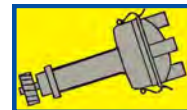


THE DISTRIBUTOR



NEWS FOR MEMBERS OF THE
BAY COUNTRY REGION
ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA



VOLUMES 23, ISSUES 10-12; 24, ISSUE 1

JANUARY-APRIL 2024

MY LASALLE LOVE AFFAIR

By Craig Duerling

The first car I can remember our family having was a two-tone green 1940 LaSalle 52 "Special." I can remember taking trips in it for vacation, as well as riding along on local errands and some local excursions on Sunday afternoons. I loved that car. It was such a special car. None of my friends or relatives had anything quite so special. Well, my dad sold it when I was about 9 years old. I begged him to put it up on blocks in the back yard so that I could drive it when I turned 16 and got my driver's license. Unfortunately, he wasn't able to do that. A little sidelight – Dad replaced it with a 1947 Chevy coupe. My mom would mutter when she drove it that it was like driving a Singer Sewing machine, after driving the LaSalle!

Fast forward about 60 years, and I had been watching such shows as "Chasing Classic Cars" and "Fantom Works," thinking that it would be fun to have an old car, but I wasn't sure what I should get. Would it be the first car I drove, a 1954 Olds 88 two-door, or the family car, a little later, a 1959 Buick Invicta with those amazing tail fins. Possibly my first car, a 1962 Corvair, or my first new car, a 1967 Olds Cutlass Supreme? I had been thinking about this off and on for a while, but none of them seemed quite right. While I was watching a TV show, I can't even tell you what show it was, they mentioned LaSalle, Illinois. The light bulb over my head went off, blinking rapidly. LaSalle! That's what I should get! But, my first thought was they are probably too expensive.

(Continued on page 2)



Left: Little Craig behind the 1940 LaSalle
Below: Father & Son



Craig's father and his 37 Chevy Convertible Coup



Craig, age 6, behind the wheel of the family LaSalle, in 1953



Craig and his 1940 LaSalle 52 Special.

MY LASALLE LOVE AFFAIR

(Continued from page 1)

I started looking on line and found a few LaSalle's for sale at what I considered pretty reasonable prices. I wasn't looking for a show car. I was looking for something that I could drive around for the fun of it. But, it seemed like many were a kind of kaki yellow color, or were model 50s with the rear suicide doors. None seemed close to what we had, and they were pretty far away from Maryland. They just weren't what I was looking for. I had almost given up when I happened to run across an almost exact match for what my family had, a 1940 two-tone green 52 "Special." It was exactly what I was looking for!

I contacted the person in Connecticut who had it for sale, to see if it was still available, and it was. If I bought it, I was going to rent a trailer and bring it back. However, at my wife's urging, and especially after seeing some more photos showing the quality of the paint on the car, I decided that, if I bought it, I would have it transported back in an enclosed trailer. A good friend drove up with me to see it. It was even nicer than it looked to be in the photos. Cosmetically, it was beautiful. I drove it and it seemed to have some minor mechanical problems, the transmission was grinding some between gears and there was a loud clunk in the front end when you hit a bump, but the engine ran well, and it drove nicely. But, there seemed to be no really major problems with it. So, I bought it and had it shipped home.

The seller had bought it from the widow of the restorer. The restorer had died just before the restoration was completed, and his nephew completed the restoration. The person I bought it from had not registered it or used it at all. He just stored it and put it up for sale.

Turns out that there were more mechanical and other

problems than I expected. I had the transmission rebuilt, and that solved the gear grinding problem. There were stupid things, like there was no control for the windshield wipers. It turned out there was just a hole in the dash where it should have been. But that was okay, since there was no wiper motor either. The headlight dimmer switch was wired wrong, so that I only had high beams or nothing. None of the door locks worked, either inside or with a key. I had a list of over 30 things, large and small, that needed to be fixed. These have been challenging and fun to track down and get working.

The most time-consuming problem was with the cooling system. It didn't overheat, like our family's LaSalle did at times. But, at highway speeds it pushed coolant out of the radiator overflow at the rate of about a gallon on a 50 mile trip. Mysteriously, the temperature gauge didn't show that it was overheating. I tried everything I could think of, and everything related to the problem on the Cadillac LaSalle Club forum, to fix it. After again searching the forum, trying many different key words, I finally found two people who had addressed the exact same problem by having their radiators re-cored. I had mine re-cored, but it didn't solve the problem. After many months, a few years even, I finally found the problem. The ports that let the coolant from the block into the head between cylinders 5 and 7 were completely rusted shut, so that at higher speeds, the coolant between those two cylinders boiled, increasing the coolant system's pressure and pushing coolant out of the radiator overflow. We cleaned that out, installed new head gaskets, and that finally solved that problem. Of course, there still were others, but we have worked most of them out.

The LaSalle and I have had a long love affair. We were separated for many years, but we are back together now and probably will be for the rest of my driving life.

FEBRUARY 8TH LUNCH BUNCH *By Darlene Newcomb*

It was a beautiful, sunny day for our lunch bunch at Suicide Bridge Restaurant on Thursday, the 8th. We had a group of 12 but only a few old cars. Guess everyone is



Apparently, the food disagreed with Jim.

ST. MICHAELS CARS & COFFEE

By Craig Duerling

I took my '67 Toronado to the St. Michaels Museum for Cars & Coffee on April 13th, on a weekend where they featured cars from the '50s and '60s. Unfortunately, I didn't take a photo showing my own car, but if you look closely at the photo at right, with the Jeep Woodie and look through the windows of the Henry J, you can just see the roof of the Toronado. ☺



EDITOR'S NOTE: Sally and I are members of the St. Michaels Classic Motor Museum, and we attend their Cars & Coffee regularly. We recommend that you consider doing so too. It's free, and so is the coffee, although a cup for donations is available.

Please consider joining us, any Saturday, from April through October, from 9:00 am 'til Noon.



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EDITOR'S NOTE: Sally and I stopped here while on the St Michaels Classic Motor Museum Poker Run event last Saturday. We were impressed with the quality of the displays, and we think it would be a nice destination for a BCR outing. In addition to their annual show, above, they are open the 1st Saturday of every Month, from May through October, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, .

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

Ken reminded me that we have not published a **Distributor** this year. It is time to bring everyone up to date and tell members of our future plans.

There was no January Lunch Bunch, but Darlene Newcomb arranged for a Lunch Bunch in February. On February 8th we dined at Suicide Bridge restaurant. Betty and I drove directly there as did the Morriszes, while others met in Easton and enjoyed the tour to Secretary. The meal was good, as usual.

For March, I arranged lunch at Carol's Kitchen, in Cambridge, on March 14th. Betty and I frequent the restaurant, so I knew the club members would enjoy a good meal there. The Duerlings were able to join us since Carol's is only a half mile from their home. Carol's is a small Mon & Pop operation, which is the type of place Jim and Darlene intended the club to patronize when we started the Lunch Bunch program. The food was good and the portions hearty. We had 17 members at the restaurant. Some members noted that it was a place they would patronize again.

Carol Grant planned a trip to Betterton Beach for April. The club decided to not rent the pavilion and take a chance on the weather. Unfortunately the weather forecast leading up to the date were not good, so we cancelled the event. Of course, the weather turned out to be better than predicted.

May brings the "Dust'em Off" Tour. On May 11th we will meet at Hyde Park, leaving there at 1:00 PM. We will travel to Tilghman Island and the Waterman's Museum. After a visit there we will head back toward St. Michaels, stopping at Chesapeake Landing for a late lunch/early dinner. So far 12 members are signed up for the event.

Ken and Sally have agreed to host the club's Summer Picnic. It is set for June 29th, at their Choptank home. Thank you, Ken and Sally, for hosting this event again!

For July, Craig is planning an ice cream run to celebrate National Collector Car Day. The actual date is a Sunday but he is planning it for a date later in the week, so that he and Nan can join in the fun.

New for this year's General Membership meetings, Craig has been showing auto related TV ads, jingles and other memorabilia. Remember Diana Shore singing "See the USA in your Chevrolet?" I caught some of the club members singing along until she did extra verses that most didn't remember. It was good fun. You should join us!

Sincerely,
Ed Nabb, Jr., Pres.

ITEMS FOR THE DISTRIBUTOR should be submitted by the 20th of the month. Submissions from members are greatly appreciated. Tell us about, or show us, your cars (and trucks) and what you are doing with them. If you're planning an event, here's the place to describe it.

Electronic submissions are preferred. Having avoided learning how to type all these years, the Editor doesn't want to have to learn now. On the other hand, photos and illustrations can be scanned, with no typing necessary, so send anything that you would like the membership to see.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

- 7 **BCR Board Meeting. 1:00-2:00 pm; via zoom**
- 10-11 Carlisle Import & Performance Nationals—Fairgrounds, Carlisle PA Info: 717-243-7855
- 11 Hebron Train Depot Show 9am – 2:30pm —101 NW Railroad Ave., Hebron MD Reg. opens at 9AM--\$15 Day of Show Trophies awarded at 2:30PM
- 13 Harrisonville VFC Rods and Rails 9am – 4pm
- 15 **BCR Premeeting 12 – 1pm Easton Elks Lodge**
- 15 **BCR Monthly Business Meeting 1 – 2:30pm**
- 25 St Michaels Classic Motor Museum Memorial Day Parade, \$45.00, includes food and music after the parade. <https://bit.ly/paradecomm>
- 31-2 Carlisle Ford Nationals—Fairgrounds, Carlisle PA Info: 717-243-7855 CarlisleEvents.com

JUNE

- 4 **BCR Board Meeting. 1:00-2:00 pm; via zoom**
- 6-8 ATHS Convention and Truck show, York
- 9 AACA Eastern Divisional Tour Fredericksburg, VA

Use the **BAY COUNTRY REGION HOTLINE** to:

- find out about activity changes, club emergencies, etc.
- pass along urgent information to all club members

Contact **Lee Caplan** at 919-636-0955 or lcaplan@icloud.com

BAY COUNTRY REGION

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THE BAY COUNTRY REGION, AACA

The purpose of the club shall be the preservation, use, and enjoyment of self-propelled antique, classic, and special interest vehicles and related parts, materials, and services. The Board of Directors of the Region shall meet on the first Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise specified. Membership meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month, except July and August. Meeting announcements will be carried each month in the newsletter. Articles for the newsletter are welcomed and members are encouraged to submit news about personal interest items to the editor by the 20th of each month.

**BAY COUNTRY DISTRIBUTOR
JANUARY-APRIL 2024****KEN BRIERS
736 5TH ST NE APT B
WASHINGTON, DC 20002-3587***Coming up:**Dust 'em Off:
May 11th.**This weekend!***FIRST CLASS MAIL****INSIDE: MY LASALLE LOVE AFFAIR****BIRTHDAYS**

5/1	ANDY WILHELM	6/9	MIKE MURRAY	7/3	BUCK BURTON
5/3	WALTER PATTON	6/13	BUD STORY	7/8	ED NABB
5/8	CATHY PROUSE	6/17	MARY JANE FRITZ	7/16	HENRY SCHMIDT
5/9	SALLY DONNER	6/21	BARBARA EMERY	7/17	HARRIET REICHARD
5/17	ANDY WISE	6/23	ELEANOR SMITH	7/18	JEANNE AVEY
5/28	KARLA WISE	6/25	WAYNE MORGAN	7/18	CHARLES EMERY

THE NOT-SO-NEW NEWLYWED GAME

To add a bit of humor to our Bay Country Region Holiday Get-Together, the BCR members and board agreed to let Carol develop a game of 'chance' this year as an alternative to the previous years' activities. Four brave couples had no choice but to volunteer as the Not-So-New-Newlyweds during the general membership meeting when there were few more than that in attendance! Up for the challenge of chance and memory were the following couples: Ned and Betty, Jim and Darlene, Charles and Barbara, and our newest newlyweds: Charlotte and Danny. Neil was the scorekeeper and Carol, the emcee. As all four couples approached the tables, and the audience moved up for the sake of improving hearing and the anticipation grew as all club members had high stakes in the game. While at the party, members were each given the opportunity to predict their choice for the winning couple as well as the fourth-place couple; there could be no losers for our happy couples. Panera gift cards were awaiting a random draw for those that guessed each correctly, as well as two bonus \$10 gift cards from those that submitted guesses. All participants received a \$15 gift card, with the winners receiving a \$25 gift card. As questions were asked, suspense dwindle.

dled. One couple matched answers to Carol's questions just a bit, no, a lot more than the others! With a slight, or possibly an overwhelming lead, Charles and Barbara became our 2023 Not-So-New Newlywed Game winners. We congratulate them and know they will live happily ever after! All others claimed the title of second place with tied scores. And with that, another successful Christmas activity ended the night with laughter for some and sighs of relief for others! It was a fun way to end our 2023 holiday event! Thank you to all participants!

As the new year moves on, we look forward to another wonderful BCR year ending in a pleasant Christmas dinner with a stimulating game activity. Carol is planning a 2024 activity that will involve all attendees this time. Please plan to join us! No volunteering needed...it is a given!

One final note: While I left the party with great enthusiasm and intentions of getting this blurb out to Ken within a day or so of our party, I did not, and it left my radar. I apologize and hope that you enjoy reading this 'behind the times' article!

Carol Grant