

Vol. 25, No. 2

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Feb 2018



**Inside: 111-Year Old Ford Fetches  
Quarter Million**

## Vintage Advertising

With eyes towards spring, we still realize that winter is in full effect here, so we're presenting this snow-themed ad from 1910 for Pierce-Arrow. The art doesn't highlight the whole car, but rather focuses on the comfort afforded the wealthy patrons in the passenger compartment. Pity the poor, frozen driver, who bears the brunt of the winter storm in his open driver's seat.

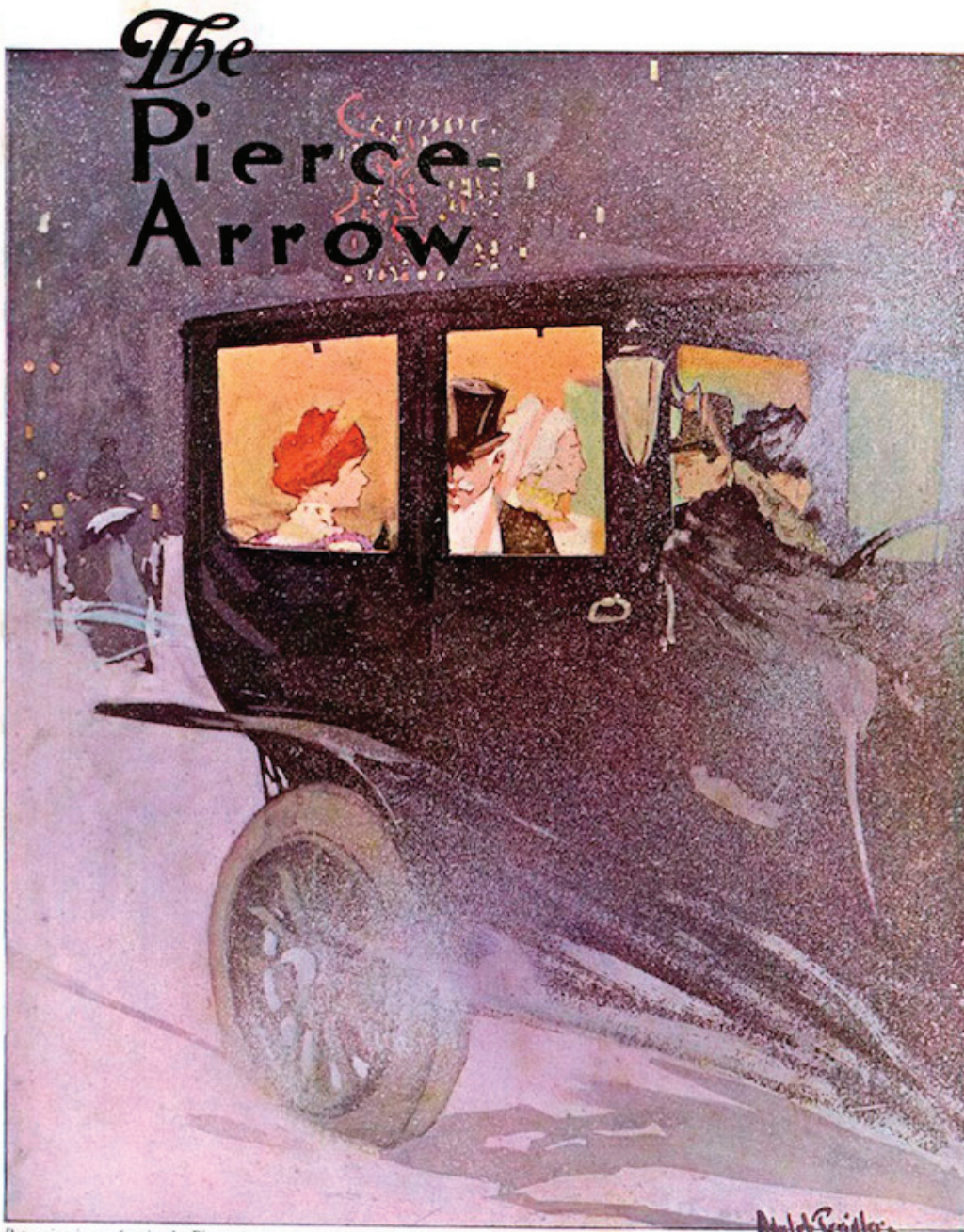
The luxury market that year was dominated by the "Three P's" - Packard, Peerless, and Pierce-Arrow. 1910 saw Pierce-Arrow stop 4-cylinder production and offer only sixes, with three different models: 6-36, 6-48 and 6-66. All were strong and built to run faster than many roads could accommodate at the time. Prices ranged from \$3850 for a Model 36 runabout to \$7200 for a Model 66 landau.

### In This Issue

Richmond Town's Transportation Building

Early Ford fetches big money

Going back almost 40 years to view a car now more than 100 in the SIRAACA Archive.



Returning in comfort in the Pierce-Arrow.

**T**HE flexibility of the Pierce-Arrow Car — the ease of control in traffic — makes it a real luxury for shopping, calling, theatre and opera. No amount of luxurious appointments will make a luxurious car, unless it is built around a perfect engine. The Pierce-Arrow is rightly built and perfectly appointed.

THE PIERCE-ARROW MOTOR CAR COMPANY, BUFFALO, N. Y. Licensed under the Selden Patent

THE WORLD'S WORK PRIZE, NEW YORK

*Trivia Question: In "American Graffiti", most recall the yellow '32 Ford racing the black '55 Chevy. Do you recall what kind of car Ron Howard's character drove?*

*Answer: A white '58 Chevy Impala.*

## **RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS**

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

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# Minutes of the 512th Meeting

## January 2, 2018

1. The 512th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:30 by President Paul Arena. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence before the minutes of the 511th meeting were accepted as read.
2. Bruce Campbell played a dealer promotional VHS tape for the 1998 Pontiac Trans Am. Little did they know then that Pontiac would be eliminated altogether the following decade.
3. Members agreed that this year's Holiday Party went well.
4. The club signed a Letter of Intent with Historic Richmond Town to begin planning a partnership focusing on refurbishing the transportation building.
5. Thoughts on promoting new memberships were discussed, including a bundle of offers, coupons or discounts from vendors. That led to an idea whereby we make a list of businesses we as a club recommend to others.
6. Several members are planning to attend Auto Mania in Allentown, PA on January 19-21.
7. Potential for cruise nights at the Commons Cafe or elsewhere must be compared against known recurring dates for others in our area. If members can help identify these dates, we can propose something of our own.
8. Phil Boffa provided a treasury report, with all in order.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45. The 50/50 collected \$20, with Mike Gorgia winning \$10.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



## Richmond Town's Transportation Building

As we continue to work out details about partnering with Historic Richmond Town to refurbish the transportation building into a permanent exhibit space, we realized that there may be some members who are not familiar with the site or the building. Here is a photo of the building as it appears now. The small structure with the tiled roof out front is a leftover scenic from the filming of Boardwalk Empire. It served as a small gas station, but the island with the old pumps was taken back by the production company. HRT plans to relocate that small building to another spot on their grounds. Not visible in this picture, behind that structure underneath the peaked overhang with the white columns, is a set of barn doors that afford access to the large open space within.



HRT has drafted a two-year plan towards completion of this project. The initial goal is to tackle the outside. The roof is new, but it needs fresh paint in a brighter color scheme. They are looking over a few historical colors that will suit the location. With a small budget, helped by our donations thus far, the project will rely heavily on community volunteers to do much of the work. A general timeline begins in late March with the relocation of the gas station, moving on to prep and paint in mid-to-late April. Early May is the target for any landscaping and repair to the cobblestone walkway. Then, in mid-May, the plan is to construct a false wall to create an area for a pair of display vehicles inside of the barn doors. If all goes according to plan, they will hold a ribbon cutting on June 2, 2018 at their Uncorked event. The second year then will focus on the interior renovation, which includes bathrooms, ceiling, paint, lighting, heat and AC. For this to work, we'll need to be actively providing volunteers for the various work. That doesn't have to mean we're the only ones digging and painting, but we should be able to draw upon friends, family and other organizations to lend a hand.

## From the President

Hopefully all of our members have renewed their national and local dues. If you haven't, please see Jonathan Schulman at our meeting to take care of unfinished business.

I met with the Buildings & Grounds Committee at Richmond Town a few weeks ago to hear about plans to bring the transportation building "back to life". We also spoke about returning to Center Street with a cruise night and other events we could possibly put on. They are especially excited about what we can achieve together.

By now, most of you heard that Raceway Park in Englishtown shut down all drag racing events. Supposedly, car shows and swap meets will continue, along with some other events that took place away from the quarter-mile. We'll monitor this closely to ensure we still have the Spring Swap Meet open to us for our raffle car.

Speaking of raffle cars, we still have interest in the 1989 Mustang that's wintering in the Poconos, with a tentative trip out west set for after February 15. That said, we are open to other cars that fit the bill.

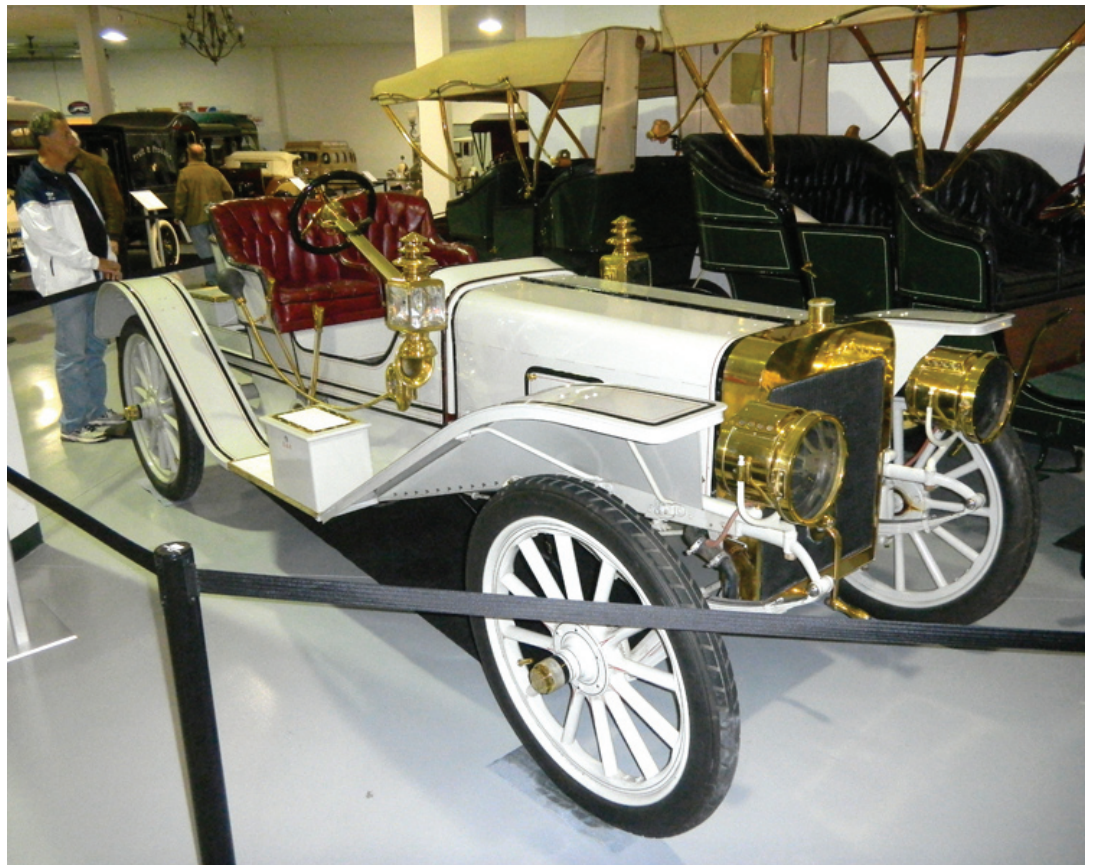
Lastly, I remind all of you to consider businesses that you'd be happy to recommend to fellow club members and beyond. We hope to create a list of such businesses and make it known that we recommend them, both as a service to others as well as a way to either thank or woo trophy donors later this year.

**- NEXT MEETING - February 6**

Our February meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6 at 7:00 PM at the Staff House at Sea View Home and Hospital at 460 Brielle Avenue. Members are asked to contribute \$3.00 towards coffee and donuts.

## Ford Model K For \$252K

Before the Model T, Ford manufactured an alphabet soup of other lettered models. From 1903 through 1908 there were Models A, B, C, F, K, N, R, and S. The K was Ford's Packard, a large, upscale auto powered by a 405 cubic inch inline six. The car weighed around 2400 pounds and sold for \$1 per pound. Almost 1000 Model K's were built between 1906 and 1908, and only 10 K roadsters are known to exist. One was featured in an early Ford display at the AACA Museum (see photo below). Another just sold at the RM Sotheby's auction in Scottsdale last month. That car, restored over 50 years ago and showing a great amount of wear, hammered for \$252,000.



After retiring the Model K in 1908, Ford did not offer another six cylinder auto until 1941. (photo by Paul Jr.)

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## From the SIRAACA Archives

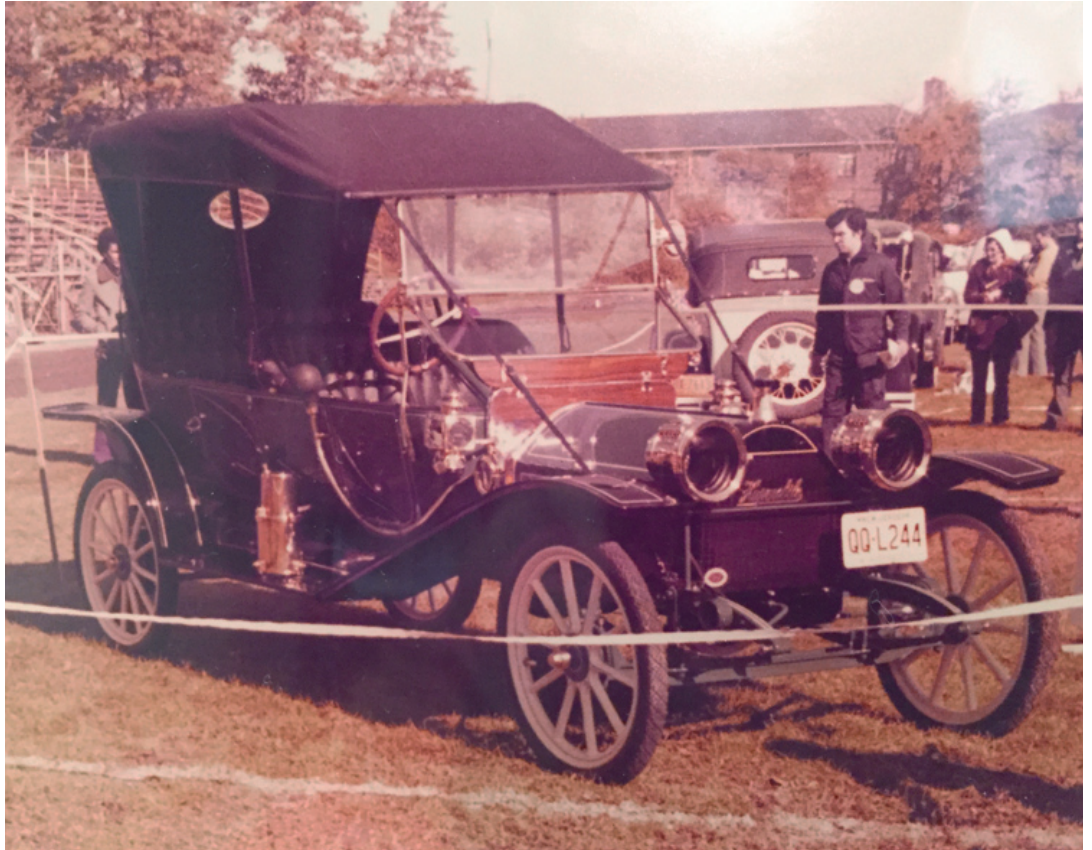
We step outside the SIRAACA Garage and into the SIRAACA Archives for a glimpse back at the Best in Show winner at our first show on the Wagner College football field in 1979.

The car is a 1911 Hupmobile Model 20 Touring, owned at the time by Joe Martin of Bridgewater, NJ. According to a sign that accompanied the car, less than 100 were produced, and this was one of six known to exist. Further research for this article reveals that factory records show only 18 touring cars built. In the end, it's what remains that defines its rarity.

A 1911 Hupmobile made history, when it rolled off the factory floor in early November, 1910 and was driven around the world, logging over 48,000 miles through 26 countries, taking 18 months to do so. That car still exists, and was on display at the 2009 Meadowbrook Concours d'Elegance. It is owned by the Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum in Cleveland.

Joe Martin's Hupmobile may be the same one seen at the New York Auto Show in 2016, on display with the Vintage Auto Museum of New Jersey. Perhaps our members know more?

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.



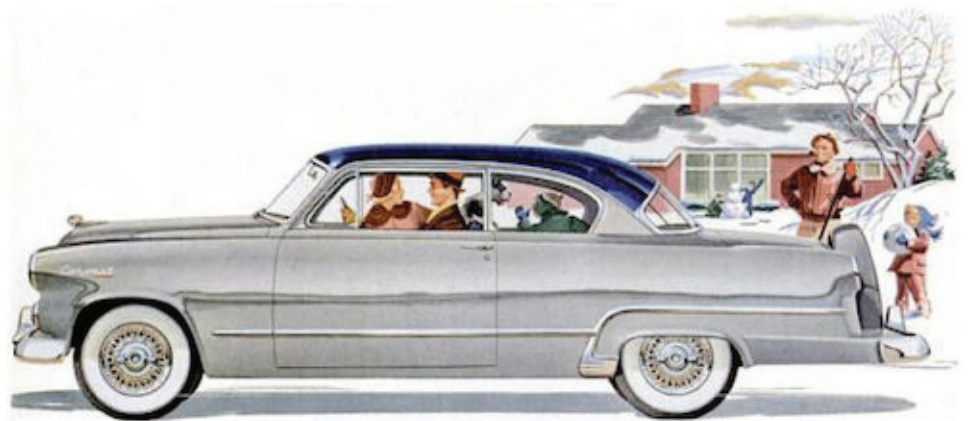
*photo by Sal DeFrancesco*

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## Upcoming Events

Load up the car and head out to one of these upcoming events.



- 45th Annual Atlantic City Auction - February 9-11
- NYC BBQ Cook-Off, Historic Richmond Town - April 7
- 36th Annual Spring Englishtown, Raceway Park - April 13-15
- Spring Carlisle Swap Meet, Carlisle, PA - April 18-22
- NYC Chili Cook-Off, Historic Richmond Town - April 21
- SIRAACA 12th Annual Spring Dust-Off, Commons Cafe - April 22





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## Spring Dust-Off is April 22

This save the date ad was posted to our Facebook page last month ahead of our Spring Dust-Off Flyers being ready. Those flyers were finished on February 6 and Phil Boffa will be getting copies made, perhaps in time for the February meeting. We will also e-mail them out to members and our mailing list, and follow up with a post to Facebook again. The Dust-Off poster is already designed and being put together. We have a neat theme this spring that provides a pretty recognizable design that coincides with a 50th anniversary of something car related. Stay tuned for more details.



## Renew Dues

Remember to see Jonathan Schulman to renew your local dues for 2018. They remain at \$20 for the year and can be paid by cash or check made out to SIRAACA. Of course, we hope all of our members remembered to renew their national membership before 2017 came to an end. A complete roster of our members will be submitted by the beginning of March to the AACA, so please make sure all's in order before February comes and goes.



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