

Vol. 23, No. 11

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Nov 2016



• **Rare Ford Highlighted**



Vintage Advertising

It was a cold, rainy late October evening when we selected this month's vintage ad. It's pretty easy to see why we picked this one for a 1918 Buick.

By the time this ad ran, Buick was already 19 years old, and was the cornerstone of GM since its founding ten years prior in 1908. The 1918 line offered nine different body styles, including this closed coupe. Both Fours and Sixes, each with the famous "valve-in-head" design, were available.

Buick today is the oldest American automobile brand, outlasting the now defunct Oldsmobile nameplate.

Any guesses why the kid has a second umbrella?

In This Issue

SIRAACA judges the field at the Monmouth County Concours, and selects a rare Ford as Best Performance Car.

Not everything at auction costs a fortune.

Another centenarian in the SIR-AACA Garage.

What would a witch drive?

Holiday Party is December 4.

EVERYBODY KNOWS
VALVE-IN-HEAD MEANS BUICK

SO widely has the Buick name come to be accepted as marking the highest standards of motor car construction that there is a national demand for a Buick for every phase of motor car use.

In this day of conservative and careful utilization of every resource the ownership of a Buick is of added importance. Its fine service and economy in upkeep have earned it a place as an economic necessity.

You will find a Buick adapted to your particular needs in the line of nine models of Fours and Sixes in various sizes of roadsters, touring cars, coupes and sedans, all powered with the famous Buick Valve-in-Head motor.

Illustrations and descriptions of these various cars are found printed in our new catalog, which will be sent upon request.

Buick Motor Company
Pioneer Builders of Valve-in-Head Motor Cars

Branches in all Principal Cities: Dealers Everywhere Main Office and Factory, Flint, Michigan

Trivia Question: What Buick debuted in 1962 as a subseries to the Invicta before becoming its own series in 1963?

Answer: The Wildcat, which lasted until 1970.

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Minutes of the 497th Meeting

October 4, 2016

1. The 497th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order by President Paul Jr. at 7:30 pm. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, the minutes of the 496th meeting were accepted as read.
2. The raffle car took in \$1,231 at Delicious Orchards, and \$135 at Clove Lakes Health & Rehabilitation. The unofficial tally for this car is \$12,811. Top salesman was Mike Signorile with \$725 sold.
3. Trophy donations more than covered trophy expenses this year. Top salesmen were Mike Signorile, Tony DiAngelo and Paul Arena. Thanks to everyone who brought in a donation of any size or sold raffle tickets.
4. The car show had mixed numbers as a result of the threatening weather. 300 cars in attendance led to a smaller car gate, but the people gate was up over last year. Phil Boffa reviewed all of the receipts and expenses as part of his treasury report. Pros and cons of the new location were discussed as well.
5. Our club truck needs to have a quick repair and a good clean-up before we put it to rest for the winter and plan for its long-term display and use.
6. The Holiday Party will be at The RoadHouse on Clove Road on Sunday, December 4 from 4:00 to 8:00. We will collect new, unwrapped toys to donate to the Michael Ferrara memorial Toy Drive on Staten Island.
7. The AACA Fall meet is this week. A show of hands revealed a good number of members planning to attend, but only four members' cars expect to be on the show field.
8. The club is ordering golf shirts with new club logos for all members and sizes were collected from all in attendance.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm. The 50/50 collected \$27.00, with Jonathan Schulman winning \$14.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



200 Years of Old Auto Experience In Action

Under the stewardship of Chief Judge Kevin Keenan, five other members of our club served as judges for the Monmouth County Concours. Combined, they easily add up to 200 or so years of auto experience. Returning to the fold were Andrew Napoli, Phil Boffa, Paul Arena and Paul Jr. Joining them for his first time out was Mike Signorile. Along with two other returning judges from New Jersey, the octet went about selecting the best of the best among the field of spectacular cars.

The event was postponed one day due to inclement weather, and the rain date still held the promise of being wet. Instead, the rain stayed away and a good percentage of the cars invited to participate came out.

The car chosen as Best Performance Car was a 1957 Ford Custom Tudor with a factory supercharger set-up. Ford ordered 100 "Thunderbird Special" V-8's with McCulloch/Paxton superchargers so that they could also run them in the 1957 NASCAR campaign. This option was available on any Ford model that year. This car was found in a tobacco barn in Tennessee back in the 1960's by the current owner's father. He paid less than \$200 for the car, not knowing about it's rarity. The current owner drove it to high school in the 1970's, complete with period pearl paint and flames. Only after they learned about F-Codes did they realize what they had, and restored it back to new.



From the President

October is in the books and the speed at which we race to the end of another year quickens with each passing day. I've hardly touched my son's stash of Halloween candy and we're already talking about our Holiday Party. This year we are returning to the RoadHouse on December 4. All 2016 members and their spouses are welcome to join us for food and fun, beginning at 4:00. As reminder, we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys that evening to donate to the Michael Ferrara Memorial Fund Toy Drive.

Now, on to another topic. The AACA remains not only a tremendous resource of every kind for its members, but extends its availability way beyond the borders of its regions and chapters. Case in point - the passenger window on dad's 1964 Riviera would no longer roll up. We knew that to reach the inner workings, that we had to remove the door skin. Finding the nuts that held it on was straightforward, but removing those alone wouldn't fully release the skin. Before risking any damage trying to bully it off, we searched the web for "how to remove the door skin on a 1964 Riviera". In two seconds, we had a page open from the AACA Forums with a detailed explanation of how to remove a short section of chrome trim under the vent window that hid three additional screws. No hunting for a body shop manual. No calling the AACA Library. A simple query online revealed the vast resources of the AACA membership on a free site available to all. - *Paul Jr.*

- NEXT MEETING - November 1

Our November meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1 at 7:00 pm, and will be held at the Staff House at Seaview Home & Hospital, located at 460 Brielle Avenue. Each member is asked to contribute \$3.00 towards the purchase of coffee and doughnuts.

Congratulations Are in Order

In the coming months, the newsletter will run a more detailed look at the recent AACA Fall Meet in Hershey, but we'd be foolish not to congratulate those now who showed a vehicle and brought home an award. Mike DiPilato won his AACA Senior Award with his 1967 Pontiac Firebird 400. Paul Jr. won his seventh Preservation Award for his 1967 Oldsmobile Cutlass. Some club friends also took home awards worth mentioning: Andy Barcellona won a First Junior with his 1957 Chevrolet 210 station wagon; Ron Victorio won a First Junior with his 1949 Studebaker Champion; and Larry Farrell's son Cody won a First Junior with his 1967 Buick Skylark.

What Sold at Auction in Hershey?

Yes, the top price paid for a car at RM's Hershey auction topped \$2 million (a 1930 Duesenberg Model J Dual Cowl Phaeton by Murphy). Yes, there were plenty of other account-busting sales that cost more than our houses do. Yet what about the other end of the spectrum? Are auctions like this one still a place for the common man? Looking at the results, we say "yes". The cheapest four wheeler sold at the event was a 1960 Ford Zodiac Mk II Saloon for \$4,400. A rare, British-built Ford with the highest spec six-cylinder engine, this car needed a few details attended to but was mostly show-ready. Easily the only Zodiac on your block, and for under \$5k. If old, open touring is your cup of tea, you could have bought a 1923 Maxwell Touring car for \$11,000. If Corvette cruising is your thing, there was a 1973 Stingray for \$12,100. Hungry for a depression-era ride? How about a 1931 Ford Model A for \$13,200, a 1928 Pontiac for \$13,725, or a 1931 Chevrolet Independence for \$16,500? Is a fifties machine more fitting your personality? A 1956 Lincoln Premiere Sedan sold for \$23,100 and a 1954 Chevrolet One-Fifty Handyman wagon sold for \$24,200. The point here is that there were plenty of buys in the lower budget brackets. This gives us great hope that while the million dollar headlines grab all of the attention, there are options for many casual hobbyists and first-timers to join in the fun of enjoying an old car, truck or motorcycle.

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

This month we discover another one of Don Bosco's century old autos in the SIRAACA Garage. It's a 1913 Lancia limousine.

A one-time resident of the Henry Ford Museum, this car's original ownership has been traced back to Mrs. George T. Bliss of New York, the former Jeannette Atwater Dwight. She was the daughter of a wealthy cotton merchant; he was a banker. He died in 1901, and she went on to remain a wealthy socialite and collector. Her mansion, built in 1907, is located at No. 9 East 68th Street in Manhattan.

The exclusive agent for Lancia Cars in the U.S.A. and Canada was the Adams-Lancia Company, located at 235 West 58th Street. In an early brochure that Don has, it lists some of the prominent owners of Lancia Cars, including Mrs. Bliss. Other noteworthy names include Mr. J.P. Morgan, Jr. and Henry Frick.

Don's working with the Ford Museum to gather up more of the history of the car, as well as the NYPL to research more original documents associated with the Bliss estate. Maybe he'll find a Lancia bill of sale or repair receipt? We hope to update you as he learns more.

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.



Reunited in spirit - Jeannette Bliss, seen below in this photo from the New York Public Library, was original owner of Don's Lancia, above. (photo by Paul Jr.)



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Halloween Wheels

If a witch were to forsake her broom for a more comfortable ride, or a zombie decided that shuffling along was making him late to his appointments, this is the car they'd choose. We cannot think of a more sinister looking automobile than this 1931 Avions Voison C20 Mylord Demi-Berline. This the sole surviving example of this car, powered by a sleeve-valve V-12. Long, low, and Gothic in appearance, with black paint and blood-red interior, this car would look great in Herman Munster's driveway at 1313 Mockingbird Lane.

Early ownership details of this car are unknown, but it was supposedly discovered behind a false wall in Paris shortly after WW II.



Voison's airplane heritage is evident in the mass cluster of gauges on the dash of this car. An exposed but finely finished transmission gives off a real mechanical vibe and connects the driver to car in a visceral way. (photos by Paul Jr.)



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