



Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Louis Chapter

BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

Volume XXV, No. 11

December 2005

**HOLIDAY PARTY AT CJ MUGGS
ON DECEMBER 11 FROM 3 TO 6 PM**



**If you wish, bring a
contribution:**

**Unwrapped Gift for Toys for Tots or
Cash or Check for Wings of Hope**

DEGLMAN IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

I guess most of us have put our "babies" to bed by now. I read the other day that, besides shavings of Irish Spring, fresh mint in the engine compartment, front & rear seats and in the trunk will keep the mice away.

Hope everyone is gearing up for our Holiday Party on December 11th at 3:00 PM at CJ Muggs in Webster Groves. As in the past, please bring unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots or, if you prefer, a cash or check for Delia Greer's Wings of Hope organization. Pete Nathan is handling "applications" for our Hard Luck trophies. Contact Pete with any stories about something that has happened to you or something that you've heard about another member's car misfortunes.

I will be calling for a Board Meeting in January to put together our events calendar for 2006. If you have any ideas, contact me or any of our Board Members.

It was decided by vote at our November meeting to have our February 2nd meeting at Super Smokers, 10150 Watson Road, just east of Lindbergh. Remember there is no January meeting or *Gazette*.

Things I've seen & heard:

- Our good friend Culus Jones suffered a stroke a few days before our November meeting. He seems to be recovering well. Our thoughts are with you, Culus.
- John Waltz received good news from his team of doctors; the cancer is in "complete remission" following the stem cell transplant.

- Welcome new member Melissa Hamilton and her 1997 Skylark.
- Congratulations and best wishes to newlyweds Rich and Cathleen Horst.
- Adam Martin won an E-bay auction and is now the proud owner of a 1971 LeSabre. Adam drove a '71 LeSabre in high school and has been on the prowl for another one.

I've seen the following cars for sale around town:

1935 Buick Model 67	\$25,000	4-door sedan
1956 Buick Special	24,000	2-door hardtop
1957 Buick Super	29,500	2-door hardtop
1957 Buick R'dmaster	68,500	convertible
1960 Buick Invicta	62,500	convertible
1971 Buick GS 455	15,900	2-door hardtop

If anyone has an interest, give me a call and I will tell you where they are.

On a final note, the new Editor of the Buick Bugle is Pete Phillips. Pete is a true Buick man and was on the BCA Board of Directors, but resigned to be able to take this position. Please let me impart a personal note on this subject. I've known Pete for 13 years. Pete Phillips and our own Paul Meyer have strived for years as BCA Board Members to look after the "common man" in the BCA. Paul and Pete have done their jobs well. We should all be ecstatic that Pete has taken on the job of Bugle Editor. I have already pledged full Gateway Chapter support to him.

Have a happy Holiday Season!

Hank

WHEN BETTER BUICKS ARE BUILT

The November 7 issue of *AUTOWEEK* magazine plays with the old Buick ad campaign, "When better cars are built, Buick will build them." In fact for the last two or three generations of the Toyota Avalon, magazines have played with the slogan, turning it around to, "When better Buicks are built, Toyota will build them." No doubt many Buick customers have moved to the Avalon. But the 2006 Buick Lucerne was cautiously commended by the reviewers. And with the Northstar V-8 engine option and the Magnetic Ride Control option *AUTOWEEK* gave Buick an

edge. There were no typical "floating like a boat" criticisms about the ride and handling. I looked at the new Lucerne at a local dealership (one lonely zone car on the floor) and was very pleased with it, but I would really like to drive one. Bob Lutz, GM Vice-Chairman, was quoted as saying that the Buick loyalists trading a LeSabre or Park Avenue are going to be ecstatic. Bob likes it and says he will be replacing his Cadillac DTS with the Lucerne. Buick needs the public to be just as pleased since the division must have a winner here to continue. (Ed)

RICHARD SUPINGER COLLECTION AUCTION

July 30, 2005
by Jeffrey Watkins

In late April and early May, advertisements for this auction began appearing in all the antique car magazines. It looked like a great salvage yard auction in Missouri so I checked the map for a road trip. My friend Garry and I headed off for a 6-hour trip to the little town of Grant City in northwest Missouri, south of the Iowa border by about 10 miles.

We arrived at 6:30 AM after having a crash with a deer. (Garry and I were fine but the rental car was damaged.) We saw about 1200 cars in a former salvage yard spread over a hillside and valley. Car Heaven. The dew was glistening on the cars making the chrome and glass and sheet metal look real good.

The auction started around 9:30 AM. The very last statement by Van Der Brink Auction Company was that each car was going to have a \$200 reserve. A hush fell over the 500 people. I had been watching other Van Der Brink Auctions where prices had been in the \$50 to \$100 range. Most of the cars had been sitting for 20 to 40 years. Lots of floor rust but they must have been driven to where they were parked because they still had batteries and radiators in them.

The oldest Buick was a 1934 which went for about \$1700. Other Buicks were from 1947, 52, 56, 57, 58, 59, 68, and 69, about 20 all together. There were 528 cars auctioned that day and 170 were bought by a salvage company to be squashed. Most sold in the \$300 to \$800 range. I didn't buy anything, but it sure was fun to look.



MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT AUCTION

September 25, 2005
by Jeffrey Watkins

The smell of old cars doesn't affect you even in the rain. Yes, it was an icky day having to endure the sale of bicycles, motorcycles, boats, an airplane, a truck, fire engines and finally cars. None of the cars were in mint condition. This was a no reserve auction. Some of the cars had been donated as far back as 1960 ('35 LaSalle) or as recently as 1998 ('71 Chrysler Newport). The big money cars were the 1928 Rolls Royce Twin Limousine and a 1935 Jaguar SS Swallow Convertible.

There were 3 Buicks: 1964 Riviera \$4,750, 1977 LeSabre 4-door \$150 and a 1954 Special 4-door. I went looking to find something that was under the radar. I was interested in the 1969 Rambler American Wagon or the 1964 Ford Falcon 2-door sedan. Both sold for more than what I wanted to invest. Yes, I bought a car, a 1976 Ford Granada 4-door sedan with only 42,200 miles. It was donated to the museum in 1994 according to when the license plates expired. I got it running out there and drove it home the next day after fixing flat tires and giving it a quick tune up. It still needs a carburetor rebuild and a gas tank boil out. Eleven year old gas smells bad!

Aaron and Rhonda Ford also bought a car, a 1948 Lincoln Continental 2-door. And Herb Morris was looking at the 1956 Continental Mark II but passed it up. Fred Weber was out there but I don't know if any money passed through his fingers.

1957 Buick Century
4-door Hardtop
at Supinger Auction
July 30, 2005

Gateway Chapter Holiday Party

Sunday, December 11th at 3 PM

Program

We will try to keep most of the time for visiting and dinner. There will be a business meeting, but we will continue the practice of keeping the December meeting short and upbeat.

Menu

We will be ordering from the regular menu. The menu offers a wide variety from burgers and fries to more expensive steak dinners.



DIRECTIONS

Take I-44 to the Elm exit (280)
Turn North on Elm & drive 0.9 miles.
Left onto Lockwood for 0.1 mile
C J Muggs is on your right.

There is free public parking behind C J Muggs and it can be reached from Gore or from Lockwood. The lower portion which is covered is reached from Gore.

Gifts

Again this year we are giving rather than exchanging. In addition to the opportunity to give Toys For Tots, you will have the opportunity to write a check to Wings of Hope. Do not feel obligated to bring a gift, but please come if you can.

Private Room

This downstairs private room provides a bar, but it is a nonsmoking room. The room size is more than adequate for our group.

C J Muggs Restaurant

101 W. Lockwood, Webster Groves

