



Remembering Dave Van Hine

When we think of the first fifty years of the BCCA, we need to recognize those who helped strengthen the hobby. One member who significantly contributed was Dave Van Hine #1902, "The Fat Dutchman."

Dave's creative writing skills and his willingness to mentor collectors old and new enabled him to grow interest in the Rusty Bunch and Mid-Michigan Chapters. In his iconic derby hat, he would jot down highlights of the shows he attended and hosted. These stories always included detailed information of shows, miles traveled in his station wagon "Rusty," gas prices, temperature and the number of washes his chapter shirt had.

One notable contribution to the hobby that most BCCA members might recognize would have to be "The Dump" at each CANvention. Impromptu attempts of "The Dump" on bedspreads in CANvention hotel rooms, which eventually spilled into hallways and elevator corridors, actually took place several years before it became an official event in 1987.

A Ryder rental truck loaded down with the nearly 8,000 donated cans would make the trip across the Canadian border from Michigan, en route to CANvention XVII, in Niagara Falls, Ontario. For many collectors, young and old, the tradition continues today, no matter one's collecting preference: line up to scramble through the massive pile of cans at high noon each Saturday of CANvention.

As a show organizer for the Mid-Michigan Chapter, Dave's idea was to combine the Summerswap show in 1986 with the Rusty Bunch Chapter, giving the At-Large Chapter a place to gather and spread the

word of rust. The show quickly gained popularity and turned into a significant event for collectors from a vast geographical area.

Welcomed wherever he traveled, Dave returned that generosity to those who attended his Michigan show. These visits usually consisted of trips to the local watering holes that began and ended at his home. Collectors who spent time on the floors, sofas and beds of his house are a literal "Who's Who" of collecting, and his wife, Karen, always welcomed them.

Dave may have been the originator of the Iron Guts Club. His annual "Taste Tests" at Mid-Michigan Chapter shows started in 1986, with an initial 25-year-old bottle of Stroh's. These sessions would include anyone willing to sample, with each scoring the beers on a four-star system. Those who visited Dave had to be careful not to accidentally drink one of the many vintage brews on reserve, stored in his fridge, alongside his fresh alternatives.

Dave would be awarded the Denver Wright Jr. Hall of Fame honor posthumously in 2010 at the Valley Forge CANvention. He would wear out four "Rustys" traveling to shows through the years, and Dave washed his original Mid-Michigan Chapter shirt for the 100th and final time before he attended the 2010 Winterfest. Taste tests organized by Dave would end at 72. The reins were handed off to Beer Dave Gausepohl in 2010 at Winterfest. Beer Dave still conducts them today, though with more fresh and enjoyable craft beers from across the country.

The legacy of Dave Van Hine lives on throughout the hobby today—a true reflection of the man he was and the contributions he left behind.



Dave enjoying SummerSwap with his family.



"The Rusty Bunch Dump" banner with Dave's image.