



# THE TALISM

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

WINTER 09

## IT DOESN'T COST TO JOIN THE CLUB, IT PAYS!

So, you may be asking yourself, "What is that supposed to mean?" Well, as you know, the time to renew your annual membership dues for the local chapter of the Cadillac and LaSalle Club, Inc. is near. Each year, despite our best efforts at collecting dues (multiple reminders, 3 a.m. telephone calls, burly men appearing at your door), the club loses members because they fail to renew their membership dues.

The club officers have met in special session to determine why folks are not renewing their membership. No one

has ever given a reason why they have declined to renew, so the officers have speculated why and have come up with a possible reason. Because it has become fashionable to blame all our problems on the state of the economy, perhaps the \$20 annual dues is a hardship for some. We have carefully observed the way most of our members dress, and it has been determined that a good portion of the members actually lose this much money in change that falls through the holes in their pockets.

However, if spending \$20 per year for dues is not a hardship, and you need a reminder of where your dues money goes, here is just one example. In this issue, you will see information about the club's Holiday Dinner held in January. As you note, the cost of this dinner is \$20 for members and guests. The club pays Salvatore's Italian Gardens \$50 per person for this special event. That means that the club subsidizes \$30 of the cost.

In addition, the club pays for the ice cream treats for those who attend the ice cream social in the summer and partially

*(continued on pg. 9)*



The Tinney Cadillac-Pontiac used car lot on Main Street, corner Jewett Avenue, in Buffalo in the 1950s. The dealership was in the former Pierce Arrow Showroom, which still stands today and houses a bank.

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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

Greetings fellow Cadillac-LaSalle enthusiasts,

Once again we are approaching that time of year when the earth begins its ineluctable tilt away from the sun, and we classic car owners must think about tucking our wheeled treasures away for a few months, until those salubrious cerulean summer skies once again favor our northern climes.

We have had another successful season of club events, beginning with our very well attended Post-Christmas dinner at Salvatore's. This year we will be hosting the dinner on January 10, 2010. Please see the Talefin insert anent this event. We also had an enjoyable Brunch at Holiday Inn Grand Island, another successful show at Keyser Cadillac in June, an ice cream social at Anderson's, (which is growing in popularity and attendance) and we finished the year with the car show at Valley Cadillac in August. At this show we were able to receive two new members into the club, besides looking at some beautiful old cars. Please see the enclosed list of winners from this show.

We will be holding monthly meetings at Sunny's restaurant in Batavia on Dec. 5th, Feb. 6th, Mar. 6th, and April 3rd. Those of us who regularly attend would be very happy to see you at any or all of these meetings, and to get your input into your club's activities.

We will be contacting you in future with dates for the 2010 Brunch, the Keyser show, the Ice Cream Social, and the Rochester show.

I will be looking forward to seeing you at these upcoming events, hoping to renew old acquaintances and to meet new friends. Until then, drive safely.

Peter Arnoldo  
President

(Pete likes those big words. -Ed.)

# CLASSIC CADILLAC STYLES



1923 Cadillac Eldorado

# DO YOU REMEMBER?

Do you remember the horn ring on the steering wheel? When in an emergency you didn't have to take your eyes off the road to look for a horn icon on the steering wheel. When you kept your eyes on the impending emergency and just moved your thumb anywhere on the inner perimeter of the steering wheel and pressed the ring to sound the horn.

Do you remember that great burbling sound your over-rich running engine used to make when you let up on the accelerator? Will we ever hear that delightful sound of a happy engine again in this era of computer controlled engines?

Do you remember when you parked with your "significant other" of the moment in that secluded spot, listening to the old AM car radio and knowing that you couldn't stay too long, lest that radio with all its power robbing tubes would kill your 6 volt battery and leave you stranded in the wilderness.

Do you remember when most of us garage mechanics could pull the plugs from an engine and get a good idea of the operating condition of the engine? The car I have now has a V8 that is canted in the engine bay so that 4 of the plugs point straight up in the air, and the other 4 are pointing straight down. I would need a lift and special tools to get at the plugs.

Do you remember when no auto manufacturer would dare sell you a car without a full sized spare tire? Is there a manufacturer today who sells a car with a full sized fifth wheel? Some cars don't come with any spare at all.

Do you remember the hoopla when the new car models came out in the fall? The family would get dressed and visit dealerships, balloons and searchlights announced the advent of the new models, and we would wander from dealer to dealer, picking up brochures, oohing and aahing over the gleaming chrome and mirror-like finishes of the new cars.

Can these be some of the reasons we have the interest in the old cars? Harking back to a simpler time, when life seemed a little more straight forward and easier to handle on a daily basis, and we were more the masters of our machines, rather than the other way round. -P.A.

## Christmas together...Have a Coca-Cola

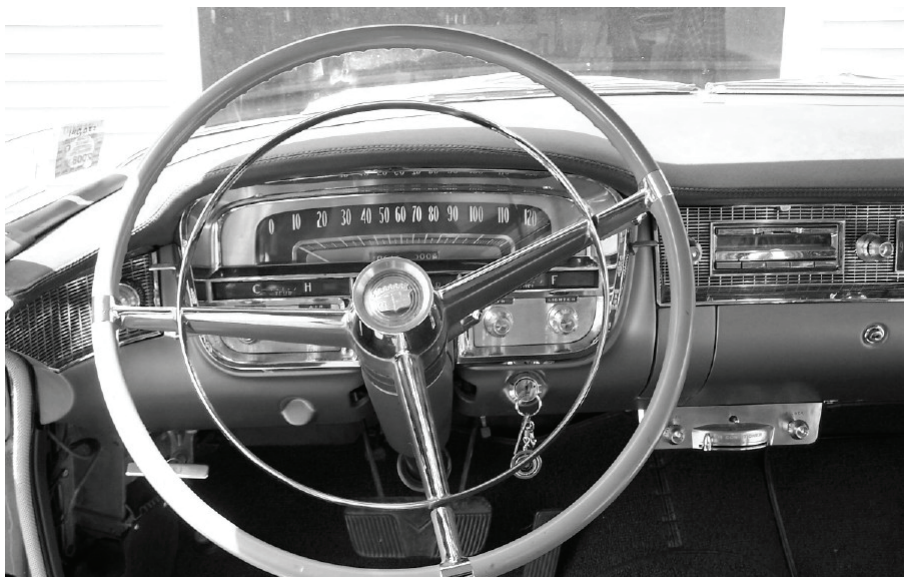


### ...welcoming a fighting man home from the wars

Time of all times. Home at last ... to wife, to child and to family. With Christmas in the air and the tree lighted brightly. All the dreams of a lifetime rolled into one moment. A home-like, truly American moment where the old familiar phrase *Have a Coke* adds the final refreshing touch. Coca-Cola belongs to just such a time of friendly, warm family feeling. That's why

you find it in homes big and small across the nation ... the drink that adds life and sparkle to living. A happy moment is an occasion for Coke—and the happy American custom, *the pause that refreshes*.

Our fighting men meet up with Coca-Cola many places overseas, where it's bottled on the spot. Coca-Cola has been a globe-trotter "since way back when".



1956 Cadillac Horn Ring



Bob Breissing, 1954 Conv.



Ken Dreher, 1949 Sedan



Stephen Vetri, 1967 Sedan



Black 1939 Sedan



Glenn and Donna Potkova, 1989 Brougham



1939 LaSalle, J. Straway



LouAnne DiMagistris, 1959 Sedan

*Winners of the Aug. 2009 Valley Cadillac Show*

**Dealers Choice** - Doug Seibert, '38 Cadillac

**Class 6**

- 1st Glen Potkova, '89 Sedan
- 2nd Bob Loudon, '90 Eldo

**Class 5**

- 1st Richard Roberts, '79 Eldo
- 2nd Stan Rychlicki, '85 Coupe

**Class 4**

- 1st Pat Carosa, '76 Eldo
- 2nd Peter Arnoldo, '76 Eldo

**Class 3**

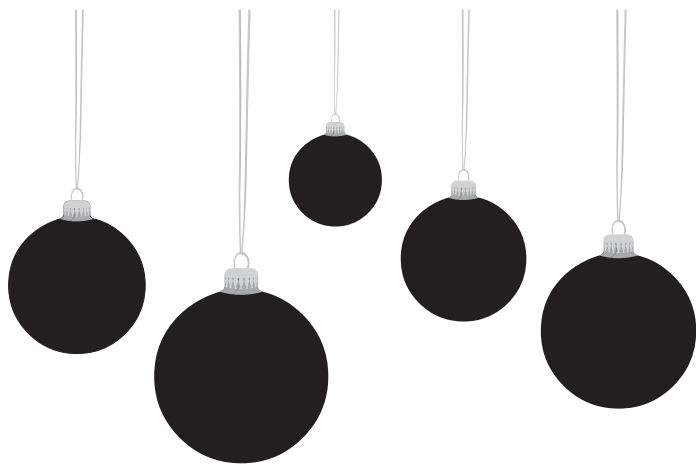
- 1st Tom Kuter, '64 Coupe
- 2nd Stephen Vetri, '67 Hardtop
- 3rd Robert Breissing, '66 Conv.

**Class 2**

- 1st LouAnne DiMagistris, '59 4 Door
- 2nd Jeff Kuemmel, '58 Eldo.
- 3rd Doug Monroe, '56 Coupe

**Class 1**

- 1st John Straway, '30 LaSalle
- 2nd Doug Seibert, '38 Cadillac
- 3rd Don and Marie Ulrich, '40 Cadillac



# Post Christmas Dinner

The special event will be held

**January 10, 2010**

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres - 2 p.m.

Dinner - 3 p.m.

## Salvatore's Italian Gardens

*on Transit and Genesee 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.

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### Reservations by December 22, 2009

MAIL-IN RESERVATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Choose one:  Check enclosed  Will pay at the door  
RSVP still required



## 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) 829-7821

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).



**Cadillac's 1940 thru 1976  
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**585-765-9106**

# CLASSIC QUOTE

"Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys."

-P.J. O'Rourke

# NEXT MEETING DATES



Meetings will be held at Sunny's restaurant in Batavia on:

- Dec. 5
- Feb. 6
- Mar. 6
- April 3

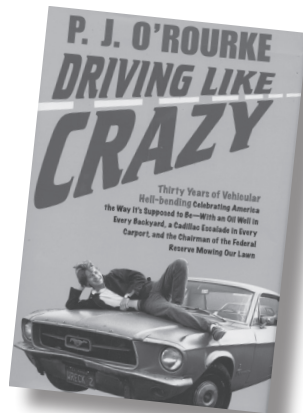
(continued from pg. 1)

pays the cost of the Ice Breaker Brunch in May. Also, on occasion, the club will pay for lunch at our monthly meetings (another reason to come to a meeting!). Therefore, the more active you are in the club, the more you will reap from your dues.

Please consider renewing your membership at the first notice, include your e-mail address on the form, and consider joining your fellow members in January at the Holiday Dinner. Also encourage those Cadillac and LaSalle owners you may know who do not belong to the club, to join.  
-Jerry Puma

# BOOK REVIEW

## ON THE ROAD WITH P.J. O'ROURKE



"There's a lot of debate about what kind of car handles best, some say a front-engined car; some say a rear-engined car. I say a rented car. Nothing handles better than a rented car. You can go faster, turn corners sharper, and put the transmission into reverse while going forward at a higher rate of speed in a rented car than in any other kind. You can also park without looking, and you can use the trunk as an ice chest. Another thing about a rented car is that it's an all-terrain vehicle. Mud, snow, water, woods - you can take a rented car anywhere. True, you can't always get it back - but that's not your problem, is it?" (Driving Like Crazy)

American humorist and satirist, P. J. O'Rourke's latest book 'Driving Like Crazy' is a book for true car nuts who will relate to this collection of his articles and stories written over the years, all car related and designed to take the reader

back 30 years to the helicon days of the American automobile. O'Rourke, son and grandson of car dealers and who has written for Car and Driver, Automobile, Esquire, Forbes, and other publications is the author of Parliament of Whores, Peace Kills, Bachelor Home Companion, and other gems. He loves cars, driving and the adventures cars get you into. His story of his trip from Florida to LA in a 56 Buick Special, "Sergeant Dynaflo," that broke down every day will bring knowing smiles and guffaws to anyone who has travelled in an old car making repairs along the way with the help of American characters along the road.

"But pity the poor American car when congress and the White House get through with it - a light-weight vehicle with a small carbon footprint, using alternative energy and renewable resources to operate in a sustainable way. When I was a kid we called it a Schwinn." Will make a great Christmas gift, after you read it of course. (Available at Amazon.com \$16.32) -Ed.

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