



NORTHWEST OHIO REGION

Cadillac-LaSalle Club

Northwest Ohio Region News

January 2012

Volume 5, Number 1



January 14, Saturday

Membership meeting, 2:15

Uncle John's Pancake House, Secor Road

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**On the cover—
A conversation with a 1941 Series 61**

by Elden Smith

MY (PAINT) SKIN HAS BLEMISHES, blisters, and checks. The chrome on my hood vent bears some marks of corrosion and so does the crest on that vent. Detailing and bathing did not always get the wax out of the crevices around that crest and vent. Life, however, is not a concours judging event. I am a survivor, I am a Cadillac, and I look good for my age!

I imagined this conversation while looking in the bathroom mirror. I suspect that many collector car hobbyists relate to our old cars in a personal way. This imagined conversation might be a little too real.

As we begin a new year, it is important to remember that life is not a concours event for us either. It is also important to keep on being survivors, and like our cars, keep on doing the best that we can.

Happy 2012 to all!

An afterthought

EDITORS TAKE PRIDE AND PLEASURE in a new year of publication. Below the banner on the cover appear the date and volume-number. *The CLC/NWO Region News* has begun its fifth year of publication, and, more importantly, our Club will be five years old at the Taylor Show in September. It hardly seems that long, but it is. One of the newer regions in the CLC, NWO has made a solid start. Thank you to all our members for your continuing commitment.



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President's Message

by George Louthan

I REALIZE THIS IS AN EARLY PUBLICATION for 2012 but what better way to start the New Year than a head start on things. Our publisher is taking a holiday vacation and would not be able to publish at the first of the month. Next year is shaping up already regarding activities for the region and it is rather exciting. Before we get into that, on the personal front, Mary Ann and I have completed the move to Bradford Drive from Prouty Avenue with a few items not settled yet. Half of Mary Ann's house is temporarily residing in my garage and every day brings more work and surprises as we open several boxes each day. I am still fighting with AT&T to change the phone number to 419-382-8411 from 419-382-7820. It's hard to communicate with people from India. I understand USA Western, Southern, and New England accents but I'm having a real problem with India. Someday maybe these services will return to our country. All I can say is try both numbers to see which one works.

Membership

ACCORDING TO A PRELIMINARY COUNT with Steve Kasprzak, our revised membership is at thirty-five paid members for the coming year. This is less than the closing year from 2011 but more than we started with last year and that's encouraging.

Winter Meetings

THE WINTER MEETINGS for January and February are:

- **Saturday, January 14 at 2:15.**
- **Saturday, February 11 at 2:15.**

Both meetings are luncheon meetings and will be held at
Uncle John's Pancake House
3131 Secor Road, Toledo

The restaurant is just north of the intersection of Central Avenue and Secor Road in West Toledo. We have the back room reserved and plenty of space to bring an associate or friend along with an appetite.

The remainder of the meetings will be held mostly at Taylor Cadillac with several exceptions. Stay tuned for that schedule to be published in February.

Cadillac

Spring Crank Up Tour

THE SPRING CRANK UP TOUR IS ALL SET, thanks to Bill Shepherd. We will have a driving tour to The GM Heritage Collection in the north suburban Detroit area. Driving instructions and rendezvous points will be finalized in the February–March newsletters. The event will be held on Saturday, April 14 at 10:30, which means we will leave the Toledo area around 8:30. Stay tuned for more details. Long time CLC member Greg Wallace just happens to be the curator of the collection for General Motors and has arranged to waive the \$20 entry fee for our group, so there is no excuse not to want to go to this great event.

Club Project

AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING it was agreed to do a club project of restoring a 1949 Cadillac chassis to be given to the Cadillac LaSalle Club Museum and Research Center for display in the new building at the Gilmore Museum in Hickory Corners MI. Bob Stahl has a donor chassis that will need a lot of work to make it a museum piece, and we will need all the volunteers we can muster to accomplish this task. We chose the 1949 as the advent of the overhead valve V-8 era and a way our region could make a significant contribution. Paul Ayers of the museum board has given us a resounding approval to do this project and a heartfelt thank you to the region for this effort. Stay tuned for details of the project as we go forward and how you can help.

Since we are publishing before Christmas, We again wish to take the opportunity to wish you and your family a blessed holiday season.

Th-Th-Th-Th-That's all for now folks. Think spring.
George & Mary Ann Louthan



The Editor's Page: Is E-Bay motors the new Wish Book?

by Elden Smith



Club members anticipate spring projects for the “toys” that we put away for the winter.

WINTER MONTHS ARE TIMES OF NOSTALGIA, but they pose special problems for editors of classic car newsletters. Without car shows and pictures to share, we tend to write about hopes and projects for our clubs. Privately (maybe even secretly), club members list anticipated spring projects for the “toys” that we put away for the winter. We worry what maladies might develop during the inactivity.

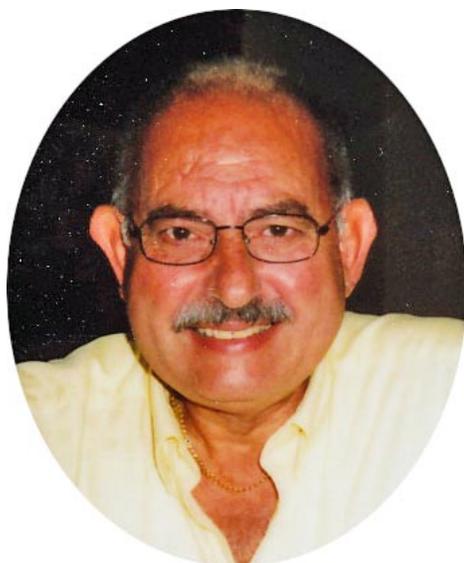
Many collector car magazines seem to focus on unpublished show reports from autumn in their winter issues. They print abundant auction advertisements from warm places like Arizona, Florida, and California. These often include pictures that attempt to entice us to travel in search of our dream vehicles. Even the automotive classifieds in *The Blade* dwindle in number and content. Ours is a seasonal hobby—I have to remind myself.

Winter also reminds me of my childhood during World War II years. Between 1933 and 1993, Sears published a 300-page Christmas catalog separate from the “Big Book.” The September-issued Christmas catalog featured many pages of toys, but in the war years, most were of wood construction. I was lucky to have older male cousins whose outgrown pre-war metal toys found their way to me. I still remember a metal fire truck with working crank-operated ladders, a “steam” shovel with a crank-operated boom and a string-activated bucket, plus a model airplane that carried the Pan Am logo. All were of metal construction and had come from a 1930s metal pressing operation before the war put an end to such frivolous manufacturing. Compared to the toys that my children and grandchildren owned these now seem primitive at best.

Sears has brought back a miniature version of the earlier Wish Book, but I am too old to find its offerings full of excitement. Instead, I get online and fantasize about cars to own with the help of e-bay motors! I sign on nearly every day. It is fun to watch what and how people bid. Occasionally, I mutter, “You cannot be serious!”

Once in while, I contact a seller with questions and, when a car is not too far away to take a look, occasionally I make an offer. Four years ago, I bought my Eldorado online—sight unseen. It was in Connecticut and too far away for me to inspect personally. That qualifies as beginners luck. I had never bid or bought online until that occasion. I have made a rule for myself: if it is too far to make an inspection visit, it is too far to place a bid.

I realize now that I never graduated from the joy of hours spent with the Wish Book!



Wait till next year!
by Elden Smith

WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR COULD REFER TO THE **DETROIT TIGERS**, but it is really about the 2013 Cadillac XTS—the Cadillac that replaces both the DTS and the STS. Production will begin in early 2012 at the Oshawa, Ontario, plant according to online sources.

If one wants a full size new 2012 Cadillac sedan, perhaps the ideal thing to do would be to buy a 2011 DTS. The last DTS model year will almost certainly become a collector car. Put it in storage for 25 years and don't pile up any miles. Then bring it out wearing Ohio historical plates that will not expire for 50 years.

That might work for a few folks, but it probably will not work for me. If I bought a new 2011 DTS and stored it for 25 years, I would be 98 years old when I bring it out and buy the first historical plates. That means that I will be 148 when it is time to renew them. (I wonder how much gas and insurance will cost by then.)

If a Cadillac that bears the date of 2012 on the title is your heart's desire, three models are available according to Cadillac.com. These are the CTS, SRX, and the Escalade. The big excitement will come with the 2013 models no matter in what year they debut. Besides the full-size XTS, Cadillac will enter the world of extended-range electric vehicles. The name currently announced is the ELR. It will find its base in the Converj concept car. Again, more detail is available at the Cadillac website.

Unveiled in Los Angeles, the 2013 Cadillac XTS (below) makes a clear statement about its identity. It is a Cadillac!



**2013 Cadillac XTS:
the Cadillac that replaces
both the DTS and the STS**



It was a good year...but the best ones are yet to come!



**...a perfect time
to thank our
contributors...**

THE DECEMBER ISSUE CONCENTRATED HEAVILY ON 1911, mostly as a salute to the Chevrolet centennial. It splashed over into other 1911 interests, as our readers already know. Sometimes it is hard for editors to draw the line on a subject, put a period, and move onward.

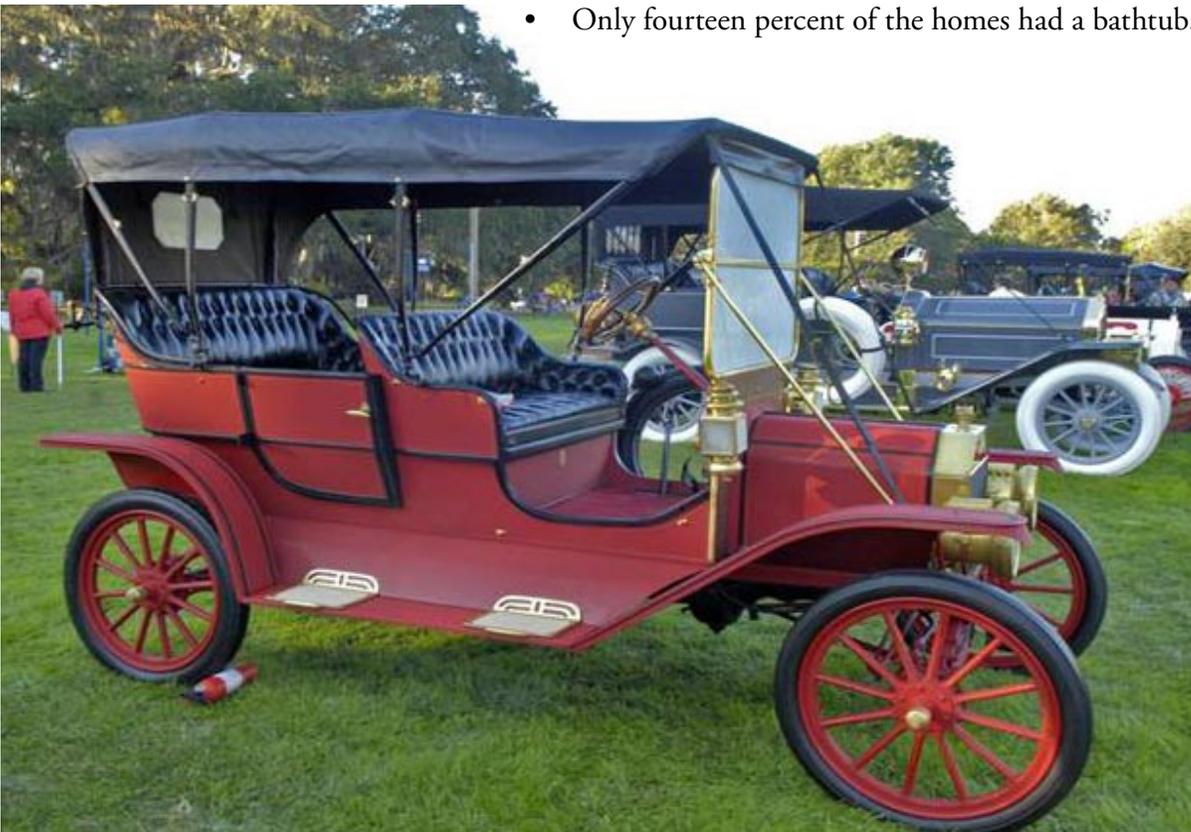
Snail mail often crossed in transit in times past, but it seems rare when e-mail does the same thing. Just as I posted December's newsletter I received an e-mail note from our friend and neighbor to the north—Len Constance, Past President of the Motor City Region CLC. Len sent a photo of a 1911 Ford Model T and a list of 1911 facts. They appear below and on page 7. Bear with me one more time before we say farewell to '11—either 1911 or 2011.

This seems like a perfect time to thank our contributors for the interesting, and often humorous, information they bring to our newsletter. Please keep them coming. They might not appear in print for a month or two, but usually they will appear.

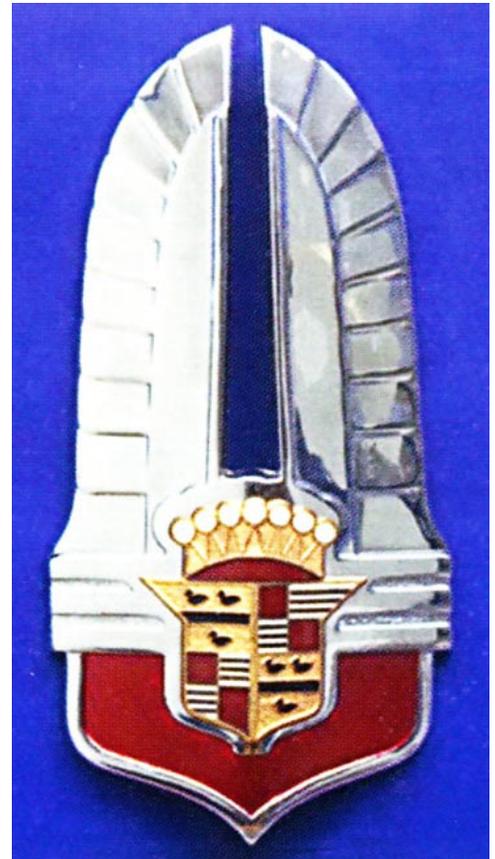
So here we go back to 1911!

“The year is 1911—One hundred years ago. What a difference a century makes! Here are some statistics for the Year 1911:

- The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.
- Fuel for this car (Model T) was sold in drug stores only.
- Only fourteen percent of the homes had a bathtub.



- Only eight percent of the homes had a telephone.
- There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!
- The average US wage in 1910 was 22 cents per hour.
- The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, A dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.
- More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.
- Ninety percent of all doctors had no college education! Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and the government as “substandard.”
- Sugar cost four cents a pound.
- Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.
- Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering their country for any reason.
- The five leading causes of death were:
 - Pneumonia and influenza
 - Tuberculosis
 - Diarrhea
 - Heart disease
 - Stroke
- The American flag had 45 stars.
- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was only 30!
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.
- There was neither a Mother's Day nor a Father's Day.
- Two out of every ten adults couldn't read or write and only six percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at local corner drugstores.
- Back then pharmacists said, “Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, Regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health!” Shocking?
- Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.
- There were about 230 reported murders in the entire USA!



I am now going to forward this to someone else without typing it myself. From there, it will be sent to others all over the world—all in a matter of seconds! Try to imagine what it may be like in another 100 years.”

Hobbyist info: World's oldest running car finds new home

by Elden Smith



NUMEROUS NEWS AGENCIES HAVE REPORTED THE SALE of the World's Oldest Running Car. This happened October 6–7, at the RM Auctions in Hershey PA. The bid was for \$4.2M plus 10% buyers premium to make the final price \$4.6M. There are too many reports to quote them all. For those who desire to see the available material, the RMAuctions.com website is the best source for information.

RM Auctions has posted downloadable pictures online. Some appear here. We thank the company for making these available.

The car is the 1884 De Dion Bouton et Trepardoux Dos-a-Dos Steam Runabout. It is a steam-powered vehicle built one year before Karl Benz and Gottlieb Daimler invented the gasoline internal combustion engine.

To prove that the car, 127 years old, still runs RM personnel drove it onto the auction stage. Numerous reporters say that the crowd rose to its feet in applause. Some further indicate that the ensuing uproar spurred a bidding war that drove the price upward.

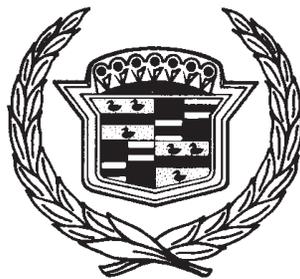
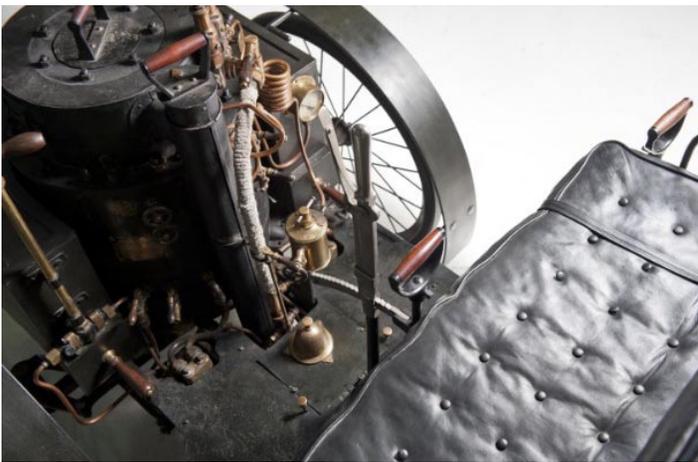
Other reports affirm that the car has had only four owners and that it belonged to one family for 81 years! Restorers have touched it only twice in its long life. Among its commendations is a double gold at the 1997 Pebble Beach d'Elegance in California.

Among the more interesting pieces of trivia about the car, I found this: George Bouton and Charles-Armand Trepardoux built the car for French entrepreneur Count de Dion. Like so many of us, the first owner named his car. He called it "La Marquise" in honor of his mother.

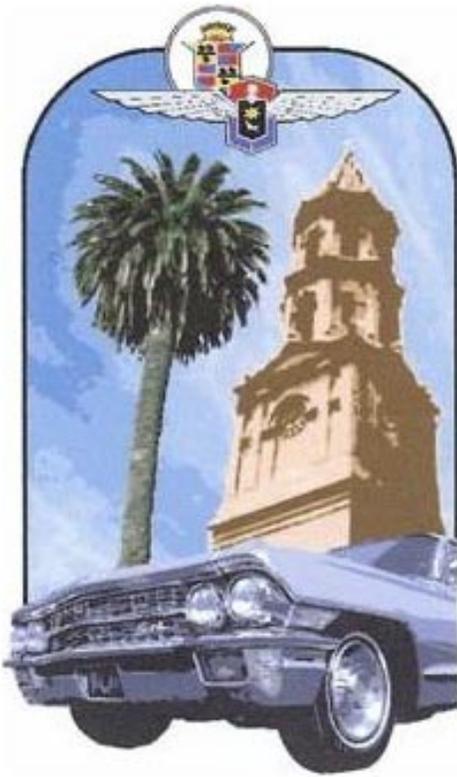
CLC/NWO offers thanks to Burt Park for submitting this material and the references to confirm it.



World's oldest running car, continued



**Florida Suncoast Region Presents
Nation's First City Grand National
June 13 through June 17, 2012**



VISIT US IN ST. AUGUSTINE where we are excited to share our sub-tropical paradise. St. Augustine is blessed with soft white sandy beaches (considered some of the best in the country), beautiful sunrises over the Atlantic Ocean and tropical breezes swaying the palm trees. While our Grand National will be in our country's oldest city, our host hotel is fresh and new. With a recent \$10 million renovation, the elegant Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village with its attached convention center is a perfect venue, with ample room for an indoor swap meet. It allows us to experience the unique flavor of St. Augustine including tropical, Spanish and British influences while enjoying the most modern amenities. Sharing the manicured grounds with the hotel is the World Golf Hall of Fame.

We hope that when our guests leave us they will have learned a little history, enjoyed a fun Cadillac experience and discovered what makes Florida such a unique destination that entices millions of visitors each year. You will feel like you made out like a pirate with our luxury room daily rate of only \$89 plus tax. **For reservations, call 800-266-9432 and use reference code CLC Grand National.**

See you in St. Augustine!



***North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) January 14–22, 2012
Cobo Center, Detroit***



**Northwest Ohio Region
Of
Cadillac LaSalle Club Inc.
Membership Application/Renewal**

Name _____

Associate Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Cell phone _____ Date _____

E-mail _____

CLC Membership Number _____ Year Fee \$25.00 Paid _____

Car #	Make	Year	Model
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1	_____	_____	_____
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2	_____	_____	_____
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3	_____	_____	_____
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4	_____	_____	_____
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5	_____	_____	_____
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6	_____	_____	_____
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7	_____	_____	_____
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8	_____	_____	_____
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Make checks payable to
Northwest Ohio Region Of CLC

Return To: Steve Kasprzak
2510 Randall Dr.
Oregon, Ohio 43616

Show your CLC/NWO colors—wear our logo at shows and cruises



Above:

Large CLC/NWO logo embroidered onto your jacket
\$125 plus tax: total \$133.44



Above:

Small CLC/NWO logo embroidered onto your jacket, shirt, hat, or whatever you like
\$35 plus tax: total \$37.36

Editor's note:

To order one or more of these logos or labels, e-mail me at jharry3456@bex.net or telephone me at 419-882-6258. I will need your advance payment in the form of a check.

Classified

Parts and literature

- 8 /55s, 8/58s, 4/67s, all in good, not perfect condition. No dents @ \$25 each, 81–84 Fleetwood and DeVille optional color coded fin caps, brand new in packaging, one set of four in silver accent and one set of four in yellow accent, sold in sets of four only; \$300 per set.
- Four new 79 DeVille hubcaps, \$200.00 for the set
Call George Louthan at 419-382-8411

Car Wanted

- 1976 Eldorado Convertible, white on white.
Contact Eli Markho at 419-509-7265



Treasurer's Report

by Duke Gercke

Balance on October 11, 2011	\$557.42
Memberships	\$325.00
Newsletter.....	-\$60.88
Balance on November 5, 2011	\$821.54
Memberships	225.00
Newsletter.....	-60.88
Balance on December 6, 2011	985.66

Save These Dates Now For Club Activities!

Day, Date

January 14, Saturday
February 11, Saturday

Event

Membership meeting, 2:15
Membership meeting, 2:15

Time, Place

Uncle John's Pancake House, Secor Road
Uncle John's Pancake House, Secor Road

Important reminder

Please remember to pay your Northwest Ohio Region dues for 2012.