

Vol. 26, No. 4

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Apr 2019



• **Spring Dust-Off is April 28**





# Overland

## Spring is Here!



Apple-blossom time is here again.

Spring is just poking its welcome nose into our midst. The chill of winter is gone. The thrill of spring is here.

Millions of trees are studded with buds. Millions of brooks are merrily rippling and flowing along apace. Ice and snow are no more. Winter is done.

With it all comes the delight of being in the big outdoors.

Dear old Mother Nature is smilingly beckoning and begging you into the highways and byways of the peaceful, beneficial, wide-open country.

From now on every day is a motoring day.

Motoring is one of the real joys of living. Also, it's a necessity to those who value time, and wish to annihilate distance.

Get your Overland now.

**Model 80 \$1075**  
TOURING CAR

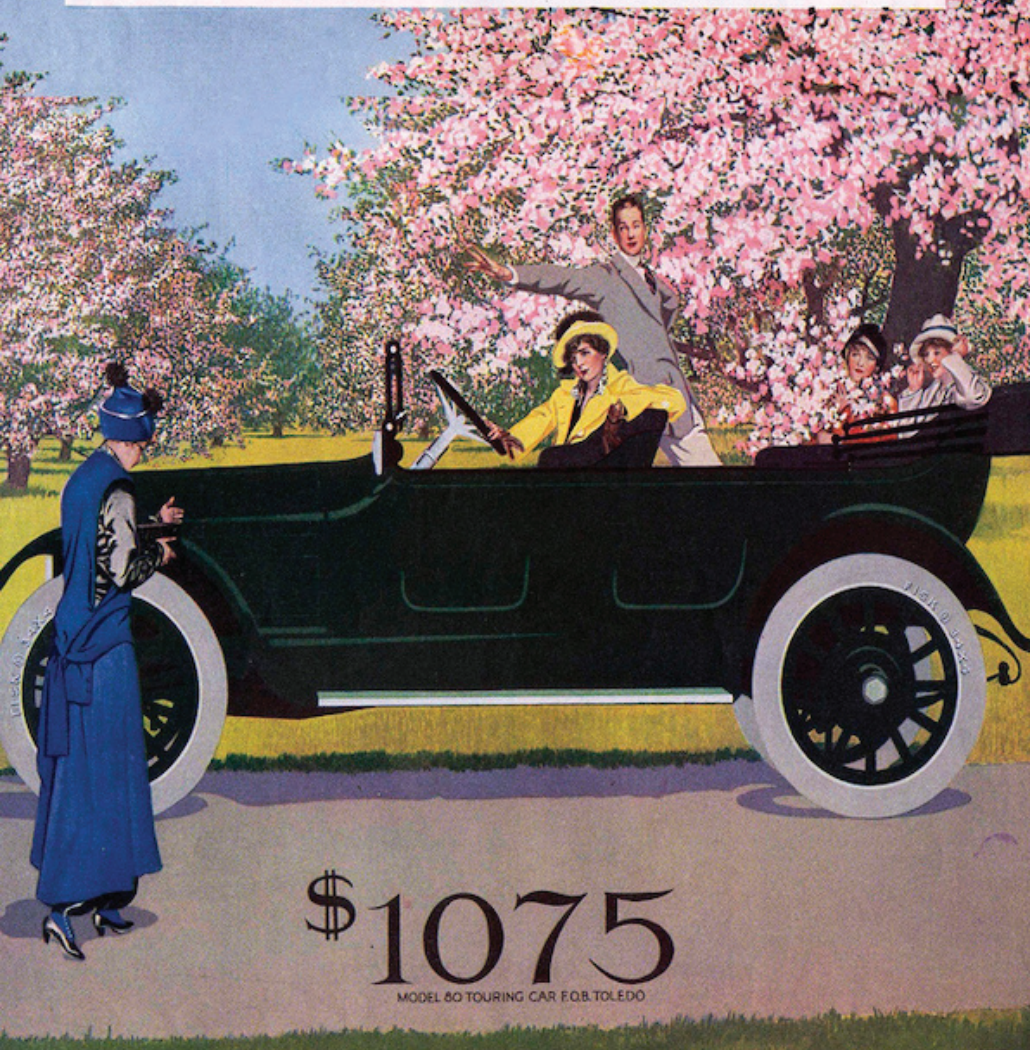
Model 81 Roadster . . . \$795  
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7 Passenger Touring Car

**Model 81 \$850**  
TOURING CAR

Model 80 Coupé . . . \$1600  
4 Passenger Coupé

All prices f. o. b. Toledo, Ohio.  
Catalogue on request. Please address Department 200  
"Made in U. S. A."

THE WILLYS-OVERLAND COMPANY, TOLEDO, OHIO



## Vintage Advertising

Spring is indeed here, as trumpeted by this 1915 advertisement for Overland automobiles. It calls out to folks with no cars, telling them that motoring is a real joy, and more so in an Overland. While motoring today may not be a joy anymore, we bet driving one of these Overlands today would be.

John North Willys, an auto dealer from Elmira, NY ended up taking control of a failing Overland in 1907. After building their 1908 models in a circus tent, he eventually brought all of his interests together in Toledo, OH, forming the Willys-Overland Company.

The 1915 models included the 30hp Model 81, the larger 35hp Model 80, and the big 6 cylinder Model 82 7p touring car.

## In This Issue

The 2019 "season" gets underway in April

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A Staten Island mystery solved

A city Mack in the SIRAACA Archive

This year's Spring Dust-Off poster

*Trivia Question: What was the first successful vehicle produced and sold by Mack?*

*Answer: A 40 hp, 20 passenger bus, produced for a sightseeing concession in Brooklyn's Prospect Park. It operated from 1900 through 1908 before being converted into a truck.*



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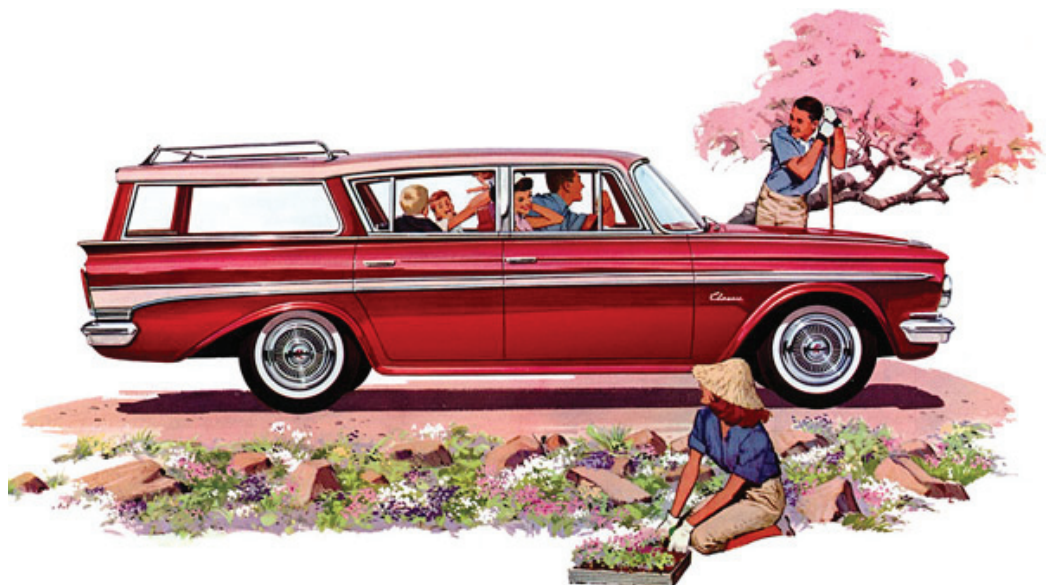


# Minutes of the 526th Meeting

March 5, 2019

1. The 526th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:30 by President Paul Jr. After reciting the pledge of allegiance and observing a moment of silence, the minutes of the 525th meeting were accepted as read.
2. Artie Guarnieri recapped this year's auction in Atlantic City, which continues to tread water.
3. The club has decided to add two additional awards to be presented at the Dust-Off. One will be for the best orphan car (a make no longer in existence) and the other will be for the best unrestored car.
4. Not only are we asked to keep an eye open for a raffle car for 2020, but also for new venues and events that we can bring our raffle car to help sell tickets.
6. Paul Jr. told the story of a Long Island Mustang club that contacted us for details on a car one of their members just purchased. It turned out to be the Mustang LX 5.0 convertible we raffled off last year.
7. The club wished Michael Signorile a speedy recovery.
8. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report with all in order.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50. The 50/50 collected \$24.00, with Jeff Tucker winning \$12.00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary





## April Comes With Plenty To Do

Our 13th Annual Spring Dust-Off will essentially close out the month of April, but we will have plenty of opportunity all month to get together. The raffle car may make its debut at Historic Richmond Town on April 6 at their BBQ cook-off. In return, we will ask for volunteers to help them with their entry gates. The following weekend is Spring Englishtown, where we aim to return with our raffle car after missing out on last year. That will require volunteers for both Saturday and Sunday to man the tables and sell tickets. Richmond Town then hosts their Chili Cook-Off on the 27th, one day before our “opening day”, the 13th Annual Spring Dust-Off. Of course, Sunday morning cruises to the beach will most likely kick-off in April as well.



## Strasburg Railroad Invitation

The Strasburg Railroad is holding a special event called “Rail & Road: A Transportation Evolution” on October 12, 13, & 14. The event will showcase all forms of land transportation from 1900 through 1960. For those three days, their parking lot will be transformed into a display area for antique cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles, and other wheeled vehicles built between those years. Club members have been invited to display appropriate vehicles for all or any part of the weekend. There is no registration fee and owners can come and go as they please. In addition, owners will be given the unique opportunity to pose their vehicle with a steam locomotive for photographs, including the special guest of the event - Norfolk & Western Class J 611 (below). Those interested are encouraged to respond via email to [srtrain@strasburgrailroad.com](mailto:srtrain@strasburgrailroad.com), and indicate what vehicle you’d display and on what day(s). We note that it is the same weekend as Hershey, meaning you could hit Strasburg on Sunday on the way home.



## From the President

I'd like to remind everyone who has yet to register for the AACA Spring National Meet in Parsippany to do so if they plan on showing a car. The deadline is June 3. To register, visit <https://members.aaca.org/login.asp>. For details on the slate of events, location of the show and more, check out the page of our sister region, the NJRAACA, at [njregionaaca.com/aaca-eastern-spring-national](http://njregionaaca.com/aaca-eastern-spring-national). The show is Saturday, June 29. Remember that all of us have a suitable class to show our cars, whether it's for an AACA class award, or Historical Preservation of Original Features (HPOF) or Driver's Participation.

We have a few leads on raffle cars for 2020, but we're pausing until after the Spring Dust-Off before resuming our pursuit.

So if the baseball season begins with "Play Ball!", what do you shout out to start our hobby's season? - *Paul Jr.*

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## From the Editor

Our selection of members' cars to feature in The SIRAACA Garage is thinning as most have appeared in that column by now. If you have a car that has not appeared, send me pics and details. Also remember that while you may not have a particular car anymore, its ghost still resides in The SIRAACA Garage, and we can feature it as well. Even if the car was yours before you were part of SIRAACA, we'll conjure up its spirit for a feature. Send me details! - *Paul Jr.*

## - NEXT MEETING - April 2

Our April meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00 PM at the Courthouse at Richmond Town. We meet upstairs and can enter from the parking lot on Clarke Avenue. As usual, each member is asked to contribute \$3.00 for coffee & donuts.

## Once Again, a Tucker at Auction

Another Tucker will headline another auction this month, yet it's going to sale along with 173 other vehicles that were its stablemates at the Tupelo Automobile Museum. The museum closed its doors in March, and Bonhams is selling the entire collection on April 26 and 27. This Tucker is number 28, and was one of the cars used at Indianapolis Motor Speedway for endurance testing, racking up 2,931 miles on the famous oval track. It is the third Tucker built with the gas tank in the front, due to the adoption of the Tuckermatic automatic transmission in car number 26. The collection of cars for sale ranges from everyday American icons like the Ford Model A and the '57 Chevy, to many rare early motorcars and imposing classics. There's the requisite Duesenberg, a 1934 Model J Berline by Rollston, some celebrity relics like Elvis Presley's 1976 Lincoln Mark IV, and the "Leslie Special", the "brass era" car built for use by Tony Curtis in the movie "The Great Race". There are a good number of cars pegged to sell for less than \$10,000, including a 1976 AMC Gremlin and a 1917 Hupmobile, and many project cars that will most likely sell for less than \$5,000. It's a sad day for fans of auto museums as more and more are closing their doors, but these fans will have a good chance at scoring vintage signs, automobilia and cars to start a collection of their own. We will report on the results in a future issue of our newsletter.

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## The Mystery of Cadillacs on Columbia Street Solved

Last month we featured an advertisement from a 1908 edition of the local paper that was offering up Cadillacs for sale at Gilbert B. Hall's Electrical Supplies Shop at 80 Columbia Street in West New Brighton. We couldn't find Columbia Street on a current map of Staten Island, so we asked members to help figure out where this address once was. Thanks to Tom LaGuidice and his internet sleuthing, we now know that Columbia Street was renamed as part of Clove Road around 1912, and is the section that originates at Richmond Terrace.



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## From the SIRAACA Archive

Here's a look back to 2006, where we had several New York City vehicles on display at our fall show. This is the 1930 Mack ESD truck owned by the NYPD Emergency Services Unit.

1930 marked the start of the Emergency Services Division within the New York Police Department, originally tasked as a riot control unit. By that year, Mack Trucks had long established themselves at the forefront of commercial applications, so it's no surprise the NYPD would turn to Mack for this truck. Beyond that, it's fitting that a Mack would serve the people of New York, as the company was founded in Brooklyn in 1900 by Jack and Gus Mack. They had entered the vehicle manufacturing business seven years earlier when they bought the Fallesen and Berry Carriage Company,, located at 701 3rd Avenue. Mack eventually relocated its headquarters to Allentown, PA.

While the bulldog has been Mack's symbol since 1921, the bulldog hood ornament wasn't created until 1932. That's why this truck isn't sporting one.

We'll soon return to the SIRAACA Garage, 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.

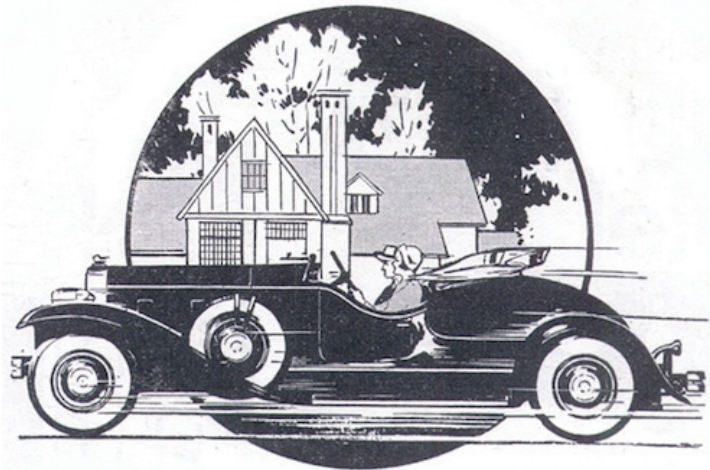


*The 1930 Mack is one of several historical vehicles owned by the NYPD. (photo courtesy of Paul Arena)*

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## Upcoming Events

Load up the car with friends and family en route to one of these events.



- 37th Annual Spring Englishtown, Raceway Park - April 12-14
- NYC Chili Cook-Off, Historic Richmond Town - April 27
- SIRAACA 13th Annual Spring Dust-Off, Commons Cafe - April 28
- No. Central Kiwanis of SI 3rd Annual Car Show, Mt. Loretto - June 8





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## Spring Poster

To the right is this year's poster for the upcoming Spring Dust-Off. Once again, the design and execution is courtesy of Dennis Simone, and it's expertly printed by Far Better Printing. The art deco design features a quintessentially art deco car, a Cord phaeton. Posters should be distributed to your local storefronts to help promote the upcoming Dust-Off. We suspect some of them will get saved for a nice spot in our garages and dens, too. We've covered a lot of themes in previous designs for both the Dust-Off and Fall Show posters. What themes have we yet to explore, and what would our members like to see next? Let us know.

## Cruise Nite Update

Weekly cruise nights will return to Historic Richmond Town on Wednesdays, with the tentative starting date set as May 29. Many details are still be sorted out, but we do know that a new food truck has been secured. Format is expected to be the same as last year, with entry beginning at 5:00 via Center Street at St. Patrick's Place. We encourage all of our members to brush up on the history of their cars, because we may be called upon to educate the spectators.



THE STATEN ISLAND REGION AACA  
PRESENTS IT'S  
**13TH ANNUAL SPRING DUST-OFF**  
CAR SHOW & FLEA MARKET

COMMONS CAFE  
2 TELEPORT DRIVE,  
OFF OF SOUTH AVENUE

APRIL 28, 2019  
8:00AM TO 3:00PM  
RAIN DATE MAY 5

• NO POINTS JUDGING • NO CUT OFF YEAR • 50/50 • MUSIC •  
• SPECTATOR ENTRY FEES \$5 ADULT, \$2 CHILD • \$20 VEHICLE ENTRY FEE • \$40 VENDOR FEE •  
• RED CARPET AWARDS IN SELECT CATEGORIES •  
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M - Th 8 AM - 6:30 PM  
Fri 8 AM - 5 PM  
Sat 10 AM - 3 PM

WANTED:  
DONATED VEHICLES.  
Any make, model,  
year and condition.  
Tax deductible.  
Call 917-626-0233

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