

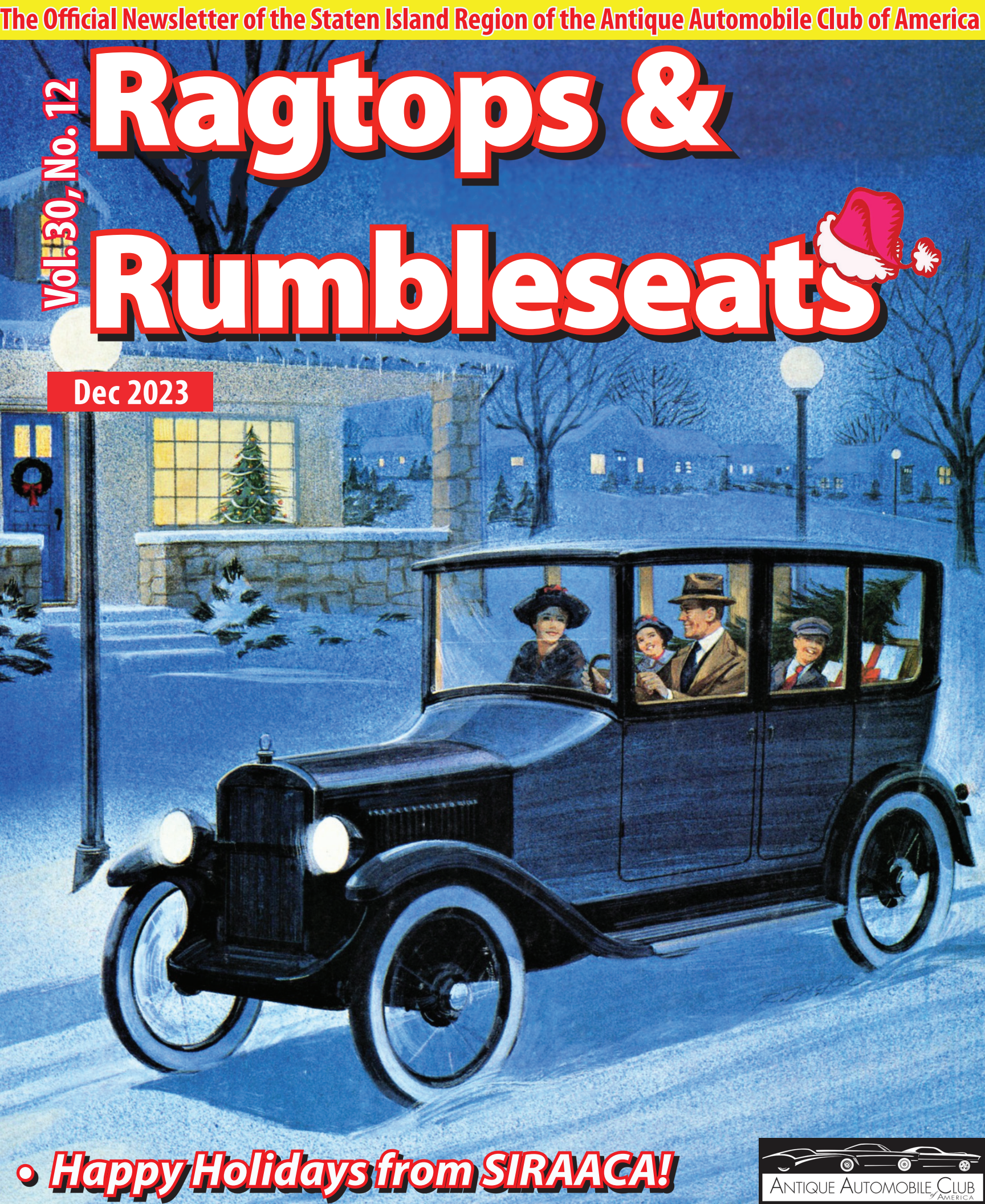
Vol. 30, No. 12

Ragtops &

Rumbleseats



Dec 2023



• **Happy Holidays from SIRAACA!**



Vintage Advertising

This Christmas themed ad appeared in a magazine called *Country Life in America* in December, 1916. Electric cars were still competing for buyers against steam and gas-powered cars. The Milburn Light Electric made its debut in September, 1914. They built more than 4,000 in total before shutting down in 1923. Today, there are 56 known to remain, according to a Hemmings article written two years ago.

It featured a 2-hp GE electric motor, good for 50 miles of range and a top speed of 15 mph.

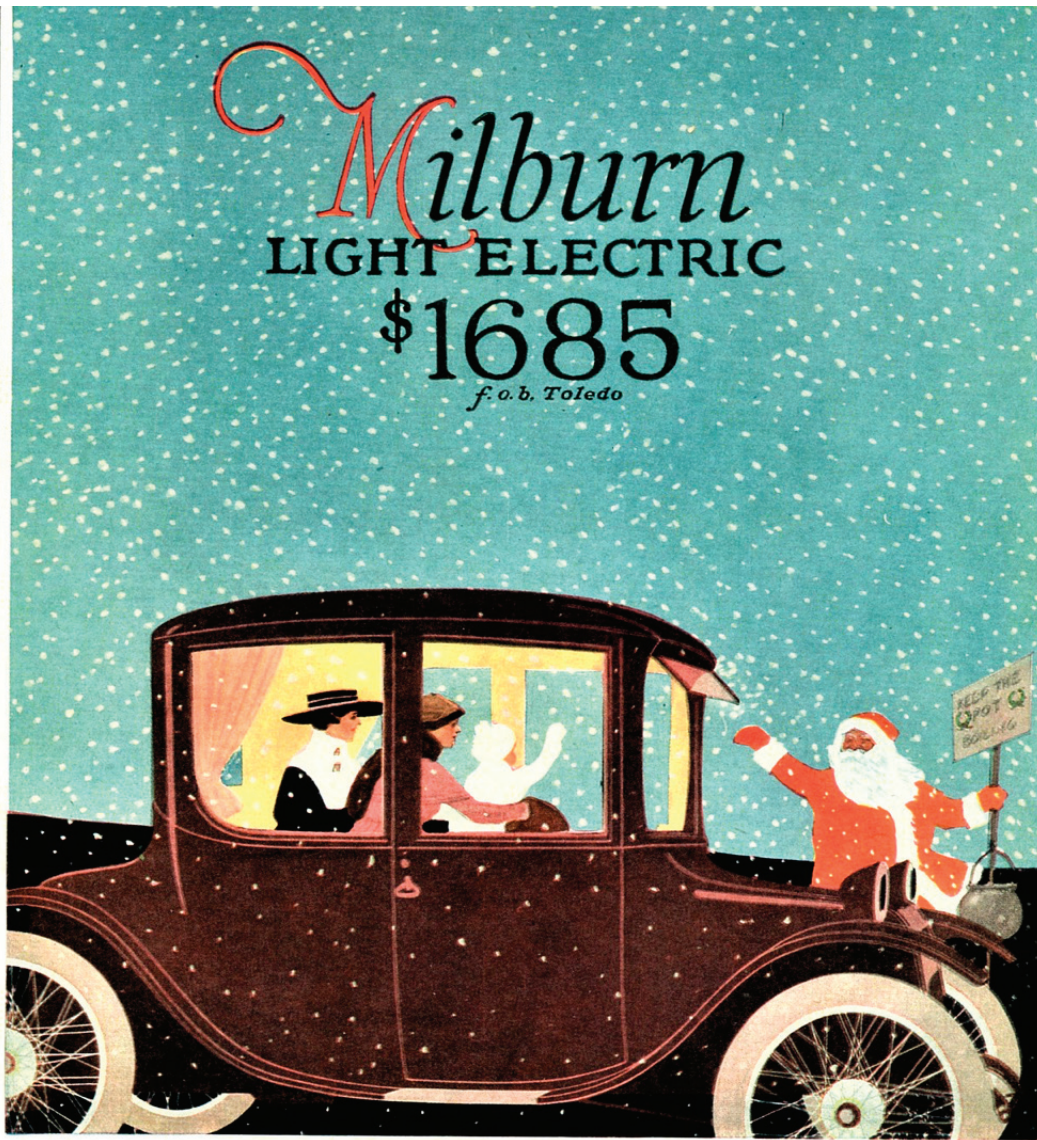
In This Issue

Upcoming joint trip to the 3 Dog Garage

Pick-ups are hot as the weather gets cold

The SIRAACA Archive finds artifacts pre-dating the formation of our region

The SIRAACA Time Machine finds a Staten Island family about to embark on a long journey 110 years ago, and where they most likely bought the car to do it.



The One Accepted Standard

For over two years the entire electric vehicle industry has been striving to produce this car's equal in beauty, lightness, performance and price.

Electrics are lighter and lower in price—

But the Milburn Light Electric is still the one accepted and established standard of beauty, lightness and efficiency among electrics.

It is still the lightest electric built

—still the most economical to run

—still the easiest to operate

—still the easiest riding

—still the most beautiful and most popular of them all

—and still the lowest in price.

The Milburn was the first real light electric. And to-day it stands alone—absolutely unapproached in

its field—the modern low hung, roomy, comfortable car.

No other car—electric or gasoline—can be operated at such small cost.

The best evidence of its dominating position is the effort of those from whom leadership has been wrested to modernize their cars—to approximate Milburn standards.

You must see this car to appreciate it. Dealers in principal cities.

Established 1848

THE MILBURN WAGON COMPANY

Toledo, Ohio

The Milburn Town Car—outside driven—inside capacity four passengers—a beauty—\$1995 f.o.b. Toledo

Automobile Division
Write for Catalogue

The Milburn Charger solves the home charging problem—inexpensively—efficiently

Did you know? The Milburn's design was by Karl Probst, who later went on to design the Bantam "Jeep".

Trivia Question: What were the model names of the three cars Continental Motors offered when it tried to expand beyond engine building in 1933?

that year.

Answer: Ace, Flyer and Beacon. Reportedly, just 3,310 cars of all three models were sold

RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS

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SIRAACA Who's Who

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Minutes of the 572nd Meeting

November 7, 2023

1. The 572nd meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:13pm on November 7 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. Artie Guarnieri recapped the Trunk or Treat Halloween event held for Lifestyles for the Disabled, and thanked all who participated with their old cars. Our attendance was greatly appreciated.
3. Kevin Keenan led a discussion about the Linden Car Show at Aviation Plaza. They still lack a competent judging effort, but we as a club voted unanimously that it's not for us to fix it. There are too many risks to our reputation for little reward.
4. Please remember to renew your annual AACA national membership before December 31.
5. This year's Holiday Party will be held at La Strada Restaurant on New Dorp Lane on Sunday, December 17, from 2:00 to 6:00. All members who contributed to the club efforts this year are entitled to attend along with a guest. Others can pay \$55/pp to attend.
6. We will once again donate new, unwrapped toys to the Richard Gardner Memorial Toy Drive at our Holiday Party. We ask those who attend to also bring a new, unwrapped toy to add to the donation.
7. Keep up the raffle car hunt.
8. There was no treasurer report this month.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13. The 50/50 collected \$40. Pat Colabella won \$20, and Mike Signorile won the Thanksgiving Gift Card.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



Farewell to Fall

As autumn draws to a close to make way for winter, Phil Boffa gave his 1955 Chevrolet pick-up a chance to soak up some sunshine. Shortly afterwards, his neighbors came out and “commissioned” the truck for their family Christmas photo. Perhaps there is a budding business for 50’s pick-ups, as further evidenced on the following page...



Holiday Party and Toy Drive

Our annual holiday party moves to a new location this year as we will gather on Sunday, December 17 at La Strada at 139 New Dorp Lane, from 2:00 to 6:00. All RSVP’s are in and we’re ready to enjoy a sit-down, multi-course dinner to celebrate the season and the friendships our club has fostered among us. Don’t forget that we will be donating new, unwrapped toys that day to the Richard Gardner Memorial Toy Drive. This year marks their 29th annual drive, first established in 1995 in memory of Richard Gardner, Jr., a New York City Police Officer accidentally killed that year. This Christmas Eve, they will be joined by Santa Claus on visits to children at both Richmond University Medical Center and Staten Island University Hospital. Before then they have stops with Santa at Port Richmond Day Care, Head Start Day Care and the Seton Foundation for Learning located on the campus of St. Joseph Hill Academy.

Upcoming Road Trip

Members of the Staten Island Region have been invited to join up with the New Jersey Region for a trip out to Boyertown, PA to visit the 3 Dog Garage. It features a collection of more than 70 vehicles housed in a restored, three-story, early 20th century brick building. The collection is owned by Ross Myers. Displays include antiques and classics, early and late-model race cars, hot rods and customs, and more. There is also a fully equipped auto restoration shop adjacent to the display areas. The trip is scheduled for Saturday, January 13, with our tour running from 11:00 to 1:30. Boyertown is a little less than 100 miles from the Outerbridge. Please RSVP to Paul Jr. before December 13 if you wish to attend.



2024 AACA Eastern Spring Meet

The AACA Eastern Spring Meet will be held in Saratoga Springs, NY next year. The show date is Saturday, June 22 and the host hotel is The Gideon Putnam. If you wish to stay at that hotel, you can get a discounted rate of \$229 plus tax by using the AACA group code 9N18US when reserving your room. There is an additional \$25 amenity fee per night.

Do Renew Your Dues

Please remember to send in your AACA National dues for 2024 before December 31. Renewal notices and mail-in forms are found on the insert that accompanies the November/December issue of *Antique Automobile*. In addition, there is the option of renewing online via AACA.org. As usual, national membership is required to be a member of a region of the AACA. Our club dues will be collected beginning in January and remain just \$20 for the year.

From the President

I'll keep this one short and sweet, so I can leave some room for a note from our editor. We're wrapping up another year and putting a great big bow on it, thanks to all of you. United around a common love for cars, we come together to enjoy the friendships we've formed while working to ensure our efforts are enjoyed by thousands, and in return do some good on Staten Island. I want to wish all of you and your loved ones the very best for the upcoming holidays, and look forward to more fun in 2024. - Paul Jr.

From the Editor

I've been running the SIRAACA Time Machine for more than three years now, and I hope you're enjoying our trips. After some tinkering with our flux capacitor, I think I've gotten some added range and hope to go back further than usual. I'm also always looking for items to feature in The SIRAACA Archive and cars to profile within The SIRAACA Garage. As always, I welcome member submissions, ideas, photos, etc. Next year will be my 31st straight year as your editor. Help me keep the stream of ideas flowing. - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - Holiday Party

Please note that our December meeting is held at our Holiday Party. This year, we are gathering at La Strada on New Dorp Lane on Sunday, December 17 from 2:00 to 6:00 pm to celebrate the season and another successful year for our club.

Don't forget a new, unwrapped toy for donation.

No Reason to Hibernate

Many old car owners tuck away their cars and trucks after the final car show passes and the cold weather cancels the weekly cruises. Yet there's nothing a car likes to do more than go, so we encourage all of you to find the time for a winter run when you can and the weather cooperates. Here's Artie Guarnieri's 1950 Ford F1 hauling some holiday cheer for a recent photo shoot for a family Christmas card. Artie's keeping the engine warm for the rest of the month in case Santa needs an extra hand delivering some presents that don't fit in his sleigh.



2020 Award of
Excellence

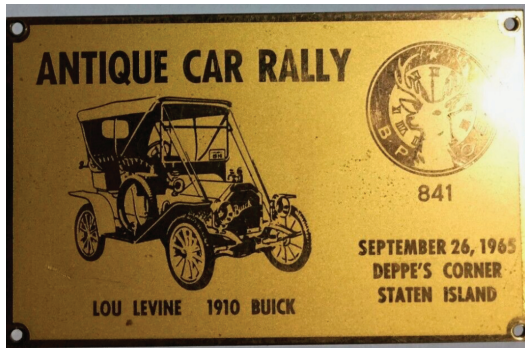


From the SIRAACA Archive

Our Staten Island Region of the AACA was established in 1974, but the founding members were actively enjoying the hobby for more than ten years before that, as evidenced by these vintage dash plaques we discovered for sale on eBay.

Founding President Joe Misuraca was a member of the Elks' Club, and the lodge at the corner of Arthur Kill Road and Richmond Avenue served as the gathering place for these rallies. With the famous Al Deppe's Restaurant located diagonally across from the Elks, it seems they called the area Deppe's Corners. Today it's considered Greenridge.

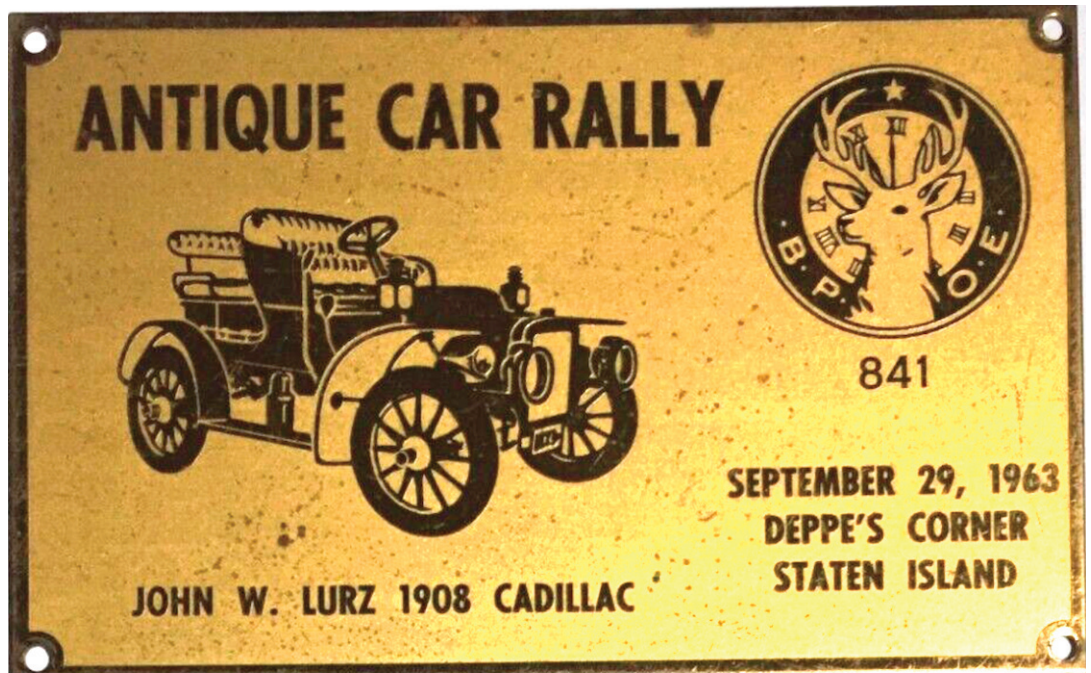
The generic design of the first annual plaque gave way to specific cars and their owners in the following years.



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.



As of the time of printing, these plaques remained for sale on eBay. The one from 1960 is offered with others from a seller in Ottawa, Canada. The 1963 and 1965 are from a seller in Port St. Lucie, FL. Many SIRAACA plaques can also be found for sale on eBay.





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The SIRAACA Time Machine

We cranked up the Time Machine with some extra power and traveled way back to 1914, just in time to see Gray B. Sullivan and family loaded into their Overland. Gray owned Sullivan's Pharmacy, which at the time was located at the corner of Castleton and Barker (this photo is likely on Barker, alongside his store). According to Gray's great-grandson Tobias Sullivan, the family would make a 7-8 day road trip to North Carolina each year. Later records show the Sullivan Drug Store at 1761 Victory Boulevard. We can only guess what that drive was like in an open car traveling 600 miles. By the looks of the family, only the little boy in back looks eager to go.



(photo courtesy of Tobias Sullivan)

So where did Gray buy his Overland? While we do not know for sure, a good bet would be at the Richmond Garage at what was then 93 Richmond Avenue (now Port Richmond Avenue, but we do not know if the old addresses mapped directly to the new ones). The ad at right ran in the Richmond County Advance in July, 1914. It notes that a touring car would have cost \$950, unless it had the optional electric starter and generator, bumping the cost to \$1,075. Between then and 1920, the Richmond Garage changed hands from I.A. Silvie, Jr. to the Einziger Brothers, and relocated to 159-163 Richmond Avenue. We featured a SIRAACA Time Machine trip there in our March, 2021 issue.

RICHMOND GARAGE
Agents for the Popular
OVERLAND CAR

The latest Overland automobiles are made in three body styles, as five-passenger touring car, two-passenger roadster, and four-passenger inside-driven coupe.

Touring car and roadster are electrically lighted from a storage battery. The price is \$950. When so desired, the cars will be equipped with Gray & Davis electric engine starter and generator, in which case the price is \$1,075.

Model 79 coupes are equipped with electric lights, storage battery, ammeter, electric engine starter, and generator, etc. The price of this superbly-appointed car is \$1,250.

Limousines and Touring Cars for hire for Balls, Weddings, Christenings and Theatre Parties.

OPEN DAY AND NIGHT FOR ALL EMERGENCIES
BUSIEST AUTO SHOP ALWAYS ON THE GO
THERE'S A REASON—
Moderate Prices, Quick Work, Satisfaction Guaranteed.

I. A. SILVIE, Jr., Proprietor
Phone 636 W. B. B. O. DeBbhangh, Mgr. 93 Richmond Av., Port Richmond

Richmond Garage proprietor I.A. Silvie, Jr. was most likely the son of Isaac A. Silvie, who constructed the first building on Staten Island designed specifically to be a funeral home. He established the Silvie Funeral Home in 1896 at Decker and Palmer Avenues. It eventually merged into Meislohn-Silvie and is now Cherubini McInerney.


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