



The Belltown Bulletin



Belltown Antique Car Club - P.O. Box 211, East Hampton, CT 06424

November, 2023

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at Karl Helming's in Portland

- Timely Topics:
- Protecting Club officers from liability
 - Decision on the Featured Marque for our August, 2024 Meet
 - Details about the upcoming Holiday Party
 - Election of 2024 Club officers

FUEL FOR THOUGHT

Words to remember this holiday season:

"The three errors of diet are eating too little, eating too much, and eating the wrong things. Moderation in food, however, takes the edge off of all three errors."

- Henry Ford, circa 1928

Each month, **Ford Times**, the company-produced magazine for Ford owners and enthusiasts, included favorite recipes from selected restaurants from around the U.S. Periodically these recipes were collected and published in a cookbook entitled **Ford Treasury of Favorite Recipes from Famous Eating Places**, later editions renamed **The Ford Times Cookbook**. These cookbooks were meant to serve as "a traveler's guide to good eating at home and on the road." **Ford Times** was published until January, 1993.

CLUB NOTES

Our tenth business meeting of 2023 was held on October 7 at Karl Helming's garage. Treasurer *Cliff Baker* was absent and *Peter Christianson* gave a brief treasurer's report on Cliff's behalf. Peter also reported on the board of directors meeting held on September 28 [all seven directors were present at that meeting].

Board Meeting

Peter stated that BACC's by-laws require a review of the Club's books by two members be conducted annually and reported to the membership at the January meeting. This has not been done in quite some time. *Bill Nitschke* and *Phil Schuster* volunteered to do it and will make arrangements with Cliff. Peter also noted that there are a couple of references in the by-laws that it was agreed should be made gender-neutral and this will be done in the near future.

The board discussed purchasing the 14' trailer formerly owned by the AACA-CCR club to use as a replacement for the old stationary storage trailer located on the Reardon property. After considering the costs to purchase, register and maintain the new trailer and the advantages of having such a trailer to take our equipment to our event venues, the board recommended approval of the purchase from *Ray Lichota*, who is the current owner.

The board reviewed the current situation with regard to publication costs versus the income generated by member dues, including the higher dues charged to those who want a paper newsletter. The board recommended that there be no increase in dues for 2024.

Those on the board who are up for election at the November meeting (the Annual Meeting) all stated that they were willing to stay in their positions (none are term-limited this cycle) except for *Dan David*, who said he is stepping aside to give an opportunity for another member to serve.

New Business

Members approved the board recommendation to purchase the AACA-CCR trailer for \$2,600 plus an allocation of up to \$500 for needed repairs. *Karl Helming* volunteered to maintain the trailer and store it on his property.

Continued on p. 2

CLUB NOTES (continued from p. 1)

There was a discussion at Hershey about the necessity for the officers of a 501 (c)3 non-profit such as BACC to be bonded to shield them from any litigation against the Club. For example, ACCA regional club officers are so protected under AACA’s umbrella insurance policy. *Cliff Baker* is aware of this recommendation and will look into it. This would be in addition to our current insurance coverage and would protect all board members from liability, by name.

Regarding the election of officers at the November meeting, the willingness of the current officers to remain in place for another year notwithstanding, anyone who is interested in running for office can still do so up until the time of the election. So far only *Polly Beckwith* has declared an interest in the open seat on the board.

We need to decide on a Featured Marque for next year’s Vintage Motorcar Meet at the November meeting. There was a proposal to also select one for the 2025 event as well. Suggestions have so far included Hudson, Hudson + Nash (the predecessors of AMC), Ford Mustang (2024 marks 60 years since the debut of the Mustang) and Cars Made in Connecticut (Columbia, Corbin, Locomobile, Trumbull et al). Concerns are that we can attract enough cars to the class or, conversely, that we are overwhelmed. If Hudsons and/or Nashes are thought to be too scarce we might consider Rambler, which was a brand that spanned 1950 to 1969 and was used by Nash, then Hudson and Nash, and finally, by AMC. As for the Connecticut Cars suggestion, we ought to discuss this with Klingberg since they have featured them in their previous shows. If their event is on hiatus for another year it might be an opportune time for us to showcase such cars. Moreover, Klingberg might help us get in touch with the owners. Another suggestion was to go with Cars Made in New England, which would add a few more early makes and could bolster the car count somewhat.

There was further discussion of the field layout for the August Meet and the show car classifications. *Dan David* said he already planned to move Featured Marque to Class A and move the truck classes to the end of the list. He did not anticipate making other class changes. Revisions will be need to be finalized before the show flyer can be produced.

Upcoming Club Activities

BACC’s holiday party will be held on Saturday, December 9 beginning at 1 p.m. **There will be no postponement in case of bad weather.** The location will be the same as last year - the Lutheran Fellowship Hall in Portland. The venue will be open at 10 a.m. on the day of the party for set-up. Polly said that Farrell’s will be the caterer as in past years. *Dan David* suggested she look into tweaking the menu choices, in keeping with the usual triad of beef-chicken-fish. Those who bring a \$10 wrapped gift for the grab bag will be able to participate in the gift lottery. Polly asks that if your gift is male or female-specific, please mark it so. Polly will invite members of C.H.A.S. who are not also in BACC. *Richard Beckwith* mentioned that he spoke with Mike Goldblatt of the Yankee Yesteryear Club at Hershey and Mike offered to have us back for another tour of his garage in Norwich. He has some new cars to show. Members were interested so we will propose something at an upcoming meeting.

MEMBER MILESTONES

<u>Happy Birthday to:</u>	Diane Baker	Nov. 2nd (70)	-----	-----
	Chevi Super	Nov. 7th (82)	Eileen Mastronunzio	Dec. 8th (89)
	Howard Maseles	Nov. 8th	Richard Doggart	Dec. 9th (60)
	Jay Hartling	Nov. 11th	Ben Jermaine	Dec. 10th
	Margaret Seely	Nov. 14th	Connie Lieder	Dec. 17th (79)
	Harold Waters	Nov. 15th (84)	Doug Mackeown	Dec. 19th
	John Beveridge	Nov. 17th (80)	Kathy Waters	Dec. 23rd (82)
	Tammy Mackeown	Nov. 18th	Peter Hoydilla	Dec. 26th
	Tony Adams	Nov. 19th (97)	Nancy Cardone	Dec. 27th
	Linda Elgart	Nov. 24th (79)	Bill Thompson	Dec. 27th (77)
	Bill Blaufuss	Nov. 26th (78)		
	Beverly Astles	Nov. 30th (86)		

Happy Anniversary to: Jay Hartling & Jessica Guard Nov. 26th

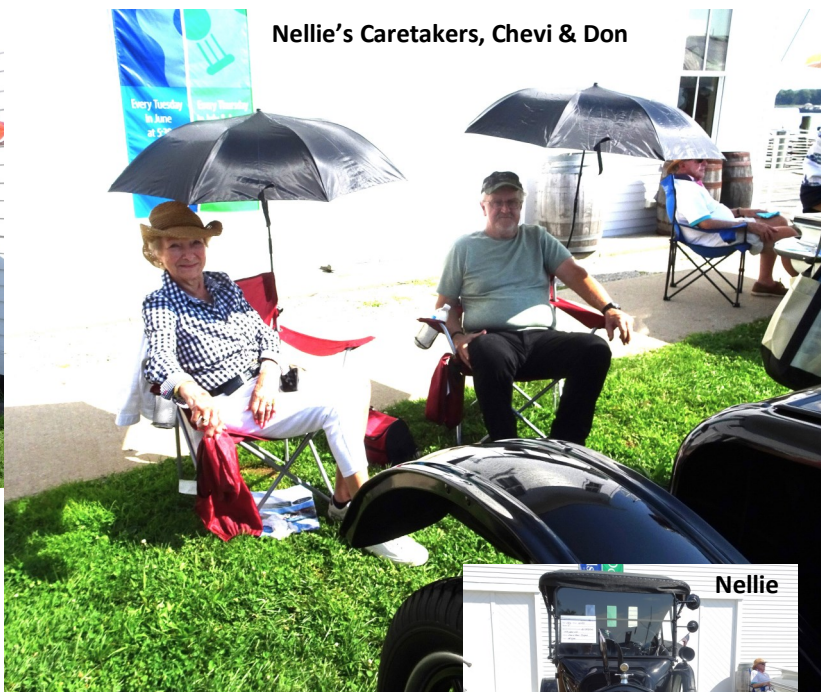
In Memoriam: On Monday, September 25, the cremains of *George Birner* were laid to rest in the presence of his family at Arlington National Cemetery. George passed away on February 4, 2022 at age 96. He was a WWII veteran and a founding member of BACC.

HAPPY MOTORING

Several Belltowners were spotted on Labor Day on the grounds of the Connecticut River Museum, where the Essex Auto Club was holding their annual car show. Smiles all around, perhaps because it was possible to relax and enjoy the day without having to be the ones to collect the money, park and judge the cars, and do everything else that's involved in putting on the show itself.*



Richard & Polly



Nellie's Caretakers, Chevi & Don



Chris, Way In Back



Jay & Scott



Nellie



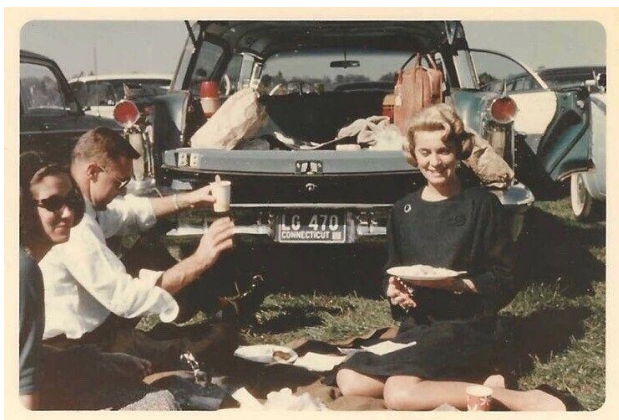
Where's Jim?

*) Subsequently we learned that the Essex Auto Club has disbanded because no one would step up to replace their retiring directors! A shame.

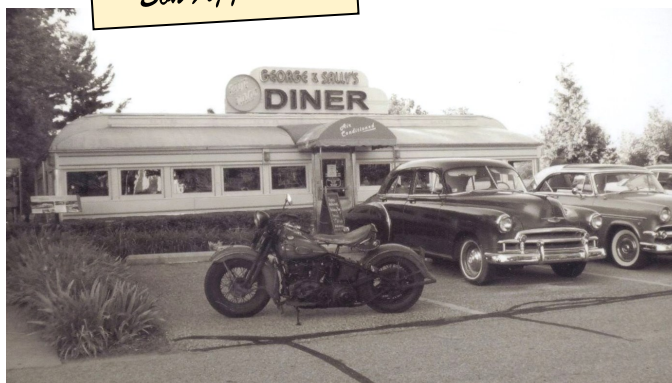
[Photo credit: Dan David]

CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA

Submitted by Steven Rossi



Bon Appétit!



Tailgating with a '58 Olds Fiesta [L]. George & Sally's Diner in Meriden [R].

BELLTOWN CLASSIFIEDS

Send your sell/wanted ads for cars, parts and hobby-related services to dan12david@yahoo.com

For Sale – **1964 Ford Galaxie XL Convertible - \$22,000**

Blue with blue interior, 250 hp 352 V-8, automatic.
Very good condition. Owned over 25 years.

John & Barbara Hoban, 860-983-9055, Colchester
[BACC members]



For Sale – **1948 Ford Tudor - Call to discuss**

Has to be put back together. New rebuilt engine + new paint, wiring harness and brakes.
Same owner for 25 years.

Call **Steve**, 860-839-1754, East Haddam [Ad placed by Barbara Hoban, BACC member]

For Sale – **1994 Chevrolet Corvette - Email to inquire**

Admiral Blue, LT1 V-8, 6-speed manual with skip shift eliminator, 3.08 rear axle, removable roof panel
Same owner last 20 years, maintenance log, garaged.

Len Johnson, email ljohnson0733@hotmail.com [Ad placed by Joe Lombardo, BACC member]

For Sale – **1987 Cadillac Allante - \$7,900**

Maroon with dark red leather interior, removable hardtop.
Stored four years, low miles, no rust, all original.

1927 Ford Model T Roadster - \$14,000 →

Recent total restoration, excellent condition.

Call **Richard Beckwith**, 860-343-3056 or 860-345-4256, Haddam
[BACC member]



HOBBY HEADLINES & HISTORY

French Car Collector and Museum Director Peter Mullin Has Died

California businessman, philanthropist, and pre-war French car expert Peter Mullin passed away on Sept. 18 at age 82. He was the founder and director of the Mullin Automotive Museum in Oxnard, Calif., and a former chairman of the Petersen Museum in Los Angeles. The Mullin Museum houses an extraordinary collection of French machines from what might be termed the “art deco era” and earlier. His wife Merle will continue to oversee the museum. [If you are not familiar with it, check it out here: <https://mullinautomotivemuseum.com/collection/> - Ed.]



Shelburne, Mass. Corvair Parts Supplier Marks 50 Years in Business

Joan and Cal Clark started Clark’s Corvair Parts as a hobby in their apartment in 1973. They recently celebrated 50 years in business as the “World’s Largest” supplier of restoration parts for Corvairs. They have 24 employees, carry 14,000 part numbers, and even manufacture upholstery sets and numerous mechanical parts.

PROOF (OF) READING

Unmuffled Exhaust from the Editor

I always welcome feedback on the newsletter ... it means you are reading it! *Richard Beckwith* suggested that my assertion that Carroll Shelby had no business relationship with British Leyland might be incorrect. In checking this out, I learned that during his early driving career, Shelby raced a friend’s MG TC in 1952 and drove an Austin-Healey for Donald Healey’s team in 1954, including setting records at Bonneville. However, Shelby’s private drives in an MG and early Healeys predated the consolidation of those brands into British Leyland by well over a decade. So, he never did any business with BLMC. “Thanks Richard, but no cigar!”

WHO, WHAT, WHERE OR WHEN

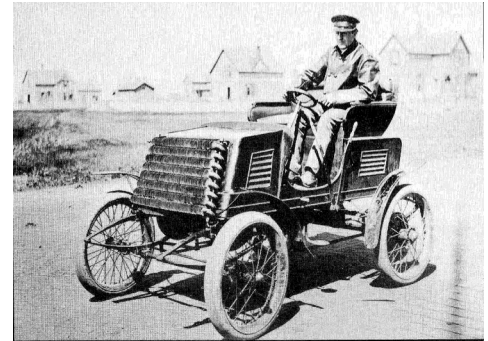
Challenge your automotive history IQ

Milwaukee Junction is known in some circles as the “cradle of the auto industry.” Where is it located and which companies established automobile assembly plants there some twelve decades ago?

The correct answer to Who, What, Where, or When in the last issue, **“Which company is, arguably, the earliest ancestor of Stellantis in America?”**: Answer - **Thomas B. Jeffery Co.**

The Thomas B. Jeffery Co. built its first cars (the original “Rambler”) in Kenosha, Wisc. in 1902. The company was bought by Charles Nash in 1916 and renamed Nash Motors the following year. Nash merged with Hudson to form AMC in 1954. AMC was bought by Chrysler in 1987, Chrysler merged with Fiat in 2009 to form FCA, and FCA merged with PSA in 2021 to form what came to be called Stellantis.

The other three companies, also American ancestors of Stellantis, got their starts as automobile producers later - Maxwell-Briscoe in 1904, Hudson Motor Car in 1909, and Dodge Brothers in 1914.



1901 Prototype Rambler Model A

NEXT ISSUE

The next **Belltown Bulletin** will be the combined Dec., 2023 - Jan., 2024 issue. The copy and classified ad deadline is Monday, Dec. 18. The 21st is the publication date, with mail-out on Dec. 26 and e-delivery no later than Dec. 28.

Club member suggestions, comments, classified ads, and content submissions are most welcome. Send them to the editor at dan12david@yahoo.com (or call 860-575-6194). **Thanks go to this month’s contributors: Steve Rossi & Matt Elgart.**

Included with this issue is your 2024 Membership Renewal Form. Please fill it out completely and mail it with your dues check, payable to “BACC,” to the East Hampton P.O. Box by year end. Renewals are considered past due at the end of January. New members who joined at or after the August 2023 Meet owe no additional dues for 2024. “Lifetime Members” are exempt from paying annual dues.

BELLTOWN ANTIQUE CAR CLUB

President - **Mark Hoydilla**

Vice President - **Ray Lichota**

Secretary - **Peter Christianson**

Treasurer - **Cliff Baker**

Elected Directors* - **Jon Grant** (yr. 1 of 2) & **Dan David** (yr. 2 of 2)

Sunshine Chairperson - **Polly Beckwith** (860-345-4256)

Newsletter Editor - **Dan David** (dan12david@yahoo.com, 860-575-6194)

*) The BACC Board of Directors is comprised of the four current officers plus the previous president (Alan Carlson) and two elected from the membership at large

Club web site - www.belltownantiquecarclub.org [webmaster: **Ralph Phil**, mail@rjphil.com]

E-mail address - belltowncarclub@gmail.com

Club mailing address - BACC, P.O. Box 211, East Hampton, CT 06424

Facebook - www.facebook.com/BACC-Belltown-Antique-Car-Club-116729245345421/ [FB mgr.: **Betty Lichota**]

Disclaimers and Words to the Wise: The opinions expressed by the authors of the content of this newsletter are theirs and are in no way intended to represent a position taken by the Belltown Antique Car Club or its officers. The information presented herein is for the edification and entertainment of antique automobile enthusiasts who should use their experience, prudence and good judgment in applying it. Product mentions should not be interpreted as endorsements.

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UPCOMING EVENTS (Club participation events in bold)

Saturday, November 4 - **BACC "Annual Meeting,"** 1:30 p.m. at Karl Helming's home garage in Portland. Election of officers for 2024 will be held.

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 10-12 - Conn. International Auto Show (new cars - remember them?), Mohican Sun Expo Center, Uncasville, Conn. Info and tickets at: <https://ctautoshow.com/>.

Saturday, December 9 - **BACC 2023 Holiday Party** at Fellowship Hall at the Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland, Conn., beginning at 1:00 p.m. (Note: NO snow day). Invitations will be mailed to members in advance; RSVP with meal choice and check. Please bring a \$10 wrapped gift to participate in the gift lottery (mark it M or F, if it is gender specific).

Saturday, January 6, 2024 - **First BACC business meeting of the new year**, 1:30 p.m. at Karl Helming's home garage.

Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 20-21 - Auto Parts Swap 'n Sell, Eastern States Exposition Better Living Center, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, Mass. For info go to www.apswapnsell.com.

For more old car event listings check out the websites of the Conn. Seaport Car Club based in the Fairfield area @ <https://www.ctseaportcarclub.com/carshows.htm>, and Shoreline Antique Auto Connection based in the Branford area @ <http://www.shorelineantiqueautoconnection.com/calendar.htm>.

E-Delivery Bonus*

Referring back to the obituary for car collector Peter Mullin (see **Hobby Headlines & History**), he started collecting cars long before he opened a museum. Mullin initially housed his cars in an underground "garage" beneath the gardens at the Mullins' California home. Prior to his passing, his wife Merle gave a tour of their personal cars that are housed there now. You can enjoy Mrs. Mullin's commentary about their special cars and the secret storage cavern they are kept in, plus her thoughts about women in the car collecting hobby (at least in the upper echelons of said hobby), here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRQ4wrRXiY8>

If you missed attending the Audrain Concours in Newport, we can hardly blame you if you balked at the cost of admission. Or perhaps you were getting ready to head to Hershey the following day. Regardless, there were some fabulous cars on hand, as you can see from the official photo gallery of the top award winners:

<https://www.audrainconcours.com/2023-winners>

If you missed the car show on the last day of Hershey, then you missed the reveal of the Vanderbilt Cup Locomobile #1, the subject of an extensive article by *Steve Rossi* in **Antique Automobile** Sept/Oct 2023. Here is a video, courtesy of Northeast Wheels Events, of Alex Dragone running the car on the morning of the show (you made need to reset the red time progression bar back to the beginning of the video):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqLjt0IDV0s&t=690s>

Lastly, on the next (bonus) page we have reprinted a recipe from *The Ford Times Cookbook* (see **Fuel for Thought** on page 1 of this issue.)

*) The E-Delivery Bonus is not included in the printed version of this newsletter that is distributed via the USPS.

Note: All links in the electronic version are "clickable" as long as your browser is open.



BY THE WAY . . .

Try this recipe from the Botsford Inn, Farmington, Mich. (once owned and restored by Henry Ford) -

Egg Nog Pie

Place in a double boiler: 2 cups milk, 3/4 cup sugar and a pinch of salt. Cook until hot.

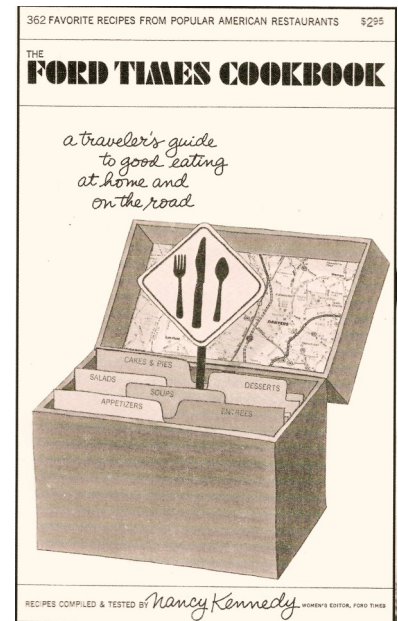
Separate 4 eggs and combine yolks with 2 tablespoons cornstarch and beat well. Add yolks to hot milk mixture.

Flavor with 3 tablespoons rum. Cook until mixture thickens, stirring occasionally. Just before removing from heat, beat 2 egg whites with 2 tablespoons sugar until stiff. Pour into custard.

Pour into 8-inch baked pie shell and chill.

Sprinkle with nutmeg and top with whipped cream before serving.

- From the 1968 edition of **The Ford Times Cookbook**



Happy Holidays!