

Vol. 31, No. 12

Ragtops & Rumbleseats



Dec 2024



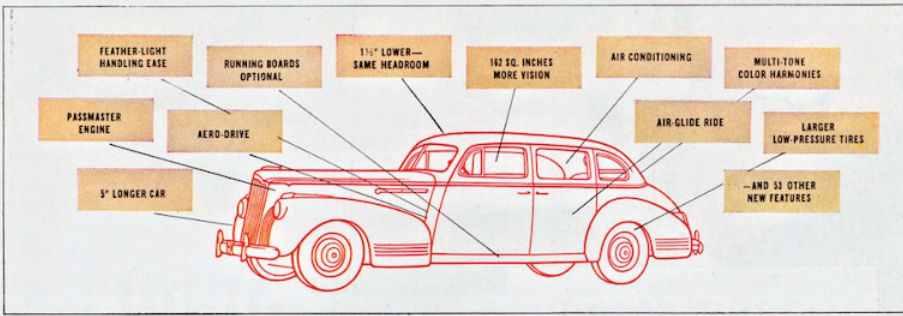
• Happy Holidays!

Vintage Advertising

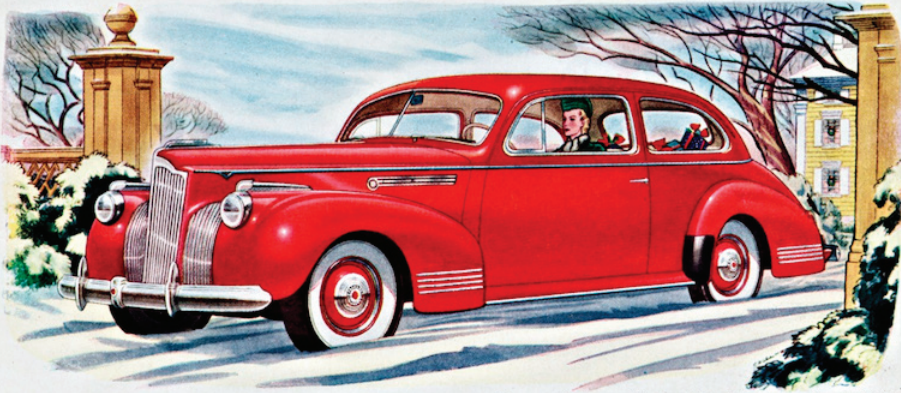
A holiday ad for the new Packard of 1941 points out a host of surprising features worthy of filling a Christmas stocking. These include things like "Passmaster Engine", "Aero-Drive", and "Tru-course steering", all fun combinations of what the engineers and marketers could devise.

Yet the surprise we feel is biggest is that Packard offered 261 possible trim combinations on their Multi-tone custom interiors. Try judging one at an AACA meet and challenging the correctness of the interior choice!

The 110 shown here was a bottom of the line model, with 120, 160 and 180 lines available too.



Full of surprises as a Christmas stocking



Illustrated: the new Packard One-Ten Deluxe Family Sedan

NUMBER ONE surprise of the new-car season comes with your first wide-eyed look at this longer . . . lower . . . lovelier . . . infinitely more luxurious Packard! With no less than 64 new features!

Take the Passmaster Engine—packing all the famous Packard dash and spirit, but now giving you a dividend of 10% greater fuel economy!

Or take the new Packard 1941 Aero-Drive, which lets your motor loaf even at cruising speeds slowing your engine down 27%...and when you want to pass, automatically cuts in a mountain-climbing gear that *sprints* you by

the car ahead. Well worth its extra cost for added pleasure alone, yet it also cuts gas consumption up to 20%!

And for another top-of-the-stocking surprise, there's the Packard Air-Glide Ride—motoring's mellowest. On boulevard or back road, the Packard Safe-T-flex spring suspension and larger, low-pressure tires iron out the bumps with magic smoothness.

Yes, match the surprising features of this new Packard against the field. Note Air Conditioning—a Packard first! Real, mechanically cooled air conditioning, an optional extra cost feature that pays big comfort-dividends the whole

year round! Try Tru-course steering... test Packard handling ease . . . feast your eyes on the Multi-tone custom interiors, boasting 261 possible trim combinations (122 of them at no extra cost!)

Don't miss a point! And then, find out for yourself how very, very economical this stunning surprise-packed Packard is to own. See your Packard dealer now! Ask him for the facts on Packard low upkeep cost—or better yet, *ask the man who owns one.*

Five lines of new cars—40 body styles

\$907 to \$5550

Delivered in Detroit, State taxes and white sidewall tires extra! Prices subject to change without notice.

NEW PACKARD — the Class of '41

In This Issue

SIRAACA goes trunk or treating

A wedding tradition is passed on

The SIRAACA Archive follows up on an old raffle car comment

The SIRAACA Time Machine takes a little Christmas inspiration on its latest trip through time

Did you know? In 1940, Packard was the first US automaker to offer air conditioning as a factory production option. They first referred to it as "mechanical refrigeration", then "weather conditioning".

Trivia Question: Henry Ford's first foray into cars was his Detroit Automobile Company (1899), which became the Henry Ford Company in 1901. When he left in 1902, what was the company reorganized as?

Answer: The Cadillac Automobile Company. Ford started Ford Motor Co. in 1903.

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Minutes of the 581st Meeting

October 15, 2024 (Reprinted)

1. The 581st meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:10 pm on October 15 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. The majority of the meeting focused on a recap of our car show and the raffle car. Show related expenses topped \$30,000 this year when factoring in the three charitable donations. This year's raffle car also had the highest total expense, but with our second best ever sales total, we turned our second best ever raffle profit. Thanks to all who helped all year long towards another successful show and raffle.
3. All agreed that the Staten Island Advance's coverage of the show was great and well-deserved. Perhaps this kicks off another run of favorable exposure via our local newspaper.
4. Members discussed areas of improvement, and brainstormed ideas to address the new property entrances that offer attendees a way to skirt our admission.
5. Exit signs can help with egress and we should consider ways to prevent speeding on the way out, perhaps with a slalom of cones. It was also noted that we need more bulldog clips to hold garbage bags in place.
6. Members recapped the Clove Lakes display, where we received a donation of \$60 as a thank you. We also discussed the New Dorp Lane show, where some members pitched in to help.
7. Tales from this year's AACA meet in Hershey were shared as well, including some funny hotel hijinks.
8. The upcoming Trunk or Treat event with Lifetsyles is scheduled for October 26. Check in with Artie Guarnieri for details.
9. The Holiday Party returns to La Strada on December 15.
10. Phil gave a treasury report with details on the show's balance sheet, with all in order.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40. The 50/50 collected \$52. Matt Safford won \$26.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

They're Still Out There

Mike Signorile has developed a reputation as the man to call if you are interested in selling a car. That's not limited to the hobby regulars and the cars we see out all summer long. He also gets calls about cars that no one seems to know about. Take for example this 1937 Packard 120 recently revealed in a well hidden garage near Snug Harbor. Apparently it's found a new home in Long Island, and we hope it becomes a road worthy car for someone new to enjoy. There are likely many more such "undiscovered" cars sitting in garages across our island. Do you know of any?



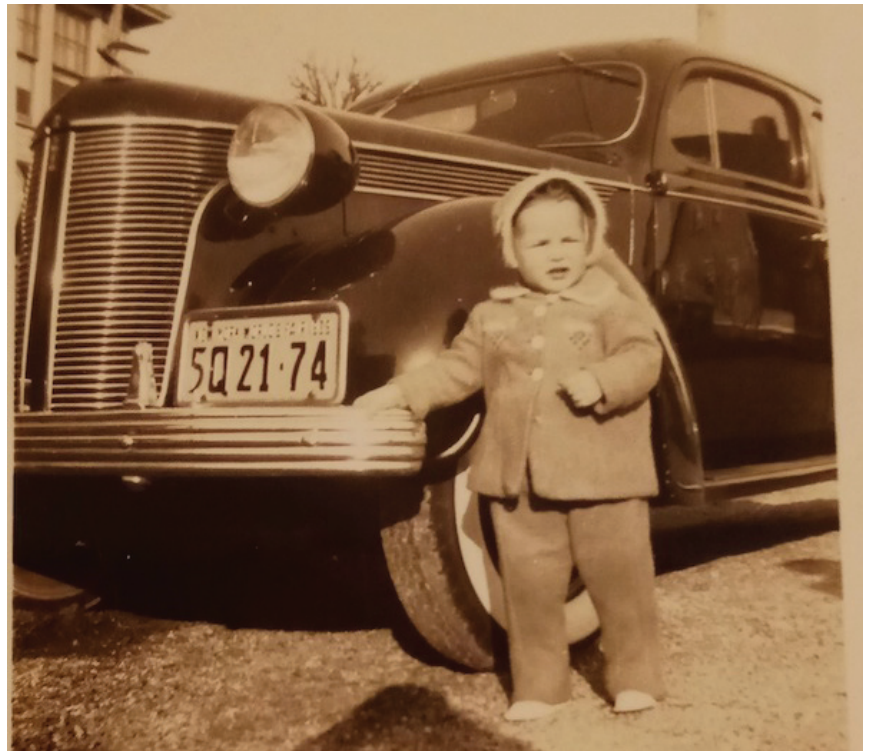
Trunk or Treat

Once again this year, Artie Guarnieri coordinated with Lifestyles for the Disabled to provide antique cars for their annual Trunk or Treat Halloween event. Members and other friends decorated their cars and had them parked along the trick or treat route on their grounds in Willowbrook, providing a safe and fun day filled with candy, costumes and camaraderie. Thanks to all who joined in to make this event memorable for the folks who rely on Lifestyles to provide them with normal experiences in a setting geared to their needs.



Peek-a-Boo! There isn't a tiger in the tank, but a pair of jack-o'-lanterns under the hood of Mike DiPilato's Firebird. (photo by Mike DiPilato)

Can You ID This Car?



Bruce Campbell asked us for help in identifying the family car in this photo of his sister. The license plate is a 1939 New York Worlds Fair version. We already gave Bruce the answer, yet we'll give all of you a chance to guess the year and make, and reveal the answer next month for everyone.

Don't Forget to Renew!

A reminder to all to renew your national AACA membership by sending in your dues before December 31. Instructions on how to do so are found in the November/December AACA magazine or on AACA.org.

From the President

A new year approaches, and we will all mark another birthday, anniversary, and many other milestones in 2025. I'll be starting my 32nd year as editor of our newsletter. I'm entering my 17th year as benevolent dictator/president of our region, and my 35th year as a member. In reality, I've been hanging around this club since my father joined in 1976. He's the main reason why I'm so involved, but not the only one. I remain involved because I love our old cars, I love what we do as a club and I love the friendships I have as a result. I'd like to think I learned a few things along the way, and not only how to tell apart a 1967 and a 1968 Camaro. I learned about the value of a shared community, and the power to do good for others as a result of a common interest to educate and entertain. I'm proud of what we do each year, and I hope all of you feel good about being a member of our club. Please remember to renew your national membership before the year ends. I hope to see many of you at our holiday party, but want to wish all of you and your families the very best holiday season. - Paul Jr.



- NEXT MEETING -

We are skipping a couple of monthly meetings at The Square on Annadale, and will gather to wrap up the year on Sunday, December 15 at our holiday dinner at La Strada Restaurant on New Dorp Lane, from 2:00 to 6:00. Remember to bring a new, unwrapped toy to add to our donation to the Richard Gardner Memorial Toy Drive

A Family Wedding Tradition Takes Hold

When Tony and Yvonne DiAngelo got married in 1987 they made sure they had antique cars as a part of their special day. It's no surprise that when it was time for their daughter Stephanie to get married, she too would want an antique car to help celebrate as well.



Tony and Yvonne pose next to Paul Arena's 1948 Dodge on their wedding day (above). Even though Tony's Road Runner would have been a cool choice for his daughter, she too opted for spacious rear seating and suicide doors in a mid-1950's Rolls Royce, (at right). Congratulations to Stephanie and her new husband Thomas on tying the knot on October 12. Congratulations to her parents Tony and Yvonne as well for celebrating their daughter's wedding and passing along the old car genes to her. Maybe someday a new baby will come home in the Road Runner.



From the SIRAACA Archive

In this feature in last month's issue it was mentioned in an aside that Jim Spadafora had also won one of our raffle cars. We did a little research within our archives to reveal a bit more about that.

First off, the car was a 1952 Chevrolet Bel Air, not a '53. It was raffled off at our 8th Annual Car Show in 1984. It seems like it was too old of a car to give away, but at 31 years old it's the same as raffling off a 1993 model today.

Jim held on to the car for quite a while; in fact, he may still own it today. He still receives our newsletter, so let's see what he writes back after reading this one.

The Bel Air was the name Chevy used to denote a two-door hardtop (no b-pillar, or "post") from 1950 through 1952. It became the premium model range across a number of body styles in 1953.

We also learned that the '49 Buick in last month's column was owned by M. Zaccheo and it had NJ plates.

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.



Probably the last we will see of the clubs raffle car. The 1952 Chevrolet won by Mr. James Spadafora of Spotswood, New Jersey. Photo by Victor Coiro

The above image was pulled from our November 1984 newsletter.



This image is from a Polaroid showing the raffle car before it was given away at our 1984 Car Show. It was tan with a brown roof. (photo by Paul Sr.)



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The SIRAACA Time Machine

With the holidays upon us, we were inspired to find Rudolph Motor Co's Plymouth DeSoto dealership at 814 Richmond Terrace. We've seen reference to it as far back as 1933, and that building is reportedly built in 1931. (DeSoto was introduced with 1929 models). Here's their listing in the 1940 phone book.



So we dialed in the address and shot back as far as we could, landing in 1940 at the corner of the Terrace and Tysen Street. The business name runs along the top of the facade, with a DeSoto Plymouth neon sign mounted at the corner of the building.



A pair of gas pumps flank the showroom windows and a "Used Cars" sign sits above the garage door at the far left. In the 1980's this was an auto repair shop called "Andy's" and now it is earmarked to become another outpost for local beer brewer Kills Boro. We don't know much more about Rudolph. In fact, while researching DeSoto dealerships online, the National DeSoto Club's list failed to include Rudolph Motor Co. We shared the details and these two images with them, and they thanked us for the information, which will be added to their site next month. (Hopefully by now, you know why we visited Rudolph this month).

This monthly feature began in 2020 as temporary filler for missing content due to government lockdowns in response to Covid. It's turned into a regular feature still going strong as we head into 2025 and we hope that you are enjoying these trips back in time. Feel free to send in your comments, requests or additional information.

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