

Vol. 24, No. 12

# Ragtops &

# Rumbleseats



Dec 2017



**• Holiday Party is December 10**

## Vintage Advertising

An ad from December of 1925 could not be any simpler. Not a single feature is described here, but the benefit is clear in their minds. Buy the family a Ford for Christmas, and endless days of joyful motoring await everyone.

The dealers were offering easy terms "if you wish". If someone preferred difficult terms, would they accommodate them too?

The Fordor Sedan seen here sold for \$660 on January 1, 1926, but was reduced to \$565 in February and \$545 in June. Production of this model in '26 was 102,732 units, a jump up from the more expensive '25 models (81,050). The closed cars came with a starter, optional on the open cars.

### In This Issue

End of year housekeeping - renew your dues, celebrate at the Holiday Party.

A rare classic that once called the SIRAACA Garage home.

41st Annual Fall Show dates are confirmed.

Vintage minibus from our island's past and pedal cars for Christmas



*This Christmas*

*a*

**Ford**

See Your Local Dealer

Easy Terms if You Wish

*Trivia Question: The extravagant and well-appointed 1956 Continental Mark II had only one option. What was it?*

*Answer: Air conditioning, which pushed the price of the car from \$9,695 to over \$10,000.*

## **RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS**

**December 2017**

**Volume 24, Number 12**

### **SIRAACA Who's Who**

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# Minutes of the 510th Meeting

November 7, 2017

1. The 510th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:20 pm by President Paul Jr. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence before the minutes of the 509th meeting were accepted as read.
2. Congratulations to Kevin Keenan for winning a pair of First Junior awards and Mike DiPilato for winning an HPOF award at Hershey. Members shared tales of their weekend at the National Fall Meet.
3. The club welcomed guest Ken Bach, the new interim director of Historic Richmond Town. Ken presented the first draft of a Letter of Intent for our two organizations to work together towards establishing the transportation building as a public exhibit.
4. The Holiday Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 pmat The RoadHouse on Clove Road. Members are asked to bring new, unwrapped toys to be donated to the Richard Gardner Jr. Memorial Toy Drive.
5. Our 41st Annual Fall Show is conformed for Sunday, September 16 with a rain date of September 23. We will be hosting the Durant Club's national meet at our event. The Spring Dust-Off is targeting April 22, the week following Englishtown (April 13-15).
6. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report, with all in order.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. The 50/50 collected \$30.00, with Paul Jr. winning \$15. Jeff Tucker won the \$25 Thanksgiving gift card.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Signorile, Vice President



## Christmas Wish List, 1937

What did the young car nut ask Santa to put under the tree 80 years ago? If he or she got their hands on the Sears catalog that year, they had a choice among these five pedal cars made by Murray under their Steelcraft brand. The premium model in the center of the page is the Steelcraft Supercharger, a 53-inch ride that was on sale for \$14.95, which is nearly \$500 in today's money. The Streamliner at the top of the page was another high-end offering at \$9.69, but it came with a free racing helmet and goggles. All of these fetch nice money today, even though the pedal car market has softened a bit since its highs. We spotted online an original Streamliner in very good condition that is listed at \$4,850, and a fully restored Supercharger sold for \$7,800 at auction in 2007. Hallmark made diecast scale replicas of these cars in the 1990's along with smaller diecast Christmas ornament versions and they can usually be found on eBay today (or on my tree).

**FOUR STAR FEATURE**

**\$9.69 FREE!**  
WITH AUTO GOGGLES AND HELMET

Save \$3.00 on This New Streamliner

You can bet all the gang will be green when they see you in this big car. Its classy lines gracefully show its sturdiness and smooth flowing beauty like that of the newest motor cars. Built to last for many a happy tour. Goggles and helmet free with this auto.

For Tots Up to 7 Yrs.

Heavy auto-fender steel body and beautifully sweeping fenders are one-piece to give strength. Sports model windshield. Streamliner radiator ornament adds a touch of quality. Such features as ball bearing driveshafts, adjustable rubber pedals, seat post, new type double bar bumper, insure comfort and longer life. Dummy headlights and gleaming red baked-on enamel finish. Artillery type roller bearing, 5/8-inch double disc steel wheels, with 3/8-inch rubber tires. Large dome hub caps. Length, 42 in.; width, 17 in. Shipping weight, 37 pounds. Not available. 79 VM 8954—Complete... \$9.69

**Super Features on Two Prize Winners:**

- WILL HOLD TWO MEN
- BALL BEARING DRIVE SHAFTS
- THREE ADJUSTMENTS ON FOOT PEDALS

**Hotter'n Hot!**  
**And Boy! What a Price!**

53-inch supercharger! Newest thing on wheels—designed by America's foremost auto-designer. Gleaming ivory color exhaust pipes set off the fine, artisticistic Dubonnet (maroon) baked-on finish on body and sweeping fenders.

For Kids Up to 10 Yrs.

Double bar bumper—new style windshield, colored dummy instrument board—dummy headlights, 10-in. roller bearing, artillery wheels, 3/4-in. rubber tires, large dome hub caps. Filter covered seat, bulb horn. Enjoy a cushioned ride with the ball bearing drive shafts, spring type chassis. Adjustable rubber pedals. 53 in. long, 18 in. wide. Shpg. wt., 62 lbs. Not available. 79 VM 8956... \$14.95

**\$20 Value**  
**\$14.95**

SHOCK ABSORBING REAR SPRINGS

**Save \$2.00 on This Big Mack**  
44 1/2-in. Real Dump Truck—For Tots Up to 8 Yrs.

With all the road-building going on, you'll need a big dump truck like this to get your share of the business. And here's a truck that "can take it"—heavy steel throughout.

Every inch a Mack with big dump box, 15 in. long, 14 in. wide, 5 in. deep. Large dome hub caps on 8 1/2-in. steel artillery wheels, with 3/8-in. rubber tires. Finished in red baked-on enamel, nicely decorated. Adjustable rubber pedals, spring type chassis & bearings all in one. 44 1/2 in. long, 20 in. wide. Mailable. Shpg. wt., 39 lbs. 79 V 8960... \$7.98

**Sports Roadster Save 25%**  
All-Steel 1-Pc. Body—For Tots Up to 6 Yrs.

A car that any young motorist will be proud to run. Just as strong as it is good-looking because body and fenders are all steel in one piece. Finished in attractive Dubonnet (maroon) baked-on enamel with contrasting ivory striping. Completely fitted with such accessories as fancy radiator ornament, latest divided type windshield, bulb horn, and dummy streamlined lights. 3 1/4-in. steel artillery wheels, 3/4-in. rubber tires, 35 1/2 in. long and 15 1/2 in. wide. Rubber pedals. Mailable. Shpg. wt., 30 lbs. 79 V 8953... \$7.48

**Fire Chief Auto and Hat**  
A \$7 Value. For Tots Up to 5 Yrs.

Clang! Clang! Make way for the young fireman. The nickled bell clanging with every pull of the cord will stop all sidewalk traffic and the flashing red "fire-engine" red, all steel body will attract every eye. And think of it! A fire chief hat free with every car. Sturdily built for years of alarm—size overall, 33x21 1/2 inches. 8 1/4-inch double disc steel wheels, 3/8-inch rubber tires. Rubber pedals. Mailable. Shipping weight, 27 pounds. 79 V 8952... \$5.48

**ACTUALLY DUMPS**

**PAGE 32 SEARS**

## Renew Your Dues

As 2018 approaches, it's time to renew your AACA national membership. You can do so by mail or via the AACA website. Look for the renewal card on the paper mailer inside your latest edition of the AACA magazine. Once your national membership is renewed, you can renew your SIRAACA membership as well. Local dues remain \$20 and can be paid to membership secretary Jonathan Schulman beginning in January.

## Holiday Party Toy Drive

Our Holiday Party is Sunday, December 10 at the RoadHouse at 1400 Clove Road. Festivities begin at 4:00 PM and we ask all members attending to donate a new, unwrapped toy to be given out to needy children by the Richard Gardner Jr. Memorial Toy Drive.



## From the Editor

This issue is the final one of 2017 and wraps up 24 years of "Rag-tops & Rumbleseats". Next year will mark the silver anniversary of my tenure as editor for the Staten Island Region's newsletter. To all our members old and new, I hope you find the newsletter informative and entertaining. I'm always open for feedback and suggestions, so don't hesitate to show an old dog a new trick. As I finish up this issue, I'm beginning to think about ways to celebrate Volume 25 in 2018. I'm proud of the milestone and look forward to many more. - Paul Jr.

## From the President

Today's society is greatly obsessed with celebrity. While I think it's neat to spot someone famous while I'm out to lunch in midtown, I'm not one to stop them for a selfie. A nice nod of the head to say "I know who you are" and I'm on my way. On the other hand, I do get excited and stop and drool and take photos of four-wheeled "celebrities". I know I haven't seen every existing Duesenberg, but when I see a new one on a crowded show field, I'll patiently wait my turn to get my pics. Is that any different than waiting for a famous person's autograph?

As the year draws to a close, let me thank all of our members for all that they do for the club and their friendship to me and each other. I wish everyone and their families a healthy, happy and joyous holiday season. - Paul Jr.

## - NEXT MEETING - December 10

Our December meeting will be held at our annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 PM at The Road-House Restaurant, located at 1400 Clove Road. Members are asked to bring new, unwrapped toys for our donation to the Richard Gardner Jr. Memorial Toy Drive.

## NYC Hosts RM Sotheby's Icons

RM Sotheby's Auctions typically runs big sales alongside events like Pebble Beach or Amelia Island or Hershey. New Yorkers however, have a chance to see their final event of the year right here in the city. Their ICONS Auction will be held on December 6 at their galleries on the upper east side. All lots are being exhibited for free from November 30 through the day of the auction. Along with modern day super cars like a 2018 Bugatti Chiron and a 2014 Ferrari LaFerrari (both expected to top \$3,000,000), there are some pre-war classics like a 1932 Marmon Sixteen Convertible Coupe by LeBaron and a 1923 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost Town Car by Brewster. There are also some post-war, custom coach-built gems like a 1948 Cadillac Cabriolet by Saoutchik and a 1952 Chrysler D'Elegance by Ghia. Throw in other icons of the automotive world like a 1960 VW 23-Window Microbus and a 1989 Lamborghini Countach, mix in some Porsches and Mercedes, and you have a unique mix of about 30 cars that will end up under a Christmas tree by the end of the month. The galleries are located at 1334 York Avenue between 71st and 72nd Streets, and open for viewing from 10:00 to 5:00.

## Amelia Island Names 2018 Classes

It's never too early to start planning your car show schedule for next year. For those of you who want to cross the Amelia Island Concours off of your bucket list, the Florida-based event will be held from March 9-11 and will truly present something for everyone. Alongside their standard concours d'elegance classes, special classes for 2018 include Hunting Cars, Electric Car Pioneers, pre-war MG's and the Cars of "Big Daddy" Ed Roth. This will be the first concours to honor Roth's Rat Fink sensibility, and we're looking forward to the Outlaw and Beatnik Bandit to ruffle some feathers among the Duesenbergs and Ferraris. Information and tickets can be found on the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance website, located at [www.ameliacconcours.org](http://www.ameliacconcours.org). Be prepared to empty your wallet.

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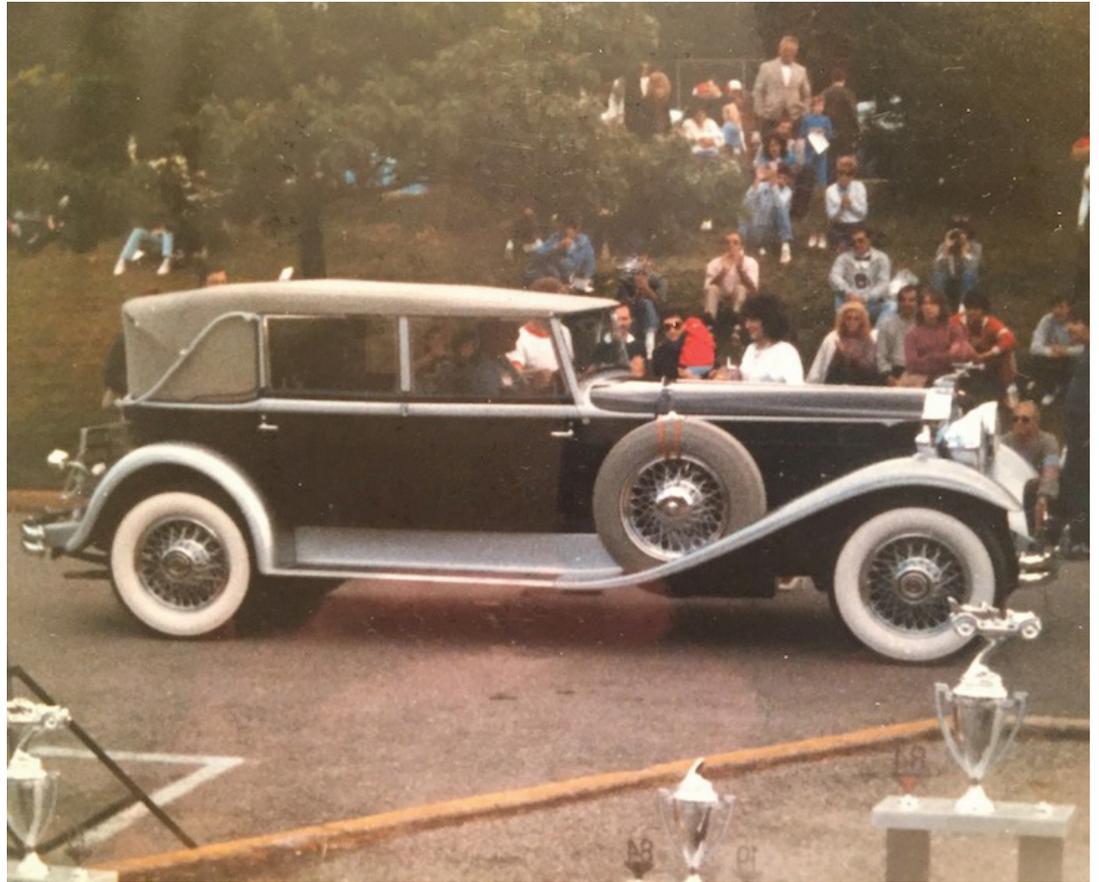
## Inside the SIRAACA Garage

Many years ago, the SIRAACA Garage was home to more cars of the classic era. This one called the Garage home back in the 1980's. It's former member Bill Vaccaro's 1930 Packard Model 745 Deluxe Eight convertible sedan, by Brewster.

No longer a member of our region, Bill remains a noted collector of classics, with a nod towards Packards. This car is one of two remaining Model 745 cars bodied by Brewster, out of 25 Packards crafted by that coachbuilder that year.

We found this photo in the SIRAACA Archive and asked Kevin Keenan to help ID the car through Andy Cannizzo. Andy recalled it right away, and then Google did the rest. Bill restored this car in the 1970's and won plenty of top national awards once completed. We learned that at some point the car went from Bill to Otis Chandler, and that famous collector's collection went to auction upon his death in 2006. This car had an estimate of \$150,000 to \$225,000 and sold for much more, at \$330,000. We did not learn of its whereabouts today. Perhaps one of you know?

The SIRAACA Garage is home to all of our members' cars, past and present. Has your car been featured yet? Make sure you get the details to Paul Jr. if you want to share your car with us all.



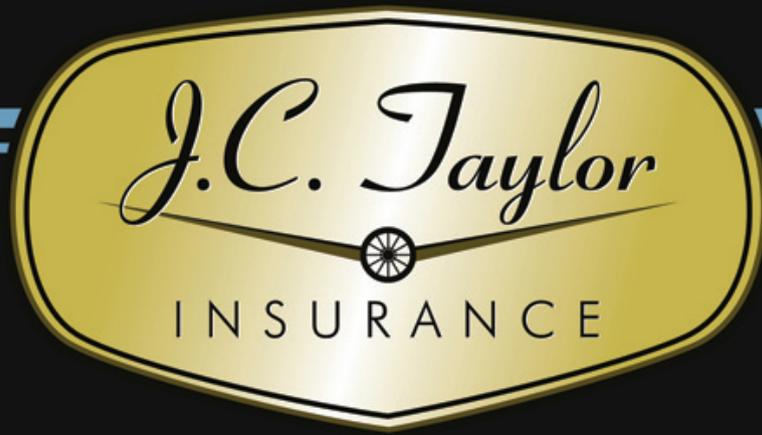
*The photo was taken in 1984 at the former College of Staten Island Campus (now the Petrides School). If you are wondering why Bill is driving the Packard in that direction to collect his award, it's probably because this car was displayed in the campus quadrangle to the left of this photo and not on the show field atop the hill where the spectators are gathered. (photo believed by Paul Jr.)*

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## Driving Towards 2018

The Staten Island Region has confirmed the dates for its 41st Annual Fall Show & Flea Market. The show is scheduled for Sunday, September 16th, with a rain date of Sunday, September 23. The club is awaiting confirmation of the proposed dates for the Spring Dust-Off, aiming for Sunday, April 22 with a rain date of April 29.





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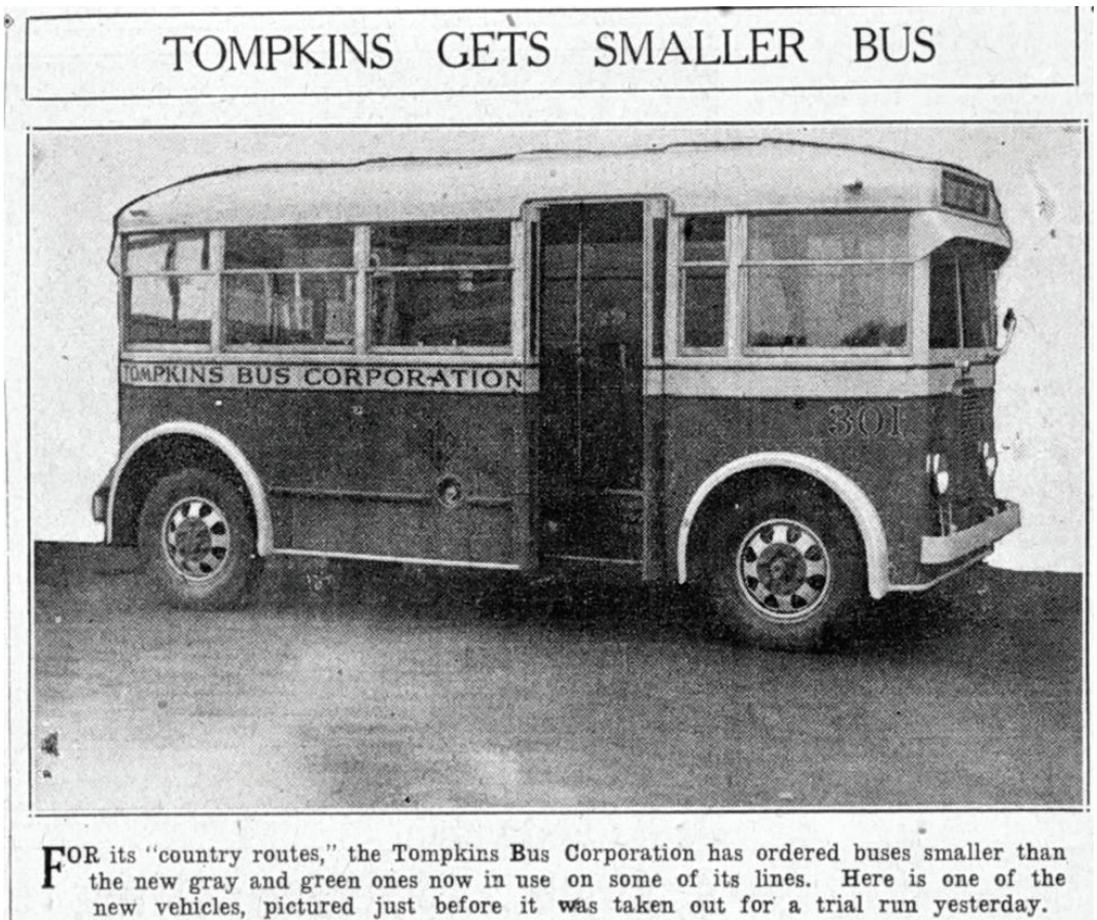
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## From Staten Island's Rural Past

The Tompkins Bus Corporation formed in 1925 to provide a road-going alternative to streetcars and trolleys on Staten Island. Starting with a proposed 43 routes covering 150 combined miles, they began with large capacity Mack buses. On July 31, 1934 the Staten Island Advance announced that the Tompkins Bus Corporation had added eight midget buses to run along the country routes in Huguenot, Princes Bay, Great Kills and Tottenville. Each was capable of carrying 20 passengers. In 1937, they were taken over by the Staten Island Coach Company. They too folded in 1946, and the city took over in February 1947.

Does anyone know what company manufactured these small buses?



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Happy Holidays from the  
Staten Island Region  
Antique Automobile Club of America

  
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