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OUR OWN [?!] '31 CADILLAC!

Some months ago, Toni and David Rothman proposed that the Valley Forge Region put some of the funds from the late Grand National to work by adopting a car at the AACA Museum in Hershey for a one year trial. That institution had the perfect candidate: a 1931 Cadillac sedan with twin sidemounted spares. After some discussion, the proposal was adopted, and the appropriate check was sent on to the museum.

This endeavor was culminated on Sunday, 15 November 2009, when the Valley Forge Region formally took custody of this automotive *grande dame* in a more-or-less formal adoption ceremony, complete with the appropriate celebratory lunch.



Adopt-a-Car Chair David Rothman as he opens the adoption ceremony [thanks to Lee Herbermann of the Pittsburgh Region]

The VFR adopts a Car

By David Rothman

The adoption ceremonies began after lunch when VFR members and guests gathered in front of the 1931 Cadillac Town sedan Model 355A. I started the proceedings by announcing:

"We have gathered here to witness the adoption of this 1931 Cadillac Town Sedan by the VFR".

I then recounted salient vital statistics of the car and its features. I called Marty Watkins to come forward and stand next to the car. Then I said to Marty "As president of the Valley Forge Region and as the representative of its board, will you, in the name of the Valley Forge Region, adopt this 1931 Cadillac Town Sedan?" President Watkins replied "YES".

Holding the adoption certificate in my outstretched arm, I continued, "Therefore, by the power vested in me by the Museum's board of directors and as Chair of the Adopt-a-Car Program, I hereby make it known that this 1931 Cadillac Town Sedan is adopted by the Valley Forge Region. It gives me great pleasure to present to you this adoption certificate. Congratulations!"

Further coverage of the day, the event, and the participants will be found inside beginning on page 4. Photo credits will be noted on the appropriate pages.

MISSING AN ISSUE FROM THE PAST YEAR?

Back issues are available at http://www.vfrclc.org/goddess_archives.htm !

VALLEY FORGE REGION CALENDAR

Events sponsored by the Valley Forge Region appear in **bold green**; events sponsored by other CLC regions appear in *purple italics*. All other events appear in plain text. **NOTE:** VFR business meetings occur on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Dinner/social hour begins at 7:00 PM followed by the business meeting at 8:00 PM.

2009

Dec 15

Horsham, PA

Monthly VFR meeting; Otto's Brauhaus; 215 675 1864

2010

Jan 5

Horsham, PA

VFR board meeting; Otto's Brauhaus; 215 675 1864 (*NOTE: election of officers will take place at this meeting*)

Jan 19

Horsham, PA

Monthly VFR meeting; Otto's Brauhaus; 215 675 1864

Jan 30

Gwynedd, PA

Annual VFR banquet (see p. 10 in this issue for details)

Jan 30 – Feb 7

Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia Auto Show, Philadelphia Convention Center, philadelphiaautoshow.com

Feb 11 - 13

Philadelphia, PA

AACA annual meeting; www.aaca.org

Feb 16

Horsham, PA

Monthly VFR meeting; Otto's Brauhaus; 215 675 1864

Feb 25 - 28

Atlantic City, NJ

Atlantic City Classic Car Show and Auction

March 16

Horsham, PA

Monthly VFR meeting; Otto's Brauhaus; 215 675 1864

April 20

Horsham, PA

Monthly VFR meeting; Otto's Brauhaus; 215 675 1864

May weekends

Wilmington, DE

Antique / classic car weekends at Winterthur Museum and Library
[details follow on p. 10]

May 18

Horsham, PA

Monthly VFR meeting; Otto's Brauhaus; 215 675 1864

July 14-17

Overland Park, KS

2010 CLC Grand National; www.kcgn2010.com2nd Friday,
monthly,
April to
SeptemberWest Chester,
PAFaulkner Buick cruises; Don Miller; 610 647 1358;
bluefludon@aol.com

Want to include a car-related event? Call or write Carol Magee
1883 Edge Hill Rd, Abington PA 19001 (215) 657-0964, mageegang@verizon.net

Hi, Everybody -

We were focused this past month on a very significant event: the formal adoption of a 1931 Cadillac Town Sedan at the AACA Museum in Hershey, PA!

On Sunday, November 15, members of the VFR and other CLC regions, including the Carolina, Central Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh and Potomac met at the museum. This was for the official adoption ceremony, a great luncheon and a private tour, including a look behind the scenes.

The "adoption" process began in February 2009 when long-time VFR members David and Toni Rothman addressed us at a club meeting. Their presentation described the worthy cause and how it would help the museum financially. The duration of the adoption would be one year. During club meetings over the coming months the subject warranted much discussion. In May the VFR BOD voted to authorize the contribution amount to the museum. The check was sent on May 29, 2009. After the one year period the AACA Museum will offer the VFR the option to extend the adoption for another year.

In addition to our own adoption, a 1905 Cadillac runabout was also "adopted" at the same time by the CLC Carolina Region, represented by members Bill and Jay Ann Edmunds.

There was an informal reception/photo time before the luncheon. David and Toni Rothman welcomed everybody there. David is the AACA Museum "Adopt-a-Car Program" Chairperson and Toni is a member of the AACA Museum Board of Directors. The luncheon itself was a gourmet delight. Some members actually commented that the AACA Museum would be a great place for the CLC Museum. There seemed to be total agreement on that subject.



**The Monthly
Message from Our
President**

Following the luncheon the adoption ceremonies took place. David Rothman presented the certificates and described the unique features about the cars. I accepted for the Valley Forge Region and Bill Edmunds accepted for the Carolina Region. The museum was represented by Jeff Bliemeister, Museum Curator, and by Myra Toomey, Director of Development. We were then treated to a private behind-the-scenes tour of the museum and the surrounding buildings. Dan Reed, VFR member, photographer and illustrator, took numerous photos of the entire event.

All I can comment: the buildings, the cars, and the settings are just magnificent! The staff members and volunteers representing the museum were a pleasure to be with. They are an outstanding credit to the museum and the antique car hobby. As a snapshot of the very high standard achieved in just six short years, the AACA Museum is now a Smithsonian Institute Affiliate. This is a very prestigious honor that not all museums have earned.

Last but not least, our club also previously purchased an 8" x 8" brick, engraved with the VFR name and the national CLC logo. The brick is now permanently placed in the ground outside of the museum entrance, to the right of the entrance doors. Photo coverage of the day and events appears on pages 4 through 7 of this issue.

The adoption certificate will be framed and displayed with the photo of the car at the club's annual dinner.

[continued on page 8]

Challenge: which president of the United States is shown above? The answer will appear in the January issue.

The president shown in the November issue was Woodrow Wilson, 28th president, 1913-1921.

Several people in attendance at the formal adoption event were gracious in providing photographic coverage of the day, the ceremonies, and those present. We begin our picture galleries with **DAN REED's** contributions on this page, continuing through the top of page 6.



Members from the Valley Forge Region of the Cadillac & LaSalle Club socialize prior to the Adoption Ceremony lunch

Forty-two CLC members and guests from the Valley Forge, Carolina, Central Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh and Potomac Regions enjoying lunch in the Rotunda. Everyone received a Hershey chocolate bar with an "It's a She" wrapper as a gift from the Museum.



The 1931 Cadillac Town Sedan adopted by the VFR under the Museum's Adopt-a-Car Program.



Eye-in-the-sky of the adoption ceremony with David Rothman as the MC



It's official! Marty Watkins, VFR president, displaying the Adoption Certificate after the Adoption Ceremony.

This 1905 Cadillac Model E Runabout (at right) was adopted by the CLC's Carolina Region on the same day

