



IT'S SPRING AND THE 'GOOD CAR' COMES OUT AGAIN

By D. John Bray

The first real sign of spring in cities like Buffalo is neither the robin nor the final melting of the snow. It's the return of the "Good Car."

It takes place on a spring day, known intuitively by automobile lovers who have had their "good car" in silent storage since the fall, protected from the harsh winter and icy roads while they gladly suffered the indignities of driving "the winter car." (One can only take so much of driving a ten-year-old car with more than 100,000 miles on the odometer, with a window that no longer rolls down and an unquenchable thirst for oil.) Practicality and money are no object to one who loves his 'Good Car.' All winter the car lovers have waited for this day to arrive, the day to put the object of their affection on the road.

The highways suddenly blossom forth with automobiles that look like new but obviously are not. All makes and styles – from sport cars, hot rods, muscle cars, luxury sedans and the true antiques – emerge at once, as if by magic, from rented garages, storage facilities, Uncle Jack's barn and even one's own garage, while the wife's car sat in the driveway all winter. The rolling beauty is back on the road and the flowers of chrome announce that spring is truly here.

It's a happy day indeed when one throws off the car cover and there sits, shining, with no stone chips, no rust, no salt in the wheel wells, the pride and joy of the true automobile fanatic. In a few cases the storage of one's vehicle is only for the protection of a major investment, but for the true aficionado, it is for the safekeeping and protection of a valued friend.

It's a day for an oil change, personally done, new filters and the first wash of the season, just to remove any dust that may have found its way onto the surface of this work of art. In many cases, you are magically transported to the day you were 17 and had your very first car, a full tank of gas and all summer in front of you. Such is the power of the "Good Car."

Today, more and more people own a "Good Car" and a winter car, in addition to autos for a spouse and children. The bumper sticker that states "My other car is a Mercedes" is art imitating life as drivers refuse to pilot their automobiles costing \$40,000 and more over our salted winter highways and pot-holed roads.

The esthetic value enters into this phenomenon also. One who truly loves his or her auto cannot in good conscience

Continued on page 6



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The *Talefin* is the official publication of the Western New York Region of the Cadillac-LaSalle Club, Inc. Opinions and editorials in *The Talefin* are not necessarily the policy of the club.

Mailing labels are updated to reflect region membership at the time of each issue. They are provided by Roger Libby, with assistance from our membership director, Dick Walther.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings fellow Cadillac-LaSalle enthusiast:

We have made it through another winter, and soon it will be time to awaken our sleeping beauties, and spend some pleasant spring-time hours preparing them for another season of shows and cruise nights.

We have a date for our Spring Brunch. It will be Sunday, May 1st, at the Niagara Falls Blvd. Holiday Inn. Please see the enclosed notice on this event.

Our Show at Keyser Cadillac is scheduled for Sunday June 5th. Please see the insert for this show. Speaking of the Keyser show, we need help in judging, guiding and placing entrants cars, signing in registrants, etc. Please contact Dan Marinola at (716) 886-1577 or Peter Arnoldo at (716) 876-8386 if you can assist.

For those of you that missed it, we had a memorable post-Christmas dinner at the Buffalo Auto Museum. If you have not visited the museum, it would be well worth your while to contact Jim Sandoro and make arrangements to go through the facility. It is crammed with cars, books, pictures, posters, clothing and all sorts of memorabilia from the automotive past of Buffalo.

As we all know by now, the Cadillac-LaSalle Car Club is planning to construct a separate building at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan, to house memorabilia dealing with Cadillac-LaSalle history. Our local club has contributed \$500 towards the goal, and your "SELF STARTER" will have instructions should you wish to contribute on your own.

Also, work on our website is proceeding apace. Please read Jerry Puma's update on progress in this area.

Hope to see you at the Brunch and the Keyser show. Until then, Drive Safely,

Pete Arnoldo

CAUTION: WEBSITE CONSTRUCTION AHEAD!!!

by Jerry Puma

Well, it has finally happened – the WNY Region Cadillac & LaSalle Club is moving into the 21st century. Our website is being updated and should make its world-wide debut soon. Our webmistress is Dawn Millen and she is most anxious to comply with any specific features the members would like to see incorporated into the site.

I have been working with Dawn to establish basic formatting, but all are welcome to send suggestions. Dawn can be reached at dawn@eucharisma.com or (716) 432-2677. So far, we have determined that we will include a calendar of events, a photo gallery, a discussion feature so that members can connect on line, an electronic version of *The Talefin* and an archive of past issues, a membership roster which will be linked to photos of your cars when someone clicks on your name (we will be soliciting photos soon), a classified ad section, and a few other surprises.

Remember, it's not called the "world-wide web" for nothin', so as soon as we get established on the major search engines, our club will become world famous (maybe). Please send your ideas to Dawn or me (jppuma@yahoo.com) and Dawn will work her magic. Here is a link to a page that shows some preliminary sketches of the website:

<http://eucharisma.com/CADDY/website.html>

In Memoriam

Susan Rizzo, wife of our club member Christy 'Chris' Rizzo, passed away on March 17. We extend our condolences to Chris and the family.

A BIT OF BUFFALO'S AUTOMOTIVE HISTORY

Sometime in 1916, a man struck a bicyclist while driving his automobile through a rainstorm in Buffalo, NY. At this time in the development of the auto, windshield wipers had evolved to a rudimentary, hand-operated device. The unfortunate driver was John R. Oishei, and while there was no serious injury to the cyclist, Mr. Oishei was badly shaken by the experience, and he began searching for something better than what was extant at the time. He joined forces with a local engineer named John Jepson, who had devised a hand-operated squeegee arrangement, with replaceable rubber blades. In three years the team of Oishei-Jepson had sold their device to Packard, Cadillac, Lincoln and Pierce Arrow.

In 1919 Mr. Oishei bought out Mr. Jepson, and named the new company Tri-Continental Corporation, or Trico for short. Sometime before 1934 Oishei obtained a reliable motor to operate the windshield wipers using engine manifold vacuum, and Cadillac was the first company to make these powered wipers a standard. By 1937 this wiper system was standard across the entire U.S. auto industry.

Mr. Oishei (an Irish surname, although his grandfather is believed to have been the first Italian to settle in Buffalo, NY) became a well known civic benefactor, as well as a leading Buffalo businessman. In the early 1950s, Trico employed several thousand people, and had five plants locally. Mr. Oishei remained at the helm of Trico unto his death in 1968.

Sadly, Trico is no longer active in the Buffalo area, having been forced by competition and adverse economic forces to move its operations to Mexico, just another of the many Western NY businesses that once made Buffalo one of the nation's bustling and most important commercial centers.

ICE BREAKER BRUNCH

MAY 1, 2011 @ 11 A.M.
HOLIDAY INN

1881 Niagara Falls Boulevard Amherst, NY 14228



Our Sixth Spring Break

Spring at last! Time to wake those old Cadillacs and LaSalles from that long winter nap! Our brunch buffet will include all the usual breakfast items.

Guests are Welcome

The cost will be \$10 per person which includes tax and gratuity. Complete the form below, enclose your check payable to: WNY Region CLC and mail to Peter Arnoldo, 685 Paradise Road, East Amherst, NY 14051. You may also pay at the door but be sure to RSVP Peter at 688.7637 no later than April 15, 2011 so he can notify the Holiday Inn of the expected number of attendees.

Directions

Take exit #3 (Niagara Falls Blvd.) off Rt. 290 (the Youngman Expressway). Turn right and the hotel is located a short distance on the right.

RESERVATIONS BY APRIL 15, 2011

Mail-in Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Choose one: Check enclosed Will pay at door



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11 A.M. - 3 P.M.



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All Pre-Registrations must be received by June 1st.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Make: (Cadillac or LaSalle) Circle One

Model: _____ Year: _____

Make Checks Payable to: WNY-CLC

Mail to: Peter Arnoldo

32 Belmont Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14223





The group listens attentively as Jim Sandoro tells about the exhibits at his museum.

The annual club luncheon was held at the Buffalo Transportation Pierce Arrow Museum at 263 Michigan Avenue in Buffalo on a Sunday afternoon in early January. An amazing collection of automobile memorabilia, including rare Pierce Arrow items, is on display in a perfect setting that is well organized. Autos in the collection include a Thomas Flyer, Pierce Arrows naturally, and a host of other rare cars including a Playboy, a car made in Buffalo and for whom the famous magazine is named.

Jim Sandoro, founder and curator of the facility, gave a personal tour of the museum explaining the collection and where many of the items came from. Club members were extremely impressed with the museum and the entire experience. We will be back.

subject it to the ravages of winter; each piece of road salt hitting the car can tear the one's heart, each pot hole raises your blood pressure dangerously and the thought of sliding into another car or ditch can cause your heart to race.

The merits of the winter car are many. There is great satisfaction in driving through the winter in a car you have no concern for, an ease of driving, a "the salt be dammed" attitude. Owner of these winter warriors happily discuss how little they paid for the car, speculate if it will survive the winter, how the trunk won't close unless it is wired shut, how much they reduced their insurance premium, and how their wife won't be seen in it. The worst your winter car, the better – the sure sign of an intelligent autophile, and, a manly-man's car!

It also prompts the question: "What's your 'good car'?" and allows you to expound on the virtues of your pride and joy. The day is coming when the parking lot at the private clubs will resemble the starting lineup for a demolition derby.

But for now, it's spring and you can hear the sound of garage doors opening everywhere.

(This article first appeared in The Buffalo News)



Dan Burgess, a NYS trooper and his wife pose for the camera.



Jim Sandoro with the brothers Puma



A handsome group.

Jim Sandoro shows what will be on the Frank Lloyd Wright gas station that will be constructed next to the museum





We'd love to hear from you!

As a club, it is important for members to share their experiences that would be interesting to those who love old automobiles especially Cadillacs and LaSalle. Here are some ideas to get you thinking about your article for our newsletter:

1. How did you find your car? Is there a story that we all can relate to.
2. Interesting experiences with your antique car.
3. Restoration: what to do and what NOT to do.
4. Trip suggestions
5. Experiences at car shows.
6. Your views on the hobby, cars, judging, club, etc.
7. Garages, yours and a garage you saw that we would all love to have.
8. Why I like my model Cadillac or LaSalle

Send your article to the editor will be most appreciative as will the readership. Addresses are:

E-mail: brayjd@dyc.edu

Fax: 716.829.7821

Mail: John Bray
631 Niagara Street
Buffalo, New York 14201

Or call me to discuss your ideas at 716.829.7818

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads will run for two issues and are free for paid up region members. All ads must include price of item(s) being advertised and MUST be Cadillac/LaSalle related. Business card size ads are \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members for one year (about 5 issues).



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Dave Barry

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