

Baltimore Streetcar Museum Show 'Jump Starts' The Season

By Bill Wurzell, Editor

After enduring one of the harshest, snowiest and coldest winters in recent memory, members were 'champing at the bit' to get out to a car show. Several members of the 'Old Line Chasers' car club were also in attendance, Sunday, March 29.

The Spring Edition of the historic Baltimore Streetcar Museum Show at 1901 Falls Road in the city was a good place to kick off the 2015 season. Of course there were many familiar faces proudly displaying their 'pride and joy.' Paula and Gary Ruby showed their immaculate, super low mileage 1985 Buick LeSabre Limited, Special Edition for the first time since acquiring the car.

To many people including our own members a 1985 Buick or similar is a 'modern' car, and it is...*somewhat*. The Ruby's gorgeous Buick has ice-cold factory air-conditioning, three point lap belts in all seating positions, disc brakes, radial tires and a whole lot of other stuff that '50's, '60's and many '70's cars don't have. Remember, I said 'somewhat' above? Well, it doesn't have air bags anywhere, driver, passenger, side curtain, none. No antilock braking system either. The Buick and other cars of its ilk are more than ten years away from the ever popular 'OBD II' technology that brought us the 'check engine' light among other niceties including semiannual emissions testing.

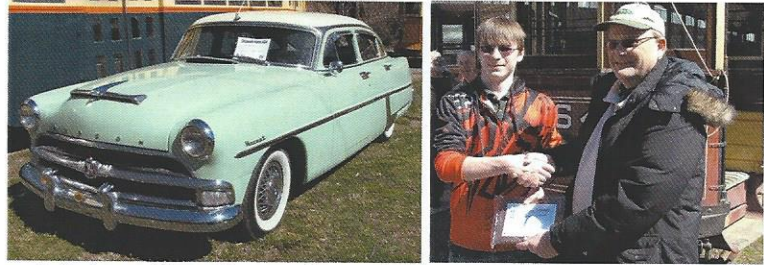
By Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration requirements, 1985 cars and light trucks exceed the current age requirement for historic registration by *TEN YEARS!*

Okay, I know you're asking what does all this have to do with the Spring 2015 show at the Baltimore Streetcar Museum? Well, dear members, it's the future, get *used* to it. If we are going to replenish and maintain our membership ranks, we are going to have to adjust to newer, customized vehicles that belong to a generation or two younger than many of us. Go-fast modified cars and trucks included. Younger folks are interested in the cars *they* remember, not so much '40's and '50's.

Okay, let's talk about the show. If there were familiar faces, there were some new faces too. One of club's newest members, Harold Hopewell. Harold brought his sleek 1967 Buick Skylark two-door hardtop. Many other members were on hand with vehicles we haven't seen for awhile. Craig and Mary Whitcraft's stunning 1953 Mercury Monterey Hardtop. Craig has 'slightly' modified the stock-looking, black over red Merc with air-conditioning and other touches. Of course, you can't have A/C without 12-volt electrical can you? The Mercury has the original flathead V8, albeit with Offenhauser heads. Craig and Mary attend AACA and region sponsored tours around the country and drive a lot of miles in all kinds of weather. Craig declares the Mercury to be a 'driver', he's not concerned with winning honors and awards, although in some clubs his car would be a consistent winner. The Whitcrafts want the car to be safe, dependable and comfortable.

A special presentation this year was the appearance of a Barbershop Quartet. They were accompanied by Jim Curd, organist, inside the museum. Organ music wafted throughout the museum with popular music, show tunes and marches.

At both the spring and fall events at BSM, the good folks there provide a 'Sponsor's Choice Award.' Volunteer Logan Tracy was charged with selecting the sponsor's choice winner, Lewis Mendahall, for his flawless 1954 Hudson Hornet Sedan.



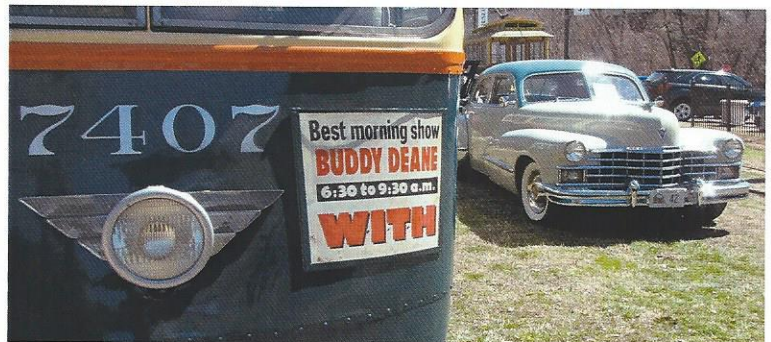
Left: Logan Tracy Presents Sponsor's Choice Award to Lewis Mendahall



Organist Jim Curd accompanied the Barbershop Quartet inside the BSM



Mary Whitcraft seems to have the attention of the Barbershop Quartet guys



Ruth Synodino's '47 Cadillac predates the Buddy Deane poster by 10 years

In the 'what the hell is that catagory?' Gary Ruby, extreme right shows l to r: Craig Whitcraft, Wayne McDaniel and Chuck Talbert, his recently installed 'Flux Capacitor' in his 1985 Buick LeSabre Limited. Gary is hoping with this addition he'll be able to travel back to 1955. (Don't tell Paula) (All photos by Harold Diehl)

