

Cadillac LaSalle Club **North Texas Region**

July 2025



Awarded Best CLC Regional Newsletter 2008, 2020

CLC Grand National 2025



At this year's Cadillac & LaSalle Club Grand National meet held in Murfreesboro, Tennessee Steve Overby, a member of the North Texas region Cadillac & LaSalle club, won a Senior Wreath in the Primary Division for his 1993 Cadillac Allanté and was also awarded a Past President's Preservation Award.

The Past President's Preservation Award recognizes cars that are 30 years and older and have been preserved and not restored.

1993 was the last year of production for the Cadillac Allanté which included the North Star engine. Steve's car is a low-milage, unrestored car.



Winner CLC Web Site Merit Award 2007-2008, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018



Winner Old Cars Weekly Golden Quill Award 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

Story and Photos by Lifer

The 2025 Cadillac and LaSalle Club Grand National in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, was an outstanding event. Perfect weather complemented the comfortable accommodations at the Embassy Hotel, while the show field displayed 132 exquisite Cadillac and LaSalle vehicles. The week was thoughtfully packed with engaging activities, creating a truly memorable experience. Over 450 guests attended, including twenty-seven from Texas, making this gathering exceptionally special.









The inaugural Monday following registration featured a traditional annual event: a self-guided scenic driving tour. Participants utilized maps to explore rural back roads at their own pace, traveling in classic Cadillac vehicles and enjoying Tennessee's picturesque landscape. The destination was Tullahoma, where the group visited the Beechcraft Heritage Museum, dedicated to aviation education and the preservation of aircraft models from 1943 onward. It was noted that the museum did not have a Beech Baron D-55 (Army T-42) on display, an aircraft significant to the author's training for multi-engine and instrument flight training.





The Cadillacs drove the 51 miles to the Beechcraft Museum.

The 78,000 square foot facility houses 38 aircraft, in addition to many aviation artifacts, original pieces of art, and aviation memorabilia.



Beech 18 *C-45 Miss Maine



Harriett Levy and Linda Mikyska pose in front of the Model 17 Staggerwing bi-plane first flown in 1932. This represents the quality of the examples displayed in the museum

After our visit to the museum and viewing the aircraft exhibits, we proceeded o drive another 12 miles to the Jack Daniels Distillery Visitor's Center in Lynchburg, Tennessee. Utilizing the shuttle service provided by the distillery, we traveled to downtown Lynchburg, where we enjoyed a meal and explored the town square, making for a highly enjoyable experience.



The following day, we traveled by bus to Franklin, Tennessee, to visit the Museum of Cars owned by Willis J. Johnson. The museum features an impressive collection of over 1,000 classic automobiles housed across multiple buildings within a scenic setting. Mr. Johnson is the founder and former CEO of CoPart, the world's largest salvage yard, which processes up to 3,000 salvaged vehicles per hour for auctions across the United States and Europe. During our interaction, I found Mr. Johnson to be approachable and engaging, and we enjoyed exchanging stories about our experiences in Vietnam.



Mr. Johnson Has numerous displays within his collection with patriotic themes. ABOVE: He has a presentation of his military service and time in South Vietnam. RIGHT: Outside a military and U.S. Flag display.









Views of insides of two identical buildings that house most of the Willis J. Johnson collection. Cars, gas pumps, memorabilia, all on a flawless epoxy floor.





Afterwards we visited a significant collection owned by Mr. Johnson's daughter and son-in-law, Reba and Rodgar McCalmon, where we enjoyed lunch at their impressive automobile museum. The experience was reminiscent of Neil Polan's *Mels' Diner and Man Cave* as detailed in the November 2024 issue of The Standard of The World newsletter, but on a much larger scale.



We were their special guests this day.





Harry Michalewicz and Steve Overby inspect Johnny Cash's Cadillac.



Every 15 minutes the big train engine would fire up with steam and a bell. It was all metal, noisey, and realistic.







Enjoying the provided, catered lunch: Debbie and Steve Overby, Linda Mikyska and Neal Polan, Harriett and Bill Levy. There were other Texans at other tables.

On Wednesday, we traveled to Nashville to visit the Country Music Hall of Fame, a facility encompassing 350,000 square feet of exhibition galleries, archival storage, retail outlets, and event spaces. The museum features exhibits on music, performers, guitars, automobiles, and also offers dining options.









Every one has a favorite here. This is mine.

All of the displays were informative. The use of clothing and memorabilia, along with valuable guitars, made for an outstanding presentation of fact and history.



Many parts of the Hall of Fame were constructed with music as its theme. This wall represents piano keys. The roof even has a guitar shape on it.



A view of one of the many halls at the museum, filled with memorabilia, artists, and music.

In the afternoon we visited the Lane Motor Museum, renowned for its collection of over 500 European, unique, and unconventional vehicles, as well as related art, notable aircraft and automotive memorabilia. About 150 vehicles are on display each day.













That evening, we had a Welcome Reception dinner with lots of good food, meeting friends, and lots of good country music and dancing. There was also a silent auction for the benefit of the CLC Museum and Research Center





There was dancing to the DJ's music. Here Nick Manole, Missy Rogers, Harriett Levy, Debbie Overby and Judy Hanson are dancing to "YMCA."

Around the dinner table: Debbie Overby. Judy Hanson, Jim Hanson, Linda Mikyska, Neal Polan, Bill Levy, Harriett Levy, Missy Rogers, Travis Dowell, Harry Michalewicz, and Judith Michalewicz.

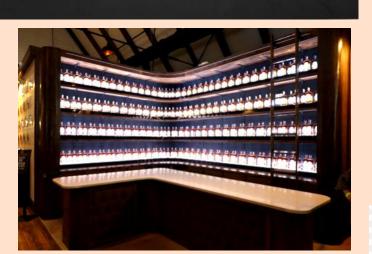
On Thursday, we visited the Nearest Green Distillery in Shelbyville, where we sampled a selection of their eight award-winning Tennessee whiskeys. The history of Nearest Green is compelling and closely linked to the Jack Daniel's distillery. Situated on 458 acres, the distillery emphasizes storytelling and heritage. Nathan "Uncle" Nearest Green served as the head distiller for Jack Daniel's. The company is recognized as the most successful Black-owned distillery globally.

NEAREST AND JACK

When Jack Daniel was just a boy, he left home and eventually came to live and work on the farm of a local minister by the name of Dan Call. On his farm, Call had a whiskey still that quickly drew Jack's interest, It was here that Call introduced the young Jack Daniel to Nathan "Nearest" Green. The American Civil War had yet to be fought, and Nearest was an enslaved man who watched over Call's whiskey still. Nearest took Jack under his wing and taught him everything he knew about making whiskey, including the Lincoln County process that we know today as charcoal mellowing.

After the American Civil War, Jack bought Call's still and hired Nearest, now a free man, to become Jack Daniel's first Master Distiller. Working together, Jack and Nearest appear to have developed a friendship at a time when a relationship of this kind was uncommon. When Jack moved his distillery to the Cave Spring Hollow, where it is today, Nearest's sons, Eli and George, came to work with him. Nearest's grandsons, Ott, Jesse and Charlie, would also come to work at the distillery. Ultimately, George and Charlie Green would become prominent land owners in Lynchburg. And, ever since Nearest's day, a member of the Green family has always worked at the lack Daniel Distillery.

We believe the story of Nearest and Jack is bigger than whiskey, and the telling of their story is important to our town, our country and our world. We thank author Fawn Weaver for the extensive research that broadened and deepened our understanding of Nearest Green's contributions. Because of her efforts, we now believe Nearest Green to be the first African American master distiller on record. To honor and recognize Green, Weaver has established the Nearest Green Foundation, created Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey and is opening the Nearest Green Distillery in Shelbyville. We believe that Jack would be proud to see Nearest's name on a distillery just down the road from his.



Over 160 bottles of the finest Tennessee whiskey for sale in the gift shop at \$149.00 a bottle.







The one-use, white oak barrels aging the whiskey.





They also raise horses. They have 60 horses at the distillery farm.

Friday marked a significant day as we implemented the new GN policy, which scheduled car judging on Friday with a reserve for Saturday in case of rain. The twenty judging teams commenced early in the morning, systematically evaluating the 72 registered vehicles on the show field. All assessments were completed by 2:00 p.m., just before the onset of rain at 3:00 p.m., ensuring the judging process was unaffected by weather conditions.



Judging teams wear yellow hats and carry clip boards while examining every detail on the owner's car. NTX members Travis Dowell on team 9 and Lance Hirsh was on team 8. Team 9 also got the honor of judging the one Saturday late comer.







Then came the big evening show where we bused to the Grand Old Opry in Nashville Tennessee. This theater holds over 4,100 people and it is a beautiful venue. We got to see the Exile, Charlie McCoy, Chrissy Metz, Old Crow Medicine Show, Don Schlitz, Connie Smith, and Mark Wills on stage and it was

exciting.



Waiting in line to see the show: Harriett Levy, Debbie Overby, Steve Overby, Jim Hanson, and Judy Hanson. Not shown, but there: Bill Levy, Jeanne Kaufman, Bill Kaufman, Neal Polan, Linda Mikyska, Harry Michalewicz, and Judy Michalewicz.





Mark Wills was one of the evenings entertainers.



The Grand Old Opry is celebrating 100 years. It was great to be part of it.

NTXCLC First Saturday Breakfast

Photos by Lifer

Our 1st Saturday meeting and social get-togethers are a relaxed fun event with a breakfast meal and group of classic cars in the parking lot. The gents share thoughts on old cars, collector cars, and more cars, and the ladies enjoy things that are just not very automobile related. Part of the car club experience is socialization and friendship, with those who have similar interests, and these friendships can grow and last for years. So, if the timing of the 1st Saturday meets your availability, come on in and break bread with us for a while. Bring your collector car, weather permitting. You will have a good time and food and conversation is good. Spouses are invited. Next meetings are July 5th and August 2nd at Darren's American Grill, 7602 N. Jupiter Road, Garland, TX (972 414-4009).



Prior to heading out to the CLC Grand National, breakfast was served at Darrens. L-R: Jim Hanson, Jeff Pendleton, Neil Polan, Reginald Self, Kim Nagele, Bill Sheldon, Raymond Self, Bill Levy, Doug Ashby, Alex Beloff III, and Ron Fishell



Our Caddy Ladies enjoying breakfast L-R: Harriett Levy, Connie Beloff, Judy Hanson, Karen Fishell, Kathleen Ashby, Marcia Pendleton, and Janis Sheldon

CRAFTSMANSHIP A CREED * ACCURACY A LAW * CADILLAC

Alex Beloff III, Motor Trend, GM Photography and Historical Society

This gorgeous red 1958 Cadillac convertible, built for the open road, lives its best life with top and windows down; scents of jasmine, magnolias, plumeria and "loud" popular tunes. General Motors celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1958. Cadillac

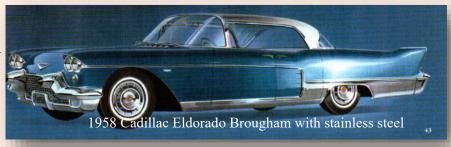


sold its two millionth car the same year. Cadillac intense alluring styling and heart pounding performance captured an exciting sport, inspiring generations, a highly in demand "time machine." The top 24 makes of sold cars in the 1950s: #1 Chevrolet 13,419,048, #4 Buick 4,858,961, #5 Oldsmobile 3,745,648, #6 Pontiac 3,706,959, #12 Cadillac 1,217,032, #17 Lincoln 317,293, #20 Edsel (58-59) 108,001, and #21 Imperial (55-59) 93,111. The simple truth is all of Cadillac's sister divisions (Chevy, Buick, Olds, Pontiac) accounted for 25,730,616 sold units. Meaning without GM's vast resources and incredible talent, there would be no Cadillac. Many GM legends have walked the "top secret" styling and engineering studios and halls of the GM Tech Center, 12 Mile and Mound Road in Warren (Detroit) Michigan, once the industrial heart land of the world. Need further proof?

- 1903 17 Jan. Cadillac premiers its first car, Madison Square Garden New York City, New York
- 1940 GM produced its 25 millionth car.
- 1950 27 Jul. 5 millionth Oldsmobile produced. 1897 Oldsmobile incorporated
- 1950 7 Dec. Chevrolet produced its 25 millionth vehicle
- 1955 3 Dec. GM, first U.S. corporation to make over \$1 billion same year
- 1959 29 Apr. Ford built 50 millionth car. Second year four seat Thunderbirds
- 1965 13 Apr. 10 millionth Pontiac built *Motor Trend* 3rd time car of the year 1959 1961 1965
- 1967 21 Apr. 100 million GM automobiles produced . . .first time any automaker reached such a feat!
- 1969 19 Jun. FOUR MILLIONTH CADILLAC BUILT! First year 60-40 dual comfort split front seat option

Cadillac's unsurpassed success especially golden years, reflect the accomplished styling

and engineering talented legacy that GM developed whose careers had impacted and improved literally millions of fine vehicle experiences.



No business in America is bigger, fiercer, more competitive or more cash hungry than the motor industry. Today, it is almost impossible to imagine an American without a car, truck or both. Elliot M. Estes, a kid in Constantine, Michigan, infatuated with automobiles at 14, was accepted to General Motors Institute (GMI) now Kettering. He washed dishes for his meals, helped the school janitor for his room, and picked up extra money working the school's machine shop. He was certificated by GMI in 1938.

While at GMI, he became known as "Pete". He enrolled at the University of Cincinnati and in 1940 he received his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering. Estes assisted Kettering (Boss Ket) in high compression engines, Olds rocket V-8, appointed chief engineer at Pontiac 1956 by Semon "Bunkie" Knudsen.

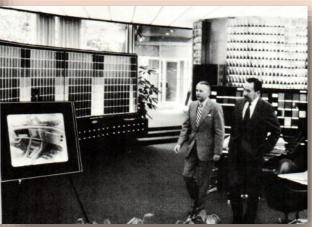
Estes attracted the best engineering brains in Detroit. 1956 he acquired John DeLorean

age 39. They were creators of Bonneville, tri-power, 421, 428, GTO, Grand Prix, eight lug wheels, 2+2, Endura bumper, Ram air, Trans Am, The Judge, hood tach, and Estes coined the Camero name. Estes became President of Pontiac Division 1961, President of Chevrolet Division 1965, V.P. of GM 1972, and 15th President of General Motors 1974-1981, and Automotive Hall of Fame 1999.

Estes's talent, styling, engineering legacy led Pontiac to *Motor Trends* Car of the Year 1959 1961 1965 1968... Never done before or since. Pete Estes died of a heart attack 24 March 1988 at the O'Hara airport on way to a board meeting(1916-1988). GM mandatory retirement was 65. *Automotive News* 21 July 2014. In 13 years, Cadillac had nine bosses. Grettenberger, former Cadillac boss for 13 years, retired in 1997.







GM President Estes said, To become the boss of GM's empire takes more than talent, skill, ambition and luck, it also takes all the hours there are, all the energy you can find. It means sacrifices, particularly domestic sacrifices. That is if you truly want to succeed. You have to put your job ahead of everything else. You have to reckon on being away from home for at least 12 hours a day. Your family must understand all this and realize that you don't love them any less if you've devoted that kind of time and single mindedness to your job and your career. Pete Estes's divorced wife died in 1965. Two years later he married his wife Connie who had been his secretary. Estes said, She knows and understands automobiles. She also knows the kind of dedication that is demanded from those who aspire to the top ranks of the auto industry. Some times I come home late on Friday night and say 'I'm going to have to work Saturday and Sunday.' That's when she calls me Elliott not Pete.

That is a testimonial I understand only too well. Work hard to develop a clientele and if you are not there to take care of your owners, someone else will steal them. For years I was ridiculed for working Saturdays and Sundays. Today, some of the finest achievers suffer the same commitment and I've been vindicated.

On Sunday mornings, Pete Estes's gated Waddington Road Birmingham home driveway was filled with random new assembly line GM vehicles, especially Cadillac and Pontiac plus experimentals for his and Connie's short trips.

What's actually happening in the United States is the envy of the world. Our transportation system allows building products the customer wants badly enough to buy it. I believe freedom in this country is based on the fact that we are the outstanding market place society in the world. . . . Pete Estes

Car designers are true artists who design "top secret" creations three or more years ahead in the five divisions guarded studios. It encourages internal competition in GM . . . the best form of security.

The ever popular affordable Pininfarina bodied Cadillac is the Allante'. 1986-1993

The most collectible Allante' is the 1993 NorthStar V-8, 279 cu. in., 295 hp.





Happy motoring in your favorite vehicle this summer and turn your radio up.

May God bless the trails you ride! Alex

Classified

Classified Ads – for 3 months Members: free, Non-members -\$35 for three lines for three months. \$50 for ad with photo. No credit for early cancellation. For additional rates contact Bill Levy @ (214) 563 -1033

New Members

Kingman Hitz, Celeste, TX, 1949 4-Dr Thurman Walker, Midlothian, TX 76 Eldorado



Tell Us About Your Caddy



Activities Calendar

2025

July 5th NTXCLC Meeting and First Saturday Breakfast Social

July 19th Saturday, 8 p.m., Star Trip: A tale of 2 Captains show at the Carrollton Pocket Theater. Dinner at Babes Chicken. RSVP Farlandk@att.net.

August 2nd NTXCLC Meeting and First Saturday Breakfast Social.

National Calendar

2026 Winter Reunion & Board Meeting Element Orlando International Drive 5750 Central Florida Pkwy., Orlando, FL 32821-8638 January 7-January 10 (Board meetings January 10) Room rate \$149 plus tax

CLC Grand National Embassy Suites by Hilton Charlotte Concord Golf Resort & Spa 5400 John Q Hammons Dr. NW, Concord, NC 28027-3401 June 1-June 6 (Board meetings June 6) Room rate \$149 plus tax

2027 Winter Reunion & Board Meetings Hyatt Regency Birmingham—The Wynfrey Hotel 1000 Riverchase Galleria, Hoover, AL 35244-2301 J January 27-January 30 (Board meetings June 30) Rate \$145 plus tax

CLC Grand National

Nugget Casino Resort 1100 Nugget Ave., Sparks, NV 89431-5750 May 17-May 22 (Board meetings May 22)

Rate \$115 plus tax

2028 Winter Reunion & Board Meetings Holiday Inn San Antonio—Riverwalk 217 N. St. Mary's St., San Antonio, TX 78205-2303January 26-January 29(Board meetings January 29) Rate \$159 plus tax

CLC Grand National

Marriott at the University of Dayton 1414 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton, OH 45409-2105 July 24–July 29 (Board meetings July 29) Rate \$159 plus tax

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Pate Director Assistant: (open)

Historians: Alex Beloff III

Directors: Richard Cross, Rubye Hubbard, Ron Fishell

Calling Post: Karen Phillips

PATE SWAP MEET 2026

Please plan accordingly April 30—Juneb 2 Pate Swap Meet June 3rd Tear Down

inshtine .

Birthdays:

Mark Waterman 7/16

Please inform me of members that were missed on the list.





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Send any corrections, complaints, compliments, discussions, and/or additions to: Bill (Lifer) Levy lifer@writeme.com (214) 563-1033

Cadillac and LaSalle Owners

Would you like to see your Cadillac on the pages of the NTXCLC newsletter? This small, but deluxe publication gets circulation, not only in our region, but is sent to many of the CLC clubs across the nation and world. By appearing here your story can become part of Cadillac history. I need your story and your pictures. It could be a story about the vehicle as it is now, or it can be a restoration article, or a funny, interesting, or even a sad story. But its about your car, and this means it is about you, too. If you feel you can't write well enough, send me the basics and I will help you write the story. I have many pages to present monthly, and I have room for you in them. So, don't feel embarrassed—email me, or call me, or see me at the NTXCLC outings and let's make history.

Cadillac & LaSalle Club Future Events



Upcoming **Events**



Grand Nationals • National Driving Tours Winter Reunions & Board Meetings • Cadillac Fall Festivals



2025 Grand National Meet

June 2-7 Embessy Suites by Hilton Nashville SE Murfreesboro Murfreesboro, Tennessee



2025 Cadillac Fall Festival

September 26-27 Gilmore Car Museum campus Hickory Corners, Michigan



2025 National Driving Tour

October 14-18
"Cruisin" the Capital" Albeny/Lake George Area New York Capital District Region hosting



2026 Winter Reunion & Board Meetings

January 7-10 Element by Westin International Drive Orlando, Florida



2026 Grand National Meet

June 1–6 Embassy Suites by Hilton Charlotte Concord Golf Resort & Spa Concord, North Carolina



2026 Cadillac Fall Festival

September 25-26 Gilmore Car Huseum campus Hickory Corners, Michigan



2026 National **Driving Tour**

October Huntsville, Alebame, ereo Peach State Region hosting

Tim Coy, CLC Art Director



2027 Winter Reunion & Board Meetings

January 27-30 Hyatt Regency at Riverchase Galleria Birmingham/Hoover, Alabama



2027 Grand National Meet

May 17-22 Nugget Casino Resort Reno/Sparks, Nevada



2027 International **Driving Tour**

july 13-17 Detroit, USA, area to Niegara Falls, Ontario, Canada



2027 Cadillac Fall Festival

September 24-25 Gilmore Car Museum campus Hickory Comers, Michigan



2028 Winter Reunion & Board Meetings

Jenuary 26-29 Holiday Inn San Antonio — Riverwalk San Antonio, Tesas



2028 Grand National Meet

july 24-29 Marriott at the University of Dayton Dayton, Ohio



2028 Cadillac Fall Festival

September 22-23 Gilmore Car Museum campus Hickory Comers, Michigan



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When it's time to sell your classic vehicle, CALL US!



For Sale Four 2005 CTS nine spoke aluminum bright polish wheels with chrome lug bolts and TPMS senders. Condition is like new. Size—18 X 8.5 5X120 lug 48mm offset. \$600.00 Shipping included.



For Sale Four Vogue Rio #190-67910 PVD Chrome Condition is like new. Size— 17X7.5 5X120 lug 48mm offset \$500.00 Shipping included.

Make checks payable to North Texas Region Cadillac & LaSalle Club

NTXCLC, 16734 Lauder Lane, Dallas, TX 75248

Parting Thoughts



CADDY QUEENS FROM TEXAS

The ladies from the North Texas Region who attended the Cadillac & LaSalle Club's Grand National

Linda Mikyska, Judith Michalewicz, Judy Hanson, Harriett Levy, and Debbie Overby