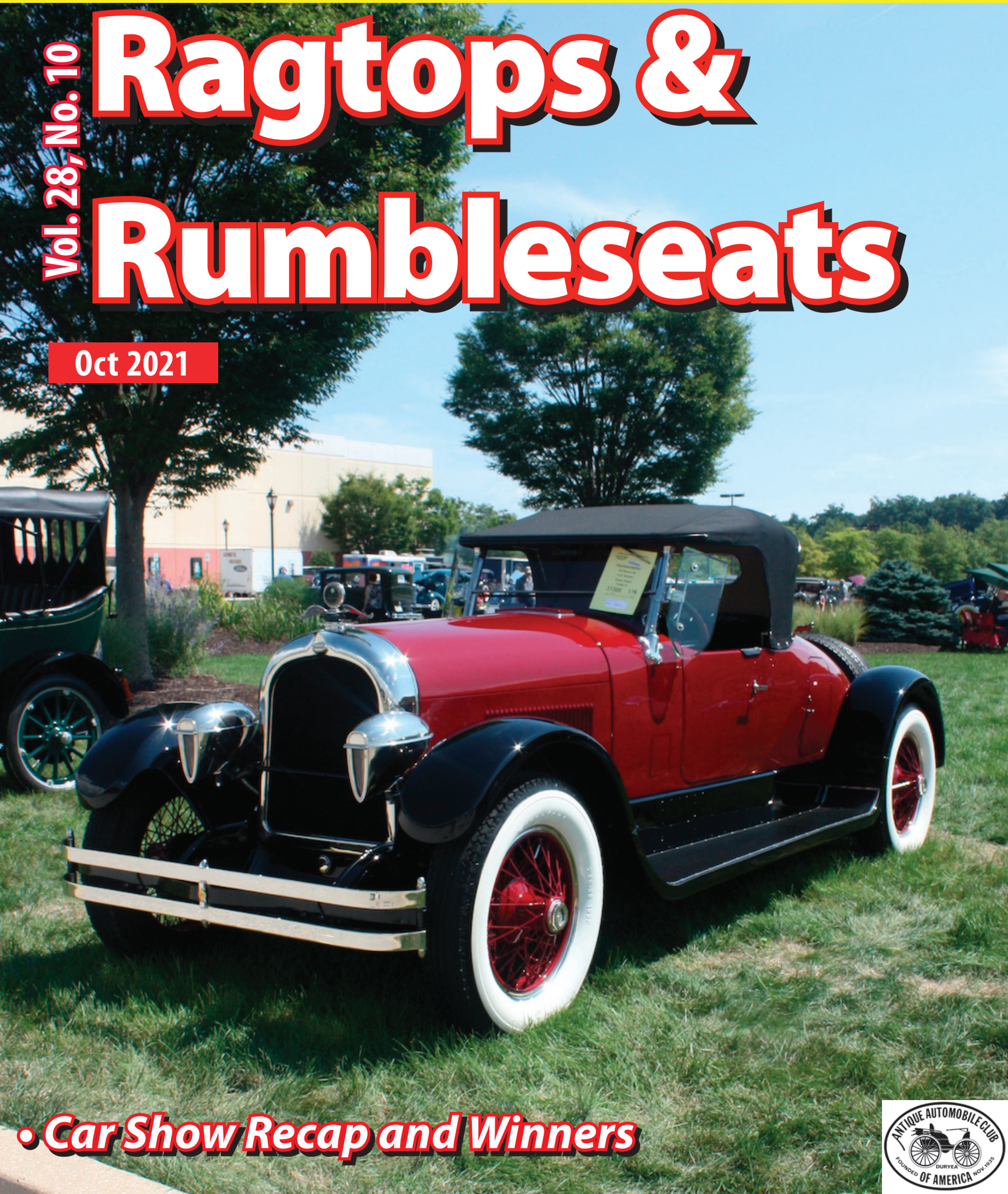
The Official Newsletter of the Staten Island Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America

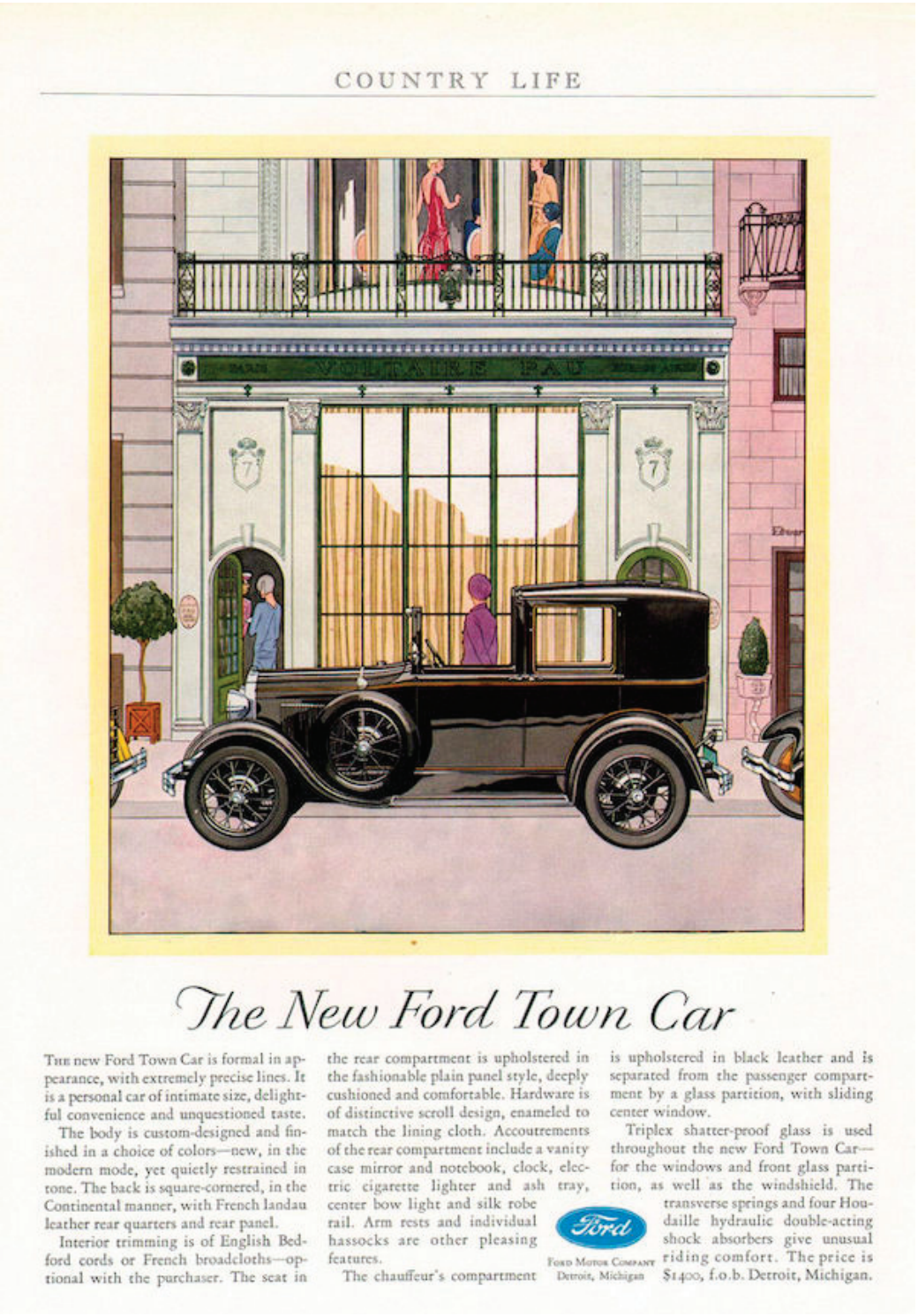
Vol. 28, No. 10

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Oct 2021



- Car Show Recap and Winners



COUNTRY LIFE

The New Ford Town Car

THE new Ford Town Car is formal in appearance, with extremely precise lines. It is a personal car of intimate size, delightful convenience and unquestioned taste.

The body is custom-designed and finished in a choice of colors—new, in the modern mode, yet quietly restrained in tone. The back is square-cornered, in the Continental manner, with French landau leather rear quarters and rear panel.

Interior trimming is of English Bedford cords or French broadcloths—optional with the purchaser. The seat in the rear compartment is upholstered in the fashionable plain panel style, deeply cushioned and comfortable. Hardware is of distinctive scroll design, enameled to match the lining cloth. Accoutrements of the rear compartment include a vanity case mirror and notebook, clock, electric cigarette lighter and ash tray, center bow light and silk robe rail. Arm rests and individual hassocks are other pleasing features.

The chauffeur's compartment is upholstered in black leather and is separated from the passenger compartment by a glass partition, with sliding center window.

Triplex shatter-proof glass is used throughout the new Ford Town Car—for the windows and front glass partition, as well as the windshield. The transverse springs and four Houdaille hydraulic double-acting shock absorbers give unusual riding comfort. The price is $1400, f.o.b. Detroit, Michigan.

Ford

FORD MOTOR COMPANY
Detroit, Michigan

Did you know? xxx.

Vintage Advertising

Here is an obvious "city life" scene from a 1929 issue of "Country Life" magazine, advertising the rare Ford Model A Town Car. The Standard Catalog of American Cars notes that only 1,065 were built domestically from December 1928 to early 1930, and supposedly only 18 remain known.

At a time when a Model A sold for no more than $600, Edsel Ford's attempt to attract the high-end market cost $1,400. Brand loyalty among the well-heeled, and then the Depression, spelled its quick demise. Unsold town cars were converted to sedans to help get rid of them. Today, there are imposter models converted from sedans, and a real one would most likely sell for six figures.

In This Issue

Recapping our 44th Annual Car Show.

Members support Victory Boulevard Merchants inaugural car show.

A barn find Buick moves into the SIRAACA Garage

The SIRAACA Time Machine visits a well-known dealer.

Trivia Question: What popular model name at Oldsmobile first appeared on an experimental sports coupe in 1954 before appearing on a production car in 1961?

Answer: Cutlass, introduced as the top trim level on the F-85 line before evolving into its own series, and branching out into such models as 442, Supreme, Calais, and Ciera.

RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS

October 2021

Volume 28, Number 10

SIRAACA Who's Who

EDITOR -

Paul Arena, Jr.

parena2@verizon.net

PRESIDENT -

Paul Arena, Jr.

parena2@verizon.net

VICE PRESIDENT -

Artie Guarnieri

artie.guarnieri@verizon.net

SECRETARY -

Tony DiAngelo - badbird70@aol

TREASURER -

Phil Boffa - phil.boffa@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY -

Jonathan Schulman

jschulman30@gmail.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS -

Rocco Pompa

WEBMASTER - siraaca@yahoo.com

Frank Nathanson

www.siraaca.aaca.com

Minutes of the 550th Meeting

September 7, 2021

1. The 550th meeting of The Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:30 on September 7 at Pro Sho Sound. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and offering a moment of silence, the minutes of the 549th meeting were accepted as read.

2. Paul Jr. offered get well wishes to Don Bosco, Tom LaGuidice and Susan Pompa.

3. The majority of the meeting was spent in preparation for our fall show. A timeline of the day and the various responsibilities of our members was worked on to ensure all of us were on the same page. Members should arrive by 6:30 that morning to begin setting up.

4. We will make a $3,000 donation to the Carl V. Bini Memorial Fund at our show in recognition of the 20th anniversary of 9/11. The Bini Fund will be on hand that day to accept it

5. Big Daddy George is retired, but we hope to have John Sbrigato take his spot and display the Red Baron show rod at our show on Sunday.

6. Our goodie bag stuffing party will be at Mike Signorile's house one evening this week. Volunteers needed, so check in with Mike if interested in helping.

7. This year's fall dash plaque features Bob Ferone's 1976 Corvette.

8. The Victory Boulevard Merchants Association and the SIEDC are hosting a small car show on September 26. Cars will be spread out in various spots between Manor & Jewett. There is no fee to attend, and trophies will be awarded to all cars.

9. It is unclear whether or not the New Dorp Lane Car Show is being held this year.

10. Members that attended Macungie and Lead East recapped those shows.

11. Phil Boffa gave an updated treasury report, showing all in order. If there is any outstanding money from raffle or trophy sales, please hold it until after the show to avoid any confusion.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00. The 50/50 collected $43. Dennis Dell'Angelo won $22.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

SIRAACA 44th Annual Show, One Year Later

On Sunday, September 12, our club finally held our 44th Annual car Show & Flea Market on a lingering summer day with bright sunshine. Over 355 vehicles were on hand to celebrate a near return to normal, with owners and spectators greeting each other happily after a long time apart. As usual, we paraded the special award winners across the red carpet to receive their trophies and a round of applause from the folks lining the roadway to the trophy stand. They included four Best in Shows: Richard Amuso's 1923 Detroit Electric (top), Allen Lewis's 1985 Oldsmobile Cutlass 442 (bottom), Bob Harley's 1929 Ford hot rod, and Hamy Wabsa's modified 1966 Chevrolet Chevelle. Best Paint Awards were given to the stock 1964 Pontiac GTO owned by Joe Portogallo and the modified 1969 Camaro owned by Fred Martinez. Best Interior was presented to Euan Wilson Deigh's modified 1967 Chevrolet and Best Engine went to Leah Yarusinsky for her modified 1968 Camaro. A special Truck Award was presented to Dom Muschello for his 1954 Ford, while the President's Cup was given to a 1958 BMW Isetta 600 owned by Dave DeSocio (at right).

Prior to the award ceremony, President Paul Arena, Jr. and Treasurer Phil Boffa presented a $3,000 donation to the Carl V. Bini Memorial Fund in recognition of the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and the work they do in our community in support of those in need. (photo below)

The club also drew the winning ticket on its 1992 Camaro RS convertible raffle car. The winning ticket belonged to Anthony Faulisi, which made his teenage son extremely happy.

Cover: A 1924 Marmon 34B Speedster. Could it have come from Wagner's Garage (see back page). (photo by Paul Jr.)

From the President

Following our car show, the inevitable question I get is, "How did we do?" Before I reply, I pause and think of all the ways I could answer it. I could talk about the financial aspect of the show. I could point out how many cars and how many spectators were on hand. I could mention all of the compliments I received that day, or the number of people I saw smiling and laughing among friends they hadn't seen in quite some time. I could even point out that our members got through the day injury-free, although many were exhausted by the end of the show. And in all cases, if I answered, "We did great" I wouldn't be wrong. Yes, we had less cars than usual., and less trophy donations as usual, but in the context of Covid, we did just fine. Our model for running a show isn't broken. With insights gained each year, we can adjust it if necessary to make sure we can always answer. "We did great" when asked. "How did we do?"

Allow me to remind everyone that we are helping judge the upcoming car show in Linden on October 24, and will need all the manpower we can muster that day. - *Paul Jr.*

- NEXT MEETING - October 5

Our October meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5 at 6:30 PM, to be held at Pro Sho Sound's warehouse at 4401 Arthur Kill Road. Thank you to Frank Provenzano and son Frank Jr. for providing the space. Food will be served.

Bird Watchers Sight a Winner

The Victory Boulevard Merchants Association and the SIEDC hosted a small car show on September 26 and our participating members and friends enjoyed several hours displaying their cars for the folks out strolling the area between Manor Road and Jewett Avenue. A deejay played music, free food was given to the car owners, and people voted for their top two favorite cars. When the ballots were tallied, they presented the top four vote getters with special awards. Coming in second overall was Tony DiAngelo and his 1970 Plymouth Road Runner. This bird sighting was a rare treat, as we learned that Tony has driven his car THREE MILES since it was inspected last year. Tony has owned this car for 50+ years, as it is his first car. All other cars on hand were presented with inaugural event trophies as a thank you for attending.

Tony DiAngelo and good pal Wile E. Coyote pose with his Road Runner after being awarded a People's Choice Award at the Victory Boulevard show. Spectators were entertained by the "beep-beep" horn. (photo by Paul Jr.)

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

Despite the march of time, the term "pre-war" in our hobby still refers to those vehicles built before World War II. Another pre-war auto has joined the collection found inside the SIRAACA Garage - Bob Egan's 1940 Buick Special Four-Door Sedan.

Bob recently acquired this proverbial barn find, churning up memories of the one his dad had owned. The dual sidemount spares are not very common on the Special series, another reason Bob was attracted to the car. For now, Bob's focused on making the car mechanically sound so that an occasional ride around town is done so safely.

Buick offered several series in 1940: the Special Series 40, the Super Series 50, the Century Series 60 and the Roadmaster Series 70. The top of the line was the Limited, in both Series 80 and 90, which differed in wheelbase length. Buick made 67,308 of these Specials, which cost $996 when new. Only the Super Four Door was more popular across all of Buick's offerings that year.

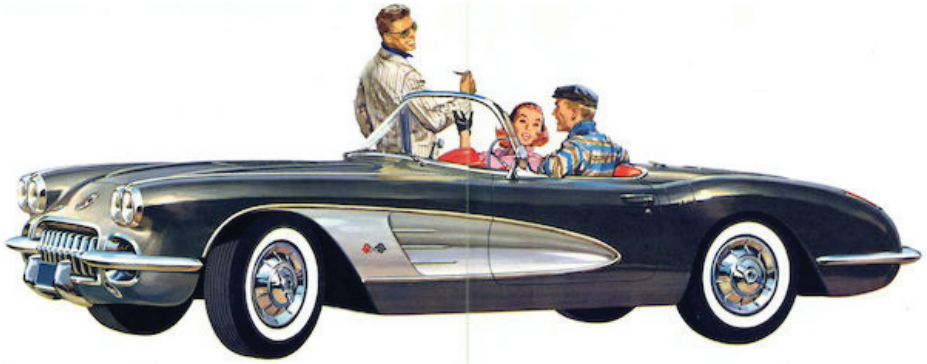
The Specials and Supers are powered by Buick's OHV straight-eight that displaces 248 cubic inches.

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.

1940 was the last year that Buick offered side mounts. That year's design refresh saw the headlights incorporated into the front fenders and feature sealed beam lamps. They also introduced their "Fore-N-Aft Flash-Way" directional signals. 1940 was Buick's best production year in its history at the time. The 4 millionth Buick was built that year, only four years after they built the 3 millionth. It took nearly twenty years for Buick to build their first million cars. (Photo by of Paul Jr.)

Upcoming Events

Load up your car and head out to these local and national events while the weather remains favorable in our neck of the woods:



- The Tides Car Show, Staten Island, NY - October 2
- Gold Coast Cadillac 10th Annual Show, Oakhurst, NJ - October 3
- AACA Eastern National Fall Meet, Hershey, PA - October 6-9
- 35th Annual Corvette & Classic Car Show, Woodbridge, NJ - October 10
- New Dorp Lane Car Show, Staten Island, NY - October 17
- 8th Annual Car, Truck & Bike Show, Linden, NJ - October 24

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

J.C. Taylor

INSURANCE

J.C. TAYLOR

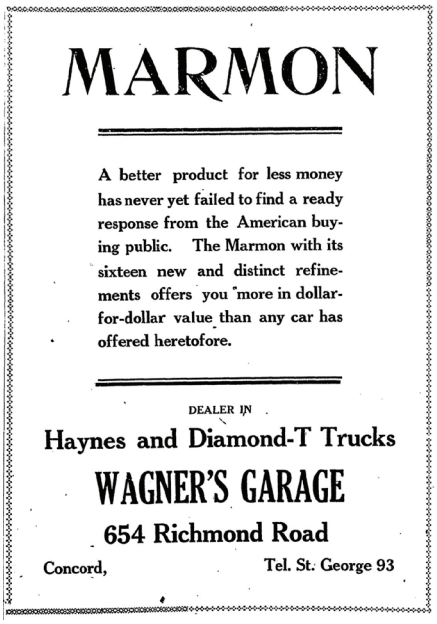
INSURANCE

JCTAYLOR.COM

1-888-ANTIQUE

The SIRAACA Time Machine

A very well known name from our automotive past is Wagner's Garage. In 1915, Joseph Wagner Sr. set up an auto repair shop on Gordon St. in Stapleton. In 1919, he expanded into sales, with credentials to sell Haynes autos and Diamond T trucks. The business then moved to Richmond Road in Concord. By 1924, they added Marmon, and in 1926 they were exclusively dealing in just Chrysler and Diamond T. We traveled back to 1940 for a look at their building at 658 Richmond Road (top right). That building today is All City Collision, still sporting its distinctive facade. When we traveled ten years towards the present, we spotted a new Wagners building located directly across the street on the corner of Richmond Road and Concord Place (bottom right). Sharp eyes can spot the sign for Diamond T Trucks looming above the Buick parked at the far end of their lot. A 1949 Plymouth coupe sits on the sidewalk.



MARMON

A better product for less money has never yet failed to find a ready response from the American buying public. The Marmon with its sixteen new and distinct refinements offers you more in dollar-for-dollar value than any car has offered heretofore.

DEALER IN

Haynes and Diamond-T Trucks

WAGNER'S GARAGE

654 Richmond Road

Concord, Tel. St. George 93

(photos courtesy of NYC Dept. of Records. Ad from the Staten Island Leader newspaper, January 16, 1925)

farbetterprinting
ON-DEMAND PRINT CENTER

43 Hillel Place
Brooklyn, NY 11210

Joseph Portagallo

Tel 718.859.3137
Fax 718.421.4761

sales@farbetterprinting.com
www.printingservicebrooklyn.com

M – Th 8 AM – 6:30 PM
Fri 8 AM – 5 PM
Sat 10 AM – 3 PM

WANTED:
DONATED VEHICLES.
Any make, model,
year and condition.
Tax deductible.
Call 917-626-0233