

Vol. 29, No. 12

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Dec 2022



• Holiday Party is December 18th

WILLYS · OVERLAND · FINE · MOTOR · CARS



This CHRISTMAS · · Pool the Family Funds!

YEAR after year, as regularly as Christmases have come and gone, you have registered a vow that "next" Christmas you would turn over a new leaf—"next" Christmas you would exercise better judgment—"next" Christmas you would so plan your own and the family's expenditures that you and yours would receive something more truly acceptable, something more lasting, something more inherently worth while.

Well—"next" Christmas is here. That "next" Christmas has become *this* Christmas. *Now* is the time—*now* is the occasion—*now* is your opportunity to crystallize your vow.

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The beautiful big Overland Six pictured on this page is priced at only \$895. It is, without exception, the biggest

895 dollars' worth of automobile in the world today. An engineering masterpiece. Equipment as complete, upholstery as fine, appointments as luxurious as in cars costing twice this sum. A car so good to look upon that admiring groups gather around it wherever it stops.

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This year, put a ban on costly Christmas indulgence. Call a halt on Christmas waste. Combine the family purchases. Own this Overland Six. A sensible thought. Such a gift prolongs the thrill of Christmas joy and pride for more than Christmas Day. It means sunshine and fresh air. It means health and happiness. It inaugurates a new era of enjoyment and pleasure for everybody in your home, for years and years to come.

See your Overland dealer now and arrange with him for delivery early Christmas morning!

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DE LUXE SEDAN
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Vintage Advertising

Willys-Overland was encouraging folks in 1926 to buy one "on time" because "everybody is doing it". Their car makes a wonderful Christmas gift, "a gift you can afford", "a gift you need" and a "gift for which every member of your household will everlastingly thank you from the bottom of their hearts!" Sounds better than a half-hearted thanks as they toss the new socks you bought them into their drawer.

1926 happened to be Overland's final year, with Whippet arriving to take its place in 1927. Three models (91, 92, 93) were offered. The 93, seen here, featured a longer wheelbase and the 38hp six. It came in touring, coupe and sedan body styles.

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SIRAACA members help a Florida AACA member buy a car

"Sketchy" memories of a 1930 Lincoln from The SIRAACA Archive

The SIRAACA Time Machine tracks another "trollibus" at its turnpike turnaround

Did you know? Willys brought back the Overland name briefly in 1939. That model was soon renamed as the Willys Americar.

Trivia Question: Who invented the electric barber clippers, supplied engines for the Olds Motor Vehicle Company, and then went on to found both Cadillac and Lincoln?

Answer: Henry Leland. In 1902, he was hired by The Henry Ford Company to appraise it for liquidation. He instead suggested they reorganize, thus forming Cadillac.

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Minutes of the 562nd Meeting

November 8, 2022

1. The 562nd meeting of The Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:15 on November 8 at Pro Sho Sound. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and offering a moment of silence, the minutes of the 561st meeting were accepted as read.
2. Members recapped our judging efforts at the Linden car show. Kevin Keenan, who tried helping the show organizers plan out a judging and award program, went into detail about their lack of commitment and understanding, and subsequent lack of respect for our help. It's agreed that we will decline any future requests to help them.
3. Mike Signorile recapped the New Dorp Lane Show and thanked those who volunteered to help that day.
4. Paul Jr. told a story of how an AACA member in Miami leveraged our club to help him buy a 1969 Road Runner convertible that was for sale on Staten Island. Paul gathered up Tony DiAngelo and Mike Signorile and they evaluated the car while broadcasting the effort via Face Time to the buyer. We learned afterwards that a deal was struck and the buyer donated \$150 to the club as a thank you.
5. New donor certificates have been printed and we will combine them with dash plaques and thank you letters before we give them out this year.
6. Paul Jr. is making an effort to reach out to former members from our club's early years in the hope that they have photos and details to make more of our history available to look back on or see for the first time. If long time members have photos to share, or contact info for others who do please let him know.
7. We will announce details for the upcoming Holiday Party as soon as the date and location are known. We will be donating new toys again this year to the Richard Gardner Memorial Toy Drive.
8. Ideas for alternate meeting places are welcome for 2023.
9. Best of luck to Bob Columbia, who recently purchased a 1966 Thunderbird
10. Phil Boffa gave an updated treasury report, showing all in order.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25. The 50/50 collected \$51. Paul Arena won \$26. Phil Boffa won the Thanksgiving turkey gift card, and Bob Columbia won a Rock Auto Gift Certificate.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

Unique Cars Appear in Rainy Linden

The October car show at Aviation Plaza in Linden typically sees more than 700 vehicles fill the parking lot if Mother Nature cooperates. This year a persistent drizzle mixed with on and off rain kept attendance to less than 250 vehicles. Even so, we spotted a number of unique cars that braved the weather for a chance to be seen. These three examples represent interest in both foreign imports as well as cars not sold here in the United States. At top is a 1973 Mazda RX-2. We are familiar with the RX-7 and RX-8, but never thought to consider what RX came before. The red car is a 1974 Toyota Corolla. Again, we don't know much about these cars, so we can't validate authenticity (well, those LED headlights are incorrect). We do recognize condition, however, and this car was very clean and well-kept. The black car is a 1992 Chevrolet Opala Comodoro. This car was sold in South America, built by GM in Brazil. This was the first one we ever heard of, let alone seen in person.

Our club had once again agreed to help the show organizer with judging, and a good number of our members came out despite the weather. The small field certainly made our job easier, as did the fact that 80% of the cars would likely win a trophy. Even so, much of our advice leading up to show was ignored, and we came away feeling unappreciated and dismissed. It is our decision to not return and help them next year.



The range of interesting vehicles at Hershey is unsurpassed, and one way to enjoy them all, such as this Model T and 1943 International, is to watch them all drive in or drive out (photos by Paul Jr.)



National Dues Reminder

With less than two months to go before we flip the calendar to 2023, this is a friendly reminder to renew your national AACA membership while it's still 2022. You have more than one option to do so, including mailing a check to AACA headquarters or providing a credit card via the AACA web store. Annual dues are \$45. In January, we will begin collection of our local dues, which remain \$20. Please refer to aaca.org for online information on membership, or the insert found in the mailing of the November/December issue of your *Antique Automobile* magazine.

From the President

As we look towards putting another year behind us and welcoming a new one, I am reminded of the value we find in our relationships. We all have numerous circles we are part of - family, lifelong friends, community and more. We all share our car club circle, too. Like the other circles, our members offer support to each other during times of grief, help in reaching new goals, and smiles and laughs along the way. I hope all of us take a moment to recognize that, and take advantage of the social connections our hobby provides. Sometimes, those hobby connections are formed across great distances. We helped a man from Miami buy a car on Staten Island without leaving his house (see story, right). I run into "Dan from Pennsylvania" every year in Hershey who competed with his '66 Skylark alongside my '67 Cutlass for over 20 years, and we immediately pick up where we left off the previous year. Each connection we form expands our circle, sometimes they overlap into other circles, and I think we all feel richer for it. Let us all give thanks for what we have built personally through SIRAACA. Happy holidays to you and your families! - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - Holiday Party

Our December meeting takes place during our 2022 Holiday Party, to be held on Sunday, December 18th from 2pm to 6pm at The RoadHouse, located at 1400 Clove Road. Please remember to bring new, unwrapped toys to include in our donation to the Richard Gardner Memorial Fund.

SIRAACA Helps 1,260 Mile Sale

One of the many benefits of belonging to the AACA is the automatic kinship you make with members from all over the United States and beyond. An AACA member in Miami recently took advantage of that by contacting our club president asking for help in evaluating a 1969 Plymouth Road Runner for sale on Staten Island. Paul Jr. connected him with Mike Signorile and Tony DiAngelo, and then joined them both one morning to check out the car. The car, a red convertible with a 383 and four-speed, recently won a first place trophy at our car show. Mike conducted a thorough showing of the car via Facetime, while Tony pointed out a few spots that could be improved. Even so, the car would easily win trophies on the local level and didn't need much to compete for a national award. We learned afterwards that the buyer made a deal to acquire the car, and he donated \$150 to the club as a show of thanks for our help.



Tony snaps pictures of the Road Runner's engine while Mike (wearing tan cap) uses his phone to broadcast the car's condition to the buyer in Miami. (photo by Paul Jr.)



From the SIRAACA Archive

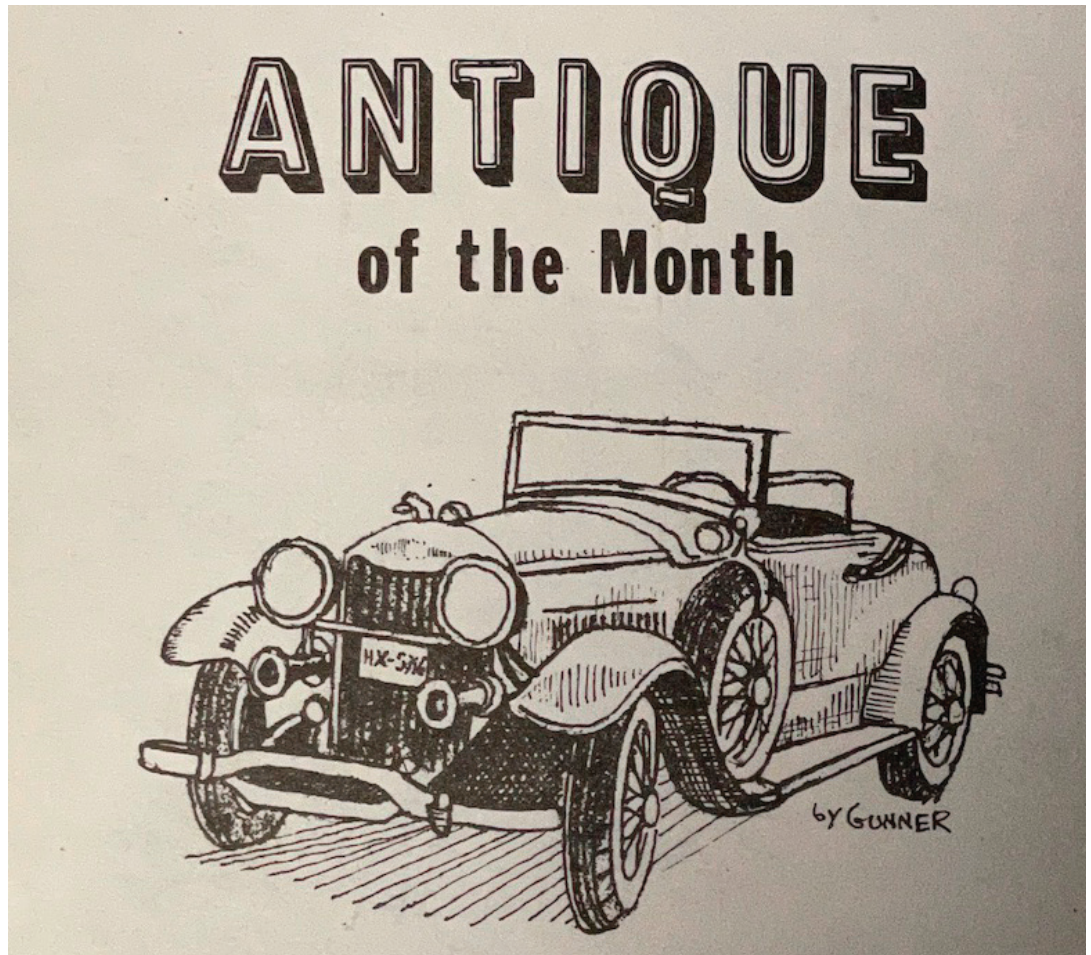
Last month's photo of John Fleming's Packard included both John and fellow member Birger Nilsen. Birger owned an equally impressive 1930's car. Seen here is a sketch of his 1930 Lincoln Model 185 convertible roadster, bodied by LeBaron. The drawing was done by SIRAACA member John "Gunner" Gunnell, and appeared in an old newsletter while Gunner was our club's editor.

While we hunt for (and ask for help in finding) a photo of his car, we can tell you that Lincoln built just 100 of this particular model. While termed a roadster, it was actually a convertible coupe with side windows. A rumble seat doubled the passenger capacity to four, snugly fit two by two. The car cost \$6,900 when new.

Occasionally, one of these will show up at auction. One failed to sell at RM's Motor City auction in 2016, while another sold for \$61,600 at Bonhams' Amelia Island sale in 2017 (photo at right, below).

If anyone knows what happened to Birger's Lincoln, let us know.

The SIRAACA Archive is a treasure trove of old photos, articles and artifacts that represent our club's history dating back to our founding in 1974. These are not centrally collected, but in the hands of the many members past and present. If you have something from the past that you'd like to share here, let us know.



Newer members most likely do not remember John Gunnell, but might recognize his name. After moving off of Staten Island, he went on to write for Old Cars Weekly and contributed to many old car reference books from Krause Publications, including the "Standard Catalog of American Cars 1946-1975". We hope to make contact with him as well as we look to expand our archive. The photo below is not Birger's car, but one of the other 100 such Lincoln's built. (photo courtesy of Bonhams).



(Photo by Paul Jr.)



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The SIRAACA Time Machine

(from NYC Municipal Archives)



We continued our chase of Staten Island's trackless trolleys by landing our SIRAACA Time Machine at the corner of Jewett Avenue & Richmond Turnpike (now Victory Boulevard) on May 29, 1924. Here we see No. 3 of the fleet's original eight vehicles built by the Atlas Truck Company out of York, PA. By this time, they were in service nearly three years. Notice the overhead lines that supplied electricity to the trolley bus via a swiveling collector pole. The circular array of wiring here allowed the trolley to turn around, as this junction was the end of the line in Meier's Corners. A pair of 25hp GE motors could potentially move these bricks at 30mph, flat out and downhill, but they typically were clocked doing 12mph. It's hard to read the faded words painted on the side of the trolley bus; above the windows reads "The City of New York", and above the wheels reads "Department of Plants and Structures". Interesting details in the background include the Clover ice cream and hot dog stand, what appears to be a Model T touring car, and Thomas Roulston, one of a chain of many grocery stores across the island that lasted into the 1950's.

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