



# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle February 2017



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE BY VINCE TALIANO

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**NATIONAL CLC ADVISOR**  
**NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST**  
RICHARD SILLS

Each January, fans across the world celebrate Elvis' birthday on January 8th (which also happens to be Jack McClow's birthday). In this issue, we have a fun Elvis story that will capture your imagination.

Every February, we celebrate Valentine's Day, a day known for the joy it brings to people world-wide. But Valentine's Day is also remembered for a massacre that happened in Chicago in 1929. It is alleged that a 1927 Cadillac was used in the getaway. Read the behind the scenes story of this infamous car and decide for yourself.

Please sign-up for the CLC Judges' Workshop on Saturday, April 29th at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner that the Valley Forge and Potomac Regions are co-sponsoring. If you are interested in judging at the Grand National, it is important that you attend this one-day session. A minimum of 25 participants is needed to hold this event (maximum of 50). If 25 don't sign up, the Judges' Workshop will be cancelled. Visit <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/forms/2017CLCJudgesWorkshop.pdf> where you can download the flyer.

February marks the 11th anniversary of our website, **The Standard of the World Wide Web**. If you haven't visited lately, check out the 3,000+ pictures, event coverage going back to 2003, feature article on the history of Washington, DC Cadillac Dealerships, extensive classifieds section, etc. Below are the 2016 visitor statistics, which are the highest annual numbers to date - not too shabby!

| 2016            | Unique visitors | Number of visits | Pages  | Hits    | Bandwidth |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------|---------|-----------|
| Total           | 14,541          | 22,590           | 63,907 | 987,921 | 85.7 GB   |
| Monthly Average | 1,212           | 1,883            | 5,326  | 82,327  | 7.14 GB   |

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our website's success.

*Vince Taliano*



# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle February 2017



## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| DATE                        | TIME                              | EVENT                                                                           | LOCATION                                               | CONTACT INFORMATION                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 27-<br>Feb 5<br>Fri-Sun |                                   | Potomac Region booth at the Washington Auto Show                                | Convention Center<br>Washington DC                     | Franklin Gage at <a href="mailto:f.gage@hotmail.com">f.gage@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                                 |
| Feb 9-11<br>Thu-Sat         |                                   | AACA Annual Meeting                                                             | Philadelphia PA                                        | <a href="http://www.aaca.org">www.aaca.org</a>                                                                                                                              |
| Feb 10-12<br>Fri-Sun        |                                   | 44th Annual Classic Car Show & Auction                                          | Atlantic City NJ<br>Convention Center                  | G. Potter King, Inc. at<br>800-227-3868 or<br><a href="http://www.acclassiccars.com">www.acclassiccars.com</a>                                                              |
| Feb 19<br>Sun               | 2:00 pm –<br>4:00 pm              | Potomac Region<br>Monthly Meeting                                               | Olive Grove<br>Restaurant<br>Linthicum MD              | Vince Taliano at 301-258-8321<br>or <a href="mailto:vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org">vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org</a>                                                |
| Mar 11<br>Sat               | 8:00 am –<br>3:00 pm              | 44th Annual AACA<br>Chesapeake Region<br>Antique Auto Parts<br>Flea Market      | Howard County<br>Fairgrounds<br>West Friendship MD     | Tom Young at 443-744-6338,<br><a href="mailto:tbirdtoms60@verizon.net">tbirdtoms60@verizon.net</a> or<br><a href="http://www.chesapeakeaaac.org">www.chesapeakeaaac.org</a> |
| Mar 20<br>Mon               | 7:30 pm –<br>9:00 pm              | Potomac Region<br>Monthly Meeting                                               | Silver Diner<br>Merrifield VA                          | Vince Taliano at 301-258-8321<br>or <a href="mailto:vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org">vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org</a>                                                |
| Mar 24-25<br>Fri-Sat        |                                   | 47th Annual AACA Sugarloaf<br>Mountain Region Annual<br>Antique Auto Parts Meet | Carroll County<br>Agriculture Center<br>Westminster MD | Robert Clubb at 301-831-0300<br>or <a href="mailto:smraaca@aol.com">smraaca@aol.com</a>                                                                                     |
| Apr 19-23<br>Wed-Sun        | Gates open<br>daily<br>at 7:00 am | Spring Carlisle                                                                 | Carlisle PA                                            | 717-243-7855 or <a href="http://www.carsatcarlisle.com">www.carsatcarlisle.com</a>                                                                                          |
| Apr 24<br>Mon               | 7:30 pm –<br>9:00 pm              | Potomac Region<br>Monthly Meeting                                               | Capitol Cadillac<br>Greenbelt MD                       | Vince Taliano at 301-258-8321<br>or <a href="mailto:vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org">vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org</a>                                                |
| Apr 29<br>Sat               | 9:00 am –<br>5:00 pm              | CLC Judges' Workshop Hosted<br>by the Valley Forge and<br>Potomac Regions       | Hilton McLean<br>Tysons Corner VA                      | William C. "Bill" Anderson, P.E., National Chief<br>Judge at 443-994-5455 or <a href="mailto:Rivrsgr8@aol.com">Rivrsgr8@aol.com</a>                                         |
| Aug 1-5<br>Tue-Sat          |                                   | CLC Grand National Meet<br>Hosted by the Valley Forge and<br>Potomac Regions    | Hilton McLean<br>Tysons Corner VA                      | <a href="http://www.vfrclc.org/2017gn.html">http://www.vfrclc.org/2017gn.html</a>                                                                                           |

To view more events and to download flyers, visit <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/eventslisting.htm>.

### 2017 CLC Museum & Research Center Calendar Order Form

**Still only \$15 each**  
**SHIPPING FEES**

**United States**  
\$2.50 for one calendar  
\$3.75 for two, \$6.50 three to five

**Canada**  
\$3.75 U.S. for one calendar  
\$5.25 U.S. for two, \$7.25 U.S. for three

**Mexico**  
\$6.75 U.S. for one calendar  
\$9.25 U.S. for two, \$13.25 U.S. for three

**All other countries**  
\$8.25 U.S. for one calendar  
\$11.50 U.S. for two, \$15.50 U.S. for three

Calendars x \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping fees \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/MasterCard Account Number ---

Expiration Date / 3-digit security code on back of card

Billing zip code for credit card (if different than shipping address) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/e-mail if we have questions on your order \_\_\_\_\_

Pay with PayPal—Send payment to: [cadlasmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:cadlasmuseum@gmail.com)

Make checks payable to CLC Museum & Research Center. Please send your order to:

**CLC Museum Calendar Sales**  
PO Box 6447  
Plymouth, MI 48170-8447 USA

Copies of the order form are accepted  
Calendars shipped in early December

Order inquiries:  
[contact\\_s\\_pash@charlie.net](mailto:contact_s_pash@charlie.net)

Proceeds benefit the CLC Museum & Research Center

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_



# **Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle February 2017**



## **CLC POTOMAC REGION HOLIDAY PARTY STORY BY VINCE TALIANO PHOTOS BY LYNN GARDNER**

On Sunday, January 22nd, the CLC Potomac Region held its Annual Holiday Party at the Springfield Country Club. Special thanks to Scot Minesinger for hosting the event and to Mark Brodsky for once again paying for the members who attended (approximately 45 this year). A silent auction of donated items took place and Scot provided attendees with a 2017 Grand National update. Below is an excerpt of the update prepared by Ronnie Hux.

- The Hilton hotel is sold out, but there may be one or two rooms available for Friday or Saturday at the contract rate. We have worked with the Hilton and complied with ADA requirements, Fire Marshal requirements, and CLC National requirements and can seat 940 for the banquet on Saturday evening. There is a possibility of an overflow area, if approved. We are fortunate to have a five-star hotel to be our host. The Hilton is working weekly with us to make sure this is an outstanding event with impeccable service.
- The Westin hotel is still booking members almost daily. We have contracted for a constant shuttle to and from the Hilton hotel from approximately 7:30 in the morning until around 10:30 in the evening.
- Lauren Schweitzer, the National Registrar for the event, has registered over 150 members with more registrations arriving daily. She encountered a computer programming error, but should be able to send confirmations to registrants by January 25th.



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# **Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle February 2017**



- Several tours and events are limited to a maximum number of attendees due to seating arrangements and fire marshal restrictions. For example, the Mt. Vernon tour on Wednesday, the two tours including dinner and the Potomac River Dinner Cruise on Thursday evening, and the Ladies Style Show and Tea on Saturday are all limited. Lauren will only be allowed to sell the maximum number as to not overbook these events. The maximum for the tours mentioned above is 150 and the Ladies Style Show and Tea is 120.



- We are honored that Cadillac has committed to pay the entire amount for the Wednesday reception. Due to the location and the large number of attendees, this is the largest amount ever contributed. We will definitely open the Grand National in "Cadillac Style." We are also working with the representatives of Cadillac for possibly more participation during the week.



- Mike Book registered approximately 150 cars by the first week of January with more being processed and arriving daily. Please note the Grand National show field can accommodate 435 cars, therefore the vehicle registrations will be date stamped. When we reach 435 cars, any additional cars will be placed on a waiting list. ALL CARS ATTENDING must be registered, even if "Display" only. There are many questions about the new Divisions and Classes. The information is available on the CLC web site under Judge tab on the right side of the screen. If you have questions about registering your vehicle(s), please call Bill Anderson, National Chief Judge, at 443-994-5455. He is more than glad to assist.
- Both the indoor and outdoor flea markets are almost sold out, along with the car corral. It seems that a lot of vendors will be offering some great bargains to members.
- Advertising is being solicited by members of both the Valley Forge and Potomac Regions along with Melissa Perry who handles National CLC accounts. We are getting a lot of interest in participating and sponsoring our Grand National.
- We will be cross referencing the hotel reservations with the member registrations in the next few months to ensure that members who reserved a room are registered with Lauren. We do not want to be left with any rooms not being used that will cost us money. Members who are not registered will be contacted and asked to either cancel their room or register. You DO NOT have to register a car, but you must be a member of the national CLC and register for the event to attend even if solely as a volunteer, spectator and/or vehicle judge.



# **Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle February 2017**



**2017 WASHINGTON AUTO SHOW  
JANUARY 27 – FEBRUARY 5  
STORY BY VINCE TALIANO  
PHOTOS BY FRANKLIN GAGE**



Special thanks to Daniel Jobe's sponsorship, the Potomac Region has a display area at the Washington Auto Show for the second year in a row. Thanks to Franklin Gage who has not only done all of the coordinating, he recruited our two beautiful exhibit cars (Mark Brodsky's 1970 Deville Convertible and Randy & Susan Denchfield's 1935 LaSalle convertible – "Pumpkin." Thanks to Mark and Randy & Susan for displaying their cars). Franklin has also recruited the volunteers who have staffed the area, organized the set-up and arrival of the vehicles, horse-traded to get us an unbelievably good display area,

and has been a tireless presence during long show hours.

Over the course of the Auto Show, Franklin and the volunteers listed below have promoted the CLC to attendees, reminisced with people about Cadillacs their family or friends owned years ago, and encouraged the large crowd to look, to take pictures, but to not touch the vehicles behind the stanchions. Thanks to our volunteers!

- Chuck & Debbie Piel
- Randy & Susan Denchfield
- Bill Harrison
- Mike Kerwin
- Sam & Karen Jackson
- Lou Harrington and Cathy Schairer



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# **Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle February 2017**



- Dan Mullane
- Sandy Kemper
- Anne Hilliard
- Harry Scott
- Tom Alsop
- Robert Meekins
- James Fournier
- Vince Taliano

As of Tuesday, January 31st, two new CLC and Potomac Region members were signed-up and one existing member stopped by to renew his dues.

The Auto Show runs through Sunday, February 5th. If you plan to attend the Auto Show during the upcoming Super Bowl weekend, please consider volunteering to staff the display area. It is not too late to be a volunteer at the show. And volunteers are admitted to see the Auto Show exhibits for free! For more information, contact Franklin Gage at [f.gage@hotmail.com](mailto:f.gage@hotmail.com) or at 703-869-8434.





# **Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle February 2017**



## **2017 CLC GRAND NATIONAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES BY RONNIE HUX**

The 2017 Grand National is shaping up to be one for the record books in terms of attendance and participation. It is likely that over 1,000 attendees will be at the Hilton Tyson's Corner during the course of the event. Here's a unique opportunity for organizations, businesses and/or individuals to provide sponsorship for the event and receive recognition for their contributions.



### **PLATINUM SPONSOR**

Contribute \$5,000 to the 2017 GN and 1) receive a complimentary full page ad in the official program book; 2) be listed in the program book as an Official Platinum Sponsor; 3) be recognized along with other sponsors on large banner in ballroom during events and 4) receive other recognition in host hotel as a sponsor.

### **GOLD SPONSOR**

Contribute \$3,500 to the 2017 GN and 1) receive a complimentary half-page ad in the official program book; 2) be listed in the program book as an Official Gold Sponsor; 3) be recognized along with other sponsors on large banner in ballroom during events and 4) receive other recognition in host hotel as a sponsor.

### **SILVER SPONSOR**

Contribute \$2,500 to the 2017 GN and 1) receive a complimentary one-quarter page ad in the official program book; 2) be listed in the program book as an Official Silver Sponsor; 3) be recognized along with other sponsors on large banner in ballroom during events and 4) receive other recognition in host hotel as a sponsor.

### **INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR**

Contribute \$250 to the 2017 GN and 1) be listed in the program book as an Individual Sponsor and 2) receive a special token of appreciation from the event.

For more information, make a contribution or discuss further, contact Ronnie Hux at 302-745-8850 or [cadiman59@aol.com](mailto:cadiman59@aol.com).



# **Cadillac & LaSalle Club**

## **Potomac Region**

### **Caddie Chronicle**

#### **February 2017**



#### **A STORY ABOUT GLADYS: ELVIS' 1955 COUPE DEVILLE** **BY TINA ZERBIAN**

**In tribute to Elvis' 82nd birthday on January 8, 2017, let us share an imaginary tale of his 1955 Cadillac Gladys.**

Stephen King knows. Sure. Sometimes, when an object, like a car or a house, or a sprawling old hotel, is owned by a person with a strong and charismatic personality, that object seems to take on the persona, for better or worse. King shared with us that story of Christine, the car that assumed the characters of, well, a not-so-nice owner. Ours is a more charming story.



In 1955, the Coupe deVille moved slowly down the assembly line. Not just any Cadillac was this one. As the legend goes, she had been custom-ordered, down to her hot pink paint, for a driver who would dominate the record charts for the next twenty years. She gleamed, she roared, she demanded attention just like her new owner, even before they met. Just a year after "Heartbreak Hotel" had crashed into the music scene, that shiny car with her purring engine rolled into the streets of Memphis to greet her first owner, and her only love. And Elvis loved her, too. He named her, out of regard for his mother and his only other love, "Gladys".

Beautiful Gladys and her handsome owner went everywhere together. Gladys allowed other women to ride only grudgingly, and then often misbehaved out of jealousy. In 1956, when Elvis appeared on **The Ed Sullivan Show**, Gladys was the only one who escorted him there. It was the greatest performance of her life; those who saw her praised her shine and beauty. But in 1957, Gladys' life began to change, and there was no way she could have seen what awaited her down the road in the little village of Ellicottville, New York.

**Elvis polishing his 1955 Cadillac**

**Source:**

<http://www.elviscadillacs.com/1950-03.html>

Having heard about the opening of a new ski area called Holiday Valley, Elvis (as he was known to do) had a spontaneous urge; this time to conquer slopes and skis. He loaded Gladys up and she willingly and lovingly

transported him through the snow to the Great White North. Not long after arriving in Ellicottville on that fateful day in 1958, Elvis determined that he would stick to singing and cavorting anywhere but on skis. Aching and miserable with tow-rope burns and frostbite, Elvis humbly (a rare feeling) sought lodging with a kindly but rather odd fellow by the name of Pete Chudzik. Chudzik fed Elvis and gave him a bed for the night in an odd boat, dry-docked as it was, at the foot of the slopes. And respecting Elvis' new found chagrin at being rather unaccomplished at skiing, Chudzik kept Elvis' presence in Ellicottville quite secret.

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# **Cadillac & LaSalle Club**

## **Potomac Region**

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A few nights aboard Pete Chudzik's boat convinced Elvis that he had found a true and lasting friend. In return for Chudzik's secrecy and hospitality, Elvis rewarded him with the only gift he had to give, the beautiful Gladys. The unsuspecting Coupe deVille sat patiently in the parking lot, waiting proudly to serve her master. Imagine her feeling of loss and abandon as she watched Elvis depart on that Blue Bird bus bound for Memphis! Pete Chudzik, sensitive to such oddities such as Gladys' soul and her devastation, tried everything to revive the Cadillac. But as the days wore on, she was harder and harder to start, her seats began to sag, her windows lost their luster, and even her sparkling pink topcoat began to fade. Desperate, Pete tried to contact Elvis and return the car, only to find that Elvis had left Memphis for the Army. While Elvis served his country, Gladys mourned.

Having no luck in reviving poor Gladys, Chudzik sold her for a song to a used car dealer. As you may suspect, Gladys got no better, speeding deeper and deeper into depression. Her valves clogged, her horn stopped sounding, and her taillights only gave off a faint little glow. So began the long and tangled tale of Gladys' displacement, as she was hauled around from owner to owner. None could replace Elvis. It's impossible to unravel the path of the various garages she found herself in; we know only that she moved in and around Ellicottville sporadically, and that she finally returned in 1992 when she was purchased for \$500 by Peter Seeley. By this time, of course, Gladys had learned of the death of her only true love, and she was near death herself. But Seeley, truly a lover of fine Cadillacs, nurtured and babied Gladys (she is a woman, after all!) until he finally convinced her to turn over. By 1993, Gladys would reluctantly offer Peter a ride from time to time, but her heart was still in Memphis.

Haunted by the feeling that Gladys truly had a human soul, Seeley searched for the perfect owner. He would gladly give Gladys up, if only he could find the driver that would make her happy again. And just when Gladys seemed terminal, Peter Seeley did just that.

Sometimes, in the life of a person, or in the life of a car, there are moments of fate that must be seized. For Gladys, Peter Seeley recognized such a moment. In 1994, Seeley discovered Jack. Jack's passion for Cadillacs was unsurpassed anywhere in the world, and although he had collected many classics, Jack had been searching all of his life for that one unique and special Caddy that could be the focal point of his life. Seeley, match-maker that he is, brought Gladys and Jack together. This moment of fate sparked the life back into Gladys, made Jack's life-long search a success, and created the enterprise known as **Cadillac Jack's**.

Gladys was positioned right in front of **Cadillac Jack's** in Ellicottville, New York when they opened their doors for the first time in 1994. She acted as the divider between two parking areas, and was elevated about two feet off the ground. In those years, the Village held a Mardi Gras parade where Gladys would participate in all her glory, along with Elvis and the "Gladettes".



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A few years ago, **Cadillac Jack's** moved to a new location, but Gladys didn't make the trip. It was time for Gladys to journey to her final resting place. Before she departed her "adopted" family gathered for one final photo. But we all know that our lives are never quite forgotten, and that true love never dies.



**Farewell Gladys  
Photo by Tina Zebrian**

Listen. At night during those final days, if we listened closely to Gladys' radio, that barely worked, and we used our imagination just a little, we could hear a familiar tune. Tell me dear Gladys, "**Are You Lonesome Tonight**"?"



**Cadillac Jack's**  
**24 Monroe Street**  
**Ellicottville, NY 14731**  
**Phone: (716) 699-5161**  
**Email: [tigazerb@gmail.com](mailto:tigazerb@gmail.com)**  
**<http://evillecadillacjacks.com/restaurant/>**



# **Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle February 2017**



## **ACCESSORY TO A MASSACRE?**

**NO ONE IS SURE IF AURORA MAN'S 1927 CADILLAC REALLY WAS USED BY CAPONE'S MEN ON VALENTINE'S DAY 1929. THE CAR CERTAINLY AIN'T TALKING.**

**BY CLIFFORD WARD, SPECIAL TO THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE  
JULY 30, 2010**

Greg Zanis, of Aurora, Illinois owns a 1927 Cadillac that, the story goes, once cruised Chicago carrying its most notorious crime boss, a man who ordered the luxury car's involvement in the city's most infamous, unsolved crime at the very height of the Prohibition era. By any account, it's a great yarn. It's just that it might not be true.

According to the astounding tale, the sedan belonged to Scarface himself — Al Capone — and was used by his Tommy-gun-toting mobsters to cover the back door during the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. And, amazingly, promotional information claims that the son of Capone sold the car to Zanis. Well, even Zanis doesn't believe the part about Capone's son. As for the rest?

"I believe it, because of what I heard that day," Zanis said one recent afternoon, as members of the Lincoln Highway Association stopped by a refurbished garage on LaSalle Street in Aurora, where the car was on display, to eat a box lunch and have a look at the Caddy. Zanis was talking about a day in 1967 when, as a teenager, he first saw the car — painted green and black like a 1920s Chicago police vehicle — on an estate in Highland Park.

Earlier that day, his father, Stavros Zanis, a Greek Orthodox priest, had presided over a funeral in the city. The person being laid to rest had done something that precluded a Roman Catholic funeral mass and burial, Zanis said, and his father had agreed to officiate at the man's service. After the burial, the mourners and the priest, with his son in tow, repaired to the lakefront mansion for a luncheon.

The teenager was wandering the property when he came upon the car behind one of the estate's outbuildings. Fascinated, he went inside the main house and started asking questions. Some of the mourners, who Zanis said may have had had their lips loosened by a drink or two, revealed the car's dark history. Al Capone himself, they said, had owned the Imperial Sedan. It had spent three decades bricked up under a garage on Dearborn Street after Capone's men had used it in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre on Feb. 14, 1929.



On that morning, seven men, most of them members of George "Bugs" Moran's gang, were lined up against a brick wall in a North Clark Street garage and were mowed down by four men, including a couple in Chicago police uniforms.

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That old car out back, the mourners told Zanis, had been stationed in an alley behind the garage — a backup in case anyone escaped through the rear door. But amid public outrage over the crime and intense police pressure, the car had been hidden away. 30 years later, the Dearborn property was sold and the car had to be removed. It ended up in Highland Park, though the how and why of the move are not clear. But to the young Zanis, that didn't matter. "I became obsessed with it," Zanis said.

Six years after he first saw the car, in 1973, Zanis said, he returned to the estate and knocked on the front door. An older man answered. Zanis said he pulled out a wad of cash, \$1,300, and said he wanted to buy the old Cadillac. After some haggling, the old man agreed to sell. Zanis said he quizzed the man about his identity, and the man finally muttered that he was Al Capone's son. "I don't buy that. I never did," Zanis said of the older man's paternity. But he's convinced of the rest of the story. He said his Greek-born mother was horrified when she learned about the purchase.

"She said the car had the evil eye on it," said Zanis, a carpenter by trade who has garnered some attention around Chicago through the years for his practice of placing hand-built crosses at scenes of fatal auto accidents and other tragedies. Since Zanis acquired the car, it has usually been parked in the garage wherever the Zanis family lived.

"I used to play in it; it was my toy," said Greg's daughter, Maria Zanis (pictured right), who was decked out like a flapper to greet the Lincoln Highway group. To view a video Maria made showing the car's features, visit <https://youtu.be/oihn2fhsgig>.

On a Valentine's Day about 15 years ago, Zanis was doing some work for Joan Duma, a west suburban Wayne resident who rehabs houses. While the carpenter was working and Duma was supervising, a radio played in the background, and the station's host and a guest were talking about the infamous shooting. One of them mentioned that there had been stories of a second car, parked in the alley behind the Clark Street garage. Duma recalls Zanis piping up. "Hey, they're talking about my car!" He told the incredulous Duma the story.



"Not only is he my carpenter, but he's nuts, too," she said, recalling her reaction. But since then, she has pieced together clues to the car's history. The Cadillac boasts some unusual features, like armor plating, hemp-filled tires that wouldn't be flattened during a shootout and compartments in the doors, perhaps to stash pistols. There's a small hatch in the floor; Duma and Maria Zanis said roofing nails could be dropped through to blow out the tires on pursuing vehicles. (Note to Geraldo Rivera: The car does not have a rear storage area, and the interior is stripped out. This prevented a quest for any hidden treasures in Al Capone's Trunk. Or Al Capone's Glove Box.)



## ***Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle February 2017***



Maria Zanis said she is working to have the car legitimately titled, and she hopes an appraisal will provide collateral for a bank loan to fund a complete restoration. "The history, high-speed chase scenes and the role it played for Al Capone and his men will always be a piece of Chicago," concludes a press handout about the car.

But the question remains, is this really Big Al's Caddy? Duma admits that despite years of research and some solid clues, the car's provenance remains unsettled, though the hunt for information continues. Trying to fit another piece, she recently submitted an engine identification number to a national car organization. "We think it's the car, and we want it to be the car, but we're still not there yet," Duma said.

Whatever its original ownership, the car is certainly rare. Fred Butalla, of Joliet, regional director for the National Cadillac & LaSalle Club, examined it about a year ago. The club knows of only one other 1927 Cadillac Imperial Sedan, he said, and a Texas man owns a 1928 model that has been tied to Capone. So, does he think the car once belonged to Capone? "I think that the odds of that are very good," said Butalla, who said he was convinced by the car's police car color scheme and old rumors of a bricked-up Capone car.



John Russick, senior curator of the Chicago History Museum, said he and Zanis had a discussion about the car several years ago, but the lack of a paper trail stifled serious interest from the museum over possibly acquiring it. "We're not saying it isn't," Russick said. "There's just no evidence."

Duma said the Chicago mobsters weren't meticulous record-keepers, and that has hampered efforts to track its lineage. "This car didn't want to be found," she said. Russick agrees with that. Capone would not want any assets in his name for the kind of tax issues that eventually did result in his imprisonment. "They didn't keep diaries or journals," Russick said. "They didn't keep receipts for their accountants."

Putting the car in the alley on that February morning in 1929 is more problematic, since more than eight decades later, no one has ever been held responsible for the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. It's popular lore that Capone ordered the shooting — he and Moran were rivals and Capone's gang had the wherewithal to carry out the attack — but the matter is not settled. For example, "Get Capone," a book by Chicago author Jonathan Eig, posits that a vicious criminal named William "Three-Fingered Jack" White planned the massacre to avenge the killing of his cousin several months earlier by Moran gang members in a barroom shooting. "It's a mystery yet to be solved," Russick said. "We may never know the full truth."

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# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle February 2017



## RESTAURANT RENDEZOUS STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHRIS CUMMINGS

Of the 3,250 Cadillac V-16 cars built in the combined 1930-31 model year, the most frequently ordered were the large sedans: the Series 4375-S seven-passenger sedan (501 cars), Series 4375 imperial sedan (limousine) (439 cars) and Series 4330-S five passenger sedan (394). These elegantly built and appointed cars worked for a living, while the coupes and convertibles played along with their fortunate owners. The big sedans could be limousines for the rich and famous, corporate amenities for businessmen, high-class livery vehicles, or comfortable transportation for well-to-do families. The number of survivors of these particular V-16 styles has been disproportionately small, relative to their production numbers.

One chilly day in the early 1930s, a happy group from the San Francisco Bay area gathered



in the parking lot of a Fat Boy restaurant for photographs with a 1930 or 1931 Cadillac V-16 sedan. Years later, three of the pictures taken that day turned up in a batch of photos purchased at a thrift store in Nevada.

In one shot (pictured above), a lady in a cloth coat and hat is sitting demurely on the front bumper of the car, resting her forearm on the license plate, and smiling for the camera. On the back of the image is hand-written "The big Cadillac & me."

A second shot (pictured right) shows the same woman standing next to another in a fur coat with her arms around the first woman's shoulders. Penned on the reverse is "Vivian & I."

The third (pictured far right) has a distinguished-looking gentleman in suit, overcoat, fedora and high-top laced shoes sitting on the end of the bumper next to an older woman.







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The two ladies from the other photos stand on either side of the seated couple. The description on the back reads "Ma & Don. Vivi & I." and is signed "Lee." Clippings in a scrapbook purchased along with the photographs indicate that "Lee" was Leila Stubbins, and about all that we know about her is that she performed in the late 1920s with a theatrical group, the Maylon Players in Spokane, Washington.

The car with its goddess radiator ornament is centered in each image, and is either a seven-passenger or five-passenger sedan (the sight lines don't allow a good look at the shape of the rear quarter window, which would tell for sure). Most likely a family car, the hood, cowl and lower body panels are painted a light color, while the fenders, chassis, roof, and upper body are a contrasting darker hue. The fender-mounted spare tire sports an after-market, chrome-plated cover for its tread surface, and the left rear door is not quite closed. Two other cars can be seen in front of the restaurant, and although there's not much detail to identify them, they are clearly from the late '20s or very early 1930s.



Fat Boy Barbecue restaurants (or "Cabins" as they were known) were a chain that started in the early 1920s with a single location at 46th Avenue and Sloat Boulevard in San Francisco, and grew to include locations in the nearby communities of San Jose, Colma, Milpitas, Palo Alto, Redwood City and San Mateo, California. The distinctive art deco logo of a winking cartoon fat boy can be seen in a couple of the photographs. The Fat Boy location places the photo shoot in the San Francisco Bay area, and tends to indicate that the car was sold new by Don Lee's Cadillac dealership at 1000 Van Ness Street. Don Lee acted as Cadillac's West Coast distributor in the 1920s and early '30s, and operated several dealerships in Los Angeles and other cities.

There's no way to know from the photos what became of the Cadillac. In a very few years, automotive technology and streamline design would make the 1930 and '31 cars (Cadillacs included) seem dramatically out of date. Weather, critters, and neglect are always ready to convert a proud shiny automobile into a literal piece of junk. And in the early 1940s and early 1950s, wartime scrap drives would swallow untold thousands of older cars of all makes. The cars that survived the gauntlet of the years are the ones we see and enjoy today. We can only hope that the V-16 sedan that posed in front of the Fat Boy Cabin is one of those survivors.



# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle February 2017



## CADDIE CLASSIFIEDS

### Cars For Sale



**1931 Cadillac 370A 2 Door Rumble Seat Sport Coupe V-12** – Only four (4) of this model is known to be in existence today out of the 302 originally manufactured – Discovered in Yakima, Washington in 2008 after living most of its life on an apple farm, the current owner purchased it from the son of the original owner, thus keeping it a family owned car since new in 1931 – Odometer read 43,000 original miles since new – With an eye for meticulous detail and master craftsmanship, the restoration of this vehicle took approximately four (4) years and was completed in 2012 – The 369 cubic inch / 145 horsepower V- 12 engine with overhead valves overhaul was performed by Vellios Machine Shop in Lawndale, California – Included Disassemble, Rings, Heads, Gaskets, Hot Tank, Pressure Test, Complete Valve Job Intake and Exhaust, Valve Liner Guides and Springs, Resurfacing Heads, Hone Cylinder Blocks, Freeze Plugs and Reassemble – Factory accessories include Dual side mount spares and covers, six (6) stainless spoke wheels, Chrome Cadillac / engraved script side mount mirrors, Chrome radiator grill guard, Factory all black exterior paint, Chrome Goddess radiator ornament – Tan leather upholstery and interior trim – 1,088 miles since completing the restoration – Judged over 97 points in 2013 @ CCCA Grand Nationals – Multi-award winner – Evaluated and insured by Hagerty Insurance Company for \$350,000 full replacement value – See pictures at <https://www.hemmings.com/classifieds/dealer/cadillac/370a/1858724.html> – **Asking \$195,500** – Owner may consider a partial (car or multiple car) trade plus cash – For more info, contact Dave Henry at 805-705-4924 or [sold@spokemotors.com](mailto:sold@spokemotors.com) – Car is located in Santa Ynez, CA



**1940 LaSalle Model 52** – Very nicely restored retaining its original looks – Runs and drives like new – 322 V-8 (130 hp) engine sits nestled in a detailed engine bay – Converted to a 12-volt system and all the lights, etc. work (still has its original wiring harness) – 3-speed standard transmission shifts properly and smoothly – Dark Blue paint in good condition showing off the car's great lines – Almost all of the exterior chrome was redone or replaced and gives a fresh look to this LaSalle – Body and underside are free of rust – Seats were redone in period-correct tan fabric that makes an excellent contrast with the blue exterior – Tan headliner replaced as was the carpet – Door panels in very good condition – Brand new wide whitewall tires – See pictures at <http://classiccarter.net/cars-for-sale/> – **Asking \$21,900** – For more info, contact the Classic Car Center at 540-370-4474 or [info@classiccarter.net](mailto:info@classiccarter.net) – Car is located in Fredericksburg, VA



**1949 Series 62 Sedan** – Current owner purchased the car in 2012 from a noted Cadillac & LaSalle Club member who specializes in 1948-49 Cadillacs – Documentation from past two owners, and original owner known – Approximately 40K original miles – Runs, drives and shifts perfectly – 70% original paint in decent condition – Recent repairs include the front power seat and front seat padding replaced while keeping the OEM seat cover – Exhaust pipe recently replaced too – Beautiful driver – See pictures at <http://classiccarter.net/cars-for-sale/> – **Asking \$13,900** – For more info, contact the Classic Car Center at 540-370-4474 or [info@classiccarter.net](mailto:info@classiccarter.net) – Car is located in Fredericksburg, VA



**1951 Series 62 Sedan** – Nicely restored 4-door sedan used for 12 years as a wedding photo car – Truly an icon of luxury for the family of four in the '50's – Black paint is in great condition and the chrome is flawless – Seats are in excellent original condition without rips or tears – Headliner, sun visors, wind-lace, and rear package have been replaced – Equipped with the original V-8 engine that has been upgraded to ignition system and modern battery system – Automatic transmission has been overhauled – AM radio is in working order – Factory wheels with 1951 hubcaps and excellent wide wall tires – Gas tank has been serviced and renewed – Brake cylinders have been recently replaced – All repair records are available – 3rd place winner at Capitol Cadillac Car Show – See pictures at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/51cadillac2forsale.htm> – **Asking \$21,500 obo** – For more info, contact Frank Formica at 410-647-1325 or [formicaphoto@gmail.com](mailto:formicaphoto@gmail.com) – Car is located close to Annapolis, MD



**1977 Eldorado Biarritz** – 67k miles – Drives and rides like an ocean liner – Second place winner at 2016 Jerry's Chevrolet Annual Show in Baltimore – Third place winner at 2013 Fall Capitol Cadillac Show in Greenbelt, MD – Owner is getting older and his vision is not as good as it used to be so he wants it to go to a person that will continue to keep it in excellent condition – See pictures at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/77cadillacforsale.htm> – **Asking \$15,500 or best offer** – For more info, contact Jim McKoy at [gmoneyflowing@gmail.com](mailto:gmoneyflowing@gmail.com) or 240-708-3408 – Car is located in Baltimore, MD

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# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle February 2017



**1993 Allanté** – Only 53k miles – Two-owners of this Texas, no rust car – Always stored under cover – Very rare factory/dealer GOLD KEY package that accentuates the nearly perfect red paint with gold clad radiator wreath – Pininfarina script and crest on front fenders and Cadillac and Allanté script on tail lamps – Wreath and crest on center caps of chrome wheels – 295 horsepower North Star DOHC 4.6L V-8 engine runs smoothly for casual and high speed driving – Normal CD and "service ride control" problem (no, the shocks are NOT leaking)! – Beige seats are in perfect condition and it has NEW correct style carpet throughout – Upgraded air conditioner system with R134 and convertible top adjusted to original factory specs by Cadillac dealer – Recently replaced battery – Top of the dashboard has some stains from a previous a/c issue – Tires have approximately 7,500 miles – Both rear deck boot extension caps that are used when the convertible top is down are included (often these are missing – Original owner's manual, gold keys and maintenance receipts included – Current inspection and license plate are on car – Buyer is responsible for taking delivery of the car at Spring, TX – Assistance in loading will be provided or you can hop in and happily drive it to either coast – See pictures at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/93cadillac2forsale.htm> – **Asking \$12,500** – For more info, contact Paul Fellencer at [lrc@pbfrealty.com](mailto:lrc@pbfrealty.com) or 281-528-6291 – Car is located in Spring, TX

### Miscellaneous Ads



**For Sale: 1965 Cadillac Parts** – Extensive list of parts for sale – More parts available than what is shown including a driver's side front fender, engine parts, etc. – See parts and prices at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/65cadillacpartsforsale.htm> – For more info, contact John Shank, Jr. at 440-759-5287 or [jshankjr@windstream.net](mailto:jshankjr@windstream.net) – Parts are located in the Cleveland, OH area



**For Sale: 1965-66 Cadillac Parts Collection** – See parts list and pictures at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/65-66cadillacpartsforsale.htm> – **Reduced to \$1,000 or best offer** – For more info, contact Glenn at 410-215-5131 or [gme102460@hotmail.com](mailto:gme102460@hotmail.com) – Parts are located in Kingsville, MD



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**NEW 2016 CADILLAC CT6 SEDAN 4DR SDN 2.0L TURBO RWD -- \$49,960**

- Exterior: G1W CRYSTAL WHITE TRICOAT
- Engine: 2.0L 4 CYL
- Stock Number: 3367
- VIN: 1G6KA5RXXGU166423

[http://www.capitolcadillac.com/VehicleDetails/new-2016-Cadillac-CT6\\_Sedan-4dr\\_Sdn\\_2.0L\\_Turbo\\_RWD-Greenbelt-MD/2802319553](http://www.capitolcadillac.com/VehicleDetails/new-2016-Cadillac-CT6_Sedan-4dr_Sdn_2.0L_Turbo_RWD-Greenbelt-MD/2802319553)



**USED 2013 CADILLAC CTS WAGON -- \$27,000**

- Exterior: SILVER COAST METALLIC
- Engine: 3.6L 6 CYL DIRECT INJECTION
- Stock Number: P10638
- VIN: 1G6DP8E37D0113810

[http://www.capitolcadillac.com/VehicleDetails/used-2013-Cadillac-CTS\\_Wagon-3.6L\\_V6\\_RWD\\_Premium-Greenbelt-MD/2889647363](http://www.capitolcadillac.com/VehicleDetails/used-2013-Cadillac-CTS_Wagon-3.6L_V6_RWD_Premium-Greenbelt-MD/2889647363)



**NEW 2016 CADILLAC ATS-V COUPE -- \$60,270**

- Exterior: GAN RADIANT SILVER METALLIC
- Engine: 3.6L 6 CYL
- Stock Number: 3181
- VIN: 1G6AN1RY6G0128504

[http://www.capitolcadillac.com/VehicleDetails/new-2016-Cadillac-ATS\\_V\\_Coupe-ATS\\_V\\_Coupe-Greenbelt-MD/2666469203?cs:o=76441540](http://www.capitolcadillac.com/VehicleDetails/new-2016-Cadillac-ATS_V_Coupe-ATS_V_Coupe-Greenbelt-MD/2666469203?cs:o=76441540)

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**Club members receive a 10% discount on all parts when their vehicle is in the shop for repairs and labor is involved.**



# **Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle February 2017**



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