



BUMPER TO BUMPER

Bob Williams' Cadillac

1950 Gun Metal Black Cadillac DeVille



Not long ago Bob Williams was having his classic Cadillac serviced at a dealership in Greensboro, North Carolina. As it happened, on that same day, the owner of this 1950 Cadillac DeVille was also at the dealership. She saw Bob's car and happened to be trying to find a new home for

her Cadillac. She asked the dealership to pass her phone number on to Bob, in the chance he might be interested in purchasing another classic Cadillac. To read the full story of this classic with a unique history, turn to page two.

May 21st, 2011 Meeting

Odell and Dolores Routh have arranged a tour for our May meeting. We will meet, at 3:00 PM, at Wild Onion Restaurant, 815 N Main St, Randleman. We will leave from there and drive to "Fraiserville" at Level Cross. Raymond Fraiser has agreed to let us view his extensive antique collection, spread over eight buildings, one is a replica of a general store.

At about 5:00 PM we will drive back to Wild Onion Restaurant for dinner and the business meeting.

Weather permitting, please drive a classic. If it rains, the tour will go on as planned.



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1950 GUN METAL BLACK CADILLAC DEVILLE



Left side and rear of the car as it looks after restoration. The lady on each side of the mural is Frankie's mother.

Both at age 16 in this 1952 photo are Bobby Darin, left, and Frankie Bonanno, right. Darin died in 1973 and Frankie in 1991.



This 1950 Cadillac had been in the same Bonanno Mafia family since new, over 60 years. The original owner lived in the Bronx and later moved to Long Island. Bob Williams is the first, outside the original purchaser's family, to own the car.

It has 51,000 original miles and vintage ice cold air conditioning. The original clock and radio work perfectly however, a newer cd/radio tuner is now hidden in the glovebox. The color is called Gun Metal Black.

Mr Bonanno bought the Cadillac in 1950 and in 1956 gave it to his 20 year old son, Frankie. Living next door to Frankie and born the same year, 1936, was Walden Robert Cassotto. Walden would later use the name Bobby Darin.

Bobby Darin was born to a poor working class family. The person he believed to be his father, actually his grandfather, died in jail a few months before he was born. It was the height of the great depression and Darin once remarked that his crib was a cardboard box then later a dresser drawer. He was raised by his mother Polly and his sister Nina. They subsisted on Home Relief until Nina married Charlie Mafia. As an adult, Darin would learn that Poly was actually his grandmother and Nina his mother. Polly had an addiction to

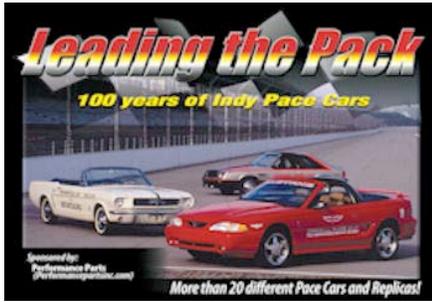
morphine and there was always turmoil at home so, Bobby spent most of his time with Frankie Bonanno. The two were like brothers, in fact Bobby was the only other person that Frankie allow to drive the Cadillac.

As Darin's career took off and he began to travel around the country, Frankie wasn't too far behind. At 23 Bobby performed at many major night clubs across the country. They took the Cadillac to Las Vegas one year and hobnobbed with "The Rat Pack", who paid for the mural on the trunk. After returning to New York, they would drive the car around as an advertisement for the "Rat Pack".

When Frankie died, in 1991, his son, Bobby Bonanno took possession of the car. He drove and cared for the Cadillac until 2006 when he received a federal prison sentence of 8-10 years for racketeering, securities fraud, conspiracy to commit murder, illegal gambling, extortion, loan sharking, and narcotics distribution. His wife then sold the car to his aunt. The car was carefully restored in 2008 by Bobby's friends, "members of the mafia family". Bob purchased the Cadillac from the aunt.

Every piece of chrome was redone and real leather seats put in. The car is nearly perfect physically and mechanically.

DeVille (also De Ville and de Ville) was originally a trim level and later a model of General Motors' Cadillac marque. The first car to bear the name was the 1949 Coupe de Ville, a prestige trim level of the Series 62 luxury coupe. The last model to be formally known as a DeVille was the 2005 Cadillac DeVille, a full-size sedan, the largest car in the Cadillac model range at the time. The next year, the DeVille was officially renamed DTS (an abbreviation standing for DeVille Touring Sedan, itself a trim level on earlier models).



**Our next major exhibit
Coming May 6- October 9, 2011**

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Indianapolis 500 Race. The Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) Museum will commemorate the event with a special exhibition of Indianapolis 500 Pace Car replicas supplemented by some actual race pace cars and an assortment of vintage competition vehicles representing several eras of Indy with more than a dozen vehicles.

Pacing the Indianapolis 500 is a prestigious task. It has become a real honor for the chosen manufacturer and usually coincides

with the release of a major new model or a striking redesign resembling to the actual competition vehicles. It was also rumored that some pace cars in the first quarter of the 20th century could actually outperform the race vehicles! Gradually, the race cars became more specialized and soon looked nothing like the production automobiles that paced them. While the modern pace car is a rolling advertisement, it also represents new technology, safety and performance. "Leading the Pack" will showcase the wide variety of manufacturers and body styles used as pace cars over the course of the "500's" century of competition.



Libraries of all types have been around for hundreds of years. In the United States, libraries of the early 1900s used remote book deposit stations to offer services to rural citizens. These deposit stations were scattered across a county and restocked by subcontracted wagons. The subcontractors were not always reliable, so in 1905, the Washington County, MD library system introduced the first bookmobile to restock deposit stations and serve citizens directly. This horse-drawn wagon worked for a few years until the first motorized bookmobile entered service in 1912. This vehicle was a 1912



International Harvester with a specially constructed top with shelves for 300 books and enough storage room to re-supply four deposit stations on one trip. The bookmobile covered an area of 500 square miles in a place where there was virtually no

high school. Of course road conditions were so poor in 1912 that service was limited to about 9 months of the year.

Fast forward more than forty years to the 1950's, an era that could be considered the golden age of bookmobiles.

Thanks in large part to post-war commitments to fund library service to rural

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continued from page 3 communities, bookmobiles came in a wide range of types and sizes from buses to station wagons.



As we reported in the February edition of *Speedster*, the AACA Library was recently promised a 1955 Chevrolet 3600 bookmobile that served residents of Anderson County, SC from 1956-1991.

We are now even more excited to report that the library officially took ownership of the bookmobile! The transfer coincided with the Charlotte meet in early April so the vehicle was put on display for all to see.

The bookmobile was then safely transported to Hershey, PA where it now awaits its restoration.

Without the generosity of donors Tom Gibson & Dave Bowman of Crossroads Restorations in Anderson, SC, our dream of an AACA Library bookmobile would not have become a reality.



Calendar

May 7th, 2011

Carthage Buggy Festival & Car Show

May 14th, 2011

Mt View Independent Methodist Church
1st Annual Car & Truck Show

May 15th, 2011

Douglas & Susan Geubtner - Anniversary

May 23rd, 2011

Thomas Schwagerl - Birthday

August 20th, 2011

Zooland Region 21st Annual Car Show



MAY 7, 2011 (RAIN OR SHINE)
23rd Annual Carthage Buggy Festival
and Benefit Car and Truck Show

COURTHOUSE SQUARE, CARTHAGE, NC

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Street Rod Assoc.

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& Older
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Mopar, GM, Ford,
Other & Ladies
Choice**

Registration 9:00am-12:30pm—Awards presented at 2:30pm

Drawing for \$500.00 Cash

\$500.00 Raffle Tickets will be \$5 each-- Tickets will be on sale before and during the Car Show

DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN \$500 RAFFLE

50/50 drawing at show

Dash Plaques for the First 100 Registered

Pre-Registration \$15.00 Before May 1st

Day of Show Registration Fee \$20.00

For Pre Registration, mail form to Pam Autry, 11 Birkdale Drive, Pinehurst, NC 28374

For more information, contact Tom Walker 910-949-6594

or Tom Murray 910-295-3559

Please Print

Entry # (For Club Use Only – Do not fill in Entry #)

Owner:

First Name: _____ Last Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # _____ E-mail Address _____

Type: (check one) Car Truck Year _____

Amount: _____ Make/Model _____

**For everyone's safety and well being, NO PETS OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
are allowed at the Carthage Buggy Festival and the Car / Truck Show**

With my signature below, I agree that neither the Buggy Festival nor the Sandhills Classic Street Rod Association is responsible for damage to vehicles, injuries to participants/Spectators, before, during and after the car show.

Signature: _____

THIS IS A CHARITABLE EVENT FOR

CANCER CARE FUND OF MOORE REGIONAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

FISHER HOUSE-FORT BRAGG

SANDHILLS TEEN CHALLENGE

THE CARTHAGE FOOD BANK



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Entry Fee: \$20.00

OPEN TO ALL MAKES, MODELS & YEARS

Awards: Best in Show (Car) & (Truck), People's Choice, Pre-50's Original, Pre-50's Modified, 50-80's Original, 50-80's Modified, 90's or Newer Original, Best Foreign Original & Modified, Incomplete, Special Awards.

When: May 14, 2011

Registration: 8:30 -11am

Judging Begins: 11:00am

Awards Presentation: 1pm

Country Breakfast Served: 7:00 am -9am (Donations)

Lunch Served: 11am - 12:30pm (Donations)

Contacts: Todd McLeod -336-241-2245/336-626-6670 wk

Junior Hunt - 336-629-3811

**** Rain Date- 05-21-11****