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Vic's '59
By Joe Puleo



Top Photo: Vic LoMastro & The Six Window Taken During The Summer of 1962. Bottom Photo: The 1959 Six Window Today

Some of you may remember Victor LoMastro or maybe had a conversation with him at one of the local car shows. Vic was a retired machinist and widower who spent most of his time looking forward to the next car show or Friday cruise night at Somerville. His 1959 Cadillac Sedan deVille was his most treasured possession and he would always carry a picture of it in his pocket hoping to show it to another car enthusiast along the way.

Vic purchased the car, with 14,000 miles on it, for \$3,195.00 from Lang Motors in Plainfield, NJ on Feb. 28th, 1962. Vic first saw the car on the evening of Feb. 22nd while driving past the dealership. He said "It looked beautiful under the lights and I knew I had to have it". There were two '59's side by side he said, a



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black four window flat top and the Beaumont Beige six window Sedan deVille. He said the choice was easy. The six window looked outstanding and was equipped with six-way power seat, easy-eye glass, fog lamps, Autronic- Eye and door guards. So in he went with a \$20.00 deposit. Over the next few days he negotiated on a trade-in price for his 1957 series 62 sedan. Finally, on Feb. 28th an agreement was reached for \$1,563.00 and the Beaumont Beige Six Window deVille was his.

A little more than 30 years later, in June of '92, I first saw the car at a Friday cruise night in Somerville. Vic always parked it in front of the old Woolworth's store where his wife had worked for years. The car gleamed under the streetlights. He always placed a sign in the windshield "1959 Cadillac - Original not Restored". It was hard to believe the car was original, it looked like new. Although I admired the car often, I would not meet Vic until July of '95 at a car show in Flemington. When we finally met, he was eager to tell me about his car and he had my full attention. I told him that it was unusual to see an original '59 without a cracked or wavy dash. He smiled and said, "I have never parked the car facing the sun". After an hour of talking, we exchanged phone numbers and our friendship began. I started bringing my '37 Fleetwood to car shows and we would always park next to each other. We kept each other company at these shows, and soon we were talking to each other a few times a week. If there were no car shows, we would still try to get together each week for breakfast or pasta at my house. Vic loved pasta. He would always come with flowers for my wife and donuts for the kids. He would walk in holding the flowers behind his back, "where's my girlfriend" he would shout looking for my wife. He loved her sauce and she would pack him containers for during the week.



Vic had survived cancer several years earlier but the treatments had damaged his heart. He had a strong will to live and his anticipation of the next car show or Friday night at Somerville kept his mind off of his condition. Unfortunately, Vic developed congestive heart failure and by the middle of May 2001 he was admitted to Somerset Medical Center. I would visit him there everyday. The first couple of days he was in good spirits. His only concern, being released before the start of Somerville's Friday cruise night which was a little more than a week away. Unfortunately his condition worsened. One day I walked in to find him on life support. He looked at me and moved his head from side to side as if to say I'm not going to make it. On Tuesday, May 22nd he was gone. The viewing was Friday, May 25th at a funeral home located along Main Street in Somerville. Coincidentally, the first Friday cruise night of the season was taking place just a few short blocks away along downtown Main Street. After the funeral, Vic's daughters told me that it was their father's wish that I take the '59. I told them that I greatly appreciated that but the car should remain in their family. They told me they did not have a garage for it and they would not go against their father's wish, so I accepted. I treasure Vic's '59 Caddy as much as I treasured his friendship and he will never be forgotten.



The Valley Forge Region Banquet - An Evening of Elegance

By Bernie Cooney

There are a lot of ties between the Raritan River Region, CLC, and the Valley Forge Region. Quite a few of our members also belong to this great region. Evidence of this fact is from the recent "Evening of Elegance." This was the annual banquet, which was held this year at the Double Tree Hotel in Mt. Laurel N.J. The ladies (who always look lovely) never looked lovelier. And the gentlemen ... well, they actually looked like gentlemen.

Submitted for your approval, is a short photographic essay of an evening of good food, great people and stimulating car talk.





Raritan River Region-CLC - 1/16/03 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Bernie Cooney.

Bernie provided an update on Bill Edmunds. He is doing well and plans on attending the Board of Directors Meeting in Charlotte, NC.

Bernie asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of November 21, 2002 as printed in the January/February of Caddy Corner. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Joe Puleo

Motion carried to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Communications Report - Ray Koziol

Caddy Corner was again mentioned in Old Cars Weekly in the column known as "Club Clips" authored by Gerald Perschbacher.

The January/February 2003 issue has been completed and printed thanks to Pat Caruso.

Membership - Ray Koziol

The region currently is comprised of 86 members. These members own a total of 148 cars. These breakdown into the following decade categories: 1930's = 18, 1940's=26, 1950's=33, 1960's=37, 1970's=18, 1980's=10, 1990's=5 and 2000's=1.

An updated application has been prepared and copies have been made thanks to Pat Caruso.

Club Merchandising Report - Pete Gurka

Pete provided samples of T-shirts and a cast license plate/plaque. Pete reports that a local vendor estimates a \$700 start up cost for T-shirts. This is a one time cost for the initial artwork. The cost of the shirts would be extra.

Pat Caruso advised that work continues on the RRR website and it is almost completed. Site will include a number of menu items and links to other Cadillac related sites.

New Business:

-Upcoming joint meet with the Valley Forge Region to the Flying W Resort. Pre-registration and \$18.00 fee is required.

-Our May dealer show was discussed. Volunteers were solicited to assist.

-A 50/50 was proposed for meetings to help offset club expenses.

-A Road Rally is planned for June 8th. Darren Muso and Chris Pozarycki will host. Details will follow.

-Our next meeting will be held on March 20, 2003. There was some discussion about going to a monthly meeting during Spring & Summer months. Also alternate meeting locations were also discussed. More to follow on both issues.

At the conclusion of the business portion of our meeting Bob & Grace Gluck provided a slide show of their trip to the National Meet held in Detroit and a number of other shows they had attended during the year.

Submitted By,
Pat Caruso



FIN - LAND

By Bob Crimmins

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Longview, Texas, the home of Rick Smith and his incredible collection of *retired* 1948-1964 Cadillac's. The collection consists of over 400 cars. Well over 100 are '59 and 60's in every conceivable body style.

Rick Smith is a classic himself, he has loved cars all his life just like the rest of us Cadillac enthusiasts. Rick started out in the retail auto parts business, has built several custom cars, produces Cadillac sofa's and even operated a chroming facility. Things quickly shifted as Rick slowly began dedicating all his time to Cadillac collecting.

Over the years Rick became a fanatic about seeking out retired '48-'64 Cadillac's. His motto in his parts business is, and continues to be, "No Fins—No Got". To say Rick is enthusiastic about cars is an understatement.

Visiting Rick is like visiting a five star hotel. His service and the time he dedicates to customers is exceptional. Rick acted as our tour guide walking myself and fellow CLC member Randy Kaniecki through the extremely well organized parts building. At the mere mention of a needed part Rick goes to the part not missing a beat, lecturing all the way about details and more details about cars. Rick even has what is known as the "Chrome Room", the place for housing beautifully *creme-de-la-creme* rechromed parts. Each piece is shelved on protective padding assuring not even the tiniest scratch. Believe me, I never have seen a room like this before. (I almost needed sunglasses!)



Any 1948-1964 Cadillac enthusiast needing a resource for parts should feel comfortable in calling Rick at 903-759-1390. He's a busy man, so be sure to know in advance the specific car, model and parts you desire.



The Raritan River Region is on the World Wide Web !!

<http://www.rrrclc.org>

By Pat Caruso, the Webmaster (webmaster@rrrclc.org)

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the Raritan River Region now has a little piece of the internet. As of February 23, our club's website <http://www.rrrclc.org> is fully operational. Hopefully, you will find time to navigate through the site and enjoy many of its features. We hope you agree that the site will be a useful tool for keeping our membership informed of the latest news, and a great way for new members to find us.

The site has been organized into 11 main sections:

- **HOME** – Users are welcomed to the site by a message from our Region President, Bernie Cooney.
- **JOIN US** – The benefits of joining the RRR are explained and prospective members have the opportunity to print our application form, as well as jump to the National CLC website for further membership information.
- **CADDY CORNER** – We've created a special on-line edition of Caddy Corner, in Adobe format. These special editions feature selected articles from previous Caddy Corners. They are available to view and print in color.
- **NEWS FLASH** will provide "at-a-glance" notices of our next meeting and our next event. We'll also post any last minute changes to events, due to weather or road-construction related situations.
- **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** provides a listing of great activities for the upcoming year. Events are separated by month, and include region and non-region events, such as AACA or VFR activities. Wherever possible, we've included links to provide additional information (maps, directions, information about the event's host, etc...)
- **PREVIOUS EVENTS** is a recap of events, listed by date. Users who are interested in a particular event are directed to the story in Caddy Corner.
- **LINKS** provides internet links to many other regions of the CLC, both domestic and international. We also provide links to non-CLC Cadillac clubs, and links-of-interest such as Cadillac, General Motors, the AACA, and Dan Reed Illustrations.
- **OFFICERS** – Each officer is listed. For your convenience, each name is linked to their e-mail address. So contacting an officer is never more than a click away !
- **THANKS** – The Raritan River Region can't possibly thank everyone who helped make us the fastest growing Region in the CLC. However, we did want to mention Dan Reed who donated his talents for designing our region's fantastic logo. We've also provided links to Dan's website (Dan Reed Illustrations).
- **MERCHANDISE** is still a work in progress, as the RRR weighs its options regarding merchandise for sale.

And saving the best for last.....**THE GALLERY.**

THE GALLERY is our on-line photo album of members' cars – spanning from 1931 through 2003. Photos of these fine automobiles are separated by decade. In many cases, owners have supplied stories and multiple photos about their cars. Currently, we have 33 automobiles featured in The Gallery – and I hope you will consider submitting photos and a story about "your-pride-and-joy". (Directions for submitting photos and stories are provided at the bottom of The Gallery.)

We've tried to make the site as user-friendly as possible. However, since nothing is ever perfect, I welcome each and every suggestion for improvement. After all, the site was created for you, the members of the Raritan River Region.

Please feel free to contact me if you ever have questions or comments regarding the website.

Thanks for your support – and happy surfing !!



See you next issue !