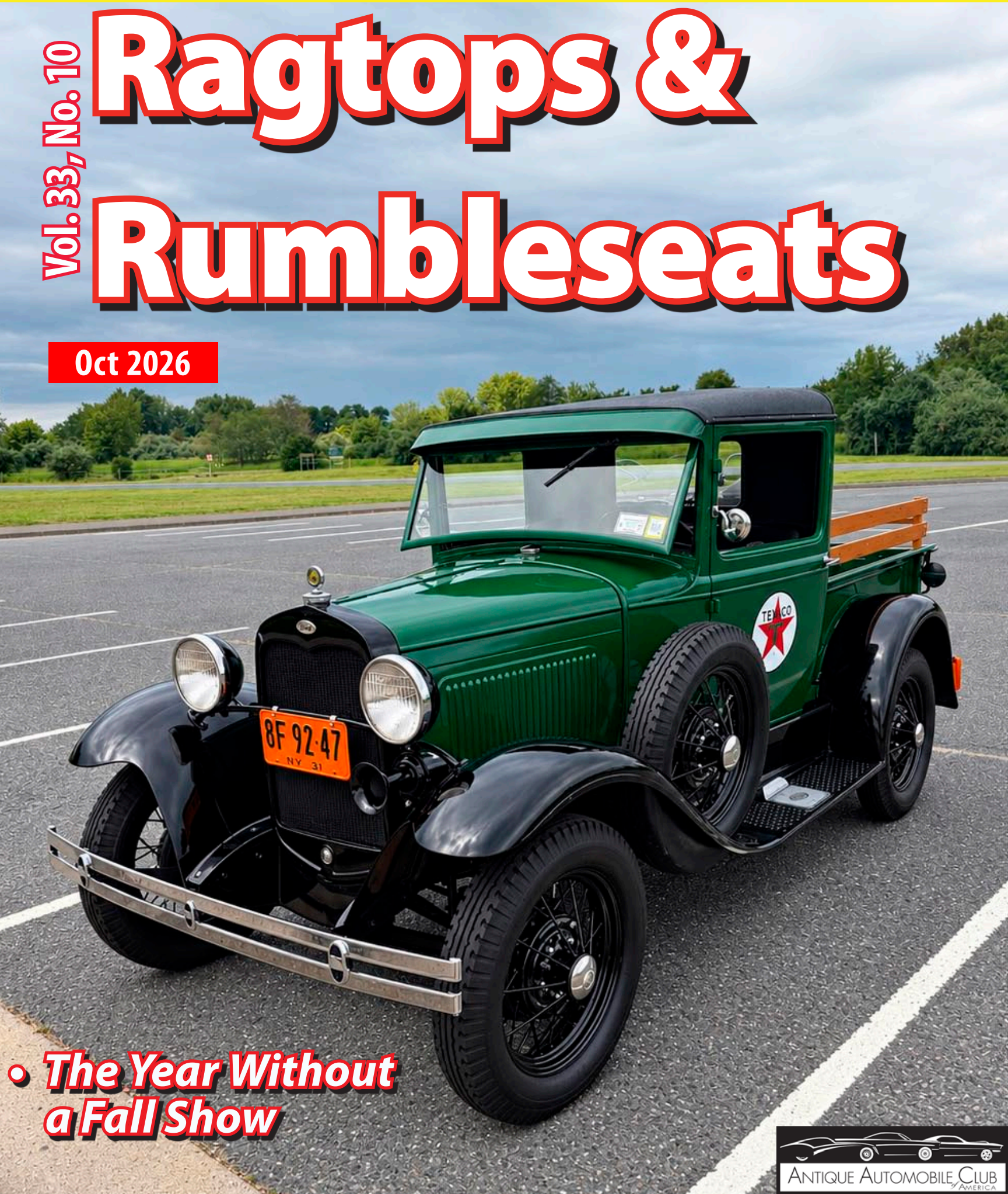
The Official Newsletter of the Staten Island Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America

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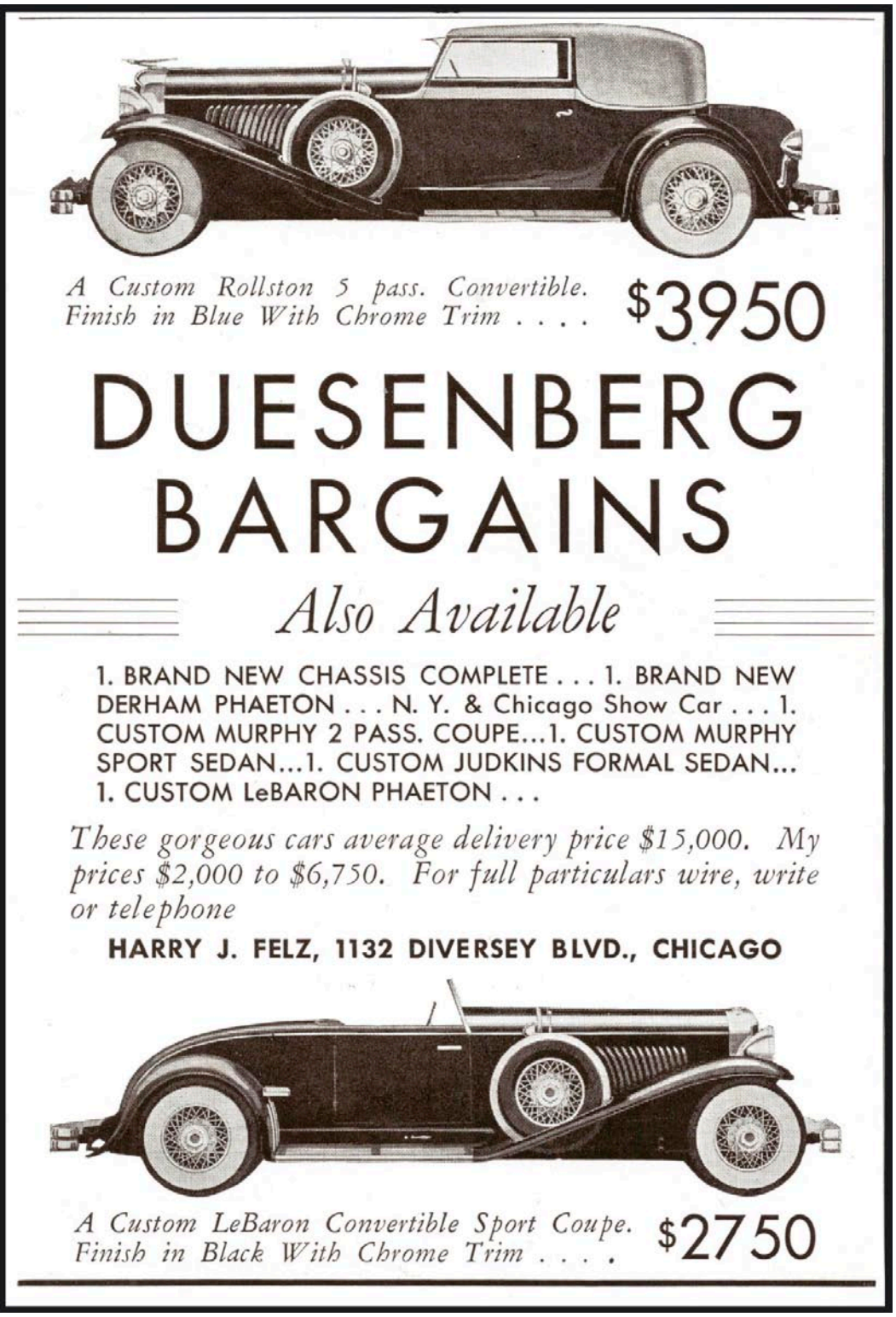
Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Oct 2026



- The Year Without a Fall Show

Antique Automobile Club of America



Did you know? 481 Duesenberg Model J's were built, and approximately 378 survive today..

Vintage Advertising

This ad ran in 1937, a offer for forward-thinking auto enthusiasts to grab a used Duesenberg for one-fifth of its original price. We tried to trace the cars on offer 90 years ago to their place in today's hobby, but struggled to do so. We did learn, however, that the "brand new chassis" was sold back to Augie Duesenberg to build what would become the "last Duesenberg". It's known as the Bauer Duesenberg, delivered in 1940 and unlike any other Duesenberg. The car was designed and commissioned by artist Rudolf Bauer, delayed by his arrest in Germany by the Nazis. It exists today, unrestored and sporting 10,000 or so miles.

In the meantime, fire up the Time Machine. We have some old cars to buy.

In This Issue

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Clove Lakes car isplay

Watch your step in The SIRAACA Garage

The SIRAACA Time Machine makes a couple of passes by Russo's.

Trivia Question: What sports and luxury car maker from Indianapolis began life in 1911 as the Ideal Motor Car Company?

Answer: Stutz. Harry Stutz owned Stutz Auto Parts Co. when he organized Ideal with partner Henry Campbell. The companies merged in 1913.

RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS

October 2026

Volume 33, Number 10

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Minutes of the 600th Meeting

September 1, 2026

1. The 600th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order on September 1 at 7:10 pm 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. Congratulations to all of our members who competed and completed a clean sweep with all winning awards at the Grand National Meet in Allentown. Many members spoke about their time at the event.

3. We will put on a display of cars for the folks at Clove Lakes Home on September 19th, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Cars will gather around 9:30 in the shopping center on Manor Road before rolling in. Our hosts will provide coffee, donuts and pastries, as well as make a small donation to the club.

4. An updated trophy donor report was given. The show pamphlet listing donors will go to print next week. Any donors that come in afterwards will still have their names engraved on their trophies and be announced at the show.

5. If anyone has outstanding raffle money, ticket stubs or unsold tickets, be sure to give them to Artie on the day of the show so a proper accounting can be made.

6. The rest of the meeting reviewed logistics for the upcoming show, including main gate responsibilities, judging, peer voting, show field duties and overall layout.

7. Members should arrive by 6:30 am and wear club staff shirts for the car show.

8. Phil Boffa presented a treasury report showing all is in order.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm. The 50/50 collected $80 and Enrico Ferrara won $40.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



Oh No! No Show!

One, two, three strikes you're out, as the song goes. This year, it not only applies to baseball, but our 49th Annual Car Show. Three dates, three days of rain, and eventually, no more runway to try and reschedule the show. We weren't the only game in town affected. New Dorp Lane's show tried twice, as did the Mustang club at Dana Ford. Plenty of other shows in New Jersey never happened this year as well.

This is the first time we had consecutive rain-outs and outright cancelled a show. What does it mean for us? We plan to carry everything forward to 2027 and hold our 49th annual show next year. All of our trophies are donated and stored away, and all the donors who contributed this year will not be asked to donate again next year. It will be important that the members who have relationships with those donors let them know, and keep them warm for 2028, where we hope to hold our 50th Annual Show with appropriate fanfare.

Despite the cancellation, we had to raffle off the 2005 Mustang, and made arrangements to do so at the Italian Festival at Mount Loretto on Columbus Day weekend. See the story below for details on that.

We will still celebrate the year's achievements at our annual holiday get-together, which will return to La Strada on New Dorp Lane in December. More details to follow.

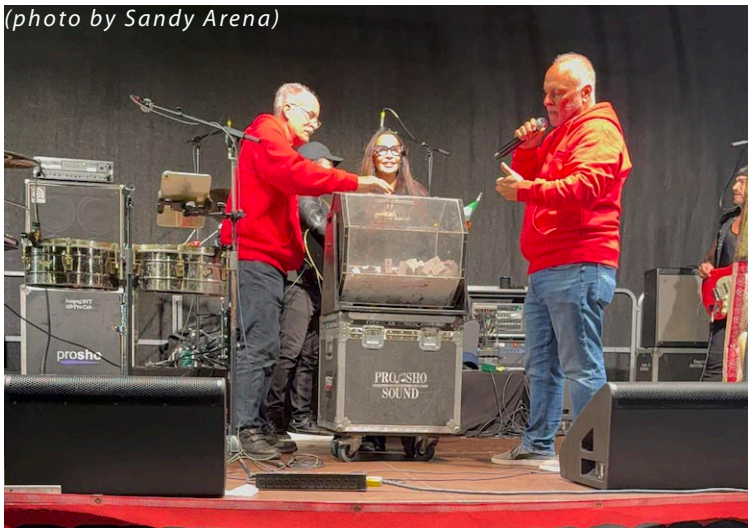
Return to Clove Lakes

Members of SIRAACA and fellow car owners joined forces for our annual display of old cars for the residents and staff of Clove Lakes Healthcare on Saturday, September 19. A dozen cars in total, ranging from the 1930's through the 1990's, offered up plenty of smiles and memories for those who gathered in a small lot behind the facility. Warm sunshine, hot coffee and doughnuts, and a peppy musical duo provided just the right medicine for many residents who spend every day indoors. The staff presented our club with a small donation in thanks for our support, and we expect to return again next year,



Clove Lakse residents wait their turn for a closer look at the cars on display. (photo by Paul Arena)

(photo by Sandy Arena)



Raffle Car Drawing

The club rescheduled the drawing of our raffle car winner to occur at the Italian festival at Mount Loretto, and opted for one final day of ticket sales on Saturday before picking the winner that evening. In between a cannoli eating contest and the final musical act, Paul Arena and Mike Gorgia took to the stage with the raffle drum. Claire Atalla, CEO of Catholic Charities of S.I., drew the winning stub, and Mike recognized it as one he had sold to the Fraternal Order of Police. We called them from the stage, left a message, and they called us back. The car is now for sale and the FOP will use the proceeds to fund their future efforts.

From the President

Despite an unprecedented triple rainout and full cancellation of our fall car show, I still have plenty of thanks to give to all of you for everything leading up to the show. You helped raise more than $11,000 in trophy donations along with at least $2,000 in sponsorship money. You also drove raffle tickets sales of $7,700. Each figure contributes to a profitable year despite no fall show and other key events. As such, we will still be able to make a donation to Catholic Charities this year.

Speaking of charities, we are applying to receive a small charitable grant from the Nicotra Foundation as part of their annual giveback of profits from the Commons Cafe and Pienza. Local nonprofits can submit requests for consideration, and we will likely qualify for $1,500 each year. That is equal to a 33% savings on our fee to rent the grounds for one of our shows. Thanks to Phil Boffa for working on this. Everything counts.

So again, thank you to everyone for all of their contributions of time and effort. - Paul



- NEXT MEETING - October 13

Our next monthly meeting is Tuesday, October 13. The meeting is held at The Square on Annadale, and that is confirmed by text in the days leading up to the meeting. The start time is usually around 7:00PM.
The club will provide pizza and soda, and members can purchase additional or alternate items on their own.

2026 Fall Show Dash Magnet

The magnetic dash plaque for this year's annual fall show features Jerry Esposito's 1965 Chevrolet Impala. The plaques are sponsored this year by Dr. John Piazza and his NY Chiropractic and Physical Therapy practice. For each of our two car shows, we select a member's car to be featured, based on length of membership. The list of members still to have a vehicle depicted will be reviewed soon for the 2027 plaques.



We began giving out these to our members at the October meeting and will continue to do so at the November meeting. We also have an allotment to give to our trophy donors, and will likely draft a letter of thanks to them to explain how we are carrying their donation forward to 2027's show. As for the 200 we normally give out at the show, these will be given out along with an updated one next fall. Think of it as a remembrance of the show that never was.

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

The SIRAACA Garage fits an awful amount of cars both big and small. Watch your step, however, because some are very small. Case in point, this is Howdy Doody's Volkswagen Beetle convertible.

Actually, the license plate reveals that this is Kevin Keenan's "Mini-Me". The car is a home decorator item that Kevin repainted and detailed to match his full-size 1979 Beetle convertible "Epilogue Edition". Phil Boffa crafted the matching license plate.

For those of you not old enough to remember, the VW Beetle was one of the best-selling cars of all time, and was the first car to surpass 20 million units produced. For those of you too young to know who Howdy Doody is, ask someone much older than you.

Many of us find model kits, dealer promo cars or diecast versions in several scales of our cars, but not too many of us have a car so iconic it became a home decorator item before being destined for the SIRAACA Garage. What else might be tucked away in there, too small to readily be seen?

The SIRAACA Garage is 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.



So who is older - Volkswagan or Howdy? Howdy first appeared in 1947. Volkswagen the company was founded ten years earlier, with the first Beetle produced in 1938. (photo by Paul Arena)

Special Upcoming Event

There is a famous annual automotive show held in Paris called Retromobile. It just celebrated it's 50th anniversary, and its about to jump the Atlantic for the first ever Retromobile New York. It will be held at the Javits Center from November 19-22. What can you expect at Retromobile New York? Special automotive displays, classic-car brokers, automotive art and merchandise, and "art cars". More importantly, an incredible restoration will be unveiled there with the debut of a GM Futurliner reconfigured to its original 1939 design. The Futurliners were used in GM's Parades of Progress, and all of the remaining ones are presented in their updated 1953 designs. Rob Ida, well known for his award winning custom builds and Tucker 48 restorations, was commissioned by the Caretakers Collection for the incredible work required to research and rebuild it as it first appeared. Seek out Rob on Instagram or Facebook to see what's been done at his shop in Old Bridge, NJ. This will be a unique opportunity to see the result of that work in person right here in New York City before the Futurliner moves on to displays at the Petersen Museum in Los Angeles and GM's Heritage Center in Michigan. Tickets to Retromobile are available in advance online for $70, and are expected to be $79 at the door, with a 9:00 am opening. VIP tickets are $270 and include early entry and access to the Retromobile Lounge, lunch included.

ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB of AMERICA
STATEN ISLAND REGION, EST. 1974

Old Cars in an Unexpected Place

(Editor's note: Don Bosco relays this tale of discovery. We'll return to "My First Car" soon - please send in your submissions for future issues)

This past June, my wife Kim, son Donny and I visited Dubai at the invitation of my old friend and client Sheikh Hasher bin Maktoum. I have known him since 1990, so you would think that after more than 35 years we would know each other's interests pretty well. Apparently not.

We were having lunch at his palace on the beach when he casually said, "Since you are in America, maybe you can help me find some old car parts." That got my attention. "Old car parts?" I asked. Sheikh Hasher then told me that he has been collecting automobiles for decades. He has a collection of about 25 cars, mostly Mercedes and Land Rovers, along with unusual Japanese models from the 1950's and '60's. I was stunned. We knew each other all this time, and somehow neither of us had realized that the other was infected with the old car bug. Naturally, I pulled out some photos of my own cars, and it was his turn to be surprised. How had we never once talked about our mutual interest in old cars?

After lunch, he said, "Come outside. I have a surprise for you." As we stepped out, a flatbed truck pulled up carrying a beautifully restored 1947 Chevrolet Fleetmaster Sport Sedan. His crew unloaded the Chevy, Sheikh handed me the keys, and said, "Let's go for a drive!" So there I was, behind the wheel of a '47 Chevy in Dubai, Sheikh riding shotgun with Kim and Donny in the back seat. He directed me through the palace compound, along curving roads and pathways overlooking the beach front. At one point, I shifted into second gear and the Chevy took off a little faster than expected for the narrow, winding route. He calmly suggested to keep it in first.



Perhaps my embarrassment was caused by the unexpected speed across his manicured pathways or the slight protest from the gearbox shifting into second. Either way, it was surreal. I never imagined that one day I would be driving an old Chevrolet on the grounds of a Dubai palace. Yet it shouldn't be a complete surprise. The UAE has a serious car culture, ranging from showcasing exotic supercars to preserving automotive history. There are a few places worth visiting if you find yourself in the UAE. One of the best known is the Emirates National Auto Museum outside Abu Dhabi, featuring more than 200 vehicles. There is the Al Ain Classic Car Museum, which highlights a restoration operation that supports its collection. My favorite is the Sharjah Classic Cars Museum, with more than 100 classic and vintage vehicles, some dating back to the early part of the 20th century.

My encounter with the Shiekh is one of the things I always loved about our hobby. You can meet someone from the other side of the world, from a completely different culture, and discover that the moment you start talking about cars, each of you suddenly speak the same language.

The SIRAACA Time Machine

For our north shore folks and those who remember when we used to hold our meetings at IHOP, this should be a familiar location. Some sources say the business dates back to 1920's, but these views are from a couple of Time Machine drive-bys around 1939/1940.



Above, the car on the right has a GM feel, but we can't tell what it is. The five-window coupe on the left should be easy to identify. The nose peaking out of the garage is a tell-tale clue for that car as well. Can you identify them? The view at the right shows the side of taller neighboring building not seen in the view above. Not sure which picture is earlier, and if the building was newly built or torn down. A Citgo station sits there today, at the corner of Forest and Richmond. (Last month was the predecessor of Hollywood Garage).



Note: 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 into 2026 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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Sat 10 AM – 3 PM

