



The Dagmar

www.rmrlc.com

February 2007

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEONARD

*By: Leonard and Nancy
Johnson*

At the last club meeting, Leonard touched on the adventure that he and Nancy had on Friday, November 17th (Leonard's birthday). We have been asked to submit an article detailing the evening. Leonard has one "story," and Nancy has another. So – to be fair to both husband and wife – here is their story:

Nancy's Version: Well – I was only somewhat surprised when Leonard said that the way he wanted to spend his birthday was chauffeuring an elderly couple (the Lewis') in his 1957 Black Cadillac limousine. Their daughter had contacted the Club and that call was forwarded to Leonard. She wanted a 1957 Cadillac limo, and (I believe) Leonard has a limo for every year in the 1950's (OK – I'm exaggerating). Anyway – I went along with Leonard's request.

After Leonard accepted, I read the email she sent Leonard. She wanted big band music (no problem – Leonard owns about 700 CD's, and big band is part of the collection). Her



parents don't drink, so she asked for sparkling apple cider in plastic wine glasses (no problem – I like apple cider too). The driver must be drug (no problem) and alcohol (well – it is Leonard's birthday) free (but, no problem). The driver must be friendly, kind, and generally willing to help make their experience a complete delight (well – this is a no-brainer if you know "Smilin' Leonard Johnson"). My parents, she continues, are in frail health (uh oh), and need assistance to and from the car, and make sure the car stays parked at the restaurant while they are dining in case they need medical supplies that they will be bringing with them (umm – does our insurance cover this?). After dinner she requested that they be driven through downtown

Denver to see the lights and skyscrapers (Fun!). But the excursion can last only about 4 hours because of their medical conditions (bring the timer). And finally, she said, make certain that the car is in safe working condition (read on).

So – Friday night, November 17th, we left our house at 5:00 p.m. making certain that we would be at the Lewis' home by 6:15 p.m. I mentioned to Leonard that although this is a very nice thing we were doing for the Lewis', it is a huge responsibility considering their frail health, medications, etc. We were about 1.4 miles from our house and ALL the lights went out in the limo.

(continued page 2)

The Spring Thaw

The Director's Column By John Evans



By the time you receive this month's copy of the Dagmar, I will have met with our RMCLC officers for our first board meeting of 2007. In addition to discussing the particulars about our many upcoming club events, we will also be going over a wide range of subjects from recruitment strategies, fund raising strategies, volunteer/member participation strategies, and the possibility of having some variety in our regular meeting locations. We will also be looking into having short speaker presentations at some future meetings.

As most of us would agree, this has been an extreme winter for us in Colorado, and the visions of warmer days and the upcoming spring driving season are dancing in our heads. I look forward to sharing our plans and ideas for the

New Year at our Feb 13 meeting, and hope to see a good showing from our membership. I'm pleased to say that our officers are energetic, upbeat, and very enthusiastic about the prospects ahead for a truly sensational year.

Don't forget that we'll be kicking things off in grand style at our membership appreciation dinner, which will be graciously hosted by our dear friend Harry Tiffany at the beautiful Mount Vernon Country Club in February 24th. If you have not had the opportunity to enjoy the charming atmosphere, fine dining experience, and camaraderie with us in the past, please plan to attend this very special event. I promise you will not be disappointed.

Special thanks go out to Dave Leger for his continued excellent service in publishing the Dagmar, and to John Serfling for his expert coordination of our 2007 core club events.

My fellow CLC members, it's an honor to be part of this great group of folks, and I hope you can all plan to attend as many of our club events as possible this year. I feel certain that we'll have something of interest for everyone.

(continued from page 1)

Smilin' Leonard said not to worry – and with major coaxing (that means he pushed and pulled the light knob in and out about 100 times) the lights came on. For about 15 seconds. More pushing and pulling. 15 seconds. Pushing and pulling. 15 seconds. Well – you get the idea! We drove an entire hour and a half like this. I really can't, at this point, tell you everything that I was saying because I don't think you would allow those words to be printed.

We arrived at the Lewis' and introduced ourselves, and told them what their daughter had arranged for them for the evening. Mrs. Lewis immediately told us about a guy she was engaged to and his name was also Leonard. She said he jilted her at the altar, but that he was a very good dancer. (Note to self: avoid anyone else named Leonard.) We then led them to the beautiful (lightless) limo. Mrs. Lewis said, "Oh – this is going to be a memorable experience." "Yes," I said, "more memorable than you'll ever know."

So as Leonard pushed and pulled the light knob, I kept them busy talking. They didn't even notice that I was holding a flashlight in the front seat so Leonard could see the light knob. Nor did they notice that everything was DARK in the limo. Nor could they see the sweat beads forming on both our foreheads. We just all kept talking.

We made it to the Italian restaurant, Pagliacci's, where the Lewis' had their very first date (all arrangements were made in advance by their daughter). After Leonard ordered a glass of wine (remember that alcohol-free driver the daughter wanted), they insisted that we join them at their table. Actually, I was going to have a glass of wine also, but fortunately didn't get the order in on time, so I had water.

We had a delightful dinner with the Lewis'. And now – it was time to climb back into the limo and take them to tour the lights and skyscrapers of downtown Denver. My prayers during dinner were answered, and they said they were a bit tired and could we forego the downtown Denver tour. Whew! So – back into the limo, Leonard pushing and pulling the light knob, me holding the flashlight and talking non-stop to divert attention to the fact that no lights are visible within or without the limo, we headed back to the Lewis' home.

We safely delivered them back to their home, went inside to see pictures and share some apple cider, and left them at 11:15 p.m.



Leonard and I decided to take (the deadly) Highway 93 back home. It was the quickest, most direct, and (we hoped) the least traveled road. Not a word was uttered as we both were praying that we could get ourselves home safely (Leonard was probably praying for his limo, but I was praying for our lives!). Miraculously, the lights went out only twice on the way home.

And that, Cadillac friends, is what actually happened on Friday, November 17th.

Leonard's Version: Ok – there was a tiny malfunction in the electrical system that caused us to drive a portion of that night without lights. oh– Nancy just nudged me – ok – to drive about 90% of that night without lights.

Dinner was delicious, the Lewis' are wonderful people, and if everything was working properly, the music would have sounded great.

I still love my 1957 Cadillac limousine, and the lights are fixed and ready for another excursion. Oh – and that glass of wine – was very, very good! So – what's the problem?



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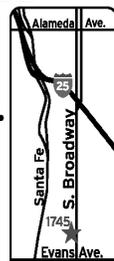
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Denver to Durango Tour: The Anasazi Adventure *By John Cullinan*

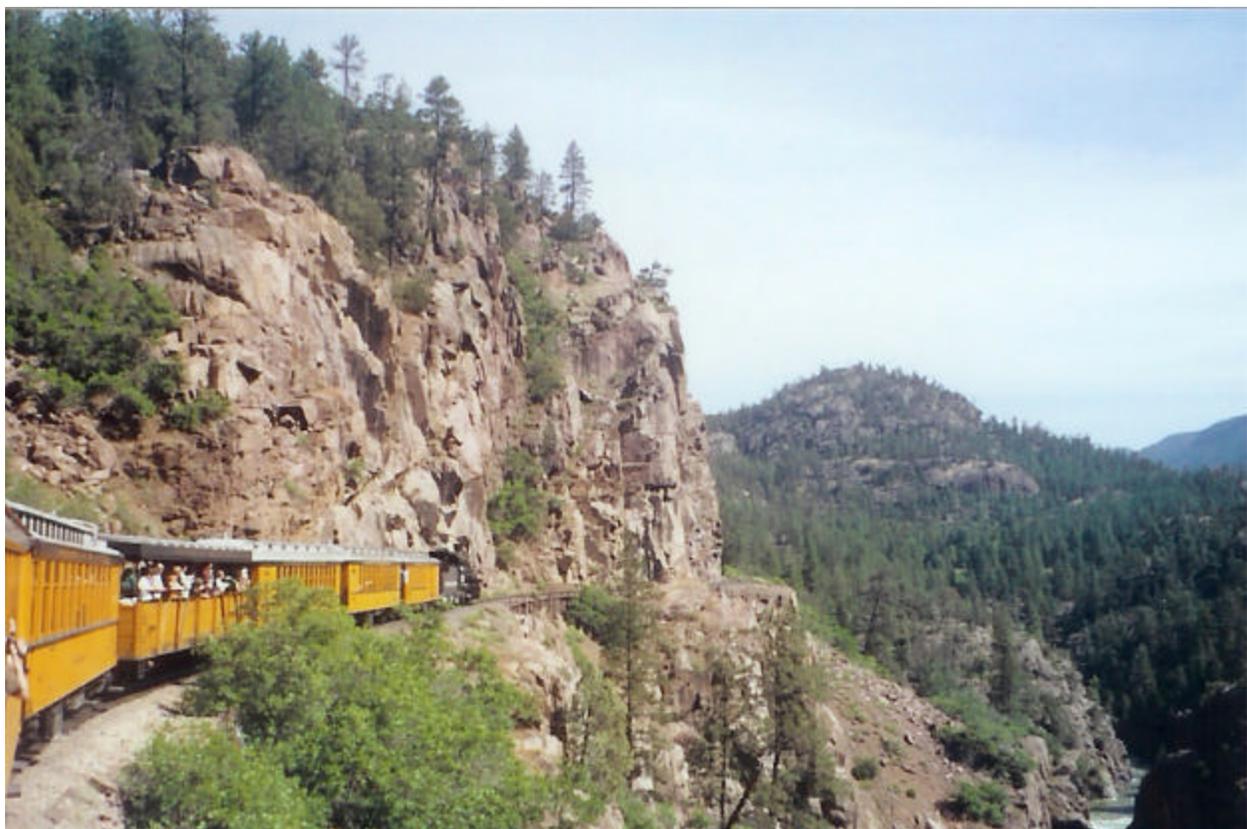
Start thinking about joining us for the summer tour from Denver to Durango. We are tentatively planning on leaving the 23rd of August and returning the 26th. Watch for future information on dates. The weekend before Labor Day is usually a low traffic time in the mountains. The kids are in school, most people wait until the 3 day Labor Day Weekend to head to the mountains. Greg Kemp, Allen Logsdon and I are putting together a schedule that will involve two planned group events with the rest of your time open to do as you please. Allen also has a nice collection of cars which I hope he will permit us to see after our arrival on Thursday, the 23rd.

History buffs and mountain scenery lovers will enjoy the rich history of the Durango area. A long and interesting past sets Durango apart from other mountain destinations and adds to the atmosphere found in Durango. From local history and railroad museums, to the ancient cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde National Park, the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, and old gold-mine tours, there is something for everyone.

Durango was founded in 1880 when the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad built a track to Silverton and established Durango as the hub of its rail system to transport ore from the mountains to smelters in Durango. The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad now only hauls visitors to Silverton, and this year will be its 126th year of continuous operation. Many of the original buildings

constructed by Durango's pioneers are still standing and are used today in the historic districts of Main and Third Avenues. Silverton also has many old mining buildings standing. The train trip to Silverton and the return by bus are worth the time, if you have never done it before. The narrow gauge rails are 36 inches apart, whereas standard gauge rails are 56 inches. This permits the trains to make tighter turns, requires less rock to be cleared and blasted when cutting a road bed along the side of a mountain cliff, and the train today does hang off some cliffs. See the photo on the next page.. We are looking at three different hotels that Allen and Greg have chosen. Each will have good parking. We are trying to keep the room rates no higher than those we paid last year in Taos.

In case you were wondering what the word Anasazi means, it is thought to mean "Ancient Ones". Others say it means "Ancient Enemy". Some modern pueblo people are offended by the name, while others have no problem with it. But politically correctness has caused some government agencies to change the name to Ancestral Puebloans from Anasazi. I will stick with Anasazi. After all some would call our cars Ancient Ones. The Anasazi disappeared from their impregnable cliff side dwellings around 1300. Recently anthropologists have uncovered new evidence that explains why they built their homes high along sides of cliffs and I will share that evidence with you in subsequent stories about our Anasazi Adventure.



Upcoming Activities This Year!

By John Serfling

We will once again be joining our host and longtime member, Harry Tiffany, for the Annual Rocky Mountain Region of the Cadillac & LaSalle Club Member Appreciation Dinner on February 24, 2007 starting at 6:00 p.m. By popular demand, Harry has arranged for the dinner to be at the Mount Vernon Country Club. There will be a wonderful banquet featuring a buffet with crab legs, fish and prime rib entrees, an appetizer table and a fabulous dessert table.

The cost of \$35.00 per person covers dinner, non-alcoholic drinks, and lots of fun and prizes. Gentlemen need not wear a jacket, but most of us have in past years. Ladies tend to wear their prettiest dresses. The only dress code at the club is no jeans.

Please join us for lots of fun and camaraderie! Send your money to Brent Hladky, our treasurer, at 958 St. Paul St., Denver, CO 80206 ***by February 10, 2007!***

Directions to the Mount Vernon Country Club: From Denver, take I-70 West to Exit 254, Genesee. At the stop sign at the top of the exit ramp turn right onto Mt. Vernon Country Club Road. In about 1/2 mile, the road turns right (stay on the paved road). Continue on about 3/4 of a mile to a round about at the club house gate. If you get lost, call the club at (303) 526-0616 .

Additional Activity Information:

Vintage Aero Flying Museum-April or May

On a Sunday in spring we will gather at the hangar for lunch and a look at some old cars. Our hosts will pull the WW I vintage airplanes from the hangar and put on an air show for us.

Abbey Car Show-May

Every year a group of our members venture forth to Canon City to the Abbey for one of the best car shows in the state.

Burger Runs-June, July and August

The burger runs to Gunther Toody's, Nono Cafe and Johnny's were so successful that we are going to do them again this year. If you didn't join us last year, you really missed a good time. Plan now to attend.

Regional Meet-September

This event is always a hit with you, the membership. We are treated well and have a heck of a lot of fun. This is a don't miss event.

Lowry Retirement Community Car Show & BBQ -September 15 Several clubs are being invited for a fun event including lots of good food and an appreciative audience. 10 to 2:30 PM, contact Blaise Flaherty at 303 302 5768 for information

Gateway Museum trip-June

George Malesich is planning a trip to Gateway, CO, which is southwest of Grand Junction to see the new museum built by the founder of the Discovery Channel. It houses the Oldsmobile version of the Corvette concept car for which the owner spent \$3 million at Barrett-Jackson.

Durango Trip-August

We are planning a major trip to southwestern Colorado including Durango, Silverton and Mesa Verde. The tremendous success of the trip to Taos last year provided the impetus to try to outdo ourselves. Save your sheckles. This trip will be worth both the time and the money. See article on page 4.

Leaf Peeping drive-late September

Your Vice-President of Fun promises not to send the group to Estes Park this year. The trip last year was beautiful, but the festival in Estes Park cause parking problems for those who went.

Summer splendor drive-July

Colorado is prettier in the summer than it is in the fall, so plan to join us for a Sunday drive to enjoy the purple mountain majesties that we are privileged to have in our own backyard.

(continued next page)

Denver St. Patrick's Day Parade

The first parade of the season is a bit cool with the top down, but well worth the effort. The parade organizers like us to carry the Grand Marshall in one of our convertibles, so those of you with soft tops should plan now to be in the parade

Denver Memorial Day Parade

Our participation in this event is always appreciated, so let's see a good turnout.

Biermann Hill Climb

Once again we will be venturing to Golden Gate Canyon for a pre-4th of July lunch at the home of Dirk Biermann. Dirk assures us that the climb will be much easier this year (there won't be any fresh gravel) and there is parking at the bottom of the hill for cars with manual transmissions.

Georgetown 4th of July Parade

Always a fun event hosted by Skipper and Brenda. This is a real "up close and personal" parade through downtown Georgetown and past homes nearby.

Keenesburg Parade

Walt and Phyllis Brewer can't say enough about the day full of activities in Keenesburg. Join them for this fun event.

Louisville Labor Day Parade

Tim and Liz Coy are resurrecting an old tradition of breakfast at their house followed by the parade through Louisville. Put it on your calendar now.

Denver Veteran's Day Parade

This is another event at which our presence is really appreciated, especially during this time of war. Mark you calendar now for the Saturday prior to Nov. 11th.

Colfax Cruise

Metro Denver is trying to get a cruise tradition started to match the one in Detroit. Watch for details for this mid-summer event.

New Dagmar Option Available By David Leger

Do you have high speed Internet access (DSL, Cable Modem, etc.)?

Would you like to see the Dagmar in full color?

It occurred to me that as I lay out the Dagmar, it would not be much more effort to produce an electronic copy in color. While printing in color would be excessively expensive, this is something we can

do at no extra cost.

If you would like to receive an additional copy of the Dagmar as a color PDF file, please drop me a note at dleger@ix.netcom.com and I will add you to the list.

I'm afraid that these files can run from 2 to 4 megabytes, so if you connect to the Internet via a phone line and dial up modem, this is not a good idea. It would take a very long time to transfer the files.

This in no way changes your subscription for a print copy

of the Dagmar. You will still receive your black and white copy via the mail.

If you do not have the Adobe Acrobat viewer to display PDF files, you may download it at <http://www.adobe.com/>. The Adobe Reader is free of charge.



The Dagmar monthly news-
letter of the Rocky Mountain
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LaSalle Club**



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Monthly Meeting:

Regular business meetings of the Rocky Mountain Region Cadillac & LaSalle Club are held the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 7:30 pm. We meet at the TDS/J.W. Brewer Tire Co. 11900 W. 44th Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO. This is near the Ward Road and I-70 exit.

The Dagmar:

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Deadline:

Is the 25th of each month.

Display ads: \$15.00 per issue, \$125.00 per year prepaid for a business-card-size ad. Larger sizes available at a discount. Contact the Editor for more information.

Advertising:

Classified Ads:

First three months free for Club Members (RMRCLC), after that normal rates apply. \$20.00 for three consecutive issues prepaid for nonmembers. Cadillac and LaSalle related ads only; there is a 50-word limit on each ad. Classified ads also appear on our web site at:

Check out the RMRCLC Web-site at:

www.rmrclc.com

Memoirs of A Denver Automotive Character Part 2 by David Leger

When we left off, Ben Jordan was leading me to an old yellow school bus. We entered and here was a long, low, racing machine. I had never seen anything quite like it. Not a formula car, or a rail. This was Ben's land speed record car. He'd worked with NASA designed air foil shapes to minimize drag, produce high pressure zones at the air intake, and vacuum regions at the exhaust. Ben wouldn't tell me how fast it'd go, as he hadn't made his official run yet, but he told me it'd done 75 mph with a 5 hp chainsaw motor. The car was front wheel drive. I'd talked about the merits of front wheel drive with Ben. It turns out he'd worked on the design for the 1966 Toronado and 1967 Eldorado for GM. Ben (from his autobiography) had received a BS in Mechanical Engineering

from Clemson University in 1938.

We had a lot of discussions about engineering regarding Citroens. Not just their aerodynamics and suspension system, but their front wheel drive system, inboard disk brakes, proportional braking systems, etc. They may look weird, but these cars are sophisticated. I remember he had a beautiful white Citroen SM at the shop that had been sent in from Florida. He'd tuned it up and had the emissions test results. The testing center tested it twice, because the readings were so low they thought the machine had broken. The Maserati V-6 in the car was very complicated, with each lobe on the cams being adjustable.

What also interested me in Ben's car design was the wheels. There were two up front, but just one in the back. Ben informed me that the car steered by the rear wheel, and

when at speed, that wheel left the road surface, and acted more as a rudder. Ben told me he had the rights to rear wheel steering for racing applications, and that Buckminster Fuller had the rights for passenger applications. It was only later that I learned his land speed record car was named Dymaxion 2, and that as a high school student Ben had spent a year as a pre-engineering apprentice helping build Buckminster Fuller's original Dymaxion (see photo below). It was a shock, my next visit...



(to be continued)

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A Change in License Plate Rules

By David Leger

Colorado has changed the rules for Horseless Carriage plates. Below you will find information on both Collector and Horseless Carriage plates

(courtesy Colorado Department of Revenue). What has changed with the Horseless Carriage plates is that rather than being limited to vehicles manufactured in 1942 or earlier, they are now available for any car over 50 years old.

Mr. Washburn has pointed out

that while Collector plates expire 5 years after being issued, all Horseless Carriage plates are on a set 5 year cycle, regardless of when any specific plate was issued. This means that you may purchase a Horseless Carriage plate and find it expires in only 2 or 3 years, or in 5.

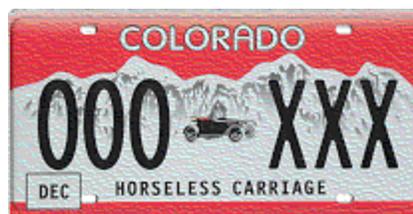
Collector Series Plate



Colorado Revised Statute 42-12-101 & 102

Issued to a passenger or light truck (less than 16,000 pounds empty weight) that is at least twenty-five (25) years old. Registration period is for five (5) years. Taxes and fees collected shall be five (5) times the annual taxes and fees normally collected.

Horseless Carriage Plate



Colorado Revised Statute 42-3-138

Issued to passenger and light truck (less than 16,000 pounds empty weight) that were manufactured in 1942 or prior. Limited driving to/from auto club functions, to/from repair facilities, occasional leisure drive, etc. Registration period is for a set five (5) year period. License fee is \$5.00 and specific ownership tax is \$1.50 for each of the years remaining for the five (5) year period. Current registration cycle expires in December, 2004.

Cars & Parts or Sale

1989 Fleetwood 60 Special. Cotillion white with white padded full vinyl roof and dark blue leather interior. 69,000 miles. FWD and loaded. Second owner, same family. Always garaged. Exceptional condition. All records. Only 2,007 made. \$8,995 obo. Dan Patterson, Littleton, CO, (303) 979-9401. (January)

SOLD—1970 Cadillac Sedan DeVille, "Beautiful in Excellent Condition", **-SOLD**

No Restoration a "True Original", Gold with White Vinyl Top, Several Cadillac Emblems, Tapes-try in Great Shape, Engine Runs Smooth, All Power with Tilt / Telescopic Steering Wheel, 101K miles, Three Manuals, Extra Snow Tires and Wheels, "Historic Classic" Needs a TLC Owner, \$6,000 OBO, Sam Jenkins 303-466-1201, 303-466-5127 Pictures available Samfor-truth@yahoo.com (January)

For Sale: 1968 Cadillac DeVille, 130,000 original miles. Very good condition inside and out. No rust, never been wrecked. Always garaged.. 472 Engine. I am second owner. Bought car with 1700 miles on it. White Vinyl top over green color. Asking \$6,000. Frank Goodman, 675 Meadow Lark Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 970-731-0495 (February)

Official List Of RMRCLC Sponsored Functions

Items discussed at the last club meeting listed below. Please see future issues for exact dates:

February 24, 2007. Member Appreciation Dinner. (see article page 6)

Denver St. Patrick's Day Parade
Vintage Aero Flying Museum-April or May
Denver Memorial Day Parade
Abbey Car Show-May
Gateway Museum trip-June
Georgetown 4th of July Parade
Biermann Hill Climb
Summer splendor drive-July
Keenesburg Parade
Burger Runs-June, July and August
Durango Trip -August
Louisville Labor Day Parade
Regional Meet-September

September 15, 2007 Lowry Retirement Community Car Show & BBQ
10 to 2:30 PM, contact Blaise Flaherty at 303 302 5768 for information

Leaf Peeping drive-late September
Denver Veteran's Day Parade
OCC Colfax Cruise

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