caravanned to Lansing with the OCA President leading the caravan as "Captain 88." One of Paul's greatest thrills was receiving his OCA 30-year jacket at the 2017 Albuquerque OCA Nationals (see picture) *and* being the oldest driver of an Oldsmobile at the convention!

Paul and Jane have been very active in the communities in which they have lived. He was president of the Westminster Jaycees; Jane was president of the Jaycees wives group. Paul is also a 32nd degree Mason, a Shriner, and a life member of the Westminster Elks. Paul served several years on the Executive Board of Directors of the Broomfield Chamber of Commerce.

Paul's hobbies are genealogy, photography, hunting, travel and Oldsmobiles. They had both been active in a dance group until this past year when the COVID pandemic shut it down. They are both active in their church where Jane is a Deacon.

Through the years they have found many good friends in the RMOC. The best reason to be a member of the RMOC is that it is a club for the whole family with lots of activities.

As a postscript (and as noted in my book, Racing with the Wind), back in 1995, Paul told me about a nice red and white '57 Super 88 (J2) he had spotted at a car show in Prescott, Arizona. It was for sale; he encouraged me to pursue the matter. I bought it. And I learned a lot about 1957 Oldsmobile's from "our '57 guy" during the years thereafter. Thank you, Paul!



