



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE BY VINCE TALIANO

BREAKING NEWS:

REGIONAL DIRECTOR NEWSLETTER EDITOR WEBSITE MANAGER VINCE TALIANO ASSISTANT REGIONAL DI

ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR CAR SHOW COORDINATOR SUMMER PICNIC HOST DAN RUBY

2017 OFFICERS:

NATIONAL DIRECTOR NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST JACK MCCLOW

SECRETARY ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER EDITOR SANDY KEMPER

TREASURER HARRY SCOTT

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST R. SCOT MINESINGER

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORS CENTRAL VA REGION LIAISONS NEWSLETTER COLUMNISTS CHUCK & DEBBIE PIEL

OTHER KEY POSITIONS: AUTOMOBILIA AUCTIONEER GEORGE BOXLEY

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST RITA BIAL-BOXLEY

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST CHRIS CUMMINGS

PHOTOGRAPHER RANDY EDISON

AUTOMOBILIA AUCTIONEER DERRICK FISHER

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST VALLEY FORGE REGION LIAISON LYNN GARDNER

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST JIM GOVONI

CAR SHOW SPONSOR AND HOST DANIEL JOBE & CAPITOL CADILLAC

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST TOM MCQUEEN

HONORARY MEMBER NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST VERN PARKER

CAR SHOW MASTER OF CEREMONIES NATIONAL CLC ADVISOR NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST RICHARD SILLS We are very excited to announce that Johan de Nysschen, Executive VP of GM and President of Cadillac Motor Car Company, will be attending the 2017 Grand National and will be a guest speaker at the Saturday evening Awards Banquet. This is unprecedented for a CLC Grand National.

In our next newsletter, we hope to be able to share many more exciting things that Cadillac will be sponsoring during our Grand National.

Thanks to Jack Hotz, Ronnie Hux, Rick Menz, Melissa Perry, Toni Rothman, Harry Scott,

Marty Watkins, Christopher Winter and others who helped to obtain advertisers, donors and sponsors of the Grand National. View the complete up-to-date list in this issue.

The Grand National Program Book is in the final stages of development thanks to Tim Coy's assistance and expertise.

If you are available, please join us on Saturday, June 17th at 2:00 PM at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner for our FINAL Grand National Planning Meeting where Ronnie Hux will provide an update and Scot Minesinger will discuss volunteer assignments.

Vince Taliano





2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT INFORMATION		
Jun 17	2:00 pm –	2017 CLC Grand National	Hilton McLean	Vince Taliano at 301-258-8321		
Sat	4:30 pm	Planning Meeting	Tysons Corner VA	or vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org		
Jun 17	9:00 am –	Annual Museum CARnival	AACA Museum	<u>info@AACAMuseum.org</u> , 717-566-7100		
Sat	2:00 pm	Car Show	Hershey PA	or <u>http://www.aacamuseum.org</u>		
Jun 18	10:00 am -	44th Annual Father's Day	Sully Plantation	Bill Worsham at 703-250-5474,		
Sun	3:30 pm	Antique and Classic Car Show	Chantilly VA	<u>billworsham@aol.com</u>		
Jun 24	8:00 am -	Cars & Coffee	Classic Car Center	540-370-4474 or		
Sat	10:00 am		Fredericksburg VA	info@classiccarcenter.net		
Jul 4	10:30 am -	37th Annual Independence Day	Town of	Morningside Town Hall at 301-736-2300		
Tue	12:30 pm	Parade and Celebration	Morningside MD			
Jul 8	9:00 am –	11th Annual CLC	AACA Museum	Dick Parsons at 717-653-6393 or		
Sat	3:00 pm	Inter-Regional Meet	Hershey PA	<u>rparsons@comcast.net</u>		
Jul 29	8:00 am -	Cars & Coffee	Classic Car Center	540-370-4474 or		
Sat	10:00 am		Fredericksburg VA	info@classiccarcenter.net		
Jul 30	10:00 am -	14th Annual All Vehicle Show	Reisterstown	Bill Scott at 410-527-0953 or		
Sun	3:00 pm	Hosted by the Free State	Regional Park	grand1917@comcast.net		
		Region VCCA and the Buick	Reisterstown MD			
		Owners of Maryland BCA				
Aug 1-5		CLC Grand National Meet	Hilton McLean	http://www.vfrclc.org/2017gn.html		
Tue-Sat		Hosted by the Valley Forge and	Tysons Corner VA			
		Potomac Regions				
Aug 12	10:00 am -	43rd Annual Metro Chapter	Montgomery College	Cory Correll at 240-686-0229 or		
Sat	3:00 pm	Buick Club All-GM Show	Rockville MD	corydraw@gmail.com		
Aug 26	8:00 am -	Cars & Coffee	Classic Car Center	540-370-4474 or		
Sat	10:00 am		Fredericksburg VA	info@classiccarcenter.net		
Sep 9	2:00 pm -	Potomac Region	Dan & JoJo Ruby's	Dan Ruby at 301-343-1463		
Sat	??????	Summer Picnic	Owings MD	danruby@clcpotomacregion.org		
Sep 28-30	Gates open	Fall Carlisle	Carlisle PA	717-243-7855 or <u>www.carsatcarlisle.com</u>		
Thu-Sat	daily	& Auction				
6 20	at 7:00 am			540,230,4434		
Sep 30	8:00 am -	Cars & Coffee	Classic Car Center	540-370-4474 or		
Sat	10:00 am		Fredericksburg VA	info@classiccarcenter.net		
Oct 4-7	Gates open	AACA National	Giant Center and	www.hersheyaaca.org		
Wed-Sat	daily	Eastern Fall Meet	Show Grounds			
0 ct 29	at 7:00 am	Care & Caffaa	Hershey PA	E40 270 4474 or		
Oct 28	8:00 am -	Cars & Coffee	Classic Car Center	540-370-4474 or		
Sat	10:00 am		Fredericksburg VA	info@classiccarcenter.net		

2017 CLC GRAND NATIONAL				
Goo	dy Bag Donors			
Apple Hydraulics	Cadillac Parts & Restoration (CPR)			
Cadillac Motor Car Company	Hagerty Insurance			
J.C. Taylor Insurance	Pollock Auto Restoration			
Steele Rubber Products	TD Bank			
Bottle	ed Water Donors			
Cadillac Parts & Restoration (CPR)	Fastenal			





MAY 15, 2017 MEETING MINUTES BY SANDY KEMPER AND TOM MCQUEEN

PLACE:Silver Diner, Merrifield, VATIME:7:30 pmPRESIDING:Jack McClow

ATTENDANCE: Susan & Randy Denchfield, Lynn Gardner, Jeff Gurski, Karen & Sam Jackson, Tom McQueen, Dan Mullane, Scott Patton and Harry Scott

DIRECTOR'S REMARKS: Jack thanked everyone for attending, thanked Tom for taking the minutes of the meeting, and announced that there will not be a Region meeting in June. Instead, all members are encouraged to attend the Grand National Planning Meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 17th at 2:00 at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Minutes from the April 2017 meeting were not read since they were published and distributed to all members in the May, 2017 newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report covered the time period from the April meeting to date. The Region's income was \$2.20. The total expenses for the same time period were \$102.24, for the pizza for the Region meeting at Capitol Cadillac meeting in April.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: To date, we have 186 members for 2017. No new members have joined since our last meeting.

ACTIVITIES REPORT: The following activities were discussed:

- 1. Recent Events:
 - **CLC Judges' Workshop, Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, Sat, Apr 29.** Lynn Gardner gave a brief summary of the Judge's Workshop which had 29 participants.
 - CLC Valley Forge Region Car Show, Delaware Cadillac, Wilmington DE, Sat, May 6. Lynn attended and provided photos and a story for the newsletter.
- 2. Upcoming PR Events:
 - Jack reminded everyone that the Region will not be holding our annual car shows at Capitol Cadillac in 2017 in order to commit our resources to the Grand National. Despite the notice on our website and in the meeting minutes in recent months, Vince has received a few emails from people asking about the Spring Show.
 - Potomac Region Summer Picnic, Dan & JoJo Ruby's home, 7018 Wilderness Ct, Owings, MD, Sat, Sep 9. A date has been selected. The flyer announcing the event will be distributed in the July newsletter.
- **3. Other Upcoming Events:**
 - CLC Central PA Region's 28th Annual Spring Show, Kelly Cadillac, Lancaster PA, Sat, May 20, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.
 - City of Fairfax Antique Car Show, City Hall, Fairfax VA, Sat, May 20, 10:00 am 3:00 pm.





- West Friendship 3rd Annual Car Show, Howard County Living Farm Heritage Museum, West Friendship, MD, Sun, May 21, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. Note that the Museum is located across MD Route 144 from the Howard County Fairgrounds.
- Grand National 2017 Planning Meeting, Sat, Jun 17, 2:00 pm 4:30 pm. See below.

To view more events, visit <u>http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/eventslisting.htm,</u> including the monthly Cars & Coffee events at the Classic Car Center in Fredericksburg, VA.

GRAND NATIONAL 2017:

Below is the update, as of May 13th, from GN Chair Ronnie Hux.

- 1. The Hilton remains sold out with no rooms left while the Westin is up to 99 rooms booked per night on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. The room block was increased this past week to accommodate future reservations.
- As of May 8th, 280 cars have been registered: 156 Primary Class, 38 Touring Class, 15 Modified and 8 Specialty & Unique. Of interest 21 1959-60 Cadillacs have been registered; the oldest year registered is 1903, plus many other pre-war Cadillacs and LaSalles will be on-site.
- 3. 299 members have registered plus 213 spouses/partners, 84 guests, 27 youth for a grand total of 623. We are still on track for over 1,200 total attendees based on room reservations.
- 4. The Potomac River Dinner Cruise is sold out! NO MORE SEATS available. We are issuing refunds to anyone who registers for this event. 44 have signed up for the Tuesday driving tour (should hit 80-90 when done), 70 have signed up for the USA tour (34 car and 36 bus -- should hit 110-125), 73 have signed up for judging seminar on Friday afternoon and 80 for the judges breakfast on Saturday.
- 5. Total of 165 t-shirts and polo shirts have been pre-ordered, plus many sold locally! Hats are being made and will be available soon. Hats are \$20.00 each and are the same blue as the shirts with the embroidered logo.
- 6. Many corporate sponsors as well as many personal sponsors are coming in daily. This seems to be a popular way to support the event financially!
- 7. The program book is being written and designed. Tim Coy is doing the publishing with Vince Taliano as editor. Many ads have been obtained by Vince and Marty Watkins, as well as Melissa Perry who is working on ads from the National Accounts. Deadline for payment of all ads submitted is May 31st!
- 8. Contributions for the welcome/goody bags continue to arrive and/or are being committed. Some items are really nice and useful. However, we can use more.
- 9. In case anyone does not know, we have secured the rear parking lot at George Marshall High School on Leesburg Pike adjacent to the Westin. It is very large, paved, lighted, and partly fenced. Bill Anderson, National Chief Judge, is drawing off a parking diagram to enable us to park as many trailers as possible and make it easy for members to access their equipment and cars.
- 10. We have received commitments for 4,650 bottles of water for distribution to attendees and judges, but more could be used. Please solicit contributions.





- 11. We have a corporate sponsor for the judges' pins and the order has been placed. We are working on a sponsor for the judges' caps, which should happen next week.
- 12. Floral arrangements, table decorations, and other items have been purchased and made for the events each day.
- 13. The contract with Cadillac has gone back to Cadillac legal department for final approval then it will be signed by the CLC. Once all signatures are in place, expect us to announce many, many great things coming to us from Cadillac. This will be Cadillac's largest participation in any GN and everyone is going to be amazed with what is being planned once the agreement is signed and completed.
- 14. Saturday, June 17, we will be conducting another pre-planning meeting at the Hilton. It will start at 2:00 PM and hopefully will conclude by 4:30 PM. We will cover day to day plans and try to cover all questions and concerns. Scot Minesinger will be bringing everyone up to speed on the volunteer assignments. If anyone wants to stay at the Hilton, we have a room block for Friday and Saturday night for \$89.00 per night plus tax. Contact Ronnie Hux at 302-745-8850 or cadiman59@aol.comfor info on getting rate.

OLD BUSINESS: At the last meeting, Randy Denchfield mentioned that longtime Potomac Region member Richard Sisson will be moving out-of-state sometime in the coming weeks. Jack McClow and Bob Norrid have offered to host a farewell gathering at their home on Sunday, June 11th. We are currently working with Jack, Bob and Richard on the details.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, June 17, 2017 at 2:00 pm at the Hilton, McLean Tysons Corner, VA.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

2017 CLC	GRAND NATIONAL
Corpo	orate Sponsors
Cadillac Motor Car Company	Capitol Cadillac
Capitol Renegade Trailers	Fairfax County Visitors & Convention Bureau
Penn Dutch Restoration	USA Parts Supply
Indiv	idual Sponsors
Emerson Duke	Lynn Gardner
Christopher Giblin (Helms Briscoe)	Jim Govoni
Rick Menz & Nicolas Voir (grandson)	





2017 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE STORY BY VINCE TALIANO PHOTOS BY THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER

Thanks to Potomac Region members Harry Scott, Daniel Jobe and Byron & Alida Alsop for participating in the 2017 National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC. Harry's areen 1937 Cadillac Series 75 Convertible Sedan is pictured right in the back row slightly in front of Daniel's vellow 1946 Series 62 Convertible (driven by Brian Love). Pictured behind Daniel's car is Byron's



maroon 1936 V-12 Series 85 Convertible Sedan. Each car transported three World War II veterans with the oldest one being a 103 year-old Navy veteran. View the parade on You Tube at <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvER0kTNPoo</u>.





TOM & MARIANNE ALSOP'S NEW 1968 DEVILLE CONVERTIBLE STORY BY VINCE TALIANO PHOTOS BY RANDY EDISON AND GIULIO DEDINI

On Memorial Day, Tom & Marianne Alsop's newly acquired 1968 Deville Convertible arrived at their home in Fairfax, Virginia from San Luis Obispo, California. The car was purchased a few weeks earlier from CLC member Giulio Dedini (pictured below left), who purchased the car from a club member in the borough of Manhattan, New York City back in 2007. Tom saw the 43k mile, all original car listed in *Hemmings Motor News* and contacted Jack McClow and Vince Taliano asking if they knew any club members in California who could inspect the vehicle. Vince referred Tom to Dave Henry of Spoke Motors (http://www.spokemotors.com/home.html) who suggested James A. Polk, ASA PE. James drove 250 miles to inspect the car and provided Tom with a 37 page detailed appraisal that included numerous photos and comparisons. As a result of the appraisal, the photos and conversations with Giulio, Tom & Marianne purchased the car. Transportation was provided by Passport Transport with a scheduled delivery date of Memorial Day. A group of Potomac Region members including Jack McClow, Bob Norrid, Randy Edison, Tom McQueen, Josh Pinho, Scot Minesinger, Scott Patton, Dan Mullane and Scott Wardinski were on-hand for the delivery and maiden voyage rides. The beautiful Cadillac did not disappoint! Congrats to Tom & Marianne (pictured below right) on their new 1968 Deville Convertible.









CADILLAC SLAMS INTO HOUSE, DRIVER CRITICAL STORY AND PHOTO BY ABC7 MAY 4, 2017



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD. (ABC7) — A driver is in critical condition after veering off a roadway while driving at a high rate of speed and crashing into an Oxon Hill house Thursday evening, authorities said. More than half of the vehicle went through the house and also struck a meter, according to officials. Three people were in the home at the time of the crash but were not injured. The incident took place around 11 p.m. on Thursday, May 4th at 743 Audrey Lane.

View the news story at <u>http://wjla.com/news/local/officials-car-driving-at-high-rate-of-speed-crashes-into-md-house-in-critical-condition</u>.

2017 CLC GRAND NATIONAL					
Prog	ram Book Advertisers				
AACA Museum	Ad Type & Design				
Annapolis Classic Cars	Antonio Details				
Cadillac Motor Car Company	Cadillac Parts & Restoration (CPR)				
Capitol Cadillac	Capitol Renegade Trailers				
Castle Cadillac	CCCA-DVR				
Dash Specialists	Hagerty Insurance				
Harbor Auto Restoration	High Fidelity Mastering				
Honest John's	Hyman LTD				

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1953 SUPERCHARGED ELDORADO TO APPEAR AT 2017 GRAND NATIONAL BY VINCE TALIANO

We have received confirmation that the supercharged 1953 Eldorado owned by Scott Milestone will appear at the 2017 Grand National. This car was reportedly built at the Cadillac factory by Cadillac Test Engineer Frank Burrell for its first owner, John E. Alexander, a friend of Harley Earl. The supercharger along with twin four-barrel carburetors were said to produce 300 horsepower. To draw attention, special unmuffled side exhaust pipes



were designed that could be opened via a cut-out lever, or closed for quiet operation.

This unique car may have also been the inspiration for the Cadillac convertible used in the popular comic book and CBS cartoon series of the early 1990s titled **Cadillacs and Dinosaurs**.

To learn more about this special car, view the **This Car Matters** video at <u>https://www.historicvehicle.org/this-car-</u> <u>matters-supercharged-1953-cadillac-eldorado/</u>.









CADILLAC CHIEF: NYC MOVE PAYING OFF BY MELISSA BURDEN THE DETROIT NEWS MAY 8, 2017

New York — A year and a half since General Motors Co.'s Cadillac packed up at the Renaissance Center for a new start in Manhattan, the brand's leaders say they are making strides in transforming the famed marque into a dominant global luxury player.

Cadillac has a mostly new staff for its global headquarters, housed in modern offices in trendy Soho. Its new ad campaign, "Dare Greatly," is making inroads with key younger buyers, the brand says. And it has a half dozen new vehicles, including more crossovers, on



General Motors Co. in 2015 moved its Cadillac brand headquarters to New York City. More than 100 people work in the office here. Photo by Melissa Burden

the way to improve its reach to 90 percent of the luxury market by 2021.

GM moved the Cadillac headquarters away from Detroit in September 2015, prompting politicians and local business leaders to complain directly to CEO Mary Barra. The idea, explained by Cadillac President Johan de Nysschen, was to put some distance between Cadillac and the rest of GM — and to park it in the heart of a global luxury capital.

A veteran of the Audi and Infiniti luxury brands, de Nysschen expects that re-establishing the brand as the "standard for the world" to take as long as 15 years. It has internal milestones to hit along the way, namely gains in brand image, owner satisfaction, customer loyalty and global sales.

"The plan is on track," he said in an interview.







A CTS-V at Cadillac House Photo by Ed Haase

Some positives: Brand revenue has increased the past two years, and Cadillac's average U.S. sales price in April was just above \$55,000, about \$5,000 higher than the luxury average and topping competitors such as BMW and Lexus. It earned the "Most Improved Super Loyalist" award earlier this year from IHS Markit for customers who buy three straight vehicles from the brand. Sales in ever-important China continue to rise, soaring 92.5 percent through the first four months of the year and running ahead of the sales pace in the U.S. Cadillac global sales are up 31.6 percent this year through April.

Cadillac needs to sell customers on the merits of the brand, product and dealership experience, de Nysschen

said. Customers will see a new face of Cadillac in the 925 U.S. showrooms. Last month, the brand launched Project Pinnacle, a controversial plan that changes the way dealers are paid, placing dealers into five tiers and rewarding them based on dedication to the brand and customer experience. The program will make available an additional \$800 million for Cadillac dealers in the U.S. over the next three years.

"It's not there for the taking," he said, "it's there for the earning."

And yet Cadillac faces challenges: Its sedan-heavy lineup in an era of booming SUV demand is weighing on U.S. sales, down 1.3 percent this year through April. Cadillac also has increasing competition from luxury brands such as Infiniti, whose U.S. sales rocketed up 26.1 percent through April, and from the Lincoln Motor Co., undergoing its own revival and seeing rising sales. And sales still fall well short of other German and Japanese brands who have the lead in luxury sales. Cadillac also does not plan to pursue growth in Europe until sometime next decade.

Michelle Krebs, executive analyst for Autotrader, said location isn't everything for a luxury automaker and Cadillac needs more SUVs. A new XT4 small crossover is due out next year, analysts say.

"It's about the product line and the brand strength," Krebs wrote in an email. "Cadillac must do well in New York City and Los Angeles — the two biggest, long-established luxury markets — as well as a handful of other major cities, like Chicago and the up-and-comers of Miami, Dallas (Lexus' headquarters) and Houston."





De Nysschen said U.S. sales will be flat for a time until it can launch new vehicles into showrooms. The luxury brand is pumping \$12 billion into eight new vehicles by the end of the decade. Cadillac says it's focused on quality business over quantity, disciplined incentives and higher average sales prices.

"Our aim is not to park a Cadillac in every driveway, but the right driveways," he said.

Cadillac executives say the move to New York is aiding the brand's continued rebirth.

"It's working very well," said Uwe Ellinghaus, a BMW veteran and now Cadillac's global chief marketing officer. "I can say that we were able to attract talent from the luxury automotive space as well as the luxury non-automotive space."

Cadillac moved just 23 people from Detroit to New York, some in key leadership roles. The rest have been new hires from industries such as aviation, hospitality, banking and fashion. About 75 percent of the staff has master's degrees or higher, and the team is young.

Now, 120 people work from the top two floors of the 330 Hudson building in Soho's Hudson Square neighborhood. Fellow tenants include Pearson Education, TED and the Financial Times. Cadillac's space is modern and elegant, and features artifacts from the brand's heritage.

The semi-open office environment devotes one floor to finance, public relations, global transformation, strategy research and analytics; the other houses marketing, advertising, global alignment, sales operations, dealer relations and product planning.

And on the main floor of 330 Hudson, Cadillac last year opened Cadillac House, a 12,000square-foot brand experience center. The space includes a public coffee shop, a retail store maintained by the Council of Fashion Designers of America and a rotating art gallery through Visionarie, an art and culture magazine. Cadillac features its new and historic vehicles in the space, which last month was used for a media event associated with the New York auto show.

The office space differs greatly from the Renaissance Center. Cadillac occupied one floor in the RenCen. Cadillac design, research and development, and engineering remain based in Warren, and GM has created a core Cadillac engineering team to focus on the luxury makes.

De Nysschen says his new team at Cadillac is making strides in achieving a new identity for the storied brand. In fact, the team came up with the idea for BOOK by Cadillac, a new \$1,500-a-month luxury vehicle subscription service that provides members on-demand access to Cadillac vehicles. It's being piloted in New York and will roll out to other areas.

The brand has had some successes in re-establishing itself, analysts say, but it has more to do.

"It ultimately comes down to the product, and we just haven't seen enough of the new product initiative to say it has been a success or not," Jeff Schuster, senior vice president of forecasting with LMC Automotive, said in an email. "However, Detroit is going through a major revival and has become quite hip and trendy. So what Cadillac was seeking may have been in its backyard."





DATA PLATES AND BUILD SHEETS – HOW AND WHEN YOUR CAR WAS BUILT PHOTOS AND STORY BY CHUCK PIEL CONTRIBUTIONS BY ALAN HAAS

My wife Debbie and I own a Marina Blue '67 DeVille Convertible, nicknamed "Big Blue". We've owned it almost seven years and have put 21,000 miles on it. We've driven it to two Grand Nationals, three AACA meets, countless CLC Regional shows and cruise-ins in MD, PA and VA. It's been in four Miss America parades in Atlantic City, and hundreds of trips to get coffee, eat out, or see the sunsets at our local winery. Big Blue is a big part of the family – so it only seemed fitting that we celebrate Big Blue's 50th "birthday" in April 2017.

We have the Protect-O-Plate for our car, which shows it was delivered to Eleseo S. Lucenie at Central Cadillac in Cleveland, OH on April 6, 1967. As the 50th anniversary approached, I was curious about the journey our car took through the manufacturing process all the way through to its delivery on that rainy Thursday in Cleveland. (Who wants to pick-up their beautiful new Cadillac convertible on a rainy day?).



The data plate on the cowl of Big Blue (pictured left) has a wealth of information- including a build date code. In the upper left of the data plate, is a 3 character code – for Big Blue it was "03E'' – that translated to the last week of March, 1967 – "03 = March and "E" is 5th week of the month.

I went ahead and contacted the GM Heritage Center and got a copy of the build sheet for Big Blue (pictured below). This is actually in the form of a one-page excerpt of a **Cars Built** report generated for Cadillac by the month.

CAD 4443	-		04/30/	/67		GEN	CARS BI	AR DIV	ATION	PAGE 11
ENGINE SERIAL NUMBER	E SGINE UNIT NUMBER	BODY NUMBER	OUTLET	ORDER NUMBER	TIRES	COLOR	TRIM	2475	KEY NUMBERS	Monte Service
7J228352 7J228353 7F228355 7B228355 7F228355 7F228356	228934 228329 228946 228942 228947	33291 32896 11177 35940 11219 33035	211419 811919 431119 362311 372119 222719	1039	CAAC CAA	1062 3062 28 1	311 351 368 360 353 351	4444444	104 0000	X2EYDK G J 2 X1EYDK FUQYJSG C L 1 2 X2EYDK FUQYJSG C L 1 2 X2EYDK FUQYJSG C L 1 2 X1EYDK FUQYJSG C L 1 2

To my surprise, the **Cars Built** report showed a build date of April 4, 1967 – Big Blue's *real* birthday. I was puzzled – why the difference of almost a week between the data plate code and the build date on the report? Also, the car was delivered only two days after it was built? That seemed fast, even though we were sure Big Blue was a custom order. How does all this come together?

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I reached out to my good friend Richard Sills who seems to have an almost infinite knowledge of Cadillac. Richard referred me to his fellow CLC National Past President, Alan Haas, who worked for Cadillac in that era. Alan solved the mystery by sending me the following narrative, quoted here:



The Fisher Fleetwood plant produced bodies for 94 percent of the 1.8M Cadillacs produced during the '60s. Completed bodies were transported to the Clark Ave plant in these specially designed rigs (seven bodies per load) that operated around the clock. Photos from Roy A. Schneider's "Cadillacs of the Sixties" "The body was built in the Fisher Fleetwood plant which was located at Fort Street and West End in Detroit. When completed the body was then transported by truck (seven per load as I recall) the 2 1/2 miles to the Cadillac Plant at 2860 Clark Avenue.

Cars were unloaded at the 2404 receiving dock on Scotten Avenue where they were carried by conveyor to the third floor of the Plating area of the Final Assembly building.

On the third floor each body was inspected by Fleetwood employees for quality and corrected as required. Upon completion a Cadillac employee would "buy off" on each car. At that point the body was owned by Cadillac.

Each body then was transferred to one of the nine body marshaling tracks (much like a railroad switching or "hump" yard). The tracks held several hundred cars.

The cars then were individually selected and received a "Broadcast Number" and were directed down a ramp to the second floor body wiring line.

Photos from Roy A. Schneider's
"Cadillacs of the Sixties"The "Broadcast Number" contains all the
specifications and options for each car and
was simultaneously broadcast to all areas throughout the plant. It would ultimately become the
last six digits of the VIN. Your "Build Sheet" is actually from a part of that system.

The end of the body wiring line was the body drop. Here the body was lowered to the first floor where it was mated to the chassis on the final assembly line. The final assembly line moved at nominally 50 cars per hour. Final Assembly was completed in a matter of a couple hours.

Completed cars were (at that time) driven from an exit area of the Clark Plant by F J Boutell employees to the Boutell car carrier yard where they were assembled into truckloads by dealers geographically. As you noted the trip to Cleveland is only a matter of a few hours.





There was a Protect-O-Plates machine at Cadillac, however, I believe dealerships also had one since the finished plate included the name of the purchaser. [Central Cadillac had one and created one with the owner's name. – CP]

The time between the body build and the broadcast could have been delayed for a number of reasons such as if we were not on overtime and not working Saturdays that could account for two days. A possible parts shortage or repair in the marshaling area, etc.

FYI, 1969 and 1970 Eldorado bodies were built at the Fisher Body plant in Euclid, Ohio (a suburb on the east side of Cleveland) and trucked to the Clark Plant in Detroit. Sales were so good that the Fleetwood plant did not have the capacity to build all the bodies needed. Sedan DeVilles were also being produced by Fisher Body and the assembled in the plant in Southgate, California."

Mystery solved. Big Blue's body was assembled at the Fisher Fleetwood Plant during the last week of March, 1967. It was mated with the chassis, fenders and hood at the Clark Street plant and was driven out on April 4th. It was immediately trucked by Boutell transport and probably arrived at Central Cadillac on April 5th. Mr. Lucenie picked-up his new beauty on April 6th. The rest is history!

While much of what you learn from the **Cars Built** report is reflected by the codes on the Data Plate, there are some additional details. For example, the build sheet shows the car had Uniroyal tires – confirmed by the original spare in the trunk.

Today, you hear a lot of talk about "this car is one of 98" and that kind of thing. I saw an ad in a national magazine by a well-known collector car dealer for a '67 DeVille Convertible with bucket seats – "1 of 6" built with buckets. REALLY? Unless you pore through the entire year's build sheets, there is no real way to know that. You can get a general, very rough sense for rarity of options



On display at the 2016 Washington Auto Show



For its 50th Birthday, Big Blue got new wheel bearings, brake shoes and an oil change.

by looking at how many of the 50 cars depicted on each page had a particular option. For example, of the 50 cars shown on my April 4th build sheet, not one had the seat warmer option. And only one had headrests!

I thank Alan Haas for his insight into the manufacturing steps and process. He personifies the experience and knowledge we are fortunate to have in the CLC.





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