



"OLDER THAN DIRT"

I already knew I was older than dirt but now this confirms it! Someone asked the other day, 'What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?'

'We didn't have fast food when I was growing up,' I informed him. 'All the food was slow.'

'C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat? 'It was a place called 'at home,'" I explained. 'Grandma cooked every day and when Grandpa got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.'

By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table. But here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I figured his system could have handled it:

Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore Levis, set foot on a golf course, traveled out of the country or had a credit card. In their later years they had something called a revolving charge card. The card was good only at Sears Roebuck. Or maybe it was Sears AND Roebuck. Either way, there is no Roebuck anymore. Maybe he died.

My parents never drove me to soccer practice. This was mostly because we never had heard of soccer. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed, (slow). We didn't

have a television in our house until I was 11, but my grandparents had one before that. It was, of course, black and white, but they bought a piece of colored plastic to cover the screen. The top third was blue, like the sky, and the bottom third was green, like grass. The middle third was red. It was perfect for programs that had scenes of fire trucks riding across someone's lawn on a sunny day. Some people had a lens taped to the front of the TV to make the picture look larger.

I was 13 before I tasted my first pizza, it was called 'pizza pie.' When I bit into it, I burned the roof of my mouth and the cheese slid off, swung down, plastered itself against my chin and burned that, too. It's still the best pizza I ever had.

We didn't have a car until I was 15. Before that, the only car in our family was my grandfather's Ford. He called it a 'machine.'

I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone in the house was in the living room and it was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line.

Pizzas were not delivered to our home, but milk was.

All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers. I delivered a newspaper, six days a week. It cost 7 cents a paper, of which I got to keep 2 cents. I had to get up at

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CHRIS RIZZO'S GOT A BRAND NEW BAG

Written by Adam Dressel

Mr. Christy Rizzo has been a member of the Buffalo Cadillac Club and Cadillac LaSalle Club for many years. The pride and joy of his collection is a white 1975 Cadillac Coupe DeVille with a red vinyl top and the signature red plaid made that year. The car was purchased by Chris' father in law, George Nelson, at Keyser Cadillac in Buffalo and driven to Canada that weekend. Tragically, Mr. Nelson died the following Monday.

Following George's death, the car sat in Chris' mother-in-law's garage for some time before Chris acquired it. Chris has since displayed his car at several shows each year, accumulating an impressive array of awards. The car currently has 25,000 miles on it, and is in beautiful condition.

So now you're probably wondering, "So what's the new bag?" Chris' white Coupe DeVille is well known to many members of the local Cadillac Club already. Well, Chris recently acquired another '75 Coupe DeVille.

This past July, Chris bought Bob and Sharon Koteras' car after they decided not to bring it with them to Las Vegas.

Bob has driven, stored, and exhibited the car in the Buffalo area for the past ten years. Bob himself is currently a

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Your name could be here!

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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

Greeting fellow Cadillac - LaSalle Club members;

Once again we are coming to the end of our show and drive season and close to that time when snow and salt will force us to get our aging beauties off the roads and into safe haven for the winter months.

We have had what I believe to be a good series of club events over the past months, opening with our 'After Christmas Dinner' at Salvatore's, followed by our Spring Brunch at the Grand Island Holiday Inn. Our show at Keyser Cadillac (which was well attended with more than 50 beautiful autos on display) and the Rochester show at Valley Cadillac (where more than 30 great looking cars were entered), were annual high lights. We wound up the season with our Ice Cream Social at Udder Delights.

Some of our members made it to the Grand National at Cherry Hills, N.J. Sadly, I had to miss this event due to family commitments, but those who attended say it was the best ever as far as the number of Cadillac's and LaSalle's on display.

We now have 69 paid members in our club. Do you talk to those Cadillac - LaSalle owners you see on cruise nights? Maybe you see older Cadillac and LaSalle's at Anderson's, or coffee shops or restaurants. Do you approach them about membership in our club? I have spoken to several recently and two of them have been eager to join us. We should be proselytizing amongst those unfamiliar with our organization. The club in its aggregate has a great fund of knowledge and experience in the maintenance and repair of these heritages from another time, as well of course as just being a lot of fun communing with others with the same interest.

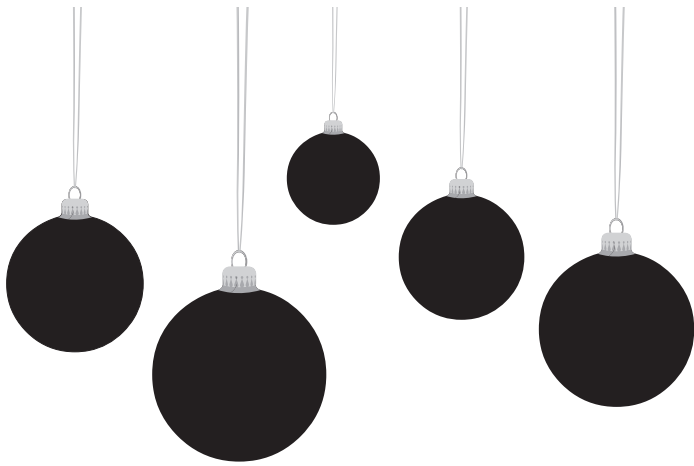
Please see the insert for the post-Christmas dinner at Salvatore's on January 11th. It is an excellent value. Hope to see you there.

Peter Arnoldo
President

CLASSIC SHOT



Harley Earl and the 1938 Buick.



Post Christmas Dinner

The special event will be held

January 11, 2009

Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres - 2:00 p.m.

Dinner - 3 p.m.

Salvatore's Italian Gardens

on Transit and Genesee streets in Depew.

Dinner will be prime rib, filet, chicken francaise or salmon.

\$20.00 per person.

Send the form below to Dan Marinola,
61 Park St., Buffalo, NY 14201-2020 to confirm your attendance.

Reservations by December 22, 2008

MAIL-IN RESERVATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Dinner Choice: Prime Rib Filet Chicken Francaise Salmon

Choose one: Check enclosed Will pay at the door

member of the Las Vegas Cadillac Club and a former member of the Buffalo Cadillac Club. The original owner was known to club members as "Mutts," and was a participant in the early years of the club.

Bob's car is styled very similarly to Chris' first car, except that it is green with a full, dark green vinyl top, and green plaid upholstery with leather trim.

Bob and Chris go back even farther than their cars, with Bob having stood up at Chris and Sue's wedding, and Chris wanted to keep the car "in the family" when he bought it. As part of the deal, Chris insisted that Bob and Sharon use the car when they come into town each summer to visit their daughter and participate in car shows.

Besides the two '75's, Chris also owns a 1982 Buick Park Avenue Electra, which is his primary driving car, with 25,300 original miles on it, left to him by his mother-in-law, Margaret Nelson, which is his other show car, and has been featured in the Buick Club of America newsletter. A member of both the Cadillac LaSalle Club and the Buick Club of America, Chris can normally be found at all their local functions in the Buffalo area, showcasing one of his prized automobiles. He also owns a 2005 Coupe DeVille Special Edition, currently with about 1,600 miles on it, which he keeps hidden under a cover.

His Cadillacs, when not in use, are kept under cover in a climate-controlled garage, surrounded by an extensive collection of Cadillac and Buick memorabilia, including models, pictures, awards, and clippings from newsletters.

Chris looks forward to many more years of enjoyment from his Cadillacs and Buick, and continued involvement with the Cadillac LaSalle Club and the Buick Club of America.



FREE ICE CREAM! FREE ICE CREAM!

By Bob Morris



The weather might have been a little damp on August 10, 2008, but it didn't stop six CLC members with eight family members and one guest from enjoying an ice cream social in Gasport NY.

The event took place at Udder Delight, Rt. 31 in Gasport. True, it was a rainy day and many might have thought it would be cancelled, but for those who attended it was an enjoyable event. In attendance, were our President, Peter Arnoldo, with wife Dolly; our Treasurer Peter Arnoldo with wife Pamela, and six month old grand daughter Sienna; Jerry and Michelle Puma with sons Michael and Jonathan; Doug and JoGee Monroe; Dan Marinola and guest Jim Brigante, and Bob and Joyce Morris.

Four Cadillac's, a 1966 Calais Coupe, a 1976 Eldorado convertible, a 1994 Fleetwood Brougham, and a 1996 Sedan DeVille proved that damp wet weather would not be a deterrent.

And the best part was the ice cream was FREE! The club paid the bill. You should have been there.



THE WESTERN NEW YORK CADILLAC LASALLE CLUB: IT DOESN'T COST, IT PAYS!

I am often asked, "Why should I join the WNY Cadillac - LaSalle Club?" "What do I get for my money?" or "What's in it for me?"

First of all, there's the obvious: friendship, camaraderie, others that share your passion for these amazing old cars, club members who possess a wealth of knowledge on a variety of auto related topics, and of course, fun. However, as your treasurer, I'm going to focus on money. That may seem rather crude, crass, and a bit tactless, but I want to make sure you understand this benefit.

Our yearly club dues are \$20.00. Our first event is the Ice Breaker Brunch, which costs \$14.00. Members pay \$10.00 each and your club pays \$4.00 each. Next comes the summer Ice Cream Social with a cost of \$4.00. Members pay nothing and the club pays \$4.00. Finally, the Ultimate after Christmas Party in early January at Salvatore's. The cost is \$45.00 each. Members pay only \$20.00 each and the club pays the balance of \$25.00.

To summarize, you pay \$20.00 for your dues and receive \$4.00 (Ice Break-

er Brunch, \$4.00 (Ice Cream Social), and \$25.00 (Christmas Party). That's a \$33.00 return on your \$20.00!

So you see, being a member of the WNY Cadillac - LaSalle Club doesn't cost, it pays!

Peter M. Arnoldo
Club Treasurer
November 2008

SUNDAY BRUNCH 2008

By Bob Morris

Our first major event for 2008 took place on May 4 at the Holiday Inn on Grand Island. This was the third spring break Sunday brunch which has turned into a very successful event. Twenty-nine people attended.

The breakfast buffet included all the usual breakfast items and you could also have the omelet of your choice. This year there were only two door prizes. Each was a \$50.00 gift certificate to a restaurant. The winners were very pleased. A good time was had by all and around 1:00 p.m. the party broke up and everyone pressed on to whatever other activity they might have planned. The weather was sunny and warm, three years in a row with great weather, which really made it perfect.

If you haven't had the opportunity to attend this event you might want to consider attending when we meet again on May 3, 2009.

CADILLAC LASALLE GRAND NATIONAL AUGUST '08

By Bob Morris

Six members with five family members from the WNY CLS region attended the National Meet in Cherry Hills, NJ August 14-16. Although there were some heavy rain showers on Thursday night, the rest of the week the weather was exceptional.

Attending were Jerry and Michelle Puma with their sons Michael and Jonathan; Peter and Pamela Arnoldo and Don and Marie Ulrich. Don brought his 1940 '60 Special. Dan Marinola, Frank Puma and Bob Morris rounded out the deadly half dozen. With over four hundred Cadillac's and LaSalle's registered, whatever your interest was, it was probably satisfied. Cars from as early as 1916 through 1955 were represented but I did note the lack of a 1941 '60 Special. As popular as the model is and with approximately 140 registered

with the club it was rather surprising that at least one or two weren't there.

There was excitement Saturday morning at the host hotel when seven police cars, a fire department vehicle, EMT and SWAT teams showed up. Apparently there was an "incident" on the fourth floor. Not sure if it was a shooting and the only information we could obtain was "We have an incident."

About noon on Saturday, Frank and I decided it was time to head home and dropped Frank off at his house at approximately 7:15 p.m.

The next Grand National is scheduled for Los Vegas in August. Might be a little warm.

(continued from pg. 1)

4 a.m. every morning. On Saturday, I had to collect the 42 cents from my customers. My favorite customers were the ones who gave me 50 cents and told me to keep the change. My least favorite customers were the ones who seemed to never be home on collection day.

Movie stars kissed with their mouths shut, at least, they did in the movies. Touching someone else's tongue with yours was called French kissing and they didn't do that in movies. I don't know what they did in French movies. French movies were dirty and we weren't allowed to see them.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

MEMORIES from a friend:

My Dad is cleaning out my grandmother's house (she died in December) and he brought me an old Royal Crown Cola bottle. In the bottle top was a stopper with a bunch of holes in it. I knew immediately what it was, but my daughter had no idea. She thought they had tried to make it a salt shaker or something. I knew it as the bottle that sat on the end of the ironing board to 'sprinkle' clothes with because we didn't have steam irons. Man, I am old.

How many do you remember?

Head lights dimmer switches on the floor. Ignition switches on the dashboard. Heaters mounted on the inside of the fire wall. Real ice boxes. Pant leg clips for bicycles without chain guards. Soldering irons you heat on a gas burner. Using hand signals for cars without turn signals.

Older Than Dirt Quiz:

Count all the ones that you remember not the ones you were told about. Ratings at the bottom.

1. Blackjack chewing gum
2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water
3. Candy cigarettes
4. Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles
5. Coffee shops or diners with tableside juke boxes

6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers
7. Party lines
8. Newsreels before the movie
9. P.F. Flyers
10. Butch wax
11. Telephone numbers with a word prefix (Olive-6933)
12. Peashooters
13. Howdy Doody
14. 45 RPM records
15. S&H green stamps
- 16 Hi-fi's
17. Metal ice trays with lever
18. Mimeograph paper
19. Blue flashbulb
20. Packards
21. Roller skate keys
22. Cork popguns
23. Drive-ins
24. Studebakers
25. Wash tub wringers

If you remembered 0-5 =
You're still young

If you remembered 6-10 =
You are getting older

If you remembered 11-15 =
Don't tell your age

If you remembered 16-25 =
You're older than dirt!

I might be older than dirt but those memories are the best part of my life.

Don't forget to pass this along!!
Especially to all your really OLD friends.

1928 CADILLAC



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 Cadillac's and LaSalle's. 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 or a garage you saw that we would all love to have.
8. Why I like my model Cadillac, LaSalle.

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

E-mail: brayjd@dyc.edu
Fax: (716) 829-7818
Mail: John Bray
631 Niagara St.
Buffalo N.Y. 14201

Or call me to discuss your ideas.

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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CLASSIC QUOTE

"I admit to wasting my life messing around with fast cars and motor-cycles."

- Brock Yates



Stan's Carhop and Cadillac

Bakersfield Carhop Nita Howard was a favorite of car-customers at Stan's famous California eatery. Donning a snappy uniform reminiscent of the finest military service garb, she was a living, breathing icon of roadside service and a perfect example of the drive-in's friendliness, personal service, and the customer-is-always-right attitude. Courtesy Martin Cable

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