



The Criterion

NEWSLETTER of the NORTHEAST CHAPTER of the PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY

Second and Third Quarter 2003 - Ted Collins, Publisher - Gregg D. Merksamer, Editor

LOOKING FORWARD TO FALL:

September 20th - 21st "Planes, Trains and Automobiles"

at Reading, PA Regional Airport tops our calendar

Aware that a wet spring and brutally-humid summer may have short-changed professional car fans with regards to the quantity and quality of shows they could attend, PCS Northeast Chapter President Bill Marcy recently stressed that the autumn months will offer several traditionally-worthwhile events. He notes, as his prime example, that the Chapter has been invited to participate in the annual Planes, Trains and Automobiles transportation extravaganza at the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum in Reading, PA, which is situated just north of the city center along PA 183 between the U.S. 222 and U.S. 422 corridors. Taking place over the weekend of September 20th-21st, this two-day affair is guaranteed to be a full-dose time capsule complete with roller skating carhops, a cottage style Gulf station with a bow-tied attendant offering to "check your oil?," open cockpit biplane rides in a North American SNJ "Texan" trainer and a Saturday evening "Drive-In Movie" shown on the main hangar doors of the museum. "Basically, if it rolls, flies, floats, moves on rails or can be pushed by museum volunteers, we are interested in having it on display," Program Director Pete Malashevitz recently informed us. "Displays of transportation models and collectibles are also encouraged. We can provide a table and chairs inside the hangar at no charge, and help you with the set-up and breakdown of your display if needed as early as Friday, September 19th. The weekend is structured as a family, all-age event, and it tends to be a rather eclectic albeit fun show." Another draw is the Reading Company Technical and Historical Society's 2,000-square-foot HO railroad layout, while special guests-of-honor will include rock n' roll musicians Flamin' Dick and the Hot Rods, Pennsylvania Turnpike historian Dan Cupper and

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This year has been a wet one, so far, with the weather making it almost impossible to get out to our favorite shows and cruise nights. But we do have the rest of the summer, and the fall has activities worth looking forward to. Topping the agenda, the PCS Northeast Chapter has been invited to participate in a wonderful event called Planes, Trains and Automobiles at the Reading Regional Airport in Reading, PA on September 20th and 21st, 2003. We have been to this event before, and it is great fun! Come one day or both.

Looking back on the spring, we had our second annual car show at Peddler's Village on May 25th, and did it rain! In spite of this, we had 22 cars and trucks on the field and there were some real beauties. We also raised \$655 for the Bucks County SPCA. Fred Kanter, the co-founder of Packard Industries/Kanter Auto Products in Boonton, NJ, covered our show expenses with a generous \$500 sponsorship. Thanks, Fred!

Finally, please join me in expressing our condolences to Jeff and Mary Hookway, who serve ably as our Chapter's treasurer and secretary, as Jeff's father passed away on Sunday, June 21st, 2003. This is extremely sad, because Jeff lost both of his parents this year. -

See You in Reading, Bill Marcy

"Diners of Pennsylvania" author Brian Butko. Further event information is available by contacting Pete Malashevitz at (610) 372-7333 or pete@maam.org, or Volunteer Neal Carlson at (610) 696-7736 (home), (610) 932-8300 (work) or mcarlson@aol.com.

Professional cars are also encouraged to appear at the New Jersey State Fire Engine Museum's Family Fire Safety Muster, which will take place rain-or-shine at Allaire State Park in Wall Township, NJ on Saturday, October 4th. This 3,000 acre sanctuary is located along highway 524, which is easily-accessed off exit 98 of the Garden State Parkway or exit 31B of Interstate 195. In addition to extensive displays of vintage and modern fire apparatus and safety games for the children, the site will offer an opportunity to ride the narrow gauge Pine Creek Railroad or visit Historic Allaire Village with its 19th Century style blacksmith forge, carpentry shop and general store with bakery. Spectators enjoy free admission to the event, while individuals and fire departments displaying vehicles are encouraged to pre-register by completing the enclosed form (the cost is only \$5 per vehicle) and returning it before September 19th to the Tri-Counties Fire Association, c/o 16 Clayton Road, Howell, NJ 07731. Further information is available from Bill or Mary Ann Naused at (732) 942-3438 or OldFlameFighters@aol.com.



Randall David stands beside his 1964 Studebaker Commander Six that was previously driven daily by an elderly gentleman from New Hope.

in Lahaska, PA for its Second Annual Charity Car Show on Sunday, May 25th, but the owners of the 22 cars and trucks that braved the rain to attend expressed no regrets. As was the case in 2002, the event was open to all makes and types of cars and trucks, with the awards separated by body style and selected through people's choice balloting. With a generous \$500 sponsorship by Fred Kanter of Packard Industries/Kanter Auto Products covering expenses, the event raised \$655 for the Bucks County SPCA and the intriguing array of antique stores, specialty shops and restaurants surrounding the show field certainly offered plenty of diversion when the weather got ornery. "When the girls found out there were stores, they couldn't wait to come," asserted Staten Island's Larry Farrell as Mother Nature drizzled on his dark red 1962 Chevrolet Bel Air sedan.

Though the event attracted two Corvettes (Patrick Petrillo's white 1968 convertible from Doylestown, PA and Ray Herrmann's yellow 1972 coupe from Elmer, NJ), Joe Bong's bright yellow 1971 Dodge Challenger R/T and an all-white 1972 Cadillac Eldorado droptop brought by Bob & Bobbie Ducharme of Little Ferry, NJ, the field was clearly dominated by the plain-but-trusty portion of the vintage car spectrum. George Vance of Elmer, NJ brought an all-original 1962 Chevy II 4-door with a stuffed hand stuck between the trunk lid and trunk opening, while Richard Cascalenda's 1963 Rambler Ambassador V-8 from Staten Island turned heads with its pretty maroon paintwork and floor-shifted "Twin Stick" transmission. Randall David of Lambertville, NJ recalled that his dark blue 1964



Bill Marcy and Jeff Hookway welcome Joe Bova's 1990 Heritage Cadillac Flower Car to the show field at Peddler's Village

DAMP LAHASKA DIARY

The weather was a source of consternation as the PCS Northeast Chapter returned to Peddler's Village

Studebaker Commander had been "A New Hope (PA) car since new, driven daily by an older gent who passed away and left it to his nephew. It has the six-cylinder engine, and an automatic transmission was the only extra installed. It's never even had a radio, but it's a fun car to use because it gets good gas mileage and it's easy to park. Everyone thinks it's a Plymouth until they see the badging."



Alan Rand's Emilio Pucci Designer Edition 1978 Lincoln Mark V had the desirable 460 V8 option and just 19,000 miles on the odometer.

Being a 1970s child who enjoyed those Quinn Martin TV detective shows where every car was furnished by the Ford Motor Company, Your Editor immediately-gravitated to a 19,000-mile 1978 Lincoln Mark V hardtop (perhaps the only car in history with more front overhang than rear overhang) brought from Brick, NJ by Alan Rand. Not only did it have a set of turbine spoke aluminum wheels and the big 460 V-8 in place of the standard 400, it was one of 3,125 finished that year as an Emilio Pucci Designer Edition with silver paint, a dark red pebble texture Cayman Grain vinyl roof and a two-tone dove gray and dark red leather interior. Incredibly, this virtually-flawless car was traded into a dealer for a new Jaguar and wholesaled.

Professional cars on hand at Peddler's Village included Mike Barruzza's 1977 Superior Cadillac high-top ambulance (the first of only ten built during that first year of downsizing), Jeff McQuaid's white 1978 S&S Cadillac Victoria landau hearse and a 1964 Superior Pontiac ambulance driven from Mt. Airy, MD by Steve Lichtman and his father Gene. A notable newcomer, built locally in Skippack, PA, was a 1990 Heritage Cadillac standard wheelbase flower car that Joe Bova of Jenkintown, PA found in a newspaper ad about a year ago, cryptically-advertised as a "Cadillac El Camino." Upon arrival Bova commemorated Memorial Day by hanging American



An unusual sight was this 1973 Opel GT with 53,550 miles that Al Piperata, of West Trenton, New Jersey, has owned since February, 1974.

flag streamers around his Cadillac's flower bed with the help of Korean War veteran Dominick Greene, who said he "was on Pork Chop Hill when they rotated me home in April, 1953. Oh, was I glad!"

The variety factor at Lahaska was further enhanced by a 53,550-mile 1973 Opel GT fastback that Al Piperata of West Trenton, NJ has owned since February, 1974, a high-riding 1991 Blazer brought by Paul Behr and a 1955 Chevy Sedan Delivery that Robert Van Luvanee of Doylestown, PA bought in 1975 and spent 17 years modifying, finishing the exterior and electric Imron Blue and installing a 350 V-8 bored-and-stroked to 393 cubic inches. The Best-in-Show award, meanwhile, went to a red 1969 Mercury Cougar convertible that Dennis and Emily McGuire, Lambertville, NJ started showing in the late 1980s after a two-year restoration. "A neighbor had owned it for a number of years before that," Dennis recalled, adding "I had wanted to rescue it and finally I caught him on the right day."



Winner of the Best-in-Show at the PCS Northeast Chapter's Second Annual Charity Car Show was Dennis McGuire of Lambertville, New Jersey, and his 1969 Mercury Cougar Convertible.

A DANDY DODGE FOR FIRST CALLS



Having given us the opportunity to fill our model shelves on five previous occasions, Askew-Houser Funeral Homes of Ebensburg, PA is preparing to release the sixth coach in its miniature Professional Car Series on September 5th, 2003. It's a highly-detailed, 1/25 scale 1947 Dodge Panel Truck finished as a "first call" service car complete with opening driver, passenger and rear doors, chrome-plated wheels, grille vents and windshield wipers, decorative scrollwork on the body sides and "1804" license plates commemorating the Bicentennial of Cambria County, PA. Unlike earlier Askew-Houser offerings this unit is not a bank with a coin slot on the bottom, allowing the interior to accommodate a realistic scale model resin casket. Quantities are limited to 1,250 units, and the cost is just \$40 plus \$4.50 shipping and handling per model anywhere in the continental U.S.; Pennsylvania residents should also add 6% sales tax (\$2.40 each).

To order contact Askew-Houser at 300 North Julian Street, P.O. Box 6, Ebensburg, PA 15931, phone 1-800-774-4898 toll free 9am to 7pm daily or log onto www.askew-houser.com.

BREAKING NEWS FROM PITTSBURGH

Time and space constraints dictate that a full report on the Professional Car Society's 27th Annual International Meet, held in Pittsburgh from July 22nd to 26th, be postponed until the next issue of *The*

Criterion, but it is still worth noting here that Northeast Chapter President Bill Marcy was nominated by newly-elected National PCS President John Ehmer to be his Vice-President - a recommendation that the PCS board of directors accepted to our delight. In addition to earning a First Place Award in the 1946-70 Funeral Coach Class, the 1967 S&S Victoria owned by *Criterion* publisher Ted Collins also received the Cadillac-LaSalle Club Award honoring the best Cadillac-chassied professional car in attendance. Congratulations to both are certainly in order.

PROJECT CAR ANYONE?



Cadillac-LaSalle Club member Alan Clark spotted this post war S & S Cadillac funeral coach while vacationing in Montana recently. Although the car has suffered from exposure to the weather Alan described it as amazingly all there. He noted that the exterior trim is all intact including the S & S hubcap logos and hood crest.

The roof of the car has worn through which has subsequently ruined the interior of the car and it is not known when the car last moved under its own power.

If anyone is interested in this car contact Ginger's Saloon/Café/Antique Emporium in Sun River, Montana.

CRITERION CLASSIFIEDS

1930 Superior Studebaker President Hearse/Ambulance: 156-inch wheelbase, correct style wire wheels. Mohair interior redone with jump seats as a nine-passenger limousine. Asking \$18,000. Contact James Parkinson, P.O. Box 94, Floral Park, N.Y. 11002 or phone (718) 479-0436.

1952 Chrysler Imperial Limousine: Four-door with divider. Runs, drives, for restoration or parts. Best offer. Call (631) 751-7232.

1958-1970 hearse wanted: Any make, model or color OK if car driveable and has clear title. Car's condition not an issue but prefer it to be at least good. Call (717) 279-6412.

1967 Cadillac hearse wanted: In black to match my '67 Fleetwood. Jim Loseth, Proudfoot Architectural Acoustics, (203) 459-0031 or 800-445-0034 days

1968 Superior Cadillac Sovereign End-Loading Landau Hearse: Purchased by the Sweeney Funeral Home of Riverside, NJ from Wilner's Livery Service in 1970, and retired from service at the family's request after the February 1st, 2003 funeral of founder John I. Sweeney. Garage kept, hand-washed, waxed and detailed coach with black exterior, black crinkle top, green and black leather interior, factory air conditioning and 83,721 original miles. Please make an offer; the price is negotiable if we know that it is going to someone who will care for it. Call Gregory A. Micucci at (856) 461-1116 to schedule an examination.

1978 S&S Cadillac Victoria Hearse: All-white exterior, 38,000 original miles, award winner at 1999 and 2000 PCS International Meets. \$7,000. Call Jeff McQuaid at (610) 926-7675.

1982 Cadillac Station Wagon: Based on Buick body. \$6,000. Call Fred Kanter

CRITERION CALENDAR

September 6th, 2003 (Sat.), Milford, CT: 32nd Annual Engine 260 Antique Fire Apparatus Show & Muster, 10am to 5pm at Eisenhower Park, state highway 121. Raindate September 7th. For further info contact Engine 260 at (203) 874-2605 or 4 Flax Mill Terrace, Milford, CT 06460.

September 20th-21st, 2003 (Sat.-Sun.), Reading, PA: Professional car class at Planes, Trains and Automobiles 2003, Mid-Atlantic Air Museum at Reading Regional Airport, PA 183 north of city center. For further info contact Neal Carlson at (610) 696-7736 (home), (610) 932-8300 (work) or rncarlson@aol.com, or Pete Malashevitz at (610) 372-7333 or pete@maam.org.

October 4th, 2003 (Sat.), Wall Township, NJ: Professional cars wanted for 2003 Family Fire Safety Muster, 10am to 4pm rain-or-shine at Allaire State Park, Route 524 off Exit 98 of Garden State Parkway or exit 31B of Interstate 195. Sponsored by New Jersey State Fire Engine Museum. Event will feature free public admission, trophies and presentation plaques for participants, safety exhibits, opportunities to tour Historic Allaire Village, narrow gauge Pine Creek Railroad. For further info contact Mary Ann or Bill Naused at (732) 942-3438 or OldFlameFighters@aol.com

Remember the Date!
Saturday, October 4th, 2003
The 2003 Family Fire Safety
Muster
At Allaire State Park

10am—4pm Rain or Shine
Free Public Admission!

Fire Departments and private owners are cordially invited to bring hand drawn, horse-drawn and motorized apparatus! Trophies and participation plaques will be presented.

Pre-registration is requested for all motor vehicles. Please fill out the attached Registration Form and return it before September 19th to:

Tri-Counties Fire Association
 c/o 16 Clayton Rd
 Howell NJ 07731

For participant or vendor information, contact: Mary Ann or Bill Naused at (732) 942-3438 or
 OldFlameFighters@AOL.com

Website: <http://tbfcd.com>

HOW TO GET THERE:

Allilaire Park is easy to reach. Just off Exit 31B of Interstate 195 in Wall Township, Central NJ. Take Exit 98 of the Garden State Parkway and follow highway signs to Route 524 and the Main Park Entrance.

Plenty to see and Do!

- Safety Exhibits and Displays.
- Vintage and modern apparatus.
- Safety Games for children.
- Fire service vendors.
- Food and Drink Concessions.

Muster Hours 10am-4pm

While at the Muster be sure to visit Allaire Village and the Pine Creek Railroad!

One of NJ's best-kept secrets! This 3,000 Acre park includes Historic Allaire Village, a 19th Century iron-making town with a working blacksmith shop, a carpentry shop, general store full of goodies and an on-site bakery!

Stroll the village streets and go back in time! The Pine Creek Railroad is a fully equipped railroad shop and licensed boiler maintenance facility offering narrow gauge train rides!

The winding Manasquan River provides habitat for a great variety of wildflowers, plants, birds and other wildlife which you can enjoy from the numerous hiking, biking and nature trails.

Visit the Park website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/>

The three cornerstones of the museum are the Memorial to Fallen Firefighters, "Survive Alive in New Jersey" interactive safety education galleries and the Heritage Museum of NJ Firefighting. Construction will begin as soon as sufficient funds are raised through Public Subscription

Apparatus Registration Form

I would like to register _____ apparatus at _____ MAKE & MODEL & YEAR \$5.00 each Total \$ _____

- Pumper () GPM _____
- Aerial/Service Ladder _____
- Professional Car _____
- Chemical or Hose Car _____
- Hand Drawn _____
- Horse Drawn _____
- Other: _____

we will need assistance to unload
 Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____

Insurance Statement: The motor apparatus I am entering will be in sound mechanical condition, roadworthy as required by the state in which it is registered, and will carry public liability and property damage insurance as indicated by the policy information below.

I agree to hold Tri-Counties Fire Assn Inc, the NJ State Fire Engine Museum Project, Allaire State Park and the State of New Jersey harmless for any liability I/we incur.

Insurance Carrier _____
 Policy Number _____

Effective Date _____
 Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Make Checks Payable to NJSFEM
 Please return this form with payment to the address in Howell NJ

Muster Information: (732) 942-3438 or
 OldFlameFighters@AOL.COM

THE PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY

"Dedicated to the restoration and preservation of vintage ambulances, funeral cars & livery vehicles"

NORTHEAST CHAPTER

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Serving Professional Car Society members in NJ, NY and PA, the Northeast Chapter of the PCS operates under a charter granted by the Society's Board of Directors on August 19th, 1986. Subscription to this publication is by membership in the Chapter through the Membership Director listed above.

Membership in the national organization of the PCS is a prerequisite to membership in any of its regional chapters. Details on joining can be obtained from Natl. Membership Secretary David Petke at (423) 288-3454, writing him at 5405 Heritage Lane, Kingsport, TN 37664 or by accessing the official PCS home page at <http://www.professionalcar.org>.

THE PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER of the NORTHEAST
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Despite relentlessly rainy weather the PCS Northeast Chapter's May 25th meet in Lahaska, Pennsylvania attracted 22 registrants. Professional cars displayed at Peddler's Village included Mike Barruzza's 1977 Superior Cadillac Lifeliner, Jeff McQuaid's 1978 S & S Cadillac Victoria, and Steve Lichtman's 1964 Pontiac ambulance.

Gregg D. Merksamer photo