

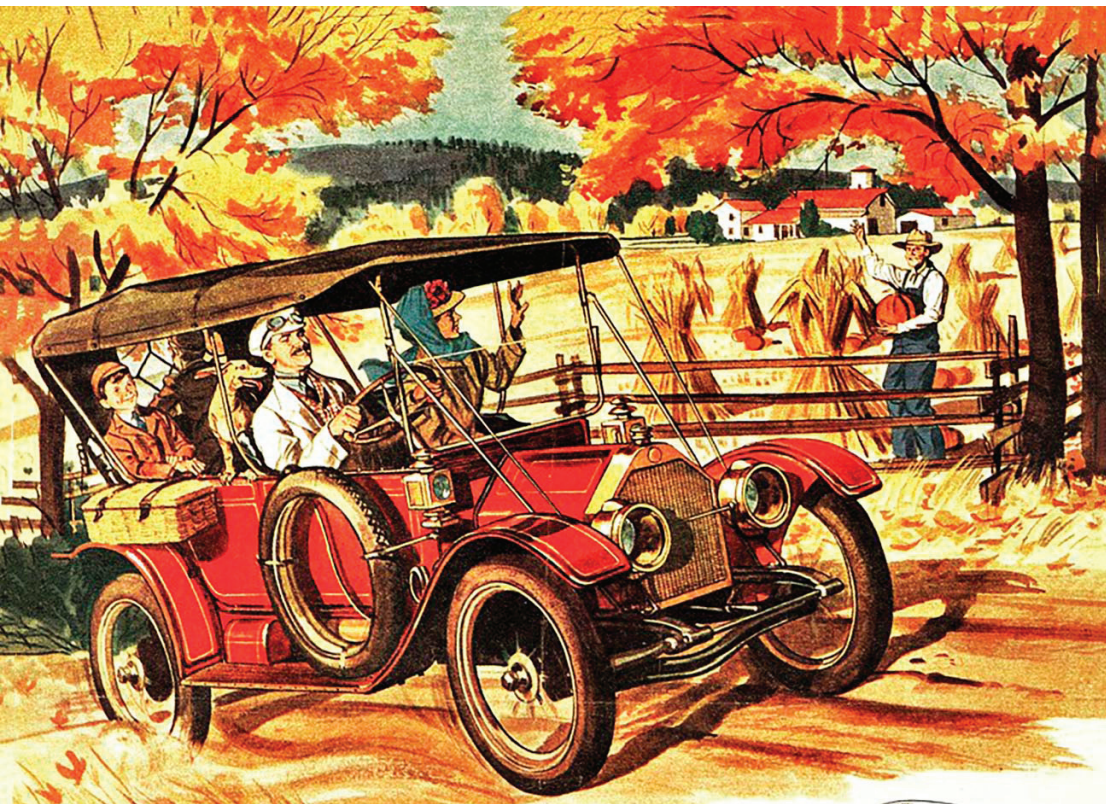
Vol. 30, No. 11

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Nov 2023



- **Hershey's AACA Fall Meet**
- **Trunk or Treating for a Cause**



A great American tradition . . .

Going home for Thanksgiving

We've come a long way since the time of the "horseless carriage." Cranks, magnetos and carbide lamps are now museum pieces. We no longer need gauntlets, goggles or linen dusters when we take to the open highway.

Yet, there's been little change in the spirit and traditions of Thanksgiving. As with our Pilgrim Fathers, it remains a day of worship, of giving

thanks for our abundance, of turkey and all the trimmings, of games and family get-togethers.

Wherever you journey in the holiday seasons ahead, rely on your helpful Richfield dealer. He'll give your car every attention to make your trip enjoyable. And he'll supply you with products of the finest quality—like Richfield Ethyl—the top-octane gasoline with FULL POWER THRUST!

RICHFIELD

Did you know? The Richfield Oil Corporation opened its first automotive service station in Los Angeles in 1917. Its merger with Atlantic Refining in 1966 created ARCO. ARCO was bought by BP in 2000.

Vintage Advertising

This ad for Richfield looked back at the early days of motoring, when owning a car connected folks with greater ease. Aside from a leisurely tour through the countryside, car owners could also take a drive to visit friends and family. Big brass-era touring cars with powerful engines made such trips with ease. Thanksgiving was an ideal reason to make such a trip, and today it is one of the most traveled days of the year. Perhaps we should take our old cars out for the day as well. However you chose to travel for the upcoming holiday, we hope you do so safely. Happy Thanksgiving!

In This Issue

AACA Eastern National Fall Meet recap and Phil's annual Hershey tale.

Old cars come out to support Trunk or Treat for Lifestyles for the Disabled

The SIRAACA Archive turns up some old raffle car posters

The SIRAACA Time Machine checks out the rise (and eventual disappearance) of Ihnken's Service Station.

Trivia Question: The name of the cheapest Chevrolet available in 1958 was actually the name of a premium version of the Two-Ten in 1954. What was that name?

Answer: Delray. While the name never appears on the car, magazine ads used the name in promoting it. Delray is a neighborhood in Detroit.

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Minutes of the 571st Meeting

October 10, 2023

1. The 571st meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:15pm on October 10 at The Square on Annadale. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and offering a moment of silence, the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read.
2. Several members took turns recapping their trip to the AACA Fall Meet in Hershey. Paul Jr. congratulated those who won awards this year, including Joe D'Amore (Senior), Andy Barcellona (HPOF) and Kevin Keenan (Repeat Preservation). Artie Guarnieri and Rocky Pompa were first-time attendees and were wowed by the experience. As always, we encourage all of our members to experience it at least once.
3. The raffle car finished with \$16,635 in total sales and netted a profit of \$6,769. This year had the highest additional raffle car expenses (repairs, etc.) and the highest total expenses. Paul Jr, and Phil broke down the expenses and sales performance. A big thank you to all who helped make it another successful raffle. The top three sellers this year were Mike Gorgia (\$3,185), Anthony Faulisi (\$525) and Tony Ventrice (\$500)
4. Phil and Paul Jr. also recapped the car show figures. Highlights included a car gate of \$11,400, reflecting the new \$25 entry fee and a people gate of \$5,445. Trophy donations totalled \$8,350, which covered our trophy expenses. The top seller was Tony DiAngelo with \$3,350. All in all when factoring in the raffle car, we have a fall show profit of about \$18,000. Again, a big thank you for all of your help throughout the year and on the day of the show to ensure our continued success.
5. Members provided feedback on day of show issues, comments and what they heard from participants that day and afterwards. Ideas for improving certain processes were discussed.
6. A holiday party for all members who contributed through the year is being planned for December. More details to follow next meeting.
7. It's never too soon to look out for next year's raffle car.
8. Phil Boffa gave an updated treasury report, with all in order.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50. The 50/50 collected \$52. Paul Arena won \$26.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

SIRAACA Does Hershey

A good number of our members attended the AACA Eastern National Fall Meet in Hershey this year. Whether they were competing for a national award, selling or buying in the flea market, or taking the whole thing in for the first time, all agreed that it was another fantastic event. On the show field, Joe D'Amore won his Senior Award with his 1993 Cadillac 60 Special. Kevin Keenan won a Repeat Preservation with his 1978 Chevrolet Caprice, and Andy Barcellona won an Original HPOF Award with his 1996 Buick Estate Wagon. Several other Staten Island cars won awards as well, including a 1985 Cadillac Fleetwood owned by VCC member Shawn Lipstein (HPOF), a 1986 Chevrolet El Camino owned by Joe DiLeo (First Junior), a 1976 Cadillac Eldorado owned by Joe DiLeo (Original HPOF), a 1978 Cadillac Fleetwood owned by VCC member Pete Pollara (Senior) and a 1990 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham owned by Joe Fauci (Senior). Many members spent several days there, walking the car corral, browsing the vendors, and then gathering for dinner where they could share their tales with each other. Speaking of tales, Phil Boffa returns with his post-Hershey guest column elsewhere in this issue. The variety of vehicles at Hershey might be unmatched by any other show. For a glimpse of the three Duesenbergs in attendance, plus cars, trucks and motorcycles ranging from 1903 through 1998, see the Hershey photo gallery on our club's Facebook page.



1998 models now qualify for competition at AACA meets. This '98 Jaguar represents that inaugural class. (photo by Paul Jr.)

Phil Does Hershey

Editor's Note: Phil Boffa submitted his post-Hershey tale. Any similarity to persons living or dead is purely intentional.

Definitions: "Hot" - having a high degree of heat or high temperatures. "Kevin" - slow moving vehicle.

Tuesday: I knew it was going to be a hot week, so I filled my suitcase with shorts and tees. I was ready for the heat, or so I thought. Kevin was taking his Caprice for a Preservation Award, so I decided to follow him with my new hot rod truck, filled with flea market stuff. We were on the road at 8:30am. As we maintained our speed at 55mph in a 65mph zone, I noticed how well my new truck handled the massive, death-defying trucks flying past me at over 70mph. At our rest stop, I politely asked Kevin if we could do the speed limit before I got killed. Hours later, we arrived, set up in the flea market where Kevin, Andrew and I had spots reserved. It was already over 80, but I still hit the aisles to search for anything good. The heat was too much, and my trip was short-lived. That night, we went to the diner next to our hotel for cheap food and a great waitress. Kevin was focused on getting rooms for next year, but no rates were posted yet. We then went to the Lodge to preview the RM Auction and was amazed to see they were serving free food. I ate again. When we returned, Kevin asked the desk clerk for next year's rates, still no luck. We gathered in the lobby for coffee and Andrew's homemade baked goods.

Wednesday: Kevin starts the morning asking for next year's rates. Nothing. We head to the field, set up our tables, and then I disappear. Again, the heat cut short my search, and I was back five hours later. The day ends at the diner, cheap food, great waitress, Andrew's cookies and Kevin looking for next year's rates. Nothing.

Thursday: Wednesday on repeat. No rates. Another hot day, and I sold more than I bought. Back to the diner, where the waitress is now my best friend. Afterwards, I relax with Mike and Artie, while Rocky goes off to the indoor pool and Kevin goes to the front desk. Nothing.

Friday: Kevin asks for rates. Nothing. Car show was great. Before we leave for home, Kevin asks for rates again. He gets a restraining order instead.

From the President

I purchased my 1967 Oldsmobile Cutlass at Spring Carlisle in 1986. I was 18 and ready for my first car. Shortly after bringing it home, I realized it was too nice to park at the mall or at the movies, so it became my "show car" and off I went looking for everyday transportation (more often than not my father's 1975 Olds 98 Regency). The Cutlass had just over 70,000 miles on it when I bought it. I recently noticed my odometer was nearing a unique number, one of those once in a lifetime occurrences that you hope to capture, like a total eclipse. Sure enough, at the recent Trunk or Treat event, I was able to document that moment - five of a kind, all eights. At this rate, I most likely won't see all nines. - Paul Jr.



- NEXT MEETING - November 7

Please note that our November meeting takes place on Tuesday, November 7th at **The Square on Annadale** at 833 Annadale Road. The club will buy pizza and soda, and members have the option of buying their own food and drinks separately.

Big Turnout for Trunk or Treat

Artie Guarnieri worked his old car network to perfection, drawing out about 25 cars from SIRAACA and beyond to participate in the Halloween Trunk or Treat event for Lifestyles for the Disabled. Members gathered in a staging area off of Forest Hill Road, where they were joined by folks from other local clubs and friends from Sunday mornings at the beach. Once cleared for entry, they drove in single file up the center of the long private road that was lined by decorated modern cars and SUVs that were handing out candy to the costumed attendees. Many of the old cars were decorated too, with skeletons and pumpkins and spiders and more. A deejay played tunes as the families associated with Lifestyles collected treats and showed off their Halloween finest. Thanks again to all of the members who came out with their cars to spend the sunny afternoon helping out a worthwhile cause.



A 1967 Chevelle threatens to swallow you up if you get too close. We guess this could be considered a "purple people eater" (photo by Paul Jr.)

2020 Award of
Excellence



AACA Publications

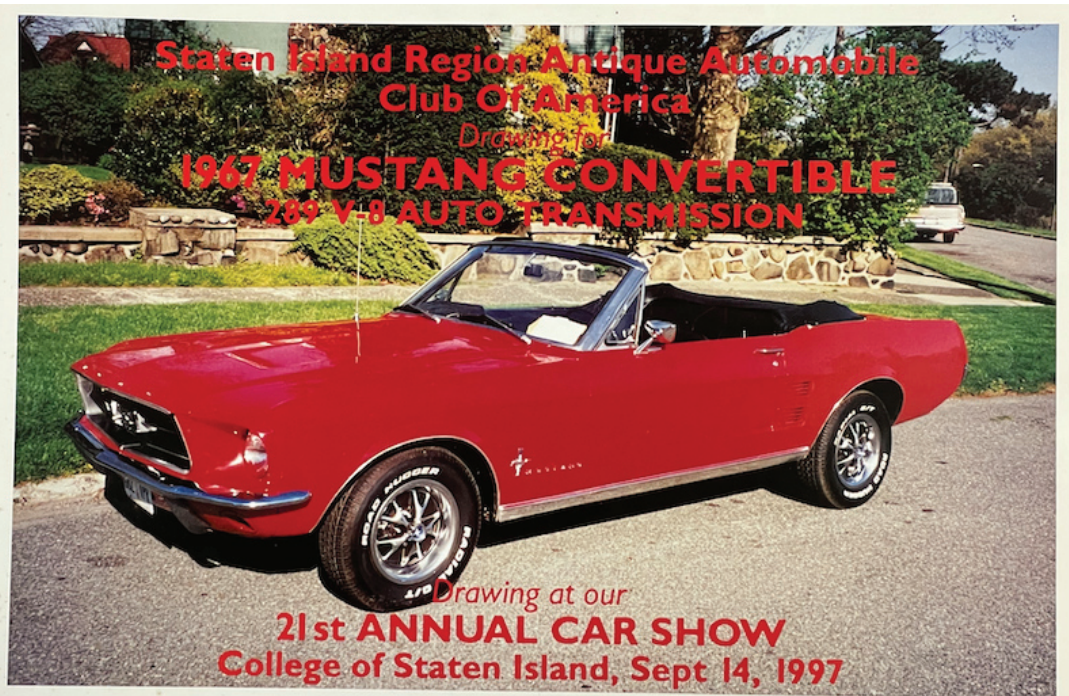
From the SIRAACA Archive

In the late 1990's, our club would promote our car show and raffle car with a combined poster. Here are a couple we recently came across in Paul Arena's basement storage room. These were printed up free of charge by his brother-in-law, who was a printer.

The first one is from 1997, when we raffled off a 1967 Mustang convertible. It was just another 30 year old car at the time, no different than raffling off a 1994 model today, although it doesn't feel the same. This car was one of our best performers in terms of dollar sales, even though tickets were \$1.00 each or seven for \$5.00. It was on display in the center of the Mall for Labor Day weekend and we were visited by a campaigning mayoral candidate Rudy Giuliani at that time. We wonder how many ticket holders went to Maaco for the 10% discount offer. We're pretty sure Maaco painted this car for us.

The following year, we also raffled off a 1967 Mustang, a blue V-8 coupe with a black vinyl top. No Maaco discount was offered that year.

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.



Rain Date: Sept. 21, 1997

Donation: \$1.00
7 for \$5.00

10% OFF WITH TICKET STUB AT MAACO RICHMOND TERRACE, SI
FOR ANY PAINT SERVICE (718) 816-5151. EXP 12/31/97

The posters also reveal the final year of CSI on Ocean Terrace, to be replaced by the Petrides School.



Rain Date: Sept. 20, 1998

Donation: \$1.00
7 for \$5.00



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The SIRAACA Time Machine

Some time ago we visited a long lost Hudson dealership on long lost Cedar Street (see our July 2022 issue). This Gulf station was located next door. When we stopped by around 1940, we see the humble Ihnken's Service Station, complete with outdoor lifts and globe-topped gas pumps. Mr. Ihnken must have done well pumping that Good Gulf Gasoline in the next decade, because when we stop by about ten years later, he has a much larger repair shop with three indoor bays and sleeker gas pumps. We noticed a four door Lincoln (perhaps it's "Ihnken's Lincoln"?) Across the street and a pretty nice late-1930's sedan with sidemounts out back when we first visited. The second time we went there, we saw a shoebox Ford to the left and a circa-1948 Packard to the right. The "N" on the wall by the Ford is the painted HUDSON sign on the dealership next door. As noted, this area is now replaced by the Stapleton Playground. Ihnken's first appears in a May 1926 phone directory, which could very well be the build date of the first service station. The address of this location was 36 Tompkins.



(photos courtesy of NYC Municipal Archives)

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