



Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle August 2024



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE BY DAN RUBY

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR
AUTOMOBILIA AUCTIONEER
SUMMER PICNIC HOST
DAN RUBY

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CENTRAL VIRGINIA REGION
LIAISON
NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST
CHUCK PIEL

TREASURER
BILL HILLIARD

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR
CHRISTOPHER WINTER

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR
FRANKLIN GAGE

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
SECRETARY
WEBSITE MANAGER
VINCE TALIANO

NATIONAL DIRECTOR
NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST
JACK MCCLOW

OTHER KEY POSITIONS:

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NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST
RITA BIAL-BOXLEY

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST
CHRIS CUMMINGS

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST
SUSAN DENCHFIELD

VALLEY FORGE REGION LIAISON
NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST
LYNN GARDNER

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST
LARRY GOOD

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST
TOM MCQUEEN

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA REGION
LIAISON
NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST
RICHARD SILLS

Fellow members,

The hot days of July are behind us. As we move into August, I hope we get back to some more normal temperatures! Several shows in our area were cancelled due to the extreme heatwave we experienced.

The next club activity for members is our annual picnic at my home on Saturday, August 3. If you plan to attend and haven't RSVP'ed yet, please contact me as soon as possible, so I order the correct amount of food. This year the event will be catered by Bayside Bull in Edgewater, MD. We will have a better selection this year for everyone.

If you're planning to attend the Cadillac Fall Festival in Hickory Corners, MI in September, now is the time to register for the event. [Visit their website](#) for more information. The current officers are discussing more events next year where members can drive their cars.

Please submit nominations for our Region election scheduled in November to Vince Taliano by the end of August. Self-nominations are acceptable.

If you're selling a prized Cadillac, LaSalle, parts and/or memorabilia, please talk to Vince about advertising in our newsletter and on our [website](#). He has had a lot of success in helping members sell things over the years. In this issue, you'll see that Stephen Clark's 1972 Eldorado Coupe has been marked SOLD based on last month's For Sale listing.

Please keep Jeff Gurski in your thoughts and prayers as he remains in a rehabilitation center, as well as Stephen Clark, Rick Menz and other members facing health challenges.

I hope to see many of you in the coming days and months ahead!

Dan Ruby



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IN MEMORIAM: REVEREND NICHOLAS "NICK" FERRANTINO BY THE FERRANTINO FAMILY AND VINCE TALIANO



Long-standing CLC Potomac Region member Nicholas "Nick" Ferrantino of Houston, TX passed away on May 14, 2024, at age 79. He was born in Brooklyn, NY to Philamena Rossi and Alfonso Ferrantino and grew up in a multi-generational complex with his parents, grandparents and extended family. Nick attended Aviation High School before joining the military.

He was passionate about his role as an Electronic Technician for Pan American Airways and as a Communications Technician at AT&T for 37 years. Always wanting to learn and do more for himself and those around him, he was ordained as a minister for the Universal Life Church at age

74. Reverend Nick will be remembered for his witty jokes and concern for others, often sending late-night emails to check in or provide some interesting tidbits of information and then signing off with 'Motoring on, Rev. Nick.' From his love for airplanes to working at the phone company, he developed relationships that lasted a lifetime.

In early 2004, Nick was searching for a Cadillac on eBay to replace the 1961 Series 62 convertible he had recently sold. While searching for Eldorado Seviles, he came across a group of four-door Seviles from the 1970s. One in particular caught his attention, a 1977 Seville listed as a former Hollywood star's car. The car was fully documented with its history dating back to the day it was sold until the present. Although Nick never owned a car with this kind of documented celebrity ownership, he decided to bid. As fate would have it, he won the auction and was the new owner of **Betty White's 1977 Seville** she had named "Parakeet." Four years later he donated the car to the AACA Museum in Hershey, PA. In 2010, the Potomac Region adopted the car. As a thank you, Nick joined the Region and was a member for the rest of his life.



In 2022, Nick contacted the Museum and the Potomac Region with an offer of sponsoring a 100th Birthday celebration for Betty White. When she died shortly before her milestone birthday, the event was changed to a celebration of her life ([view pictures](#)). Nick also donated a 1993 Cadillac Allanté Indianapolis 500 Pace Car with connections to Al Unser, Jr. to the AACA Museum.

In addition to classic cars, Nick had an affinity for white cats and believed they brought good luck and fortune. He rescued cats from Friends for Life, and before that cared for Great Danes.

Nick was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his brother, Francis Ferrantino.

Thanks for your friendship, Reverend Nick. Rest in Peace!



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JULY 21, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

BY VINCE TALIANO

PLACE: Restaurant 198, Burtonsville, MD

TIME: 11:00 am

PRESIDING: Vince Taliano, Secretary

ATTENDEES: Fourteen including three officers: Franklin Gage (Membership Director), Bill Hilliard (Treasurer), Vince Taliano (Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Website Manager), Gary Cameron, Jack & Cher Gallagher, Larry & Maia Good, Greg Huver, Sandy Kemper, Dan Mullane, Scott Patton, Harry Scott and Richard Sisson

DIRECTOR'S REMARKS: Vince Taliano thanked everyone for attending. He asked the members to keep Steve Clark, Jeff Gurski and Rick Menz in their thoughts and prayers, as they battle their respective health challenges. Sadly, he announced Reverend Nicholas "Nick" Ferrantino of Houston, TX recently passed away. Nick became a Potomac Region member after we adopted the Betty White 1977 Seville at the AACA Museum where he donated the car. In addition, he funded a celebration of her life in 2022 shortly after she passed away. A detailed In Memoriam will appear in the August newsletter.

SECRETARY'S REMARKS: The minutes from the previous meeting were not reviewed since they were published and distributed to all members in the July 2024 newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Hilliard reported on the financials since the last meeting. The region had total revenue of \$2,997.36 and total expenses of \$398.46 for the period, resulting in a net gain of \$2,598.90. The monthly revenue included a generous donation from Daniel Jobe as a thank you for our involvement with his warehouse sale.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Franklin Gage reported we now have 168 dues-paying family memberships for 2024. Welcome to our newest member, Ed Bradley, 1975 Eldorado Convertible, Lewes, DE. Ed attended the Grand National in Gettysburg, PA. Welcome back to Jack Miller, 1959 Series 62 Convertible, of Crownsville, MD, who was a member years ago.

ACTIVITIES REPORT: The following activities were discussed:

- **Past Events:**

- **32nd Annual Dealer Car Show and Automobilia Auction, Sun, Jun 23, [Sport Cadillac](#), Silver Spring, MD.** Despite two postponements due to weather and a 98-degree day, the show was a success, drawing approximately 35 cars. Thanks to Chuck Piel who led the efforts for the 1953 General Motors Reunion theme and everyone who volunteered and/or participated. Full coverage and numerous photos of the event will appear in the August newsletter.



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• **Upcoming Events:**

- **Potomac Region Summer Picnic, Sat, Aug 3, Dan & JoJo Ruby's, Owings, MD.** Please drive your Cadillac or LaSalle to the Summer Picnic at the Ruby home. The event will be catered by Bayside Bull and will include soft drinks, water, ice, serving tables, plates, cutlery, etc. If you have a favorite dessert or beverage you want to share with others, please feel free to bring it. RSVP required by Saturday, July 31.

• **Upcoming Events:**

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
Aug 3 Sat	1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Potomac Region Summer Picnic	Dan & JoJo Ruby's Owings, MD	Dan Ruby at 301-343-1463 or send email
Aug 10 Sat	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	50th Annual Metro Chapter Buick Club/Capitol City Rockets Oldsmobile Club All- GM Show Visit website	Eagle Ridge Middle School Ashburn, VA	Joe Padavano at 703-927-9196 or send email
Sep 21 Sat	8:00 am – 3:00 pm	48th Edgar Rohr Memorial Car Meet hosted by the AACA Bull Run Region Visit website	Manasseh Masonic Lodge 182 Manassas, VA	Gene Gilkey at 703-830-5313 or Randy Higgins at 703-853-2235
Sep 27-28 Fri-Sat		Cadillac Fall Festival: Featuring 1963-64 models and Pink Cadillacs Visit website	Gilmore Museum Hickory Corners, MI	Send email
Oct 2-6 Wed-Sun	Gates open daily at 7:00 am	Fall Carlisle Visit website	Fairgrounds Carlisle, PA	717-243-7855
Oct 8-11 Tue-Fri	Gates open daily at 7:00 am	AACA National Eastern Fall Meet Visit website	Giant Center and Show Grounds Hershey, PA	Kurt Froebel at send email
Oct 19 Sat	8:30 am – 3:30 pm	City of Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show Visit website	Rockville Civic Center Rockville, MD	240-314-5022

- [Visit website](#) for a full list of events.

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2025-26 term election will be held in November. If anyone is interested in running for one of the positions listed below or would like more information, please contact Vince Taliano.

- Regional Director
- Assistant Regional Director
- Treasurer
- Activities Director
- Membership Director
- Car Show Coordinator
- Secretary
- Website Manager
- Newsletter Editor

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 19 at 7:30 pm at the Silver Diner in Merrifield, VA.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.



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UPCOMING CAR SHOWS

BY SANDY KEMPER

In the coming weeks there are several long-standing car shows in which many Potomac Region members regularly participate. On Saturday, August 10, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, the **50th Annual All GM Show** will be held at the Eagle Ridge Middle School at 42901 Waxpool Rd., Ashburn, VA. This show features peer-judged awards to the "Top 25," including Best Cadillac. This is a rain or shine event

On Saturday, September 21, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, the **48th Edgar Rohr Memorial Car Meet** will be held at the Manassah Lodge 182 at 9810 Cockrell Rd., Manassas, VA. This location, new last year, is just 1/8th mile from Old Town Manassas. This show features dash plaques for participants, along with door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction and a Model T assembly demonstration among other activities for all attendees; that is: show registrants and visitors alike. Like the All-GM Show, the Edgar Rohr Meet is a rain or shine event.

The "Granddaddy" of area car shows in the classic car community is the **City of Rockville's Antique and Classic Car Show** that will be held on Saturday, October 19 from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm on the grounds of the historic Glenview Mansion at the Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Dr., Rockville, MD. This year will be Rockville's 60th car show.

The CLC-Potomac Region is one of the 32 regional car clubs that assist the City of Rockville in the production of this annual event. As such, an area on the show field is designated for our Cadillacs and LaSalles.

The Rockville Show is a pre-registration event with **NO DAY OF SHOW REGISTRATION**. All registrations received by September 11th will be listed in the show program. Registration will close at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, October 16 or earlier if the number of registrations reaches the capacity of the show field. Unlike the other shows above, Rockville has just established a weather policy: *If high winds, heavy rain, thunder, lightning and/or other dangerous conditions or combination of these conditions are forecasted, the show may be canceled. All show updates will be communicated on their [website](#) and [Facebook page](#). If the show is canceled due to inclement weather, the show will not be rescheduled. Refunds will be provided within four (4) weeks of the show date to the original payment method less any service fees. Registration packets and commemorative brass plaque will be mailed within six (6) weeks of the show date to the address on your registration form.*





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**32ND ANNUAL DEALER CAR SHOW AND AUTOMOBILIA AUCTION
BY VINCE TALIANO
PHOTOS BY [GARY CAMERON](#) AND LYNN GARDNER**



Facing the showroom entrance was Barry & Babs Leese's 1937 LaSalle Series 50 Convertible Coupe (third-generation Potomac Region member owners), Don Hibbard's 1985 Eldorado Biarritz, Bill Harrison's 1967 Eldorado and Mike Kerwin's 1976 Sedan Deville

Our 32nd Annual Dealer Car Show and Automobilia Auction at [Sport Cadillac](#) in Silver Spring, MD was held on Sunday, June 23, after two postponements due to rainy weather. As was the case with many days in June this year, the temperature was excessive, topping out at 98 degrees. Trying to minimize the impact of the heat, the show's start time was moved up to 8:00 am and the awards ceremony began at 1:30 pm, instead of the customary 3:00 pm. Again, many thanks to Gibbs Fogarty, Sport Cadillac dealer principal, and his staff, particularly Frank Taylor, for supporting our show both financially and by providing use of their beautiful and spacious dealership.

In spite of the heat, the attendance for the show featuring a special display of 1953 General Motors Motorama reunion cars resulted in approximately 35 cars representing model years 1939 to 2009. That's comparable to our three prior shows at [Sport Cadillac](#) despite the 'Weather Alert' day.



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Maia & Larry Good's 1953 Eldorado



Mark Brodsky's 1953 Eldorado



Registering Scott Wardinski's 1959 Coupe Deville



Debbie & Chuck Piel's 1941 Series 62 Convertible Coupe



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Attendees admiring Maurice Jones' 1976 Fleetwood Brougham d'Elegance

Thanks to the volunteers, including Gary Cameron, Lynn Gardner, Franklin Gage, Constantin Jiga, Sandy Kemper, Chuck & Debbie Piel, Larry & Maia Good, Dan Ruby, Christopher Winter, Vince Taliano and others, who started arriving on-site by 7:00 am to prepare for the attendees. Complimentary coffee and donuts were served to the early arrivals. Unfortunately, Mackie's Southern Barbeque of Gaithersburg, MD was not able to be onsite to serve lunch.



The rescheduled date prevented DJ Mike Veilleux of Music Madness from being able to attend, so a PA system was borrowed from the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America's Free State Region and used to play the National Anthem and make announcements. At 11:00 am, the automobilia auction (pictured left) was conducted by Dan Ruby and Vince Taliano. Thanks to donations received, about \$400 was raised by the auction. The variety of items gave bidders plenty of choices and resulted in many sales.

The 1953 General Motors Motorama reunion theme resulted in two 1953 Eldorados (pictured on the previous page) and Richard Sisson's 1953 Buick Skylark. Other 1953 GM cars on site were Mark E. Brodsky's 1953 Oldsmobile Super 88 Two-Door Sedan, John & Melissa Hess' 1953 Pontiac Chieftain Four-Door Sedan and Donald Hibbard 1953 Pontiac Sedan Delivery. Thanks for the non-Cadillac owners who participated in the reunion.



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Richard Sisson's 1953 Buick Skylark, John & Melissa Hess' 1953 Pontiac Chieftain Four-Door Sedan and Don Hibbard's 1953 Pontiac Sedan Delivery



Terry Provost's 1970 Deville Convertible, Gary Cameron's 1992 Eldorado and Alyson & Terry Bradford's 1978 Coupe Deville



Scott Patton's 1974 Sedan Deville, Sandy Kemper's 1959 Coupe Deville and Bill Harrison's 1967 Eldorado



Stephen Clark's 1972 Eldorado, Steve Clay's 1949 Series 62 Club Coupe and Mike Kerwin's 1976 Sedan Deville



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As mentioned, the awards ceremony began 90 minutes earlier than in the past. Thanks to the judges and tabulators for speeding up the work. Emceed by Chuck Piel (pictured right), the awards were announced, with the winners coming forward to receive their prize and have their photo taken.

The Best of Show and other special awards were presented last and did not disappoint. Best of Show – Early (1970 or earlier) went to Bill Harrison’s 1967 Eldorado of Fulton, MD and Best



of Show – Late (1971 or later) was awarded to Gary Cameron’s 1992 Eldorado of Silver Spring, MD. For this show, all the 1953 GM Motorama Reunion car owners received special certificates of appreciation, whereas the non-Cadillac cars were eligible for a first and second place award in a special class. First place was awarded to John & Melissa Hess’ 1953 Pontiac Chieftain Four-Door Sedan of York, PA and second place went to Don Hibbard’s 1953 Pontiac Sedan Delivery of Brinklow, MD.



Dan Ruby (left center) selected Barry & Babs Leese’s 1937 LaSalle Series 50 Convertible Coupe of Brookeville, MD for the Henry Ruby Memorial Award, remembering the times he spent in the car in the 1970s when it was owned by CLC Potomac Region Charter Member Ellwood Brown. Debbie Piel presented the Ladies’ Choice Award to Maia & Larry Good’s 1953 Eldorado of Washington Grove, MD. It was the first time most attendees saw the car in person after reading many stories about its restoration. When it came time to announce the Dealer’s Choice Award, Chuck Piel filled in for Gibbs Fogarty, who had to leave early. The winner was Scott Wardinski’s 1959 Coupe Deville of Clifton, VA (pictured bottom left). The last award was the Longest Distance Driven, presented to John & Melissa Hess for their 1953 Pontiac Chieftain Four-Door sedan from York, PA. Thanks to [Sport Cadillac](https://www.sportcadillac.com) and Rick Menz for sponsoring the awards.





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Left to Right: Mark E. Brodsky, Don Hibbard and Terry Bradford with Dan Ruby



Left to Right: Josh Pinho, Mary Anne Beauchamp and Fred Kott with Dan Ruby



Left to Right: Bill Harrison, Gary Cameron and John Hess with Dan Ruby



Left to Right: Richard Sisson, Chuck Piel and Susan & Randy Denchfield with Dan Ruby
and Maia & Larry Good and Debbie Piel



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Below is the full list of winners.

CLASS	1st PLACE WINNER	2nd PLACE WINNER
CLASS A: 1903-1942 CADILLAC / LASALLE	Barry & Babs Leese 1937 LaSalle Series 50 Convertible Coupe Brookeville, MD	Mark E. Brodsky 1939 LaSalle Convertible Coupe Chevy Chase, MD
CLASS B: 1946-1964 CADILLAC	Randy & Susan Denchfield 1949 Series 62 Convertible Chevy Chase, MD	Scott Wardinski 1959 Coupe Deville Clifton, VA
CLASS C: 1965-1976 CADILLAC	Mike Kerwin 1976 Sedan Deville Odenton, MD	Maurice Jones 1976 Fleetwood Brougham d'Elegance Washington, DC
CLASS D: 1977-1985 CADILLAC	Terry & Alyson Bradford 1978 Coupe Deville Windsor Mill, MD	Don Hibbard 1985 Eldorado Biarritz Brinklow, MD
CLASS E: 1986-1999 CADILLAC	Josh Pinho 1993 Allanté Arlington, VA	Fred Kott 1992 Brougham Ellicott City, MD
CLASS F: 2000-PRESENT CADILLAC	Mary Anne Beauchamp 2002 Eldorado Touring Coupe Adelphi, MD	Terrence Jones 2009 DTS Suitland, MD
CLASS H: 1953 GM CARS (NON- CADILLAC)	John & Melissa Hess 1953 Pontiac Chieftain Four-Door Sedan York, PA	Don Hibbard 1953 Pontiac Sedan Delivery Brinklow, MD
CLASS	WINNER	
LADIES' CHOICE AWARD	Larry & Maia Good 1953 Eldorado Washington Grove, MD	
HENRY RUBY MEMORIAL AWARD	Barry & Babs Leese 1937 LaSalle Series 50 Convertible Coupe Brookeville, MD	
DEALER'S CHOICE AWARD	Scott Wardinski 1959 Coupe Deville Clifton, VA	
BEST OF SHOW - EARLY (1970 OR EARLIER)	Bill Harrison 1967 Eldorado Fulton, MD	
BEST OF SHOW - LATE (1971 OR LATER)	Gary Cameron 1992 Eldorado Silver Spring, MD	
LONG DISTANCE AWARD	John & Melissa Hess 1953 Pontiac Chieftain Four-Door Sedan York, PA	

Thanks again to Gibbs Fogarty, Frank Taylor and the rest of the [Sport Cadillac](#) team, and the attendees and volunteers for making it a great show. [Enjoy more pictures of the show!](#)



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DRIVING MISS BETTY BY NICK FERRANTINO ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2010

This story will chronicle the history of a certain 1977 Cadillac Seville from the month it rolled off the production line until the day it rolled on to a display at the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) Museum in Hershey, PA. It is more than just my personal connection with this car. I hope it will interest you to follow a similar road with a classic car from your own collection and encourage each of you to submit your favorite classic car's story to the club's newsletter like I am doing.

Being Seville

It was the 1970s in America. There was an oil embargo. American car makers were in crisis (sound familiar?) as European and Japanese cars were flooding the marketplace and our roads. GM's Cadillac Division was reeling from the Mercedes onslaught of mid-sized luxury sedans; what were they to do? The answer came with the change of each of GM's divisions from being separate from each other to a blend, both of parts and design, in hopes of cutting costs and competing in the world marketplace. By 1974, a design team at Cadillac looked at the possibility of putting a mid-size luxury sedan together to outshine the foreign competition like Mercedes. They took the frame and trunk pan from the four-door Chevy Nova and mated it with the dependable Oldsmobile 350 C.I. V-8, to which they added a single port fuel injection system and removed the carburetor. They also added hefty front disc brakes with rear drums in 1976. Then in 1977 the braking system was replaced with a four-wheel disc brake system, a first for a family sedan. Beefy Cadillac Fleetwood front and rear shocks were also added with a load level ride feature. A most unique fully Cadillac body that was called by many the "**notch-back Cadillac**," was designed. This new Cadillac's name was selected and it was a name that had been used before, one that had been mated with an earlier Cadillac, the Eldorado. **That name was Seville but this time the Seville name would stand alone without Eldorado in front of it.** The production of this notch-back Cadillac started in mid-1975 with the introduction of the 1976 Cadillac Seville, with a cost to the buyer that was greater than a Cadillac Fleetwood that same year. The last year for this notch-back design was 1979. In 1980, the body, engine, and many other features were changed completely into a design called the "**bustle-back**," which was a four-door "E" body like the two door Eldorado of the same year. The name Seville survived until the 1990s when most Cadillac names were reduced to initials like STS, XLR, CTS, etc.



**Nick Ferrantino's 1977 Seville,
the "Betty White Cadillac"**



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Betty White's fully equipped 1977 Cadillac Seville rolled off the production line in January 1977; the birth month of its soon to be first owner. It was shipped to a Cadillac dealership in sunny Los Angeles, CA, sitting there on the lot until its light Green Seamist paint with white vinyl roof and white leather interior caught the eye of a certain Hollywood star's husband, who was a star in his own right.

Nick with the Seville and pictures of Allen Ludden & Betty White

Allen Ludden, the emcee of many TV game shows like ***Password***, bought the Seville. He surprised his famous Emmy Award-winning wife, Betty White, with the car, which had just 14.3 miles on the odometer when they took it for its first drive. On the dash, Allen had the dealer attach a name tag with a Cadillac logo and Betty's name embossed on it. Sadly, Mr. Ludden passed away in 1981, but Betty kept the car for the next 25 years. In 1984, the car was used as a prop for her character on the TV show ***Mama's Family*** in the two-part episode called "**Mama Runs for Mayor.**" On the show, Betty played Ellen Harper, the daughter of Vicki Lawrence's character Mama Thelma Harper. She raced up Thelma's driveway jamming on the brakes to jump out and try to stop her mama from declaring herself a write-in candidate for mayor of Raytown, USA. Some of you may remember seeing the show when it first aired or in re-runs (the show airs on the cable network CMT currently).

In 2002, Betty gave her then 25-year-old 1977 Seville that she called "**Parakeet**" to the Los Angeles Humane Society to be auctioned. It had just 16,342 miles on the odometer. When the bidding was over, the winner, Jeffery Stork, drove it to his garage, where he kept it until 2004.



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EBay Way

It was early 2004 when I turned my computer on, like I had done many times before, to scan emails and then log onto my eBay account to see what was out there that would interest me. I had purchased at least six other classic Cadillacs during the past 10 years from eBay. I was using a filter of "Eldorado" in the search line as it was the only Cadillac I most desired to own and drive. I had just sold my 1961 Series 62 convertible so I had some cash on hand to deal with the next Cadillac that caught my eye. The selections that day were few, so I expanded my search to "Eldorado Seville" in hope of seeing what two-door hardtops might be available. To my surprise a group of four-door Sevilles showed up on the list. They were not Eldorado Sevilles but just Sevilles. What caught my eye and attention almost instantly was a 1977 Seville that was listed as a former Hollywood star's car. Normally cars like this are out of my price range, but I thought why not look at this listing. What I found was a car that was fully documented back to the day it was sold off the lot until the present. The second owner wanted to sell it and had noted there was a low reserve price. I had never owned a car with this kind of historical significance, but rather cars with histories of being classics. I waited, marking off the time when the bidding would come to an end. Learning from past auctions that if you bid too early you can get outbid, I held off bidding with my highest offer until there were just seconds before the auction ended. To my delight, the bidding ended, and I was the new owner of this 1977 Cadillac Seville with its Hollywood connection.

Then I started looking for auto transport haulers that could bring that California-classic Cadillac to the Houston, TX area where I live. Knowing I wanted it transported on the upper rack of a covered transport if it was a doubled-tiered truck to avoid any stains or damage on this famous Hollywood star car, I contacted vehicle haulers. It took fourteen days to complete the sale and transport of the Seville, which I named "Betty" to honor its first owner, to my garage.

In the first few months of ownership, I was able to drive "Betty" to Dallas, TX for a car show, then to Tulsa, OK to show my dad and brother who live there. Since buying the car, I put about 1,200 miles on it, having a blast showing her to as many folks as I could. "Betty" was the only non-Italian car to be displayed at Houston's yearly "Festa Italia" car show in October 2004, parked next to Ferraris, Maseratis, Lamborghinis and 1987-93 Cadillac Allantés with their Italian connection to the design firm of Pininfarina of Turin, Italy.

Over the years, I changed the rear load level shock absorbers with NOS ones I found after really searching for them, as they no longer make that part for that car. All owners of antique classic cars know how that is. Sometimes you have to refurbish or manufacture the part you need when there are no new or used spares lying around. "Betty" had a few issues with age like the heater hose that had been looped so the heater core under the dash would not develop any leaks, as older cars often do. I could see signs that there was a price to pay for such low mileage. A battery cutoff was installed on a terminal of the battery since the clock on the car would drain all the battery power if it sat for more than a month, which I found out the hard way.



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It took me until 2008, the year I retired from AT&T, to start to think what I should do with this car and who would care for it if I could not. While getting all my legal papers in order (like my will), I noticed that the AACA was more than a classic car club. They also have a Museum which was separate and had its own memberships available to anyone wishing to enjoy automotive history. So, I joined the AACA Museum as a life member. I recommend all classic car club members think about joining the Museum as well. You should plan a trip to Hershey, PA to visit the 22-acre site that is loaded with historic antique automobiles and memorabilia. It is definitely worth a visit. Visit www.aacamuseum.org for more info.

"Bye Bye Betty, Hello World"

One day it struck me that only I was looking at "Betty" every day. I felt more people on a daily basis should get to view this part of automobile history with its Hollywood connection. I contacted the Museum and asked if they would be interested in "Betty." They sent me information on their legacy program, which stated that I could leave "Betty" to them in my will as well as any other car that I might want the world to view in a public setting. I was updating my will anyway, so I added that the 1977 Seville was to be given to the AACA Museum on my passing. Afterwards, I thought to myself that it was greedy of me, if not foolish, not to see this car on a proper public display before I died. As a result, I contacted the curator of the AACA Museum and asked what could be done to see that they get "Betty" while I was still alive.



"Betty" on her way to Hershey, PA

The curator was very helpful and said I needed to get "Betty" professionally appraised first. After that was done, the curator stated they would be willing to keep this donated 1977 Cadillac Seville for at least two years or longer in the Museum's permanent collection. I mention this because if you want to do the same, there are taxes and the IRS to think about. I do not know how the IRS rules may change in the future, but the current rule is if you donate a car to any group or charity and they sell it, you can only deduct your cost value (what you paid for the car) or the sale value when sold, not an appraised value, but with an exception. That exception being if the group or charity keeps the car for 24 months, two years or more, like the AACA Museum said they would, then the donor can declare full appraised value as a deduction in the year you donate it. I was even more pleased when I was told that the Museum would handle the transportation cost of the car to the Museum and that I was to expect a truck soon to pick it up.



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I contacted Betty White when I first got the car to tell her it would be well-cared for, and wrote her promising I would see that her 1977 Seville would be viewed by as many people as possible. That promise was fulfilled by my donation to the AACA Museum. I also gave the Museum a large collection of Allen Ludden & Betty White memorabilia to go with the car that had been amassed over the years of ownership, like a few personal ones I got from Betty White in which she talks about her car, "Parakeet." I also sent to the AACA Museum photos of Allen & Betty, as well as group photos of other Hollywood stars who Betty had acted with over the years. Now that she recently hosted "**Saturday Night Live**" at the age of 88, there are more pictures that can be added.



I was able to visit Hershey, PA and the AACA Museum a few months ago and got to see the great display the AACA Museum has set up for "Betty" in the lobby. I am hopeful that Betty White herself will find the time in her very busy life to do likewise. Will you be the lucky one to see them together again when you visit the AACA Museum? I can hear it now, "I'm ready for my close-up, Mr. DeMille", as cameras snap away at them both.

[Editor's note: The story of Betty White and her "Parakeet" is receiving a lot of national press. On April 15th, The New York Times ran a story on the car. Just a couple of weeks ago, the AACA Museum received a photo request from More Magazine for the Betty White Cadillac. They are planning to cover it in their September Issue.]

**"Betty" is one of the top attractions
at the AACA Museum
Photo by Sandy Kemper**



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**THANKS FOR YOUR CLC SERVICE
BY VINCE TALIANO**

1993 Cadillac & LaSalle Club Grand National



CLC member Jeff Hansen of Newark, DE has decided to step down as a judging tabulator after the 2024 CLC Grand National in Gettysburg, PA. His commitment to being a tabulator started in 1993 when he served as the Tabulation Chairman for the Grand National held in Lancaster, PA (pictured above), using a custom computer program he developed and maintained over the years to manage the registration process. [Watch a video](#) of that event on the Potomac Region's YouTube channel where you can see Jeff and other volunteers in action plus a lot of the beautiful cars that were on display in Lancaster.

Thanks for 30+ years of judging tabulation, Jeff!



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LORRAINE MOTEL CADILLAC BY BOB BAER

On a recent road trip to the National DeSoto Club's Annual Convention in New Orleans, we stopped at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, which has a bit of Cadillac history. Today, there are two classic cars on display, including a 1968 Deville Convertible, plus a placard describing the events of a fateful night that year.

"Here on April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood on a balcony in front of Room 306, discussing that evening's sanitation strike meeting with aides. King requested his favorite spiritual, "Precious Lord," be played that night. Those were some of the last words King would speak. At 6:01 pm, a bullet streaked across Mulberry Street. Official investigations concluded that the bullet that felled King was fired from a window in the boarding house behind you. King was rushed to St. Joseph Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 7:10 pm.



As they learned about Dr. King's death, black Memphians grieved together and honored the slain leader at the Lorraine Motel."

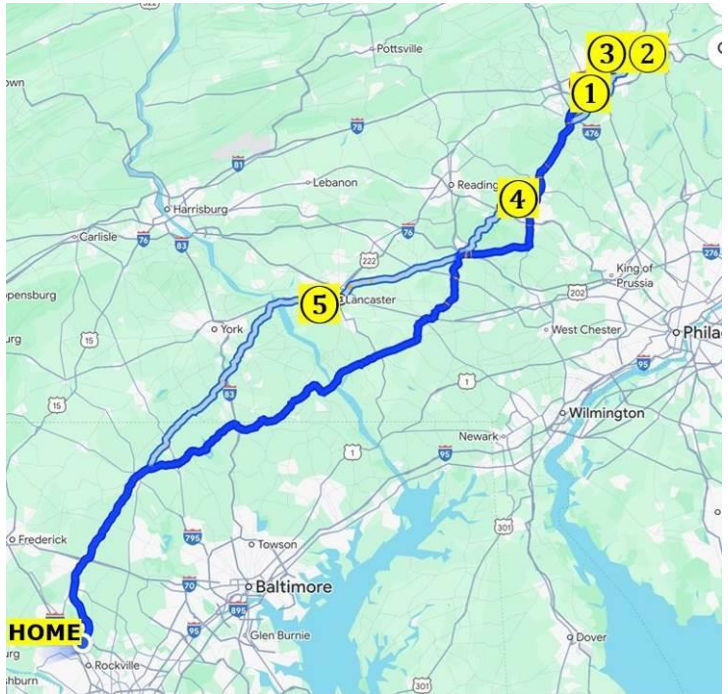


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PENNSYLVANIA ROAD TRIP BY LARRY GOOD

After a repair fiasco last year, my '47 Series 61 sedan (6109) finally got its reverse back again this summer. I don't need a support crew anymore to push me backward. So, Maia and I decided to buy a new set of Diamond Back tires and take a Pennsylvania road trip to visit people of the past. To qualify for a place on the itinerary, the people had to know us for at least a half century. Editor Vince asked for a trip report in the end, but if travelogues and family photos make you yawn or worse, press "PgDn" until you find a better article than this. No hard feelings.



In order of stops, here goes:

1. EMMAUS: Sorry, but the very first event is already an exception to the rule. We visited a new Maia, somebody we had NOT met for a half century. The introduction was overdue.

In 1969-70, this new friend's parents were at the same Army post in Germany as me and my girlfriend Maia. The wife was expecting, and when the baby was born a girl, the parents named her Maia because they liked the name so much. However, by then we had already been discharged from the service and never met her. All her life, the young Maia told people how she was named after a South American woman whom she had never met. Now she finally did, and we took her for a ride around Emmaus in the Cadillac.



**1968 in Germany
Larry & his girlfriend Maia**



**2024 in Pennsylvania
Maia, Maia, Larry and the '47**



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2. BETHLEHEM-PART I: Harold had the fortune, for better or worse, of having been stationed together with me everywhere in the world after basic training for the rest of our four-year Army hitch. He rode in my '47 in California years before I'd ever heard of a Maia.

Everybody knows about California's strict emissions laws. It wasn't always like that. Back in 1965 when I bought the Series 61 in Monterey, it badly needed rings. It burned so much oil that goosing the gas at the bottom of a hill backfilled the whole valley with smoke. The mirrors showed nothing but a gray screen. My car is the "only" reason for those smog laws.

One weekend in 1966, Harold, Mo, Carl and I piled in the Caddy and drove 125 miles up to San Francisco to have some fun. Upon arrival I had to add one whole gallon of oil to the crankcase. To show the car the sights of San Francisco, we drove the famous Lombard St., a steep, winding, one-way landmark. You can only go down. I knew Harold was the nervous type, so just for kicks I shifted into reverse at the bottom and started back up the hill. Exactly as expected, Harold threw a fit and tried to jump out of the car.



**Maia, Larry, Sara and Harold
On the Outside, 2024**

A year later we got stationed at Ft. Meade, MD for security school. Four of us commuted between the barracks and NSA in the '47. I scraped ice and snow off the

windshield while the other three sat inside and complained about the cold. One spring weekend Harold and I decided to visit my family in Pennsylvania. The hood of the Cadillac was tied down with a heavy rope because coming east from Texas it had flown up and mangled itself worse than Vince Taliano's '65 Sedan Deville (that's a story for another time), and that right after a new paint job! So, in Pennsylvania that weekend, a state trooper didn't like the looks of the rope and pulled us over. He found out over the radio that we had forgotten to sign out. Being AWOL got us two weeks of digging ditches. That life didn't fit my personality.



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3. BETHLEHEM-PART II: Years later when I went back to school for engineering in Bethlehem, our family finances were two levels below the local church mice. Andy & Martha were great friends in those tough times, but I can't think of any connection to Cadillacs, so this paragraph will end here. PS: Martha and I played four-handed piano during the visit.

4. DOUGLASSVILLE: Also, for lack of Cadillac thoughts or photos, this paragraph is short. Dick & Lisa have been married 56 years, two years longer than Maia and me, but they're two years younger. Go figure! Dick is revamping my 1948 Lionel ZW transformer, a topic for another publication. PS: Lisa and I played four-handed piano during the visit.

5. LANCASTER: We closed out the four-day road trip with Janice & Kris. Janice has been my cousin ever since she was born. Christopher Winter will appreciate the fact that they restored a house in the historic district that is a century older than my '47! That could be why they have no Cadillacs.



Under the Streetlight: Motel View



1962



2024

Our trip did NOT take us to the western part of the state, the site of the recent assassination attempt. It's eerie knowing that at age 20 I had a job washing cars in Bethel Park, PA, where the shooter was from, and at age 22, I bought my third 1947 Cadillac in Butler, PA, where the shooter shot.

That's the whole story of my life, seen through the headlights of a '47 Cadillac.



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MONTGOMERY, NY GREETSS THE GREAT RACE 2024 BY GREGG D. MERKSAMER

Here are photos capturing some of the Cadillacs that made The Great Race 2024's Thursday, June 27 lunch stop in Montgomery, NY. As more than 100 teams participated, it was intriguing how the first arrivals were already heading off to the overnight stop in Providence, RI before the last group of cars arrived! It also reflects positively on Montgomery as this was the town's second hosting of The Great Race lunch stop after 2022.



Team Grube & Howard, 1949 Series 62 Sedan. Driver is Dennis Grube of El Paso, IL; navigator is Brandon Howard of Fulton, MO



Maine Classic Car Museum Team, 1961 Sedan de Ville. Driver is Tim Stentiford of Arundel, ME; young co-navigators ("X-Cup Powered by Coker Tire") are Cotton Schlaver and Max Flynn, both also from Arundel, ME



Team Megansett, 1962 Series 62 Convertible. Driver is Brad Baldwin of North Falmouth, MA; navigator (rookie) is Bruce Eldridge of Kingston, NH



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CADDIE CLASSIFIEDS

Cars For Sale



1954 Cadillac Coupe Deville – 77k miles – Authentic restoration completed – Numbers matching to frame – Body stripped down to bare metal and painted the original colors of 16 Apollo Gold with black top – Painted base coat / clear coat in 2012 and still looks great – All exterior stainless was buffed and the rear bumper and hood goddess ornament were re-chromed – Engine was rebuilt and detailed in 2017 as well as the Hydramatic transmission – Runs great – NOS fuel pump and rebuilt water pump installed – Radiator was pressure tested and painted – New front end wiring harness was installed in 2020 – Starter and generator rebuilt – Recently installed new period correct battery – Interior was redone in vinyl and original cloth material purchased at SMS interiors – Reupholstered in trim code 67, light green Crest cloth with dark green vinyl not leather – [See pictures and more details](#) – **Reduced to \$41,000 obo** – For more info, contact Gary DellaVecchio at 203-870-5248 or [send email](#) – Car is located in Oxford, CT



1972 Cadillac Eldorado Coupe – Original Oregon car w/only 56k miles – First owner pampered it for 49 years – Very popular the last 10 years at local car shows in Baltimore area – Cotillion white exterior original paint w/immaculate mandate black cloth upholstery and original black vinyl roof – Hired out in 2023 for event displays – Powerful 500 CU V-8 engine – Battery, alternator and ignition coils replaced – Drives smooth on premium fuel – Won three awards so far in 2024 – Looking for its new caretaker – Must sell due to health reasons - **\$20,000 obo** – For more info, contact Stephen Clark at 410-285-2072 or [send email](#) – Car is located in Baltimore, MD



1997 Cadillac Seville STS – 26,583 miles – Only two owners – Pristine original condition – Original window sticker, owner's manuals and key tags – 4.6 Liter V8 engine – AM/FM stereo radio with cassette player and 12 compact disc player in trunk – Four Bose amplified speakers – Wheels chrome over cast aluminum – Heated front seats – Recently replaced serpentine belt, belt tensioner assembly, alternator and seat back link – [See pictures](#) – **Reduced to \$12,000** – For more info, contact Mary Cicciu at 508-250-3781 or [send email](#) – Car is located in Cotuit, MA

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