

Indian Summer at the Baltimore Streetcar Museum

By Jerry Gordon

The original date for the fall Baltimore Streetcar Museum show was on an October weekend that turned into a complete washout. However, we were able to reschedule the show to November 8th and were rewarded with a balmy day that induced fifteen antique car enthusiasts to come out and ride the streetcars one last time before winter.



The Museum staff had five streetcars out for the day because the fine weather also attracted quite a few visitors. We were surprised to find a new addition to the streetcar fleet, a 1948 St. Louis Streetcar Company model that was in service throughout its life in the SEPTA system around Philadelphia. This was the streetcar that lived under the blue tarp on the field for several years. The freshly restored bright orange and dark blue streetcar was the star of the show and made several runs throughout the day.

Among the antique cars, we had some newcomers, including Henry Chaudron, Sr. and Barbara Muldowney who brought their 1955 Pontiac Star Chief hardtop, a nice looking blue and white example. The 1955 models were the first of a run of updated Pontiacs with new bodies, chassis, and V-8 engines. In looking over the car, the rear fenders have a slight hump that looks like a hint of the fins that started appearing a couple of years later throughout the American automobile industry. Henry

and Barbara came to the monthly meeting the next evening and joined the Club.

Another newcomer came with an old-time member, Pat Wenderoth. Pat arrived at the show in his brand new, to him, 1964 Lincoln Continental convertible – a basically original metallic baby blue example with a white top. Pat acquired the car locally

sons and their families, who really enjoyed the day making it a Wenderoth family outing. However, Pat reported that Evelyn stayed home to watch NASCAR.

The Streetcar Museum is offering Santa's Streetcar, a holiday season kid friendly event, on December 12th and 13th. It's an opportunity to ride a streetcar with Santa Claus where the



Shown on the top row left is Pat Wenderoth's newly acquired 1964 Lincoln Continental convertible; on the right is Barbara Muldowney & Henry Chaudron, Sr.'s 1955 Pontiac Star Chief hardtop. The streetcar below is the newly restored 1948 St. Louis Streetcar Co. model that came from Philadelphia.

from a long-time acquaintance. After an extended negotiation, he was able to purchase the car the week before the show and drove it to the Streetcar Museum after he installed the tags. Also attending the show were his two

kids can talk to Santa one-on-one. In addition, there will be readings of *A Visit From Saint Nick*, plus a holiday decorations throughout the Museum.

The Sponsor's Choice car for this event was selected by the Museum's Carl Merson, who admitted that there were several cars equally worthy of the trophy. But for this show, he selected the 1955 Pontiac owned by Henry Chaudron, Sr. and Barbara Muldowney. They were quite surprised.

At the show not already mentioned were: Mike Goldman, 1962 Austin Healey; Margaret & Al Lawson, 1957 Chevrolet; Jerry Gordon, 1984 Lincoln; Al Sandler, 1966 Buick; John & Lynn Horn, 1953 Hudson; Larry Butcher, 1938 Lincoln; Mary & Ed Allen, 1972 Chevrolet; Alan Pogach, 1972 Oldsmobile; Mel Gofstein, 1970 Chevrolet; Tim Canova & Tommy Thompson, 1941 Chevrolet; Jerry Ross, 1954 Kaiser; Tom Golden, 1965 Ford; and Jim DeLesio, 1937 Chevrolet.

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The Museums' Carl Merson selected the Sponsor's Choice Award, which went to new Club members Barbara Muldowney & Henry Chaudron, Sr.'s 1955 Pontiac Star Chief hardtop.



The Wenderoth family gathering included Mike and Larry Wenderoth and their families with their dad Pat (on the right). Mike trailed an interesting replica 1904 Oldsmobile that is fitted with railroad wheels. Mike built the Olds from scratch.



In use during the day at the show were: on the left, car #6119 is a Brill Co. built Peter Witt design streetcar that was originally a two-door model. About 150 were on Baltimore's streets during the 1920s & '30s. On the right is #1164, a 1902 open-side, twelve-bench streetcar that was popular with the riding public in Baltimore during the summer because it offered cooling air movement before air conditioning. It was built by the Brill Co.



Two nice muscle car examples were Mel Gofstein's 1972 Chevelle SS coupe on the left and Ed Allen's 1970 Chevelle SS convertible on the right.