



The Belltown Bulletin



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

September, 2023

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the East Hampton Public Library

Begins with a pot-luck supper; business meeting to start at 7:30 p.m.

- Timely Topics:
- Recapping our Vintage Motorcar Meet in August; financial results, did well/do better next year; Featured Marque appraisal
 - Autumn activities
 - Date & location of meetings, rest of the year
 - Upcoming election of officers (at November's "Annual Meeting")

FUEL FOR THOUGHT

Betty Lichota passed along the email below, prefaced with her own thoughts: "Good to hear compliments. We got many at the front gate...specifically the effort the club puts in to running the show, keeping the admission lower than so many other shows, great signage to the show, variety of show cars, handicap parking available, flea market...also quite a few mentioned that they made Belltown their first stop and were then headed to Manchester and Cabella's."

"Hi Guys,

Great job with the show, as always. We had a wonderful time and got to see some real "old" cars. Thanks for your efforts. They don't go unappreciated!

Our best, Jim & Betsy Hughes (1936 LaSalle)"



CLUB NOTES

Our eighth business meeting of 2023 was held on August 2 at the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds.

Old Business

In appreciation for hosting us at his Gasoline Alley Automotive Museum last month, members approved giving Don Passardi a complimentary Club newsletter for a year. *Dan David* stated that he already emailed the August issue to Don. *Jon Grant* thanked *Don Liepelt* and *Scott Macgregor* for setting up the tour to Passardi's museum. He urged other members to follow their example and pick a destination of interest to them and organize a tour.

New Business

Ralph Phil stated that the East Hampton Library has a new process for reserving meeting rooms on-line. We need to book in advance for the coming quarter. Secretary *Peter Christianson* volunteered to take care of this. It was noted that the September meeting will be the last one this year to be held at the Library on the First Wednesday summer schedule. As from October, we will resume meeting on First Saturdays at *Karl Helming's* garage in Portland. We will return to the Library next May according to the schedule decided late last year.

Reminder: The September meeting starts with a pot-luck supper. Call *Polly Beckwith*, 860-345-4256, to indicate what you want to bring.

There was further discussion of our preparedness for the upcoming August Meet. *Bill Nitschke* has solicited volunteers to help with directing traffic and spectator parking. *Betty Lichota* has a team to work the spectator gate from 8 a.m., while *Mark Aldieri* will be at the gate earlier to cover the arrival of flea market vendors and any early birds.

Mark Johnson from *Klingberg Restoration Shop* is bringing their Model T Depot Hack and possibly one other car to the Meet. They will be entered in their respective classes. *Mark Hoydilla* said we should let them in at no charge.

Money collection belts and orange safety vests are in the storage trailer and will be available to use at the Meet.

CLUB NOTES (continued from p. 1)

Cliff confirmed that the final payment for the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds has been made.

Alan Carlson indicated that he made a second call to secure the presence of the Haddam Neck EMTs at the Meet.

Jon Grant ran down the list of show classes and volunteers were assigned as judging team leaders. He reminded them that they must decide the award winners with no ties allowed. He also reminded them that they are to submit a tally of the total number of cars in the class as well as the number judged. Jon then gave pointers on the judging process.

Upcoming Club Activities

Cliff Baker reminded us of our car show and hot dog cookout at Masonicare at Chester on August 10. The rain date is the following Thursday, August 17.

Old Car Connection of the Month

Looking for a specialist in the removal of dents in hubcaps and trim? **Hemmings** advertiser Brightworks, 136 Kennedy St., Fall River, Mass. does that as well as metal polishing and general stainless steel and aluminum restoration. Call them at 508-672-5931. For more info visit www.brightworksrestoration.com.

MEMBER MILESTONES

<u>Happy Birthday to:</u>	Steven Rossi	Sept. 5th	Eleanor Sutton	Sept. 19th (82)
	Frank Shaw	Sept. 5th (70)	Mikael Lamenzo	Sept. 22nd (10)
	Joan Frey	Sept. 6th (78)	John O'Boyle	Sept. 25th
	Vincenza McNulty	Sept. 6th (70)	Peter McNulty	Sept. 26th (70)
	Matt Elgart	Sept. 8th (81)	Steve Fallis	Sept. 28th (81)
	Randy Greenberg	Sept. 14th	Joe George	Sept. 28th (70)

Happy Anniversary to: Phil & June Guertin Sept. 21st

New Members (4): Please welcome *Roy Jordon* of Higganum, *John Mosher* of Orange, *Thomas Cash* of Chepachet, R.I., and *Stephen Zeiba III* of Moosup. All four joined BACC at or after our Vintage Motorcar Meet. Roy owns a 1934 Plymouth PE sedan, a 1972 Triumph Stag, a 1974 Mercury Comet and a 1981 Cadillac Fleetwood coupe. John owns two pickups, a 1927 Ford Model T and a 1957 Chevrolet 3100, as well as a 1931 Model A Tudor and a 1966 Pontiac Bonneville sedan. He is also a member of C.H.A.S. and Crankin' Yanks. Tom has four Fords, a '31, two '48s and a '51 pickup, an MGTD and a Triumph Spitfire. Stephen presently does not have an old car.

Get Well Soon to: *Ben Jermaine*, who tore his meniscus and will be out of commission until October; *Bob Sutton*, whose carpal tunnel problems kept him from working the August Meet this year; and *James Borbas*, who suffered a heart attack on August 1st. According to James Jr., Jim was released from the hospital and is undergoing rehabilitation treatment.

In Memoriam: *Charlie Murphy*, 75, of Chester, Conn. passed away unexpectedly on August 9, following a period of health challenges. He will be missed by anyone who got to know him during his time in BACC. Our condolences to his wife Susan and their extended family.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Club participation events in bold)

Friday - Saturday, Sept. 1-2 - 21st Northeast Gas Bash & Advertising Show, at The Farm at Carter Hill, 86 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough, Conn. Opens at 7 a.m. both days. See https://www.oldgas.com/pp_swaps.htm.

Friday - Monday, Sept. 1-4 - Lime Rock Park Historic Festival 40, including the "Sunday in the Park" Concours featuring MGs (100th anniversary of the make) and Chrysler Hemi-powered cars, Lime Rock Park racetrack, Lakeville, Conn. Info at: <https://limerock.com/labor-day-historics>.

UPCOMING EVENTS (continued from p. 2)

Monday, Sept. 4 - Essex Auto Club annual car show at the Conn. River Museum, head of Main St., Essex, Conn., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; \$20/show car, limited to first 80 cars (gate opens at 7:30 a.m.); \$5 suggested donation for spectators. [Rescheduled from July 4]. See the EAC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1061933157162665>.

Wednesday, Sept. 6 - **BACC monthly business meeting at the East Hampton Library.** Pot-luck supper starts at 6:30 p.m.; meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Check in with *Polly Beckwith* about what to bring for the pot-luck, 860-345-4256.

Sunday, September 10 - Yankee Yesteryear 63rd Annual Auto Show & Swap Meet at Brooklyn Fairgrounds, Brooklyn, Conn. Judged show; opens 9 a.m., no cut-off. Visit <http://www.facebook.com/YankeeYesteryearCarClub>.

Sunday, September 10 - Deep River Fire Dept. Automotive Extravaganza, Devitt Field, Deep River, Conn. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Show cars \$10, spectators free. Class awards based on People's Choice voting. Rain date: Sunday, Sept. 17.

Saturday - Sunday, September 16-17 - Tobacco Valley Flywheelers Fall Show at Haddam Meadows State Park, Rte. 154, Haddam, Conn. Antique engines, working displays and tractors, plus antique cars and trucks, are welcome.

Wednesday - Friday, September 20-22 - Pre-war car tour to Sturbridge Village sp. by Willys-Overland-Knight Registry. Contact: *Don Liepelt*, 203-687-5004, email knotacres@yahoo.com.

Saturday, September 23 - By Land and By Sea Car Show at Mystic Seaport (-1932 only). Info: <https://mysticseaport.org/events/by-land-and-by-sea-2023/>.

Wednesday - Sunday, Sept. 27-Oct. 1 - Fall Carlisle Collector Car Flea Market, Corral & Auction in Carlisle, Penn. Info: <https://www.carlisleevents.com/events/events-detail/index?id=fall+carlisle>.

Sunday, October 1 - 37th Annual Middlesex Hist. Society Car Show & Flea Mkt., Palmer Field off Rte. 66, Middletown, Conn., 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., show cars \$10, spectators \$3.

Tuesday - Friday, October 3-6 - AACA Eastern Fall Meet, Hershey, Penn. Info: <https://hershey.aaca.com/eastern-division-fall-meet/>.

Saturday, October 7 - **BACC monthly business meeting at Karl Helming's home garage**, 220 Jobs Pond Rd., Portland, Conn., 1:30 p.m. [winter schedule and location begins].

Saturday - Sunday, October 7-8 - Zagray Farm Museum Fall Show & Swap Meet, 544 Amston Rd. (Rte. 85), Colchester, Conn., 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. Info at: <http://www.zagrayfarmmuseum.org>.

Repeating Cruise Nights / Cars & Coffee Events

Every Tuesday - "Misfits Car Show," 95 Bridge Rd., Haddam (Tylerville), 3 p.m. to dusk; host: *Joe George* (up to Sept. 19)

Select Tuesdays - Car Show at Nature's Art Village, 1650 Hartford-New London Tpke. (Rte. 85), Oakdale (S. of Salem), 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., pre-1978 (last one: Sept. 5; rain date following Thurs.)

3rd Wed. - Good Times Cruise Night, Colchester Green, 5 p.m. to sunset; -1987 (last one: Sept. 20; rain date Sept. 27)

Every Other Sunday - CT Shoreline Cars & Coffee at Moroso Performance Products off Goose Lane in Guilford, entry \$2/car, 9 to 11 a.m. (next ones: Sept. 3, Sept. 17)

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>.

**HAPPY MOTORING**

Kids & Cars? - Our car show & hot dog cookout at Masonicare at Chester Village was held on the rain date, August 17 (more images to come in next month's newsletter). One fun aspect of this year's event was added by *Jon Grant*, who spontaneously began offering rides in his Model A to willing residents, providing them with an chance to "relive their youth."

Left: Walter (in rumble seat) and Boo (seated next to Jon)

[Photo credit: *Dan David*]

AWARD WINNERS - 56th ANNUAL BELLTOWN VINTAGE MOTORCAR MEET

Club President's Award:

1932 Studebaker Model 55 Roadster - Dean & Colleen Harris (Maine)

Master of Ceremonies Award:

1931 Detroit Electric 98A - Bill & Linda Lillie

Award in Memory of Bob Helming:

1970 Plymouth AAR Cuda - Anthony Bracco

Award in Memory of Bill Reardon:

1914 Ford Model T Depot Hack - Klingberg Auto Restoration Program

Judged Class Trophies:

Class A - Early Cars, -1931, except Ford A & T, Full Classics

1. 1924 Marmon 34-V Rdster - George Dragone
2. 1931 Graham Model 46 Roadster - Tom Tkacz
3. 1931 Detroit Electric 98A - Bill & Linda Lillie

Class B - Ford Model A, all non-truck, 1928-1931

1. 1931 Model A Coupe - Charles Dickinson
2. 1929 Model A Roadster - Andy Oliver
3. 1930 Model A Town Sedan - Ken Kostek

Class C - Featured Marque: Studebaker (all)

1. 1951 Studebaker Conv. - Gene Cassanelli
2. 1934 Studebaker Sedan - Maureen & Steven Lutar
3. 1937 Studebaker Sedan - Ron & Joan Liska

Class D - Full Classics, 1915-1948

1. 1936 Auburn 852 Conv. - Herb Caso
2. 1940 LaSalle Ser. 5227C Coupe - John Scanlan
3. 1937 Cadillac Series 60 Conv. - Paul Lavigne

Class E - Early Cars, 1932-1948, except Full Classics

1. 1939 Plymouth Conv. - Bob Donath
2. 1940 Buick Business Coupe - Harvey Moran
3. 1936 Ford Club Cabriolet - Jim Clark

Class F - Early Trucks, -1948 (up to 2 ton)

1. 1931 Ford Panel Truck - John Lorch
2. 1933 Ford Pickup - Bob Rayner
3. 1936 Chevrolet Pickup - Walter Horn

Judged Class Trophies, continued:

Class G - Trucks, 1949-1970 (up to 2 ton)

1. 1954 Chevrolet 3100 Pickup - Tony Della Camera
2. 1968 Ford F-250 Pickup - Lauren Humpage

Class H - Trucks, 1971-1983 (up to 2 ton)

1. 1971 Chevrolet C20 Pickup - Jeff Lavigne
2. 1972 GMC 1500 Pickup - Joe D'Alessio

Class I - Cars, 1949-1954

1. 1951 Ford Crestliner 2 Dr. - Robert Barbieri
2. 1953 Lincoln Capri Conv. - Jim Dunn
3. 1953 Oldsmobile 98 Conv. - Ruth & Don Jack

Class J - Cars, 1955-1960

1. 1959 Cadillac Coupe DeVille - Randy Greenberg
2. 1959 Chevrolet Bel Air Conv. - James Bogos
3. 1956 Packard 400 Hdtp. - Gary Dellavecchio

Class K - Cars, 1961-1965

1. 1964 Buick Riviera - Richard Harvey
2. 1961 Ford Country Squire - Eric Ringstrom
3. 1965 Mercury Comet Cyclone - Peter Girard

Class L - Cars, 1966-1968

1. 1968 Pontiac GTO Royal Bobcat - Sal Rossito
2. 1968 Ford Mustang GT Conv. - Mark Sack
3. 1968 Mercury Cougar XR7-G - Bob Brothers

Class M - Cars, 1969-1970

1. 1970 Chevrolet Monte Carlo SS454 - Jim Boczar
2. 1970 Plymouth AAR Cuda - Anthony Bracco
3. 1969 Ford Mustang Shelby GT350 - Bob Woyнар

Class N - Cars, 1971-1983

1. 1979 Lincoln Town Car - Philip Schuch
2. 1977 Cadillac Coupe DeVille - Doug Feest
3. 1975 Pontiac Grand Ville Conv. - Rich Kovach

Class O - Sports Cars, Post-War to 1964

1. 1955 Chevrolet Corvette - Gail & Jerry Verrilli
2. 1957 Ford Thunderbird - Fred Klaus
3. 1956 Ford Thunderbird - Rick Scott

Class P - Sports Cars, 1965-1983

1. 1966 Chevrolet Corvette Cpe. - Hal Hallgren
2. 1966 Chevrolet Corvette Cpe. - Grant Sanborn
3. 1978 Porsche 928 - Ron Magliano

56th ANNUAL BELLTOWN VINTAGE MOTORCAR MEET, AUG. 6

Fine weather, a wonderful assortment of antique cars and trucks, and great spectator turnout ruled the day. Thanks to those Belltown members who volunteered at the Meet and contributed to its success. Three winners of awards of special merit are shown below. For more images from the Meet, see *Ralph Phil's* gallery on the Club web site.



Left to right, above: Mark Hoydilla presented the **President's Award** to an unrestored 1932 Studebaker, Karl Helming presented the **Award in Memory of Bob Helming** to a 1970 Plymouth AAR 'Cuda, and Jackie Reardon presented the **Award in Memory of Bill Reardon** to a 1914 Ford Model T Depot Hack. [Photo credit: Ralph Phil]

SORRY I MISSED IT

Unmuffled Exhaust from the Editor

I feel bad that I missed the Meet. Oh, I was there alright, starting at show car registration at 7:30 a.m. and moving over to judging beginning at noon. It's just that I never had a chance to walk the show field and see how it all came together. In previous years I was able to do that and talk to a few of the participants. This year, after turning in my judging forms, there was barely enough time for me to grab an ice cream-on-a-stick before standing zombie-like during the trophy presentations, half-heartedly snapping a few photos.

That means I can't give an honest appraisal of how great this year's Meet turned out to be. It may well have been the best one of the post-COVID era so far. I'm just not the guy to vouch for it.

Steve Rossi said he didn't get around much either, except that he left the announcer's perch long enough to check out the flea market, where he scored a framed ad from 1931 for Welker-Hoops Manufacturing Co. in Middletown, Conn. A producer of automotive accessories, their claim to fame was the Neva-Lost Gas Tank Cap. [You can see the ad in the bonus section of the e-delivery version of this newsletter.]

I did learn some good news from one of our members near the end of the Meet. Barbara Hoban told me that the move of the Car Corral to a more visible location adjacent to the early car field worked well for the Hobans because they sold their 1966 Chevrolet Impala sport coupe that was offered for sale there.

Such a nice, original Impala deserved to find a new caretaker. I'm a bit sorry I missed out on that, too.

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**]

BELLTOWN CLASSIFIEDS

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

For Sale – 1917 Ford Model T Touring - Best Reasonable Offer

Looks good and runs, but may need some attention to put it back on the road. Being sold to settle estate. Call **Richard Beckwith**, 860-343-3056, for information [BACC member, representing owner]

For Sale – 1931 Ford Model A Sport Coupe - \$10,500

Registered, runs well, and is a high driver-quality car. Black on black, with red wheels. Elderly owner can't push a clutch anymore.

Call **Richard Beckwith**, 860-343-3056, for information [BACC member, representing owner]

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

Maroon with dark red leather interior, removable hardtop, low miles, stored 4 years, no rust, all original.

1927 Ford Model T Roadster - \$14,000

Recent total restoration, excellent condition.

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

FREE! - A dozen Philips 4' fluorescent tubes (T-12), bought new last autumn for garage, only used a few hours since.

Call **Dan David**, 860-575-6194, Old Saybrook [BACC member]

HOBBY HEADLINES & HISTORY

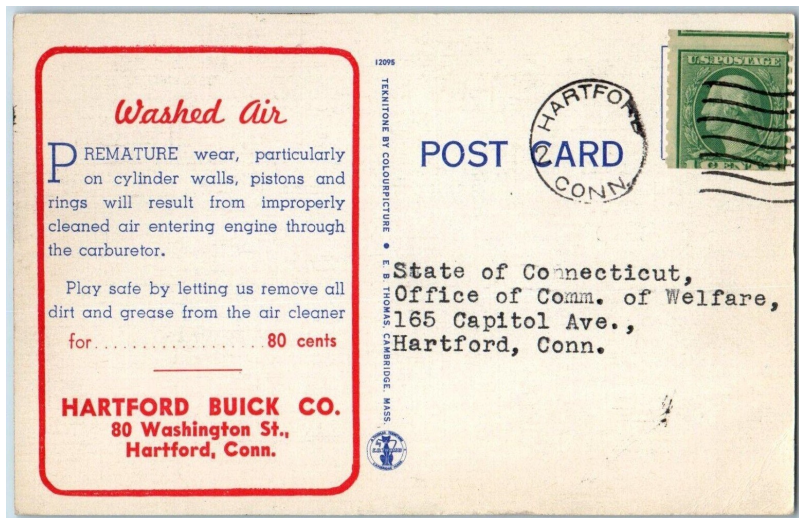
Audrain Newport Concours and Motor Week Returns Sept. 28 - Oct. 1 - Tickets are on sale now. For schedule and information visit <https://www.audrainconcours.com/>.

Massachusetts the First State to Introduce Pre-made License Plates - Plate number 1 was issued 120 years ago in September, 1903, to Mr. Frederick Tudor. One of Tudor's descendants still maintains that single digit plate.

CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA

Submitted by Steven Rossi

The price of clean air has gone up. Moon-Eye decals are no longer a bargain either, if you can find them!



WHO, WHAT, WHERE OR WHEN

Challenge your automotive history IQ

Beginning in 1962 Carroll Shelby's company, Shelby American, Inc. (later Shelby Automobiles, Inc.) worked with various car manufacturers/brands on performance vehicle-related projects. **Which of these auto makers NEVER had a business relationship with Shelby?**

1. Dodge
2. British Leyland
3. Oldsmobile
4. Ford
5. Saab

The correct answer to Who, What, Where, or When in the last issue, **"What car brands have used these names: Daytona, Citation, Hornet, Monte Carlo, and Starliner, and when were they offered on the U.S. market?"**:

Answer: Daytona – Used by Studebaker for sporty versions of the compact Lark, 1962-66 (the Lark name was only used until 1964), and by Dodge for the NASCAR-inspired, high-winged homologation edition of the Charger in 1969. Dodge later applied the Daytona name to its version of the mid-size 1975-77 Chrysler Cordoba, its version of the K-car based Chrysler Laser coupe, 1984-93, and for sporty iterations of the latest generation Charger in 2006-09, 2013, 2017 and 2020. Daytona is also the semi-official name of the Ferrari 365 GTB/4 and GTS/4 built from 1968-73. The first Shelby Cobra coupe built from 1964-65 was also called the Daytona, and, while it was originally conceived purely as a race car, in recent years numerous companies have marketed Daytona coupe replicas for the street.



Citation – Used by Edsel as the flagship model (available only in hardtop and convertible form) in 1958, and by Chevrolet for a new, FWD compact car line from 1980-1985, replacing the Nova.

Hornet – Used by Hudson for its full-sized cars, 1951-1957, by AMC for its new compact, 1970-77, and by Dodge for its new small car, 2023-. Hudson and Nash merged to form AMC in 1954, and AMC was bought by Chrysler in 1987, so technically there has been continuity in the ownership of the Hornet name.

Monte Carlo – Used by Saab for the sportiest version of the 96, 1966-68, and by Chevrolet for its "personal luxury" coupe, 1970-1988 and 1995-2007. Also used as the name of the sporty variant of the 1954 Ford Comete, built in France, and as the "rest of world" name for the Lancia sports car that was sold in the U.S. in 1976-77 as the Scorpion.

Starliner – Used by Studebaker for its 2-door hardtops, 1953-54 and by Ford for its Galaxie 2-door hardtops, 1960-61. The name comes from the Lockheed L-1649A jet aircraft.

Other names that have graced more than one manufacturer's vehicles include **Jet**, used by Muntz and later Hudson; **Fiesta**, used by Oldsmobile and later Ford; **Lancer**, used by Dodge and later Mitsubishi; **Encore**, used by Renault and more recently Buick; **Suburban**, used by Chevrolet and Plymouth; **Commander**, used by Studebaker and later, Jeep; and **Challenger** used by Studebaker and multiple times since then by Dodge.

NEXT ISSUE

The next **Belltown Bulletin** will be the October, 2023 issue. The copy and classified ad deadline is Thursday, Sept. 21. Monday the 25th is the publication date, with mail-out on Sept. 27 and e-delivery no later than Sept. 29.

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, Betty Lichota, and Ralph Phil.**

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.

Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part is subject to prior approval by the editor.

BY THE WAY . . .

Ralph Phil's image gallery from our recent Belltown Vintage Motorcar Meet is now up on the Club web site, www.belltownantiquecarclub.org.

This year's Featured Marque class, Studebaker, included 19 examples spanning four decades of the storied marque's existence. The photo below was taken mid-morning before all of them had arrived.



[Photo credit:
Ralph Phil]

E-Delivery Bonus*

- For a number of years now we have listed the Bahre Collection's annual open house in Paris Hill, Maine in our Upcoming Events section. The only opportunity for the public to visit this fabulous collection of cars is during the Paris Hill Founder's Day celebration in mid-July. Several Belltowners have been there and highly recommend it [I keep saying, "Next year" and maybe 2024 will be the one. - *Ed.*]. David LaChance of *Hemmings Classic Car* wrote about it recently and his article is well supported by photos of the cars. Check it out here and be sure to put it on your own "old cars bucket list":

https://www.hemmings.com/stories/the-bahre-collection-of-packards-duesenbergs-and-more/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=EDaily&utm_campaign=

- If you missed our recent tour of Don Passardi's Gasoline Alley Automotive Museum in Stafford Springs, you can get a sense of it from the article in the April 1, 2023 issue of *Old Cars Weekly* that inspired our visit in the first place. See a reprint of it on pages 8-11.

- Last but not least, see page 12 for the Connecticut Automobilia-worthy advertisement that Steve Rossi found in the flea market at this year's Vintage Motorcar Meet.

*) 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.





Connecticut Ford Hoard

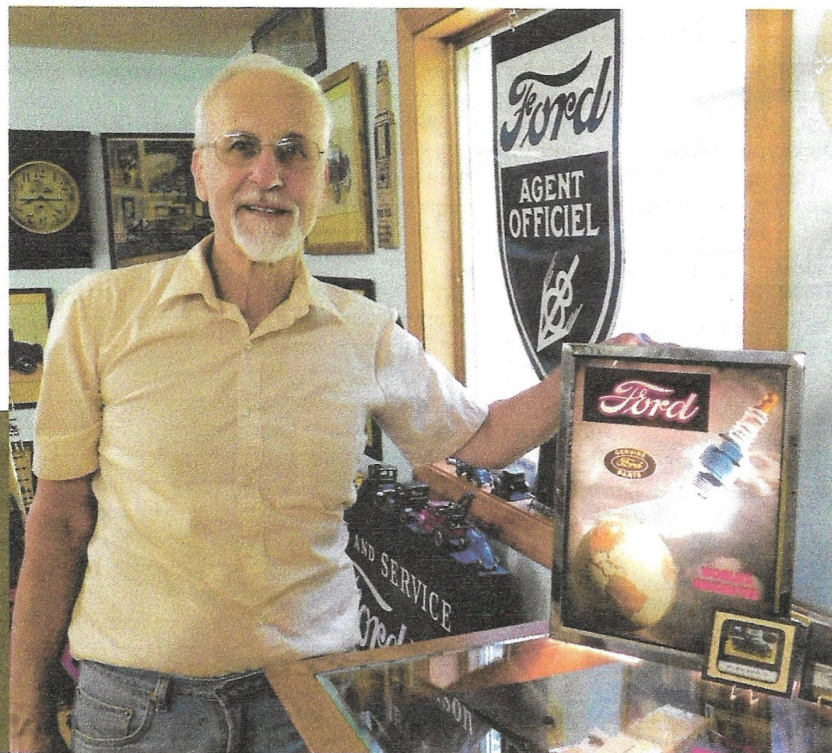
'Fordmobilia' collection even draws Dearborn lookers

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GREGG D. MERKSAMER

The scenic northeastern Connecticut town of Stafford Springs is named for the mineral-rich waters that have attracted visitors to its environs since Mohegan Indians controlled them in pre-Colonial times. Iron furnaces and textile mills later took advantage of this picturesque region's abundant water power. Today, the area's chief claims to fame include the Stafford Motor Speedway's banked half-mile oval, and what is certainly one of the biggest collections of Ford Motor Co. memorabilia outside Dearborn.

TOP: This rare surviving 1935 Ford clay model in Donald Passardi's Gasoline Alley Automotive Museum was finished as a Tudor on its port side and a Fordor on its passenger side. A full-sized 1935 Tudor is on adjacent display, naturally!

RIGHT BOTTOM: Don Passardi says this circa-1947 "3D" sign is his favorite promotional piece on display at his Ford-focused Gasoline Alley Automotive Museum in Stafford Springs, Conn.





ABOVE: Don Passardi's collection even touts 450 pieces of Ford-branded china once used in employee cafeterias and at the Henry Ford Hospital in Dearborn. "A friend found much of them in a Michigan antique shop with the original boxes and they weren't that expensive, either," Don recalls.



TOP RIGHT: "Fordmobilia" displayed at Don Passardi's Gasoline Alley Automotive Museum in front of his 1931 Model A Victoria includes a bust of Henry Ford acquired at a liquidation auction for a Lake George, N.Y., wax museum. Note the model of the Ford Rotunda in the foreground.



MIDDLE RIGHT: This approximately quarter-scale 1957 Ford "Planning for Manufacture" model was mocked up as a four-door sedan on its driver's side, but a two-door to starboard. Its sheet metal thickness also felt scaled-down, and rivets represented where the spot welds would have gone on the full-sized body shell. Don Passardi paid just \$400-500 to buy both halves of this remarkable eBay find a decade ago. Even if its shipment from Florida to Connecticut cost him another \$250, this was still a steal compared to the \$2,800 asked for one-half of a 1960 version found at the 2022 AACA Eastern Fall Nationals in Hershey, Pa., and pictured in *Old Cars'* Dec. 15, 2022, issue.



BOTTOM RIGHT: A period service advisory slipped beneath the passenger-side windshield wiper of Don Passardi's 1946 Ford Sportsman convertible advises annual waxing of the woodwork to preserve its factory finish. This jaunty drop-top also touts the earliest known surviving Sportsman body number (52), hydraulic power windows and a foot-operated radio tuner.



This 1991 Bronco XLT four-door in Don Passardi's collection was created by Magnum Motor Coach Works. About 1,500 conversions of this sort were completed by various firms before Ford introduced an equally sized, factory-made Expedition four-door SUV as a 1997 model.



Donald Passardi is partial to "Standard" prewar Flathead Fords, such as this 1939 V-8 coupe, which has a single taillight on its left rear fender (the second, passenger-side windshield wiper was, at least, a new standard fitment that model year). Note how different it looks in comparison to his adjacently displayed 1939 DeLuxe woodie station wagon, whose front clip would be re-used for 1940 V-8 (Standard) Fords, while DeLuxe models added a three-section grille.



LEFT: "Ford-mobilia" displayed at Don Passardi's Gasoline Alley Automotive Museum a plaster model of the Ford Rotunda constructed for the 1933-'34 Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago (background at left) and this baseball autographed by Henry Ford, accompanied by a photo of him signing said baseball!

While Donald Passardi—proud proprietor of the Gasoline Alley Automotive Museum—claims he was a "Chevy Man" back in high school, he was "Dearborn Again" after riding to a circa-1967 old car show in a friend's 1929 Model A phaeton that he owns today. The 11 cars exhibited on the lower level of Passardi's two-story museum are all Ford-built excepting a 1976 Cadillac Eldorado convertible and a 1978 Chevrolet Camaro Z28 belonging to his niece. Much as Don treasures his father's emerald-green 1991 Lincoln Town Car and a four-door 1991 Bronco XLT conversion completed by Magnum Motor Coach Work, he's especially partial to Standard series prewar Flathead Fords. In his collection is a plethora of related memorabilia running the gamut from dealer signage to far greater rarities, such as original magazine advertising artwork and a surviving clay model that designer E.T. Gregorie's sculptors finished as 1935 Tudor on the driver's side and a Fordor to starboard.

Given the sheer variety of Passardi's holdings, it's hardly surprising to hear he once hosted such a large group of Early Ford V-8 Club visitors that they had to be split into five shifts of 40 people each to circulate through his museum without crowding each other! Experts from The Henry Ford in Michigan have also made the pilgrimage to Connecticut seeing as how this is surely the only place where they could see a head bust of Henry Ford acquired at the liquidation auction of a Lake George, N.Y., wax museum; a cabinet full of Ford-logged china once used in employee cafeterias and at the Henry Ford Hospital in Dearborn; a closet piled high with Ford-branded burlap sacks intended for Portland cement and ammonium sulfate fertilizer; 1924 "Draft Henry Ford" U.S. Senate campaign buttons; and a plaster model of the Ford Rotunda that includes the extension it originally had at the 1933-'34 Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago (the more-ionic circular section was subsequently moved to Dearborn, where it served as a company welcome center until it burned down in 1962). Where else, Dearborn included, would a dedicated Blue Oval historian also get to see a photo of Henry Ford in his casket following his 1947 passing, or find personal correspondence from his wife, Clara, displayed within eyeshot of a silver hairbrush that once belonged to his mistress, Evangeline Dahlinger?

Prospective visitors can contact Don Passardi to arrange a visit. **OC**

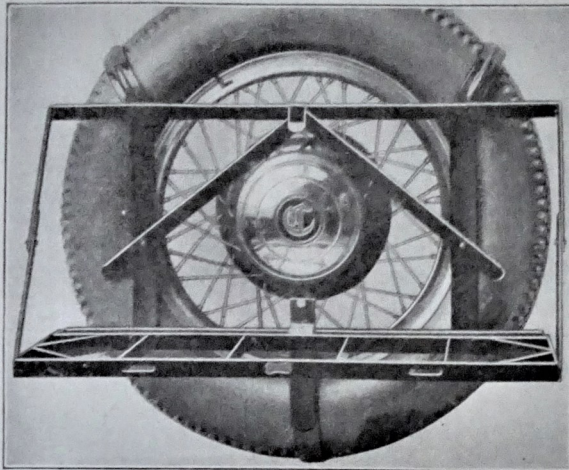
Gasoline Alley Automotive Museum
Stafford Springs, CT
860-684-2675
dppassardi@gmail.com

BONUS CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA

Submitted by Steven Rossi

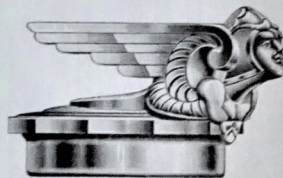
This ad was found in the flea market at our 2023 August Meet.

These NEVA-LOST products win big sales



Neva-Lost Luggage Carrier

Here is a new style luggage carrier . . . one that offers big opportunity for quick, profitable sales. Made of heavy reinforced steel, electric welded and fitted with cadmium plated rivets. Clamps on spare tire and will carry any reasonable load. Retails at \$5.00. Three Sizes Fit All Cars.



Neva-Lost Chevrolet Radiator Cap

This handsome, chromium plate Chevrolet radiator cap will add beauty to the car. It has no latches or snaps to mar its lines; a quarter turn opens or locks it securely. Leak and theft proof; will always stay in alignment. Lists at \$3.50. Liberal Discounts.



These gaskets for radiator and gas tank caps are made of the finest materials. The assortment shown above of 50 Gaskets is complete as it covers all sizes in popular demand. List Price \$5.00.



Unusual design makes it impossible to lose this gas tank cap. It is made in two models—highly polished chrome steel or baked on black japed steel. The cap assortment shown above consists of an attractive display board, fitted with three chrome steel caps and fifteen black caps. A chart of car sizes makes it easy to select the right size for any car. Lists at 65c and \$1.25.

Visit Our Booth, Space D156 at the New York Show.

Welker - Hoops Mfg. Co.

Middletown, Conn.