

**THIS IMPOSING 1930 V-16 #4330 5-Door Imperial Sedan** owned by Chris and Barbara Cummings of Manassas, Va., was prominently displayed at Capitol Cadillac in Greenbelt, Md. Cause for the gathering was a celebration of V-12 and V-16 Cadillacs but many other fine Cadillacs attended, including a beautifully restored 1953 Eldorado. The Cummins' V-16 is one of 328 produced that year and would have been intended for chauffeur motoring.

PHOTOS BY DAN REED



**JIM AND RUTH SYNODINOS** of Towson, Md., displayed their 1933 V-12 #272 5-Door Coupe. 1933 was a bleak year, with Cadillac feeling the effects of The Great Depression—only 34 examples of this delightful style were produced. The 368 CID engine was rated at 135 HP @ 3,400 RPM.



**THIS 1939 SERIES 90 V-16 Sedan** belonging to Andy and Andrea Jacoby represents the penultimate year for the V-16. Eight Sedan styles were offered this year and built in 5- to 7-passenger configurations inclusive of two Imperial (Division Window) styles and one 5-Door Convertible Sedan.

# BIG CADS

**Theme of 'Celebrating V-12 and V-16 Cadillacs' attracts 91 cars to Potomac Region show**

**BY RICHARD SILLS**

**O**n Sunday, Oct. 16, the show-room of Capitol Cadillac in Greenbelt, Md., resembled an exclusive Cadillac salon of the '30s. Cadillac V-12 and V-16 motor-cars, in a wide variety of body styles and colors, were displayed in resplendent beauty. A gleaming black 2006 XLR was the viewer's sole reminder that World War II has come and gone and that the multi-cylinder giants are no longer Cadillac's latest offerings.

Using the special theme of "Celebrating V-12 and V-16 Cadillacs," the Potomac Region CLC Fall Show recorded its largest turnout ever. Ninety Cadillacs and one LaSalle came from as far away as Islip Terrace, N.Y., and Norfolk, Va., to participate. The Cadillacs included six V-16s and five V-12s. In this writer's experience, it is seldom that

even a Grand National Meet attracts so many of these limited-production cars.

Potomac Region Director Vince Taliano asked each owner of a V-12 or V-16 to prepare in advance a written summary of the background and history of his or her car. This information, along with a brief history of V-12 and V-16 Cadillacs, was included in a commemorative program distributed to the show's participants. Disc jockey Bill Lemon's repertoire of musical oldies completed the ambience.

In chronological order, the featured cars (as described by the owners) included:

## **1930 V-16 #4330**

### **5-PASSENGER IMPERIAL SEDAN**

Owned by Barbara and Chris Cummings of Manassas, Va. This is a largely original unrestored car in a remarkable state of



► **A 1931 V-16 452-A #4380**

**4-Passenger All-Weather Phaeton** owned by Charles B. Gillet of Baltimore. This body is one of 67 made that year and one of the last built by the original Fleetwood Co. in Pennsylvania. Historical Services revealed that the car was shipped in October 1931 to the Cunliffe Cadillac Co. in Pennsylvania. A substantial example of the coachbuilder's art.

preservation. It was sold new in Dallas, spent years in a collection in Oklahoma and was acquired by the Cummingses in July 2005.

**1930 V-16 #4161S "MADAME X"**

Owned by Sharon and Pete Sanders of McLean, Va. This "Madame X" model, named after a popular stage play of the era, is one of an exclusive, limited-production series of V-16 sedans. The subject of a 27-month restoration completed in 2001, this car was judged Best of Show at the 2004 Hildene Antique & Classic Car Show in Manchester, Vt.

**1931 V-12 #4702 ROADSTER**

Owned by Fran and Woody Rohrbach of Emmaus, Pa. Body No. 23 of 91, this car was delivered new to Don Lee Cadillac in San Francisco. It was first restored in the early '50s; its most recent restoration was completed in February 2005, resulting in numerous awards, including a CCCA First Senior Award in September 2005 with 100.0 pts.

**1931 V-12 #4780**

**ALL-WEATHER PHAETON**

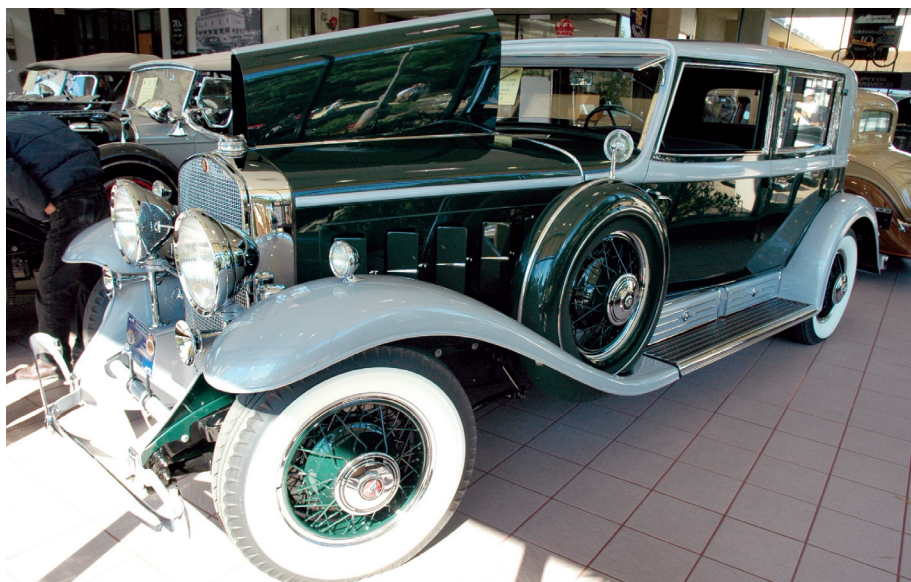
Owned by Robert S. Penenburgh of McLean, Va. This car had a frame-off, every-nut-and-bolt, no-expense-spared restoration this past year by John Sanders at Antique Auto in Rockford, Ill. It is finished in bright 1931 Cadillac colors of green and yellow with an ostrich skin interior—a sure way to beat the blues of the Great Depression!

**1931 V-16 #4235 CONVERTIBLE COUPE**

Owned by Brenda and Jim George, of Haymarket, Va. This Detroit-built Fleetwood car was sold new in Minneapolis with a base price of \$6,900. Its distinctive features include a curved body sill, two golf club doors and a



ANSEL OLESEN



DAN REED

**A 1930 V-16 4161S 5-PASSENGER SEDAN** owned by Pete and Sharon Sanders of McLean, Va. This model is a part of the delectable 4100 Series known as "Madame X." The 4175 was also available with a "Vee" windshield.



DAN REED

**A 1936 V-12 #8529 (138-inch wheelbase) 5-P Convertible Sedan** with divider window owned by Byron and Alida Alsop of Oak Hill, Va. The penultimate year for the V-12 engine (the '35 368 CID was rated at 150 HP @ 3,600 RPM), only 44 examples of this style were produced.



remote rumble seat door handle. It has received numerous awards, including Best of Show at the 2004 Central Pennsylvania Region CLC show at Brenner Cadillac in Harrisburg, Pa.

#### 1931 V-16 #4380

##### ALL-WEATHER PHAETON

Owned by Charles B. Gillet of Baltimore. This multi-award-winning car was restored over four years by Al Prueitt & Sons in Glen Rock, Pa. The build sheet provided by Cadillac Historical Services revealed that the car was shipped in October 1931 to the Cunliffe Cadillac Co., Baltimore, Md. So after nearly 75 years, it is "back home." The body is one of the last built by the original Fleetwood Co. in Pennsylvania.

#### 1933 V-12 #272 5-PASSENGER COUPE

Owned by Jim and Ruth Synodinos of Towson, Md. This two-tone, beige and brown Five-Passenger Coupe illustrated the styling modernization that took place in 1933. As described by Walter M.P. McCall in "80 Years of Cadillac LaSalle," 1933 started the trend "...toward streamlined, integrated body lines that flowed

smoothly from bumper to bumper." Vent windows, known as Fisher No-Draft Ventilation, made their first appearance on this year Cadillac.

#### 1936 V-12 #8529 5-PASSENGER CONVERTIBLE SEDAN

Owned by Alida and Byron Alsop of Oak Hill, Va. One of only 44 built, this four-door convertible sedan with roll-up glass divider received a complete body-off restoration completed by Classic Coachworks in Saskatoon, Canada, in 1988-'89. For a number of years, it was on display in the Murphy Auto Museum in Ventura, Calif.

#### 1938 V-16 #9033

##### 7-PASSENGER IMPERIAL SEDAN

Owned by Rita and George Boxley, of West River, Md. This is a third-generation du Pont family automobile purchased new by Lammot du Pont, as shown by its original Owner's Service Policy. The Boxleys love to drive this car, and used it to complete the 2003 CLC National Driving Tour in Hampton Roads, Va. It was featured in THE SELF-STARTER in January 2004.

#### 1939 V-16 SERIES 90

Owned by Andrea and Andy Jacoby of Huntingdon Valley, Pa. The Jacobys purchased this great car five years ago and thanks to the experience and assistance of other Valley Forge Region CLC members, Andy reports that it is running better than it has in 60 years.

The V-12s and V-16s were not the only unusual cars in attendance. Barton Mitchell's exquisitely restored Azure Blue 1953 Eldorado was one of only 532 produced that year. With an original base price of \$7,750, it cost almost twice as much as the Series 62 convertible. Richard Sisson displayed a 1970 Cadillac four-door convertible that he recently bought from the estate of longtime Club member Robert Webster, who owned the car since 1972. Richard's car may be the one pictured on page 388 of "80 Years of Cadillac LaSalle."

Fanciers of fine original unrestored cars had plenty to occupy their attention. Several notable cars that were largely original, but still in exquisite show condition, were Chris Cummings' 1930 V-16 limousine, Juan Aranda's 1947 Fleetwood 60 Special (winner of the Dealer's Choice Award), Paul Habicht's 1959 Sedan de Ville and Gerry Gordon's 1961 Sedan de Ville.

Before awards were presented, the Potomac Region unveiled its new logo, designed by CLC member and renowned automotive artist Dan Reed of Hamburg, Pa. The logo features a 1953 Eldorado against the background of the Capitol dome in Washington, D.C. The Capitol dome is a recognizable symbol of the area, and the 1953 Eldorado attracted worldwide attention in January of that year when newly-elected President Eisenhower used it for his inaugural parade.

In its sales catalog for 1931, the London (England) agent for General Motors, Lendrum & Hartman, had this to say about Cadillac's 16-cylinder models: "With the 16-cylinder model Cadillac has achieved at once the greatest sensation and the foremost engineering triumph of the season." Almost the same words could be used to describe the fall show sponsored by the Potomac Region CLC. The Club salutes all those who helped make it possible. ■

*Richard Sills is the immediate past president of the Cadillac-LaSalle Club.*

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