



# The *Dagmar*

[www.rmrlc.com](http://www.rmrlc.com)

## January 2010

### A Memory of Tours Past By John Cullinan

The RMRLC's participation in the 2009 Veterans Day Parade was the last official event I helped to coordinate. On January 1st, 2010 a new era begins: The Era of Jim Salmi, our new V.P. of Activities!

During the 2009 Veterans Day Parade I decided it best that I not drive my '38 La Salle Convertible and let others lead the way. Instead I enjoyed watching the whole parade while taking photos of the RMRLC cars and owners who were escorting the Lady Marines. It is the CLC membership that make things happen and it was the participation of Peter Luce, Harvey Delockroy, James Sears, Jim Salmi, Harry Tiffany, Don Braden and John Evans and their fine autos who make this possibly the best lineup of cars ever for this event.

It seems like just a few months ago I was working with John Washburn and Brent Hladky to organize the Taos Tour of 2006. Time flies and timing chains and typing belts break and here I am on the cusp of 2010 planning on returning to Taos to celebrate the Eve of the New Year. The events and tours I have helped organize with the assistance of our faithful members has been an overwhelmingly enjoyable effort for me. The Taos Tour of 2006 was one of our best ever with a fine dinner at the Stakeout Restaurant under a tent with panoramic view of the Taos Valley below us and the canyon of the Rio Grande River to the West illuminated by the setting sun. Tours of artists homes' and museums joined with relaxing at the little adobe casitas Brent and John booked for us and barbecuing beneath the cottonwoods and the scenic drive to and from Taos all

made this a tour some members still talk about. Of course, some still talk about the gravel road I took them on to visit the historic church and shrine that sits high on a mesa over the town of San Luis.

*Continued on page 4*

### New Club Website

We now have a new web site! Same address as before, <http://www.rmrlc.com>. There are a few new features and more to come. I am looking for a few members who don't have their cars too deep in storage to get pictures for the new site. I would like to get pictures of at least one car for each decade. Drop me a line at 303-469-6929 or email [henryspl@comcast.net](mailto:henryspl@comcast.net) and we will set up a date. If you have video of recent club activities, I want to put it up on a YouTube window on our site. Leonard is dreaming up ideas for new merchandising. We will provide online purchasing with Paypal. Our old site will still be available at <http://www.rmrlc.com/archive> for a while. There will be no new updates to the old site. Check out the new web site and let me know what you think!

*John Henry, your Web Master*





**Director's Column  
By John Serfling**

The New Year is here and with it comes one new member on your Board of Directors and, soon, a new web site for the region. Jim Salmi is the new VP of Fun. He will be asking for your help in both the planning and execution of our club events. Remember, the job of VP of Fun is to manage the people who are planning and executing events, NOT do it all himself. The club is successful when a lot of people participate. When one person has to do it all, it isn't any fun anymore. Help out Jim by giving him ideas and volunteering to write articles for the Dagmar both before and after an event and working to make an event a big success. The rest of the Board remains the same: Nancy Tucker, Secretary; Leonard Johnson, Treasurer; Paul Olson, Membership Chair; Dave Leger, Editor of the Dagmar; and (obviously) I am still the Director. Each of these people has served you well for many years. Please let them know that you appreciate their efforts.

John Henry has been working hard on a redesign of our web site. He is close to publishing it. It really does look great. I'm sure you will like it. We will let you know when it is up and running. The new site will include Walt's Workbench, copies of the Dagmar, details on our activities and photos of our cars. For the latter to be successful, you must send John pictures of your car(s). Surely you have a nice digital picture on your computer that would look good on our web site. Send it to John at henryspl@comcast.net.

December was a cold and snowy month, but that didn't stop me from enjoying my cars. I was invited to a Christmas party in Parker in mid-December. The snow of a few days before had completely melted off of the streets and highways, so I drove my '63 convertible. I figured the car could use a little time on the highway to recharge the battery and keep everything running well. Fortunately, the heater works very well. I do enjoy driving that car, even with the top up. Since most of our winter days are reasonably nice and free of snow and ice, I encourage you to take your baby out for a spin a couple of times during the winter. Show it off a little!

One man at the party had seen the car outside and really liked it. As it turns out he owns the Meineke auto repair facility on Broadway, near Iowa Ave., which is not too far from my house. I told him of some issues with the Eldorado, so he said his mechanics would love to see the car. He also

pointed out that diagnosis is always free at his shop. I think it's time to get to know him better.

Walt Brewer would like to thank those of you who regularly show up at our meetings for your incredible generosity. Over the course of the year we collected \$1275 and gave it to Walt's favorite charity, the Christmas Crusade for Children. Just think how much more we could do for those less fortunate than we are, if more of you came to the meetings with just an extra dollar or two in your wallets. Besides, we like seeing your smiling faces! The Board will be deciding what the 2010 charity of the year will be in the near future, so please send your suggestions, just like Walt did, so we can pick a deserving organization that is a favorite of our members.

Happy New Year to all of you. Join us for dinner and a meeting, or just come to the meetings. We will continue to meet at the Denver Elks Lodge on 26th Ave, near Speer Blvd. and I-25. Get ready for another wonderful year for the Rocky Mountain Region of the Cadillac & LaSalle Club.



## **Membership Appreciation Dinner Update By Jim Salmi**

As has been the custom, the first official club activity for 2010 will again be the annual membership appreciation get together at Mount Vernon Country Club in February. Jeanne Tiffany spoke to them and came up with three possibilities. I sent out a message on the Monday before Christmas to all members for whom I have an email address, and I attached Jeanne's summary of our choices. Many of you replied, and the votes I got back during Christmas week were almost unanimous that we want to try something different – namely a Sunday brunch rather than a Saturday night dinner. The feeling seems to be that a daytime drive to the mountains is preferable, and that this might encourage more attendees. Also, many of us have probably never seen the daytime view of the city. So, it kind of looks like Sunday brunch it's going to be. Details will follow in the February Dagmar and by email when things are finalized. Stay tuned.

As an aside, I want to make sure I'm sending activities updates to the right places. Please let me know (jcsalmi@gmail.com) if you didn't receive the December email, or if you want any other changes made.

Thanks to Jeanne and Harry for helping out on this little project.

## **The Wild Animal Sanctuary Road Trip By Bill Ellis**

The weather was far better than the previous attempt to visit the Sanctuary, in fact it was nearly perfect. Clear skies and sunny made it ideal for viewing the exhibits at a leisurely pace. We had a good group with about 20 in attendance and everyone was in the mood for a good time. The entrance was at the gift shop, of course, where all manner of memorabilia, including shirts, stuffed animals, jewelry and pictures were available. Most items alluded to the big cats, wolves and the Sanctuary itself. During a brief orientation we learned that this is the oldest sanctuary of its kind in the US. It is a non-profit and relies solely on the tours, donations and volunteers for its operation. To keep one tiger was \$6,000 to \$8,000 per year.

Talk about tigers, wow did they have them. There were more than all the others I have seen in my life put together. With our guidebooks in hand, the tiger pens/caves was the first stop. Our timing was fortunate because the meat trucks were on their way and all the animals were active. There were jaguars, leopards, African lions, tigers, American big cats, servals, cote mundi and, if you brought your binoculars, bears, camels and wolves. It was easy to get fascinated with the animals activities and stare from the railing for a while. I think I enjoyed the tigers splashing water out of their wading tubs the most. Just made you want

to go scratch um behind the ears. Nice kitty  
,,,,no,,,no,no,no!!!  
I suppose watching the cuddly animals scarf down all that frozen meat made us hungry so we grouped up and headed for the Pepper Pod for some meat of our own. As always, the food there was worth the trip. I know everyone loves liver and onions as much as I do and theirs was the best I've had in a long time. I think a few of the others may have had burgers or steaks as well, I'm sure those were good too. There was plenty of good conversation while we ate and nobody seemed in a hurry to call it a day. That time did arrive however and as we paid our bills preparing to go, it seemed all were glad they had come.

The Wild Animal Sanctuary was a fine destination. The place is clean and well managed with a laid back pace. The animals were well cared for, healthy and looking fabulous. Being a newbie, I apologize for already having forgotten the names of the fine people I met. But let me say it was a great pleasure to have spent the day with you all. If there's another road trip here and I get to come along, you bet I'll do it again. Only next time I'll try to remember my camera and pocket binoculars.



*Continued from page 1*

I hope they can someday forgive me for that transgression. But the view was worth the effort.

At the end of the Taos Tour I put the top down on my '63 convertible and drove with my college buddy, Tim Hoffman, west over the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge to Tres Piedras and on to Chama and Pagosa Springs with Durango being our ultimate destination. There we met with Allen and Joanna Logsdon to plan your 2007 Summer Driving Tour. They were great hosts during our visit and informed us of many good things to see and do. While there, Tim and I took the narrow gauge to Silverton and marveled at the engineering feat performed by those stalwart railroaders in 1881. It was later in that year when the rails finally reached Durango. But the Denver & Rio Grande railroad did not stop there. The work continued on into the winter as the rails were laid through blizzards and avalanches until they ended in Silverton. An amazing feat!

In August of 2007 our tour to Durango began with a drive down 285 to Salida and up and over Pagosa Springs Pass into the San Luis Valley. Those on the tour will remember the beautiful car our departed member Bob Johnson drove, a striking maroon '46 or '47 convertible. Vapor locking caused him some concern and delay over the pass until we discovered a disconnected electric fuel pump ground wire. Then he fired the car up and sped

off into the distance leaving some of us in his dust. I hope he is still leading the way where he is now. He is missed. He helped me a number of times with recommendations of those who could help me with problems I had with my '38 La Salle the first few years I owned it. Now I have had it for 27 years with mostly trouble free operation, except for a water pump leak during the 2004 National Driving Tour and a temporarily stuck third gear. Thanks to Gentle John Washburn and Bashful Brent Hladky for coming to my aid on that tour.

June 2008 brought another Driving Tour and Steamboat Springs was our destination. Avoiding the Pine Beetle blighted route over Berthoud Pass through Winter Park, we instead took the old highway 6 to Idaho Springs and then continued on to Vail for a stop before continuing on to the guest ranch where we had lunch north of Wolcott. The drive to Steamboat from Wolcott took us through an area few Coloradoans or tourists see, but it was well worth the drive. In Steamboat we enjoyed a fine stay at a hotel owned by a very enterprising and very helpful immigrant Polish family. I particularly remember happy hour at the Yampa River Yacht Club sitting at a table while kayakers passed within 5 feet of us. But the best of that tour was our drive to Steamboat Lake on a perfect June morn-

ing through gorgeous ranch country at the peak of late Spring greenness. After a good lunch, we drove over to the marina and decided to rent two pontoon boats for 2 hours. Steamboat is surrounded by snow capped peaks and the meadows bordering the lake were full of mountain flowers in full bloom. It was a memorable time and I was honored to pilot one of the boats which fortunately had sonar. The other boat did not and I feared they might go aground when I say we only had 2 feet clearance beneath our boat in some places. But Dirk Bierman blindly and luckily avoided tragedy as he captained his craft. Ramona Mueller was on my boat and I think she truly enjoyed the ride. Sadly, we lost her this year. That evening some of us enjoyed the Steamboat Rodeo and Marv Mueller used his cowboy influence to get us seats in the reserved seating area without having to pay for these expensive seats. After a great group dinner on Saturday, we departed Steamboat via Rabbit Ears Pass and then east to North Park, Walden and down into the Poudre River Canyon to Fort Collins and on to Denver. A congenial group of RMRCLC members, fine cars and no mishaps made this another memorable tour. We also had a fine tour in 2008 when Bonnie and Jerry Pache hosted a tour of the amazing Washing Machine Museum east of Fort Collins.



2009 was a busy year for tours and events. The Grand National in Las Vegas was graced with the arrival of approximately 14 cars from Denver. That tour was ably organized by the Olsons, and Nancy Tucker.

We also had our usual parades: St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day. The St. Pats parade in the past had not been one I looked forward to. But when the route was changed to Lodo and the staging area was moved to the Coors Field parking lots the parade became a very fun event, with an almost Mardi Gras atmosphere. Then we had the Safari Tour this Fall that Jeanne Tiffany organized.

Our 2009 Driving Tour was to Crested Butte. John Washburn and I did an exploratory drive there in January and found a very enjoyable lodge for our stay and a good restaurant for our Tour. Last August about 18 cars participated in the tour, with the Logsdons joining us from Durango. We rolled up and over Monarch Pass and most of us stayed at the Cristiana Guesthaus. The central area of the lodge had a nice fire place and seating conducive to socializing. The upper mezzanine had more inviting seating and the 2nd story outdoor patio became the go to place to imbibe adult beverages, chat and watch the sun set on the Elk Mountains. The breakfast buffet was memorable. The Gunnison Museum and Car Collection surprised us with its variety of cars and items, including Japanese and German Fighter pilot suits from

WWII. Some of us also took a very enjoyable boat ride into the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. We also enjoyed a good lunch at a Cajun Cafe in Gunnison, which followed a good lunch the day before in Salida on the way down from Denver. But we saved the best for our Group Dinner at an Italian restaurant, dining under a tent on a pleasant evening near the flowing Gunnison River. Wanting to keep the adventure alive, some of our tourers went home over Cottonwood Pass. Others returned the 285 route only to run into a fatal traffic accident that delayed them for 2 or more hours. Some of those inconvenienced tourers kindly called my cell phone and told me to divert to highway 24 and go to Colorado Springs. I thank them for the heads-up. This tour, my last as V.P. of Activities, was so enjoyable that Roseann and I plan to return to Crested Butte this summer and take the circle route over Kebbler Pass to Paonia, Crawford and back to Gunnison.

My thanks go out to Leonard Johnson for organizing our annual CLC Regional Meet and for organizing the Pig Roast which was held at his new auto restoration and sales shop in Longmont. I also want to thank all of you who have participated in all the

tours and events we have had over the last three years. And thanks to Bob Lyons and Dirk Bierman for organizing the Colfax Cruise and picnic. Thanks also to our Dagmar Editor, Dave Leger, for his patience as he waited for our members to contribute stories. And to those whom I may have forgotten, you also have my thanks.

Jim Salmi will be working with all of you who have ideas for tours and events. Watch for the Prairie Tour that Art Cutler and John Washburn are organizing for this June. I have also spoken with Elmer Giltner regarding a tour to La Junta, Bent's Fort and Trinidad, then on to the Stone Wall Valley and up over Cuchara Pass to La Veta and back to Denver. There is much to see on that route that many of us have not see or enjoyed before. The Grand National in Kansas City is another event and possible tour Jim will be planning. May your cars always start, your tail pipes not smoke, and your brakes hold.

May we all keep our fallen comrades Irene Brewer, Ramona Mueller and Skip Gorman in our thoughts."

Happy Highways,

John Cullinan



## Celebration of Skipper By Jim Salmi

On the beautiful late autumn Friday after Thanksgiving, a group of over two hundred friends and relatives, including a good-sized contingent of Cadillac & LaSalle Club members, convened at the Translations Gallery in LoDo for a Celebration of Life for our old friend Skip Gorman, who passed away unexpectedly in September. For those of us who had seen him less than two weeks earlier at the Colfax Cruise, it was a real shock. He was his same salty old self at the cruise, and that big, red '59 convertible got him there, as usual. That's what we will remember.

Although the reason for our gathering was sad, the celebration was anything but somber. Food and beverages were plentiful, with the featured cuisine being hot dogs with all the trimmings. What else! A slide show played on a computer, showing various photos of Skip and Brenda's lives together, including pictures of the Caddy during the restoration process. The grandkids helped out as hosts, and they sure won't be kids much longer. Many of the attendees had on skipper hats, a stroke of genius. Three speakers gave their remembrances, with Rod Brewer leading off with fond thoughts and car stories. Others recounted Skipper as Santa Claus delivering Christmas presents in that

big red Cadillac sleigh. That's not hard to picture at all.

Brenda wishes to express her thanks to Skip's many friends for sharing her love for him. The celebration was "his kind of gig". She is going to be bouncing back and forth to Tucson next month, and promises to come to a meeting again soon.

Bon Voyage, Skip.





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# CHRISTMAS CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN

December 05, 2009

Rocky Mtn. Cadillac-LaSalle Club  
C/O Nancy Tucker, Scty  
441 Garfield St.  
Denver, Co. 80206

Dear VIPs':

Thank you for participation in the 2009 Christmas Crusade for Children, a non-profit program co-sponsored by KYGO Radio and the Metro Law Enforcement Agencies.

For this program, police officers from throughout the metro area nominate children whom they feel may be left out at Christmas due to their particular domestic situations. KYGO Radio then asks sponsors to take responsibility for one of these children by providing them with a new Christmas toy. Sponsors bring their gifts to KYGO, and the officers then deliver them to the children they have personally nominated. The gift is offered as a present from Santa and his "helpers" at the police department.

Your combined generous tax deductible contribution of \$2000.00 to the Christmas Crusade for Children has helped make this holiday season a brighter one for many children. Again, thank you for being with us this year!

Sincerely,

Katrina Walker  
President  
The Christmas Crusade for Children  
Federal Tax Identification #84-1127073

*Thank You So Much!*

.The monies Walt gave to Christmas Crusade for Children included our club's donation of \$1275 as well as additional monies collected from the police organization he is involved with.

We hope to have more details on the next issue. Briefly we hear that Christmas Crusade for Children received enough

in donations to purchase a \$30 gift for each of 1700 needy children. Due to generous donations this year, they were able to do \$30 per child instead of \$25. They shopped at Kmart and purchased the gifts. The amazing thing is that, from all of the lists they received from the various children, only one asked for a toy. (It was a 9

year old girl who had always dreamed of a Barbie doll. Kmart reduced the price of a \$59 Barbie set to a sale price of \$29 and she will get her doll.) All of the other children asked for clothing, primarily shoes, which clearly shows the need and value of our gift.

**The Dagmar** monthly newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Region **Cadillac and LaSalle Club**



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**The Dagmar:**

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**Deadline:**

Is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Advertising:**

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.

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**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 Website at:**

[www.rmrclc.com](http://www.rmrclc.com)

and the national site at  
<http://www.cadillaclasalleclub.org>

**Monthly Meeting:**

2nd Tuesday of each month at Elks Lodge at 2475 W. 26th Ave. in Denver at 7:30 PM. Dinner at 6 PM prior to the meeting for those who wish to join us.

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## Official List Of RMRCLC Sponsored Functions

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February Members Appreciation Dinner—brunch at Mt. Vernon, stay tuned for details

## Other Events

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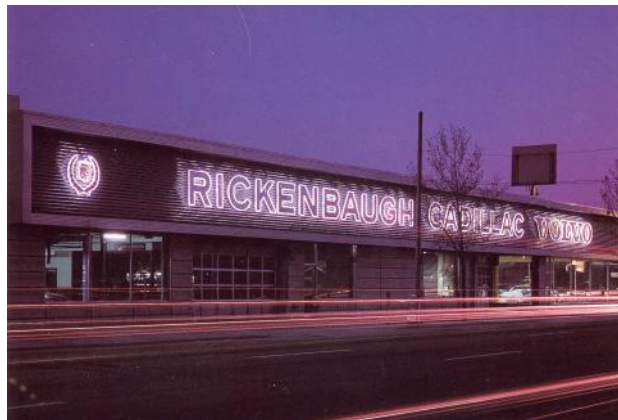
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