

Vol. 25, No. 11

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Nov 2018



- **Hershey Happenings**
- **Concours in Colts Neck**



Vintage Advertising

Marmon founder Howard Marmon had been working on the world's first V-16 engine in 1927, but didn't complete a production Sixteen until 1931. By then, Cadillac had beaten him to market (with the help of an ex-Marmon engineer).

Today, just 75 examples of Marmon Sixteens are known. Their power comes from an all-aluminum 491 cubic inch engine producing 200 horsepower.

One of just six known sport coupes recently sold for \$1 million at Amelia Island in March. Another Sixteen was featured at this year's Hershey auction. That car, a 1932 close-coupled sedan with coach work by LeBaron, sold for \$225,000.

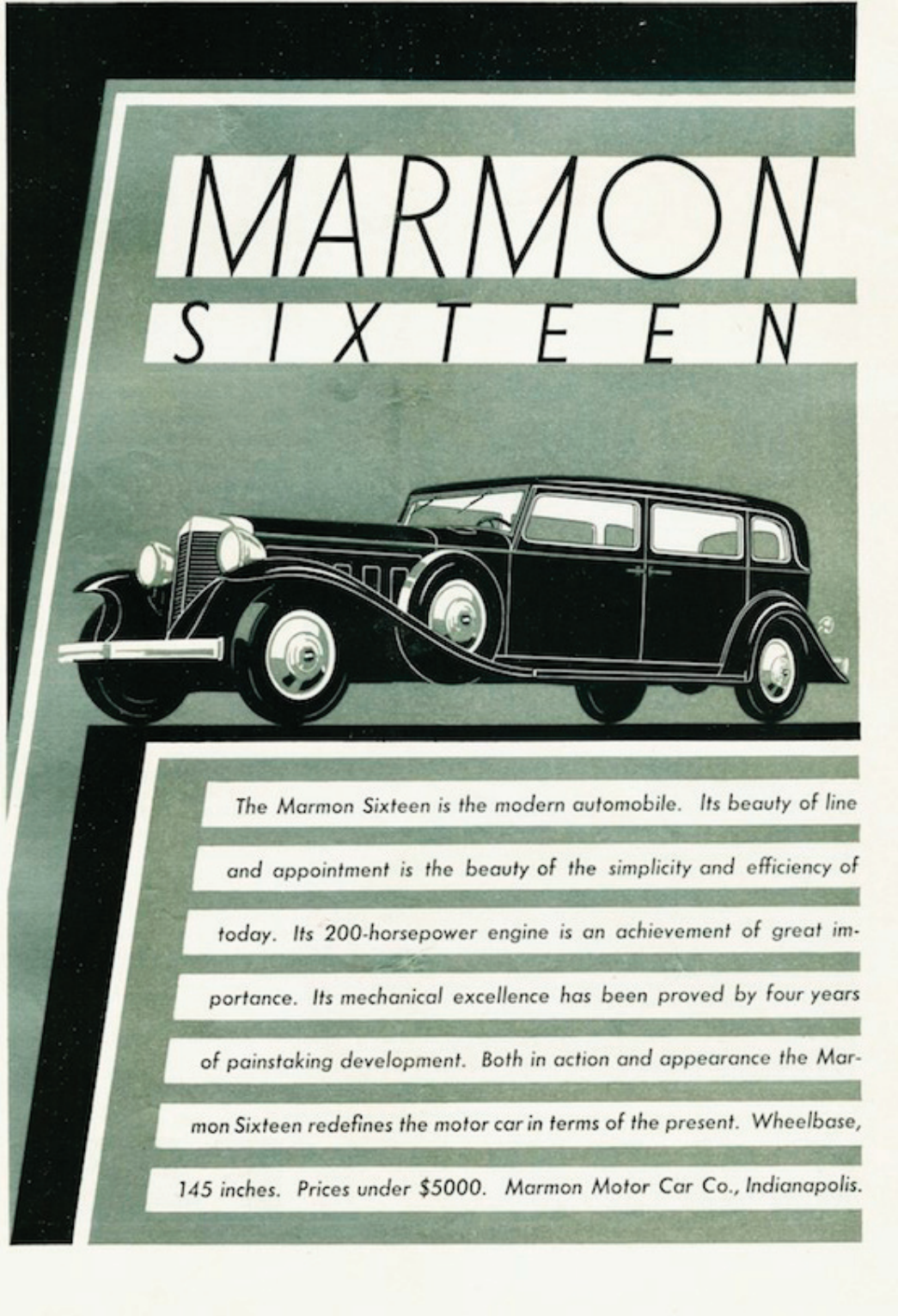
In This Issue

Enjoying all the Hershey Fall Meet has to offer

Club members judge the New Jersey Concours d'Elegance

Remembering Sal DeFrancesco in the SIRAACA Garage

Rubbing elbows with the famous



The Marmon Sixteen is the modern automobile. Its beauty of line and appointment is the beauty of the simplicity and efficiency of today. Its 200-horsepower engine is an achievement of great importance. Its mechanical excellence has been proved by four years of painstaking development. Both in action and appearance the Marmon Sixteen redefines the motor car in terms of the present. Wheelbase, 145 inches. Prices under \$5000. Marmon Motor Car Co., Indianapolis.

Trivia Question: What was the brand name of the "affordable" auto that Marmon built for 1929 and 1930 to deal with the Depression?

Answer: The Roosevelt, named after President Teddy Roosevelt. It was the first straight-eight in America priced less than \$1,000. The car became the Marmon 70 in 1931.

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Minutes of the 521st Meeting

October 2, 2018

1. The 521st meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:30 by President Paul Jr.. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence before the minutes of the 520th meeting were accepted as read.
2. Despite a rainout on Sunday, the raffle car still took in \$493 at the Delicious Orchards Apple Fest in its final appearance before our fall show. We return there with next year's raffle car on Columbus Day for their Pumpkin Fest.
3. Yes, that's right. We have a raffle car for 2019. It's a 1992 Camaro RS coupe.
4. Danielle from Egger's Ice Cream invited the club to display cars and participate in Richmond Town's Halloween event on October 27. Cars are to set up between 2:30 and 2:45 and will be on site for trick or treaters through 7:00.
5. The New Dorp Lane show had a great turnout of cars and spectators. Our club members judged the event, and we agree that we should be careful when helping other events that could compete with our continued success.
6. Our fall show did very well despite a drop in the number of show vehicles on display. Paul Jr. recounted some of the figures within the context of previous shows. Thank you to all who make it a success year after year.
7. Ed Vomero reported that the Durant Club's annual gathering went well and they truly enjoyed our show and their stay on Staten Island.
8. Congratulations to top raffle seller Mike Gorgia for shattering the record with \$2,870 sold. Our top three trophy sellers were Tony DiAngelo, Mike Signorile and Paul Arena.
9. There is an upcoming show at Straub Buick GMC in Keyport, NJ on October 20. The raffle car will be there as well.
10. Phil Boffa's treasury report shows all is in order.
11. Sad news with the report that former member and long time newsletter editor Sal DeFrancesco had passed away.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10. The 50/50 collected \$37, with Mike Signorile winning \$19. Rocky Pompa won a RockAuto gift card.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

Hershey Wraps Up the Eastern Region AACA Season

As is the case every October, the hobby descends in great numbers to Chocolate Town, USA for the AACA's Eastern National Fall Meet, put on by the Hershey Region. Several of our members were there, spending days covering the flea market and car corral, checking out the RM Sotheby's Auction, and walking the show field as either a participant, a spectator, or a judge. One notable spectator making the rounds was Jay Leno, just another car guy among us all.

Kevin Keenan was the only member with a car on the show field, winning First Preservation with his 1982 Buick Riviera. Jon Schulman had the honor of judging in Class 19, reserved for recognized classics of the 1920's, '30's and '40's. Bob Ferone was also judging, as an apprentice. The rest of us picked up some odds and ends in the flea market, snapped plenty of pictures and caught up with fellow hobbyists we typically see just once or twice a year.

The smart play on Thursday, with heavy rains soaking the area, was to head over to the Hershey Lodge, where RM Sotheby's had their auction lots on display in massive tents. We chatted with a Stanley Steamer owner who was alongside a 1913 Model 64 Roadster, when we noticed well-concealed hydraulic rear brakes. He told us that original Stanleys were, "all go, no stop" and that bringing these cars down from 60mph is nearly impossible with mechanical brakes. A much bigger 1909 Stanley Mountain Wagon with three rows of seats was also for sale, and that too had the hidden brakes for safe touring.

Some early rain on Saturday kept the show field from filling completely, but the sun came out along with plenty of interesting vehicles ranging from a WWI Packard army truck to a 1937 Buick Funeral Coach to a 1993 Jaguar XJR. There was no shortage of cars that reminded you of your past rides or stoked a wishful desire of owning one yourself. Throughout it all, we spent plenty of time together telling tales of our automotive escapades, learning something new, meeting old friends and making new ones.



Above: This brass-era Rolls Royce ran so silently through the car corral. Perhaps it needed to dangle an empty soda can from its rear end to alert unwary strollers? (photo by Paul Jr.)



Above: 'This 1957 Dual Ghia won a First Junior award in Class 29, for specified prestige vehicles. The only cars to fit below were these BMW Isettas. (photos by Paul Jr.)



From the President

That about wraps it up for our outdoor events in 2018. We just have a Halloween event at Richmond Town on October 28 and the rescheduled Straub Buick GMC car show on November 3. Yet that doesn't mean you need to put the car away yet. Typically, there's still time to get them out and about for a little drive up until the first snowfall, which brings with it the first dose of road salt. That's the final straw for sure until the spring thaw.

Keep December 16th open for this year's Holiday Party. Tony Di-Angelo will have all the details at our upcoming meeting.- *Paul Jr.*

1911 Breese Update

We recently made mention that a rare 1911 Breese, with several connections back to Staten Island, was going up for auction. We reached out to the seller afterwards to try and learn anything about the sale. Unfortunately, he was none too happy with the auction house, who he felt "lied" to him. We can only guess that he was referring to the sale price of \$70,000 versus the pre-sale estimate of \$100,000-\$130,000. All in all, it's a bit of a shame that he was compelled to sell a car that his father discovered and restored back in the early 1960's, primarily because his extended family has no interest in the car. We did not follow up to ask where the car was headed next, but we hope it resurfaces on the show circuit and gives its new owner the same pleasure that he had for 57 years.

- NEXT MEETING - November 6

Our November meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 6 at 7:00 PM at the Courthouse at Richmond Town. Members should park in the lot on Clarke Ave., and enter the courthouse from that entrance. We will be upstairs. As usual, each member is asked to contribute \$3.00 for coffee & donuts.

New Jersey Concours d'Elegance

The former Monmouth County Concours d'Elegance returned to the show calendar as the newly formed New Jersey Concours, held at spacious Bucks Mill Park in Colts Neck. SIRAACA member Kevin Keenan led the judging teams, which included fellow members Paul Arena and son Paul, Mike Signorile, Phil Boffa, and Andrew Napoli. Along with other judges, their consensus pick for Best in Show was the 1930 Packard on this issue's cover. A 1956 Cadillac Series 62 convertible was chosen as the Grand Marshal Award winner, and the Garden State Award went to a 1941 Packard 180 Formal Sedan. Special Cup's were presented to a 1960 Lincoln Continental Mark V and a 1931 Packard 833 Roadster. A 1929 Ford Model A pickup and a 1973 Mercedes 220D were honored for their originality with Preservation Awards. Awards were also given out to class winners by decade, and all the top cars were paraded up to the reviewing stand while master of ceremonies Bill Rothermel spoke of their histories. Money raised through the event went to support the Allaire Community Farm.



A 1974 Porsche LE and a 1974 VW Karmann Ghia were the newest cars at the 2018 New Jersey Concours d'Elegance. (photo by Paul Jr.)

Forever Within the SIRAACA Garage

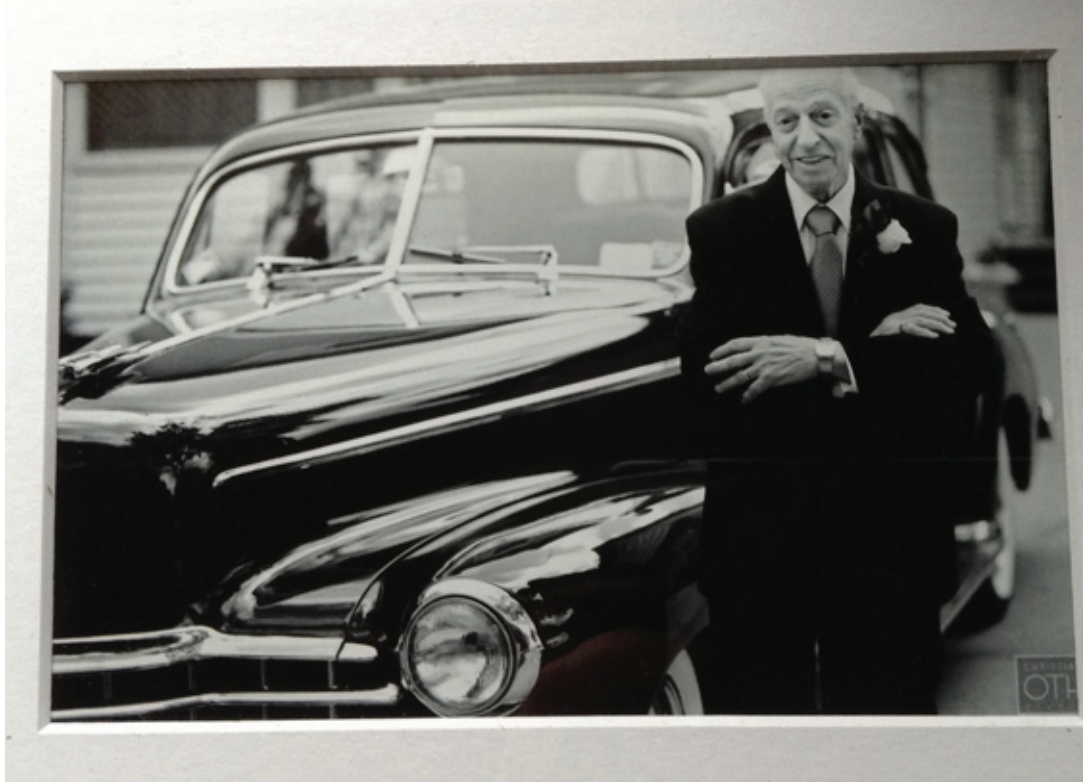
This month we remember our former member and friend Sal DeFrancesco, who will always be remembered within the SIRAACA Garage.

Sal was a long-serving editor of the Staten Island Region's newsletter. Under his stewardship from 1980 through 1991, "Auto Echoes" was painstakingly put together by hand each month. It featured plenty of long form articles on the history of the automobile, oftentimes accompanied by his hand-drawn images. Sal was quite an artist, and a dedicated club member who put a ton of effort into it.

In recent years, Sal donated a massive collection of magazines, books and automotive literature to the club. This collection fueled his newsletters, and we're happy to have it. Our goal, should we ever realize having our own building, is to ensure that a Sal DeFrancesco Memorial Library is on site where members can look through this collection. For now, its in our storage room at Sea View's Staff House.

Sal will always be remembered as a cornerstone of our club.

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.



Sal's daughter shared this photo of her dad taken on her wedding day, posing in front of a Cadillac in a Godfather sort of way.

Upcoming Events

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



- Straub Buick-GMC Car Show, Keyport, NJ - November 3
- SIRAACA Holiday Party, The RoadHouse - December 16





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Brush With Greatness

Jay Leno asked to be photographed with Kevin Keenan and Phil Boffa, the famous duo of countless SIR-AACA road trip stories. He asked why Phil was wearing a giant condom.



Hershey Auction

American classics are always front and center at RM Sotheby's Hershey Auction, unlike the Ferrari-fest over at Pebble Beach. Many cars blew through their estimates. A 1912 Baker Electric sold for \$192,500 against its \$100,000 pre-sale figure, and a 1911 American Eagle Touring saw multiple bidders battle it out for ownership. In the end it sold for \$242,000, triple its estimate of \$80,000. Our favorite was a 1960 Fury convertible with a dual four-barrel Cross Ram "Sonoramic Commando" V8, which went for \$209,000.



What a difference 50 or so years made when it came to the first half of the 20th century (photo by Paul Jr.)



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