



Crest & Wings

Newsletter of the
Southern California
Region



JANUARY 2008

PENSKE CADILLAC SHOW

by Sheri Roberts

The 50th Anniversary Celebration Show for the 1958 Cadillac was held at Penske Cadillac in Torrance on November 11, 2007. The forecast for show day was rain, so Penske General Manager **Jake Kahen** had the lobby and service bays cleared of modern Cadillacs. This was the first show I have attended where the cars were all parked inside an auto dealership. It really made the whole experience very special.

We had a great turnout of 35 Cadillacs and two LaSalles. Nine 1958 Cadillacs took center stage as they lined up together in the lobby. Representing the model year were five Eldorado Biarritzes, one Series 62 coupe, one Eldorado Seville, one Series 75 limousine, and one Eldorado Brougham.

I had the pleasure of speaking to **Randy Hane**, a CLC member and friend, who had his '58 on display. Randy





David France's Brougham

explained that Cadillac only made 815 of the Eldorado Biarritz and 304 Eldorado Broughams that year.

We were fortunate to have the opportunity to see David France's completely restored Brougham. The Brougham comes with many options that are not available on the other '58 models and David's car had them all: the vanity kit, tissue set, comb & mirror set as well as the button that automatically opens and closes the trunk. The Brougham is also the only '58, 4-door model that comes with the hood that opens backwards. It was really special to be able to see this fully loaded Brougham.



The Brougham's interior



Pastel '60s Cadillacs

Inside the other showroom we had an amazing array of our members' Cadillacs of all years on display. Being inside under the bright lights made our cars sparkle and stand out even more.



More from the '60s





This beautiful 1937 LaSalle could not make it into the building under its own power thus it was the only car shown outdoors



Jeff Denhart's 40 LaSalle

The huge Penske facility is state of the art, right down to the cool, coffee-hot chocolate-latte-maker in the lounge which we visited often to keep warm on a very chilly day.

A great lunch was served, courtesy of Penske, and they really did it up right! There were mile-high deli sandwiches with all the fixin's and lots of fattening desserts. We all hung out, ate, laughed, and ate some more in the luncheon area that had been set up for us. It is always fun spending time with other CLC members and exchanging stories.

Award time came and the winners in three categories were: 1958 Cadillacs--- 1st **John Altimura's** Eldorado Biarritz, 2nd David France's Eldorado Brougham, 3rd **Kevin McCray's** Eldorado Biarritz.



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1902 to 1964 Cadillacs and LaSalle--- 1st **Brian Hermansder's** 1953 Coupe DeVille, 2nd **Dan Fisher's** 1949 Coupe De Ville, & 3rd **Calvin Jones' 1960 Series 62 convertible.**

1964 to present Cadillacs--- 1st **Julian Cangelosi's** 1966 Coupe DeVille convertible, 2nd **Gordon Collins' 1993 60 Special,** and 3rd Gary Sisk's 1968 Coupe DeVille.

The show came to an end and I stayed to watch the procession of gorgeous automobiles leave the dealership. I have to give kudos to **Calvin Jones** and the staff of Penske Cadillac who spent many hours organizing the event and did an amazing job! Congratulations to all the winners and I hope to see you at next year's show celebrating the 50th anniversary of the 1959 Cadillac!

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The Lakewood Country Club – A Southern California CLC Tradition

by Calvin Jones, Roy Schneider, & Rob Leonard

According to SoCal Regional director emeritus **Roy Schneider**, the Winter Show and Luncheon at the Lakewood Country Club has been a staple of the SoCal Region for about 30 years. Roy's best recollection is that **Alan Ravitch**, also a SoCal director emeritus, began this tradition in the late 1970s. As Roy recounted, the regional membership had gotten so large by then that there were simply too many of us to be accommodated at a private residence, as had been done in the past.

As we all know, the Lakewood Country Club has beautiful lawns, great facilities, and an excellent menu. This event always draws the finest automobiles in the club, with a great turnout of pre-war Cadillacs and LaSalles. For many long term and dedicated members it is the one time of the year they make that special effort to share their classic automobile with fellow Cadillac & LaSalle enthusiasts. If you are one of these members, please make that effort on February 10th. The rarity, value, and extraordinary beauty of these cars is what sets our club apart from so many others.

Many members have a special connection or memories associated with the Lakewood Luncheon. For **Calvin Jones**, this event is what brought him into the Region. At the behest of **Tony Hiller**, Calvin was coaxed into attending the event. Calvin was a little concerned about bringing his less-than-perfect '55 series 62 two-door hardtop, so he brought along his twelve-year-old son Justin thinking the critics would be a little less harsh with the youngster around. Calvin was delighted - he received "thumbs-up" upon driving in, was parked next to a beautiful '59 Eldorado Biarritz, and found the membership kind, friendly, and a wealth of information.

For **Rob Leonard**, Lakewood 2000 was the last enjoyable outing with his father before his passing, which is fitting as Rob's father passed to Rob his love of Cadillacs. This event is the Region's finest of the year – please continue the tradition by attending and bringing the finest Cadillac or LaSalle in your collection.

Director's Message—The "Rob Report"

Dear Southern California Cadillac & LaSalle Enthusiasts –

We'd like to thank **Gordon Collins** for his service on the SoCal CLC board. Gordon assisted in numerous events over the past year and will now join former SoCal Region board member **Jim Strickland** in continuing the rejuvenation of the San Diego region. We look forward to seeing both Gordon & Jim at future CLC events throughout Southern California.

We welcome **Sheri Roberts**—C&Ws assistant editor—and **Linda Leonard**—merchandise manager—to the SoCal board. Both of these lovely ladies are tireless workers at events and make wonderful additions to our governing body.

Your SoCal CLC renewal notice will soon arrive in the mail. Please fill it out, enclose your annual dues, and send it in.

As you may have noticed, the C&Ws has gone all color! We are very pleased to afford this upgrade, thanks to the lower costs of modern digital printing technology.

See you at Lakewood!

Rob Leonard



New Board Members Sheri & Linda

Member Profile Jay Davenport

My story starts about forty years ago when I had a 1961 Coupe deVille. This Caddy had mag wheels, an in-dash TV and a stereo hidden in the headliner. It also had swivel front bucket seats and a third brake light at the roof line inside the back window. All of this, years before anybody even thought of these “necessities” for a vehicle. One day I got stupid and sold it for reasons I can’t remember. Now, “flash forward” to about five years ago...

I found a 1961 Sedan deVille that had recently come out of storage after thirty years. It only had 40,000 original miles on it. It ran but needed lots and lots of TLC. Of course, all of the seals and gaskets, etc., etc., had dried up and leaked badly; the air conditioner and heater plus other stuff didn’t work; plus it needed upholstery, carpet and paint. However, surprisingly, most of the chrome was in good shape.

After over four years of loving restoration and lots of patience, I now have an award-winning “stock” vehicle.

Jay Davenport



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2008 Coming Events!

Sunday, February 10—Lakewood Country Club Show and Luncheon. Flyer in this issue!

Sunday, March 9—Petersen Automotive Museum show and tour. Flyer in this issue!

Sunday, April 13—El Segundo Driving Museum and Gourmet Luncheon. Flyer in this issue!

Sunday, May 4—California Wildflower and Red Rock Driving Tour and Lunch. A great opportunity to test your classic’s roadworthiness before the National Driving Tour!

Sunday-Friday, June 1-6 California Gold Country National Driving Tour hosted by the Northern California Region. Space is limited so sign-up early! Details and registration materials coming soon at www.clcnorcal.com

Sunday, June 8—All GM at Woodley Park

July—SoCal Regional National

August 12-16 Grand National in Cherry Hill, NJ

October—North-South Meet

November—Penske Cadillac Show honoring the 1959 Cadillac

June 2009 Grand National in Las Vegas NV featuring the first ever all indoors Show Field

The Unique Cadillac Club is a socially oriented club that brings together Cadillac enthusiasts for the express purpose of encouraging the preservation, restoration, and enjoyment of these beautiful vehicles. The club features Cadillac Automobiles from 1902 through 1979. ***They meet the second Wednesday of the month.*** The next club meetings will be held at Ricky & Ronnie’s in Torrance, CA on **February 13 & March 12** at 6:00 p.m. New enthusiasts are welcome. For additional information contact Kevin at 213-309-9225, Calvin at 310-213-9413, or Tony at 213-703-3291.

Go to www.caditalk.com for up to the minute SoCal Cadillac & LaSalle event info. For all make and model events and other collector car info throughout Southern California see: www.socalcarculture.com.

The General Motors FUTURLINER — by Sheri Roberts



October 20, 2007 – The Oldsmobile and Buick Clubs of Southern California hosted our Cadillac & LaSalle Club members to two great tours in the San Fernando valley.

The morning started at the Kona Kai Mobile Village in Canoga Park where Bob Valdez displayed his restored 1939 Futurliner.

Twelve Futurliners were custom built in 1939 by General Motors. The Futurliners toured the country in the GM-themed “Parade of Progress.” Each Futurliner displayed modern advances in science and technology such as jet engines, stereophonic sound, microwave ovens, television and many other modern marvels of the time. The parade

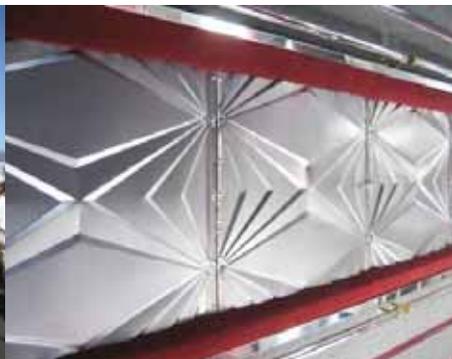
generated huge public attention as spectators awaited its arrival at each city. Unfortunately, the parade came to a permanent halt in 1956, a victim of one of its featured displays: television.

Bob originally found his Futurliner sitting lifeless and decaying in a junkyard. He had a vision of restoring the rusted mammoth so he bought it for \$2,500. When Bob learned from the fabricators that it would cost \$250,000 to put the skin back on -- he decided to take up welding!



Seventeen years later the massive bus-like vehicle that cost \$105,000 new, was back! The many years of meticulous restoration were worth it! Bob chose a maroon, white, and chrome color scheme for the interior with a custom tin-accented ceiling. The interior style is art deco with plush circular built-in couches, an awesome bar, mirrors and chrome everywhere.

Standing outside the fabulously restored bus with the GM nameplate, it is clear to see how much time and love Bob put into its restoration. Thanks to Bob for letting us enjoy and admire his awesome vision!





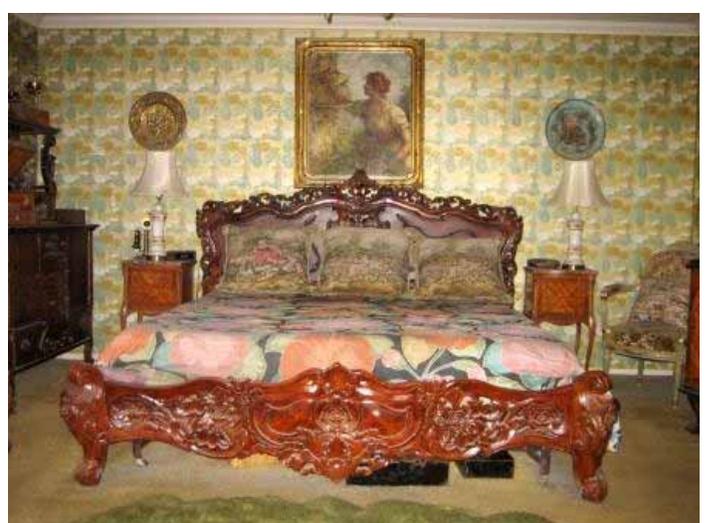
The next stop on our two-part tour was at Val Danneskiold's castle-like mansion in the Chatsworth Hills. Val has worked in film and television throughout his career and has collected a vast array of props and memorabilia. We were really excited and very lucky to have been extended an invitation to Val's house as we were told that he has not had large groups of people visiting the property in the last few years.

Nestled in the side of the hill is the house, which is enormous. Inside we were greeted by a life-size suit of armor.



The interior of the house was decorated in medieval style. To the left were the living room and a poolroom complete with what appeared to be a passed-out-drunk sleeping under the table. (Yes, he was a prop!)

Each room had its own theme. There was the Western room full of old western props, guns, boots, movie posters, old bikes and signed photographs of actors. There was another room with memorabilia from the Lawrence Welk show, a Bob's Big Boy miniature collection, a room dedicated to various kinds of keys (there must have been thousands!), and many other interesting collections as well.





Outside in the backyard there was an old fashioned film camera that looks to have dated back to the 1950's, a Jaguar engine serving as a lawn ornament, a huge life-size Bob's Big Boy statue, a real full-size prop airplane and much, much more.



What really excited me were the large garages on the property. Some were connected to the house while others required a hike up the hill. Inside each was 2 to 25 classic cars that varied in make, model, and country of origin. The cars included a few Cadillacs plus an eclectic mix built from the 1930s through the 1980s.

In addition to the cars, most garages had an additional collection. For example: one garage had the walls, beams, and ceilings plastered with thousands of license plates. The next garage had thousands of old oil lanterns suspended from the ceiling. The most interesting garage of all had all sorts of car parts, lights, and tools hanging from the rafters.



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To say there is not a spec of wall or ceiling without some kind of collection would be an understatement! It was very interesting and I, for one, can honestly say I have never seen anything like it before.



This '41 was uncovered for our enjoyment

Later, members of the Buick, Olds, and CLC met at Coco's restaurant for lunch and conversation. We had a great time.



The SoCal CLC extends a big THANK YOU! to the Olds club for arranging the Futurliner visit, and to the Buick Club for arranging the visit to Val's Castle.



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The obscure car from last time is a...

1948 Playboy—The first SoCal CLC member to identify it was **Dave Ventresca**. He received a new So-Cal CLC t-shirt as promised. The only other CLC member that properly identified the Playboy was Peter Luft of Ohio. The Playboy was manufactured from 1947-1951 by the Playboy Motor Corp. in Buffalo, NY, previously known as the Midget Motor Car Company. The 1948 model retailed for \$985. The Playboy was a three passenger convertible. The engine was a 4 cylinder that came from three different suppliers over the car's production run. The '47 engine came from Hercules, the '48s and '49s were powered by a Continental, and the '51s a Willys. Thanks everyone for participating!

Rob Leonard



Obscure Cars of Yesteryear

So—What is it? The first member that correctly identifies the **year, make and model** of this car wins a free SoCal CLC t-shirt! Submit your guess via phone message or email at 310-679-2803 or rl@caditalk.com.



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Unique Cadillac Club Holiday Festival

The day was warm and clear, perfect for driving your vintage Cadillac to a car event in Southern California. The Unique Cadillac Club held their first annual holiday festival on December 15th at Dave Simon's museum in Gardena, CA. Dave's museum is the home of more than 40 vintage automobiles and other drivable collecti-



bles, many of which are driven on a regular basis. The celebration was attended by more than 35 UCC members and their families with many bringing out their classic Cadillacs and LaSalles.



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Highlights of the event were Richard Tupper's black and red museum quality 1959 Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz with the rare continental kit, and his recently purchased custom 1951 Cadillac convertible. The 1959 Eldorado had a constant stream of admirers throughout the day, while the 1951 Cadillac drew longing looks from the hot-rodders.



UCC/CLC member **Michael Terry** wowed the crowd with his pristine burgundy and camel 1948 Cadillac convertible that showcased the whisper-like efficiency of Cadillac's last flathead.



The membership unanimously voted Dave Simon a member of the group and pledged to help him search for his dream car – a 1959 Cadillac convertible.



The UCC provided its members with a catered lunch and door prizes - Rob Leonard won a beautiful cookie jar.

The Unique Cadillac Club meets the second Wednesday of each month at Ricky and Ronnie's Cruise-in Diner,

1301 W. Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, CA 90501 (310) 326-1213. All CLC members are welcome!



Calvin Jones