



The Newsletter of the Western New York Region of the Cadillac-LaSalle Club, Inc.

SUMMER 09

## AN ELDORADO DREAM

By Cecilio & Beth Diaz

I always loved the '76 Cadillac Eldorado from the first time I laid eyes on one when I was a young 20 year-old man working at Jacobi's Restaurant in Lackawanna N.Y. When I saw my boss driving into the parking lot with a black two-door Cadillac Eldorado with red interior I thought to myself, "Wow! what a car." I knew I could never own one because I could not afford one, especially at the salary I was making at the time.

Every time I saw that car or a '76 Cadillac Eldorado I stopped in my tracks to admire the car. I always loved the

color combination of black exterior with red interior.

Fast forward to the year 2000 where my dream was to own a classic car, especially the '76 Eldorado, but there was none to be found. I had a friend who owned a '69 Buick LeSabre convertible that I admired for several years. He offered to sell it to me and after thinking about it for several days, I bought the car. When I bought the car I had to do the usual things like register it and get in inspected to drive on the road.

My wife Beth had a girlfriend whose family owned an established automotive repair shop in Cheektowaga (A Buffalo suburb) where I live. (Hubert's Auto Repair on Harlem Road) While there for an inspection, the owner's son Benji who runs the shop now, took me to the side of the building and to the front of a small garage. When he opened the door I could not believe my eyes. Sitting there was a '76 Cadillac Eldorado convertible, black with red interior and a white top!

Benji told me the car sat for many years due to his father Benjamin Hubert being ill. Benji went on to say to say that the car was used very little and that his father was the second owner. The original owner was from across the street at an electrical shop. The Cadillac always lived in Cheektowaga and was never driven in the winter. The car had 36,000 miles and for the last few years it was only driven at the Pulaski Day Parade.

I asked if the car was for sale and Benji said "Not at this time" and he closed the garage door. I always thought of the car for several years but I knew I could not have it so I was satisfied with my '69 Buick LeSabre convertible.

In June of 2005, I went to Hubert's to have my LeSabre inspected with Beth following me so I could leave the car at the garage. While there, she said to Benji, "did you guys ever sell the '76 Eldorado of your fathers?" He said no, but it could be for sale. He took us to the small garage and opened the door and there it sat, my dream car, the '76 Eldorado convertible

(continued on pg. 3)



Cecilio & Beth Diaz

'76 Eldorado Convertible

**President**

Peter Arnoldo  
32 Belmont Ave.  
Tonawanda, NY 14223-1927  
Home: (716) 876-8386

**Vice President**

Vacant

**Membership**

Richard Walther  
141 Shale Dr.  
Rochester, NY 14615-1433  
Home: (585) 621-1205  
Dwalther@rochester.rr.com

**Treasurer**

Peter M. Arnoldo  
685 Paradise Rd.  
East Amherst, NY 14015  
Home: (716) 688-7637

**Secretary**

This office is vacant.  
Your name could be here!

**Technical Advisor**

Doug Seibert  
32 Bellhurst Dr.  
Rochester, NY 14617-2206  
Home: (585) 325-7393

**The Talefin Editor**

D. John Bray  
631 Niagara St.  
Buffalo, NY 14201  
Work: (716) 829-7818  
brayjd@dyd.edu

**Layout**

Deanna Rusek

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 Aficionados,

Our season for club events is well underway. Thus far we have enjoyed very well attended gatherings; the post-Christmas dinner at Salvatore's, the Spring Brunch at Holiday Inn-Grand Island, and our recent show at Keyser Cadillac. At each of these events we have had the chance to say hello to old friends, and to meet new members and friends.

The Keyser Cadillac show is certainly our biggest and best attended event, and as always, this year's was a great success. The Sheridan Drive lot and the area in front of the dealership were filled with Cadillac's and LaSalle's, ranging from a 1929 Cadillac sedan to a 2005 XLR roadster. We even had an interview from Channel 2, WGRZ, which apparently ended up on the cutting room floor (thus ending my television career before it had fairly begun!)

Most of us as car lovers have been following the recent adventures of GM and the American auto industry. The good news, or perhaps the silver lining to all the bad news, is that when the bankruptcy clouds have rolled away, there will be a General Motors, and we are assured there will be a Cadillac Motors Division. Supposedly the U.S. treasury (us the taxpayers) will own 70 percent of GM. This will be in the form of \$90 billion in loan guarantees to GM. In 2010 (with the demise of the Pontiac Division) GM will concentrate on Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, and Cadillac. At this time, gone will be Hummer, Opel, Saturn and Saab.

GM is expecting to produce new products after the restructuring; Chevy with a new Equinox and an electric car, the Volt. Cadillac will unveil a new CTS Coupe and Sport Wagon, and planned is the electric powered Converj.

Let us hope that all these plans fructify and that GM and Cadillac can march boldly into the future with the new products that will keep the car nuts among us enthralled and enraptured as have so many of the past designs.

Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer show and cruise nights, and I will look forward to seeing you at the Ice Cream Social and the August 15th show at Valley Cadillac in Rochester.

Peter Arnold  
President

# CLASSIC CADILLAC STYLES



1942 Cadillac Limo



(continued from pg. 1)

with about an inch of dust on it. It had not been driven in 10 years.

I told Benji I would be interested in purchasing it and after he discussed it with his family, they decided to sell it. Benji spend a few weeks of cleaning off the dust and getting her ready mechanically, and I finally bought the car on July 21, 2005. The years of sitting had taken a toll and all of the gaskets and belts needed to be changed, the white top was very dirty with some water stains that did not come

off, the paint was scratched and the hood extensions needed to be replaced.

That winter, I took the car to Hubert's, had the gaskets and belts replaced, the car painted, and the extensions and convertible top were also replaced.

The car is now like new with 37,000 miles on it. I like to take it to cruise nights, the Polish Falcon's was the first show I took it to, and other car shows in the Cheektowaga area. It is a great pleasure to own the car and I especially love the looks and the 'thumbs up signs' I get when

Beth and I drive the car. I still own the '69 Buick but the Eldorado is my favorite.

The car was a gift from my wife Beth which makes it all the more special. (Editor Note: When asked if the gift was for some occasion such as an anniversary, Cecilio said "It's because she loves me.")

I never though that my dream of owning a '76 Eldorado would ever come true, but I now know that dreams do come true.

P.S. Does anyone want to buy a '69 Buick LeSabre Convertible?



## CAPTURING AN ERA

By John Bray

Tunkey's Gas Station on the corner of Main Street and Jewett Avenue across from what was the Pierce Arrow Motor Car showroom in the 1930s and later Maxson Pontiac-Cadillac followed by Tinney Cadillac-Pontiac was the epitome of gas stations. Four islands to pump the then cheap Mobilgas, three bays with "pits" (no lifts in the 50s) an "Auto Laundry" that was a complete hand car wash staff by a great bunch of wild guys.'

The huge Trico plant was very close by and the machinery roared night & day in what was a previously Ford factory cranking out Model Ts.

On weekends, when I was working at the station pumping gas, it was the gathering place for my buddies, "da car guys" and their 'rods.' It was right out of "American Graffiti" movie. Cars like the 49, 50, 51 Mercury's, Fords and Chevys, lowered, with duel exhausts, some were

chopped, and most in charcoal primer. At times there were approximately 20 of what are now sought after collector cars sitting at the station as the guys surreptitiously worked on them after hours in the "pits." (It's a wonder I didn't get fired) Looking back, it was a moment in time that one never forgets as the world and the cars changed along with the economy. And, we got older. Happy Days at Tunkey's Gas Station.





Fred Burton

'70 Convertible



Stan Ryclicki

'85 Fleetwood



Doug Siebert & Mia

'58 Convertible



Jerry Puma

'81 Sedan



Jim Degan

'75 Eldorado



Rich Nasea

'58 Coupe





Jay Pearce

'67 Convertible



Bill O'Day

'73 Sedan



Russ Bracco

'70 Sedan



**Dealers Choice** – Russ Burgstahler, '29 Town Sedan

**Class 6**

- 1st Al Forster, '88 Alante
- 2nd Sil Capolla, '88 Cad
- 3rd Kevin Beamer, '91 Brougham

**Class 3**

- 1st Tony Rivera, '63 Sedan
- 2nd Joe Mannarino, '64 Coupe
- 3rd Robert Breissing, '66 Conv.

**Class 5**

- 1st Joe Mannarino, '84 Coupe
- 2nd Marian Pfohl, '79 Coupe
- 3rd Mike Punturro, '80 Fleetwood

**Class 2**

- 1st Fabrizio Payne, '58 Coupe
- 2nd Jeff Kuemmel, '58 Eldo.
- 3rd Dan Burgess, '59 Cad.

**Class 4**

- 1st Harold Thomas, '89 Sedan Deville
- 2nd Reg. Newman, '76 Eldo.
- 3rd Cecilio Diaz, '76 Eldo. Conv.

**Class 1**

- 1st Russ Burgstahler, '29 Town Sedan
- 2nd Ken Dreher, '49 Sedan
- 3rd John Bray, '39 LaSalle Coupe



*Car Show  
June 2009*

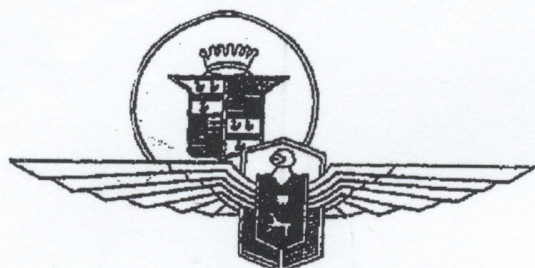


*Car Show  
June 2009*



**22nd ANNUAL  
WESTERN NEW YORK REGION  
CADILLAC-LASALLE CLUB  
INTERNATIONAL CAR SHOW  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2009  
11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
HOSTED AND SPONSORED BY VALLEY CADILLAC**

THE SHOW WILL BE HELD AT VALLEY CADILLAC  
3100 WINTON ROAD SOUTH, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK  
(TAKE THE WINTON ROAD EXIT OFF I-590 AND GO  
JUST OVER 1 MILE SOUTH)  
DASH PLAQUES TO THE FIRST 50 CARS  
DOOR PRIZES FOR PARTICIPANTS  
SPECIAL PLAQUES WILL BE AWARDED FOR  
1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE IN EACH CLASS  
AND ONE BEST OF SHOW AWARD



CLASS 1 1903-1955  
CLASS 2 1956-1962  
CLASS 3 1963-1970  
CLASS 4 1971-1976  
CLASS 5 1977-1987  
CLASS 6 1988-1999

FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

PRE-REGISTRATION \$8.00 PER CAR  
DAY OF SHOW \$10.00 PER CAR  
SHOW IS ON RAIN OR SHINE

---

**MAIL-IN ENTRY FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

MAKE (CADILLAC OR LASALLE) AND YEAR OF CAR \_\_\_\_\_

CHECKS PAYABLE TO WNY-CLC

MAIL TO: DICK WALTHER, 141 SHALE DRIVE, ROCHESTER, NY 14615-1433

For information call, Dick Walther @ (585) 621-1205



# 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).



*Cadillac's 1940 thru 1976  
Our Specialty*  
Pre 1960's Buying Old Cadillac Parts,  
Stashes, N.O.S. & Used  
**LAURICELLA'S CARS  
OF THE PAST**  
12469 Roosevelt Hwy.  
Lyndonville, NY 14098  
**585-765-9106**

# CAR SHOWCASE



1946 Cadillac

# CLASSIC QUOTE

"This is true; virtually all edible substances, and many automotive products, are now marketed as being low-fat or fat-free. Americans are obsessed with fat content.

—Dave Barry

# 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](mailto:brayjd@dyc.edu)

Fax: (716) 829-7821

Mail: John Bray

631 Niagara St.  
Buffalo N.Y. 14201

Or call me to discuss your ideas.

300 Broadway, P.O. Box 442, Buffalo, NY 14205-0442

**(716) 852-0550**

**PRINTING AND COPYING INC.**

*WNY's Fastest Printers*  
*Free Pickup & Delivery*



Western New York Region  
Cadillac-LaSalle Club, Inc.  
631 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14201



**VALLEY** *Cadillac*  
**HUMMER**

3100 Winton Road South, Rochester, NY 14623-2986  
(585) 427-8400 • Fax (585) 427-8430 • [valleycadillac.com](http://valleycadillac.com)



MARK OF EXCELLENCE  
"Master Sales Manager"

**Mark J. Taggart**  
GENERAL SALES MANAGER

**KEYSER BROS. CADILLAC, INC.**  
4130 SHERIDAN DRIVE  
WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221

PHONE (716) 634-4100  
FAX (716) 634-4326



**D'Youville**  
COLLEGE  
*Educating for Life*

**FEATURING:**

- B.S., M.S., & Doctoral Degrees in Liberal Arts and Health Sciences
- Teacher Certification
- Adult Degree Completion Programs for Transfer & Working Students
- Day, Weekend and Internet Classes

*Undergraduate Admissions*

**716.829.7600**

*Graduate Admissions*

**716.829.8400**

**[www.dyc.edu](http://www.dyc.edu)**

**320 Porter Ave. Buffalo, NY 14201**