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**Cadillac LaSalle Club  
North Texas Region**

web site: [www.clcntx.com](http://www.clcntx.com)

June 2020

*Awarded Best CLC Regional Newsletter 2007-2008*

**1956 Cadillac Eldorado Seville**



*Lifer*

web site: [www.clcntx.com](http://www.clcntx.com)



**Winner CLC Web  
Site Merit Award  
2013, 2014, 2015  
2016, 2017, 2018**

**Winner  
Old Cars Weekly  
Golden Quill Award  
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015,  
2016, 2017, 2018, 2019**

## CARON GRANT AND HER OFFICE ON WHEELS

I have never been a big fan of flying. Even before the devastating events of 9/11, I was not fond of getting on an airplane. For those of you who know my mother, Mary Gitelman, however, that is not the case. She had her pilot's license at 18 and some of you may remember the frame on her gold 1991 Brougham d'Elegance license plate, which read, "I'd rather be flying". But I digress.

As I said, I did not enjoy flying, so it was a small challenge when in 2001, I had to organize hiring events for my newly formed human resource business. In May of that year, I had started my own company as a recruiter of personnel for the cruise line industry, specifically the cruise ships of Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. It was my job to find, interview, and eventually hire new people to work on the ships. I was tasked with finding every position, from busboy to captain, although my specialty was crew for the theatre, due to my background on stage, both as a performer and as a stage manager.

My hiring events were to be held in several major cities in the U.S, but I was not thrilled about jumping on an airplane, boxes of files and my computer in tow. And then it hit me.

Why not make my beautiful grey 1991 Fleetwood my travelling office! Although I interviewed prospective candidates every day by phone from all over the U.S. every three months, I had to concentrate on one particular area of the country and organize those most qualified to gather in person at a local hotel or meeting venue. Those potential employees had to meet with me in a conference room atmosphere to have their final interview with a Royal Caribbean representative. Plus, at that time, they were required to view a video presentation, which I had designed and created, that was all about ship life and what they could expect in their newly chosen field.

Every three months I loaded up the Caddy with my files in the trunk and my laptop at my side. We drove to Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Las Vegas, Miami, and Raleigh-Durham in a regular rotation throughout the five years that I ran my company. This picture of my car was taken in front of a lovely building in Boca Raton, Florida. At the time, the building was a theater, one where I had worked as a stage manager, and I thought the car looked fabulous in front of its main doors. I loved my "mobile office" and look back on those days fondly. As much as I enjoyed my eight years at sea, on board the cruise ships sailing around the world, I also truly enjoyed the five years that followed, on land, working as a recruiter and driving all over our beautiful country in my beloved '91!



## *Oldsmobiles and Cadillacs*

### *An "Auto"biographical Sketch*

Story by Steve Overby. Photos by Steve and Lifer

In the summer of 1954, I was 6 years old. I was playing with my toy cars on my grandparents' front porch when I heard a car pull into the driveway. Way back then, I could identify all the cars of the day (different models actually *looked* different from each other in those days) and I turned to immediately recognize the unfamiliar car was a new Oldsmobile.

I then realized that it was my grandfather emerging from the driver's seat. Sizing up the situation as I ran to greet him, I promptly asked before he could say anything "Is that our new car?" When he replied that indeed it was, my immediate response was "But this is an Oldsmobile and I wanted a Cadillac!" He responded that we couldn't afford a Cadillac. I retorted with "Didn't you write a check for it?" "Yes," he said. To that I asked "Then why didn't you write a check for a Cadillac?" as I turned and ran into the house crying. Of course, I later learned more details about fiscal solvency associated with check writing.

My extended family bought more than forty Oldsmobiles before GM stopped building them. I enjoyed six of them personally before I upgraded to my first Cadillac, which was a used 1992 Sedan de Ville. Just like my grandfather those decades before, I wouldn't spend the additional funds to buy a brand new Cadillac. My wife and I have enjoyed four more daily-driver Caddies since then.

One recollection from an early age contributed to my assertion that the '56 Cadillac was the prettiest, most stylish model produced in that decade. Some of my stepmother's out-of-state relatives arrived for a visit in their new '56 Sedan de Ville which, I'm sure, was code 52/Chantilly Poly over code 46/Mountain Laurel. I thought it was the most beautiful car I'd ever seen and was absolutely delighted when I got to ride in it. It took six more decades before I was to have my own version of that car.

Another incident imprinted the '56 Cadillac firmly in my childhood memory. In our small west Texas town in the 1950's, EMT/ambulance service did not exist so the local funeral home was called upon to transport people to the hospital as needed. I can still envision the beautiful 1956 Cadillac hearse that pulled into our driveway to move my grandfather when he became so ill that he could no longer be cared for at home. It was code 42/Goddess Gold, and I admired it for many years while it elegantly served the local funeral home well into the 1960's.

Now my wife and I own two 1956 Cadillacs. One is a Series 62 sedan (code 32/Princess Green over code 30/Duchess Green) which, thankfully, had already been restored when we bought it. The other is the Eldorado Seville that her grandfather bought new. It took several years of driving it to Saturday morning auto body classes at the local community college to restore it to its original condition, but I finally did it. My efforts included sanding off every bit of the lead based paint, cutting out some rust spots around the rear window and rear wheels, welding in the handmade replacement pieces, and priming it. I had it painted original code 90/Alpine White, had a new black vicodec/vinyl top installed, and completed the restoration to its original appearance with a new black and white leather interior.

My wife's grandfather came from the Big Bend area of southwest Texas to Lone Star Cadillac on Ross Avenue in downtown Dallas. He reportedly walked in asking for, and bought, the most expensive vehicle they had in stock. When he replaced it with his next Cadillac, he gave this one to her dad, who had no spare parking space to keep it and soon sold it to a neighbor down the street in El Paso. When that neighbor passed away, his family contacted her to offer her the first opportunity to buy back Granddad's car.

The Eldorado nameplate first appeared on a Cadillac in 1953 as a convertible. GM split the Eldorado line in 1956 when the Seville was introduced as a coupe and its convertible counterpart was dubbed the Biarritz. The '56 Seville was the first General Motors production vehicle to sport a vinyl top.

Our car is #3803 in a total factory production run of 3,900 Seville models. It was built at the General Motors plant on Franklin Street in Detroit, Michigan. The V8 engine is 365 cubic inches generating 305 horsepower at 4,700 rpm. It has two Carter four-barrel carburetors, "batwing" style oil bath air cleaner, 4-speed hydraulic transmission, and five Kelsey-Hayes cast aluminum "saber" spoke wheels.

The wheelbase is 129" and the overall length is 234" (19.5 feet), including the dealer-added optional continental kit. The curb weight is just over 5,000 pounds. The engine, transmission, padded leather dash, headliner, window glass, and black leather door panels are also original. It had not been registered in 20 years when we brought it back into the family in 2008. All four power windows, the power seat, the Wonderbar radio, and the Autronic Eye automatic headlight dimmer all worked on the very first try; the spare tire had never been used.

Internet research indicates the window sticker price for this car was just under \$8,100. In 1956, a new Chevrolet BelAir sedan was available for \$2,025 while a new Ford Customline sedan sold for \$1,985.

Total 1956 Cadillac factory production for all models was 134,502, while total Eldorado Seville production was just 3% of that at 3,900. (Total 1956 Chevrolet production was 1,626,843 and total 1956 Ford production was 1,391,847.)

I believe Granddad would be very proud of how my restoration of his car turned out. And I still think the 1956 Cadillac is among the most stylish cars ever built.



*Lifer*

# PROGRESS PHOTOS

Steve Overby



Debbie and Steve Overby



## First Saturday Breakfast Social

One of the important missions and features of a car club is the social interaction with other people with similar interests. In our case it begins with the Cadillac and LaSalle automobiles, and through that ownership and desire to meet other owners with the same interests, the club thrives and grows.

Our regional club here in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area has done very well and has had some great events and activities. One of our pride and joy events is the long-term participation with the Pate Swap Meet, which has grown over the years to the largest automobile-oriented meet west of the Mississippi, and may be in second or close first in the country. Other superb activities we enjoy include the Inter-regionals, the Regional, and best of all is the Grand Nationals.

A number of us from the club enjoyed a First Saturday Cars & Coffee car show, in which after we saw all the cars and schmoozed with our friends, would drive out to a restaurant for a nice quiet social breakfast. After the C&C shut down we decided to continue the breakfast gathering and it has been a great success. But, since we are required to shelter-in-place in our homes, we had to find another way to say Hi, and get together.

The way we did this month worked exceptionally well, and I hope we attract more participants. We used ZOOM, a conferencing software application that is free and easy to use. During the meeting we discussed what each of us were doing to handle cabin fever, car trips we have taken, other news, and something special from Jeff Pendleton and Mark Waterman regarding discounts for car members from local chain auto parts stores.

It is hoped that more members, spouses, and friends join us both in using ZOOM, and when can really get out to a restaurant and break bread together.



This month's ZOOMers included Judy and Jim Hanson, host Bill and Harriett Levy, Doug Ashby, Marcia and Jeff Pendleton, Mark Waterman, Debbie and Steve Overby, and Marvin Block.

## Activities Calendar

Here are the up and coming activities that members and family and guests can plan for and participate in.

### 2020

Due to the current Coronavirus situation, activities are on hold. Please bear with us and be safe.

**June 6th** First Saturday Breakfast Social (Zoom)

**July 4th** Arlington 4th of July Parade.

**September 20th** Regional Meet Cavanaugh Flight Museum in Addison.

**October or November** Depending on nature— a driving tour to see the autumn leaves.

**December 12th** Either the Ronald McDonald house or a children's organization. Our Charity Toy event.

**January 3, 2021** Christmas Party.

### NATIONAL:

**August 22-28** CLC Driving Tour of the Great Pacific Northwest. **Cancelled**

**2020 CLC Grand National, June 9-13 CANCELLED**

**2021 National Driving Tour TBA**

**2021 CLC Grand National July 13-17 Marriott Pyramid Hotel- Albuquerque, NM.**

**2022 CLC Grand National, Chicago, IL.**

**2022 National Driving Tour- a tour to cover several southeast states.**

*Ruby*

817 996-8066

### PATE

**September 12<sup>th</sup>** with a rain date of **Sept 19<sup>th</sup>** Vendor Space Marker Tile Refurbish Party at Zone Zero, Texas Motor Speedway 10:00 a.m. Please bring a chair as we have tables and supplies.

**September 26<sup>th</sup>** PSM Set up day. Meet at Gate 4, Texas Motor Speedway at 9:00 a.m.

**October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 3<sup>rd</sup>** Hospitality Tent Workers.

**October 4<sup>th</sup>** PSM Tear Down. Meet at Hospitality Tent 9:00 a.m.

Please adjust your planning and join us for these important events.

The Pate Swap Meet web site is PateSwapMeet.com.

If you are currently receiving your newsletter, The Standard Of The World, by mail, and would like faster service by email, please let the editor know (lifer@writeme.com). Email newsletters are emailed on the first day of every month, where snail mail takes sometimes a few days longer. Thank you.



# Classifieds

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

*Under The Editor's Bonnet*



By Lifer

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 it's 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.

[lifer@writeme.com](mailto:lifer@writeme.com)

# Sunshine Report

Sending lots of sunshine to All our Members. We know all are getting tired of being cooped up in the house. But we Thank God and Pray Each day for the continued health of all.

Betty Hammett  
Martha Smith to have surgery future  
Pauline Johnston  
Frank Koller improving  
Gordan Fenner Longview  
Bob Musser  
Tony Yates  
Mary Lou Ruhling  
Dave Eckburg to go to Houston for checkup next few months  
Terry Graham hip rehab  
Malia Hubbard Garrett— to have surgery in June

Hope y'all stay free of the virus!!!!!!

May God Bless each of you and have a speedy recovery

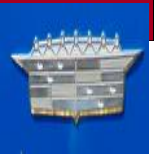
Please let me know of anyone that I need to add to our prayer list or assistance.  
Call me if I can take you to Dr or make a house call.

Love,

*Rubye*

817 996-8066

# Membership Report



## Welcome New Members:

There are 16 car clubs that manage the Pate Swap Meet each year. If every member of the North Texas Region Cadillac & LaSalle club recruited just one new member each, we would be the biggest club in the swap meet. Remember, the member count, besides meaning a more fun and interesting club, gets the club a bigger share of the Pate income.

*If a member obtains 5 or more new members to the NTXCLC they will receive a free Club Shirt at the annual Christmas dinner.*

## COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING PRICES FOR NTXCLC NEWSLETTER "The Standard Of The World"

Your business will be advertising to car lovers and enthusiasts across the United States, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

**For one full year,**  
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For membership information—  
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**Pate Director:** **Bill Levy**

**Pate Director Assistant:**

**Historians:** **Alex Beloff III**

**Directors:** **Jeff Podmers, Richard Cross**

### North Texas Region



**Goddess Shirt \$25**



**Jacket \$65 + \$9.95 S&H**

Jacket available in adult sizes (S, M, L, XL). These can be special ordered in 2X, 3X or 4X at an additional cost. Goddess shirt available in sizes M, L, XL and XXL in white, black, red and aqua.

Make checks payable to NTXCLC  
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**NTXCLC Board Meetings usually 3rd Saturday at 11:30 a.m. of even months**

**Next Board Meeting TBA**

June 2020



**STANDARD OF THE WORLD**

**Bill Levy (lifer@writeme.com)**  
**Editor, North Texas Region CLC**  
**16734 Lauder Lane**  
**Dallas, TX 75248**

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**First Class Mail**

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*Drive, Show, Chrome, Bumper, Bullets, Tail Fins*

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

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