

We've Got Safari Tails Below... and Member Tales Inside















Custom Safari Chapter Pontiac Oakland Club International

From the Prez's Garage

By Steve Cook

Spring Greetings to All,

Yes, it was a bad winter for everyone, so let's put it behind us. This coming Sunday, our local group is hosting our Annual Spring Dust-off, and we are expecting about 150 collector cars to show, so the car season is officially here. I hope everyone's Safari will be on the road again shortly as well.

I am going to use my column this month to encourage all readers to rekindle their enthusiasm for our Pontiac Oakland Club International. POCI has lost numerous long time members these past few years over hard feelings, and that is not what this club is about. We are Pontiac, Oakland, and GMC lovers that enjoy these cars and trucks, and enjoy our friends that share these common interests. I think the Officers, Board, Judging Committee, Convention Committee, and Smokes Editor are all making a sincere effort these days to work with the membership to please as many people as possible. This means giving an equal value of importance to Pontiacs, Oaklands, and GMC trucks, whether Show Stock, Show Modified, Road Warrior, or for Racing. I have been included in a lot of behind the scenes POCI actions this winter, and I know that the club leaders are trying hard to resolve any and all grievances. Let's all think positive and charge ahead.

That said, it's time to look forward to what promises to be a fabulous Convention in Bowling Green, KY. It is shaping up to be one of the best, and I hope everyone in the Safari Chapter can attend. There are 65 Popular Vote Classes to pick from if you want to participate in the PV Show, and like the good old days, Class "F" is for "1955-58 Custom Safari Only". There are numerous Semi-Modified and Modified classes, something for everyone. The awards program is looking great as well! If you choose not to be in the Popular Vote or Points Judged Show, the Road Warriors are planning a special gathering and activities. All of these activities will be on the grounds of the Beech Bend Race Park, one of the most beautiful to be found. It will be easy for Show Goers to check out the racing, and vice-versa. There are so many great activities in the area, such as the Corvette Museum and tours of the Corvette Plant that the week. You won't have enough hours to do everything. I am excited that there will be a conventional Chapter Night with an affordable dinner and a conventional Awards Banquet Saturday; again with an affordable menu. (Did I mention that I was on the menu committee so no brussel sprouts?)

As usual, our Safari Chapter will hold our annual meeting at the Convention, probably on Wed. or Thurs. AM, time still to be determined. Rich, Robin, and I are still in the planning stage of a breakfast or dinner cruise, so if you have any suggestions, please get hold of one of us right away.

Steve Cook, "The Prez".

Behind the Wheel in the Editor's Seat

By Rich Pye

Hello Everyone,

Wow, what an incredibly long and cold winter it has been in the northeast. It's now spring and it still feels like winter. While major storms are rolling though the southeast, we actually have snow in the forecast later this week. I need a vacation! Somewhere south and warm!!

So with the weather so terrible over the last few months, you probably want to ask me why this newsletter is so late and why is it twice as thick? Well you're sick of hearing me complain about having no time and too much to do, so I'll blame it on procrastination. But hey, you get 2 issues in one and you can take your time reading it! I actually had a lot of information to go through for this issue. The new feature "How I got my first Safari" is drawing stories from multiple members, which is great! I love having to decide whose story goes in what issue and planning out an issue that comes together well.

Since this is a double newsletter, you'll find a couple Safari Members of the Quarter in this issue. I have to thank Lou Calasibetta and returning chapter member Victor Dennis Dana for their submissions over the last couple of months. You'll find in this issue some great stories from both guys, that I know you will enjoy. I really like the car invoice that Lou still had from his dad's Safari. It's the Safari that got it all started for Lou. To think at one time, he wasn't into restoring cars!! Victor also tells his tale of how he got his first Safari, "the one that got away". He also has created some word search puzzles and I've included one in this issue, Have Fun. For future issues I have some stories in the queue from Jack White and more coming from Victor. So there is a lot to look forward to. Hey, I should get preparing now!

As usual I've included the next in order issue of Vintage Safari News. The infamous CSC "Safari So Good" bumper sticker is seen in that issue. Does anyone still have one or even better having the original artwork? That would be a great item for us to have reproduced for the chapter members. It would be even better at the 1979 prices! I'd modify the artwork as is, but have no idea how to get them made into bumper stickers. Also check out Victor's custom key fobs that he and a friend are going to be making per order for anyone interested. He sent me a sample of each of the fobs and they are pretty neat. They are a nice piece to hang off of your keychain, customized to your year and car color. There will be more information on them in upcoming issues, so stay tuned.

If your label has 2010 on it, please make sure your dues are paid up or this will be your last issue. We never like to lose anyone, so send your dues to Robin soon. If your payment crosses paths in the mail, please disregard my plea. Also check out the membership roster in the back of this issue and let me know if I have anything wrong or missing. It gets hard to keep that accurate around membership renewal time.

Well, I have to go think about "willing" spring into full season, so I can actually go outside without a winter jacket on or having to run to my car to start the heater. I might even clean my barn and take my '57 out for a little drive. Hey, I might even get it inspected this year and drive it legally!! Of course that assumes I actually get the sliding windows back in it and the headliner installed.....wait another pain in the butt project.... I



wish my car would take up this car passion and start helping me! Keep the articles, photos and stories coming in and I promise to get the next issue out before the convention.

THINK SPRING!!!

Rich

Member of the Quarter

Your Name: Tom Kelly

Spouse's name: Linda

Safari(s) Owned: 1 - 1956 Safari

When/Where did you acquire your first Safari? 2003, Napa, Idaho

What was your first car? 1957 Pontiac Starchief, 4dr, hardtop

What was your first Pontiac? 1957 Pontiac Starchief

Reason for "collecting" Safaris: I liked the styling

Reason for joining the Custom Safari: Information on restoration and parts locations

Most Wanted Safari Accessory: Front Visor

Do you have "other" Pontiacs? If so, list model and year: 1962 Pontiac Catalina, convertible

What are your favorite non-Pontiac hobbies? *Golf, Fishing, Grandkids, Car Shows, Traveling with Linda and being with other Pontiac friends*

Least favorite car task: Glass work

Most favorite car task: Body & Paint

Best thing about being a Custom Safari Owner: People turn their heads when they see a Safari

Favorite non-Safari car: 1961 Chevy Impala, Bubbletop

Favorite car-related web site: Puget Sound Chapter of POCI

Favorite parts vendor: Ames

Best car care tip to share: Keep your car in a warm garage

Safari History: It had to sit awhile in my garage while I finished my '62 Catalina convertible. It is all apart and stripped down and I'm getting ready to install new floor pans in it hopefully by the start of summer. The motor was a '57 Pontiac 347, and the interior had been redone from what I can tell. It had Avalon Blue and Nimbus Grey paint. The car was in pretty good shape when I bought it, other than needing floor pans. I will be making a few changes in it. As to what they will be, I haven't quite decided, but once I soda blast it, I'll take some photos and send them.



Safari Word Search

by Victor Dana

Find the Names on the Right

EHUPCFN 8 H B E HK G R LO S E R NDI R E O UZB MOPQST KBD RHJ B D S T P D OE M P 0 B R 0 R W 0 N E E D 0 R Т Q C H D QUCEF SPXBY NBQU H 0 AA 1 DF TSSECRETARYROBINPE ACAPDBVDEROTCERIDN BDFERSUVZLMCEGHJMO CELRLAAEHCOCARAGCU NLYTRANSCONTINENTA IUWRBTUBVSOVLPGNOS PONCENTRALDIRECTOR QSR SBO LSA LEI A R B

Answers on Page 14

CUSTOM SAFARI CHAPTER PRESIDENT STEVECOOK VICE PRESIDENT RICH PYE SECRETARY ROBIN PETRY EDITOR RICH PYE TREASURER ROBIN PETRY WESTERN DIRECTOR ED V EASTERN DIRECTOR LOUC CENTRAL DIRECTOR RONN P BARDELLI BEAHM BOWERS TWO BROWNS CALASIBET TA CARY CLARK COOK DICKEY EVANS GABRIELSON GARACOCHEA GAUDET GESTWICKI STATION WAGON TRANSCONTINENTAL SAFARI



by Lou Calasibetta

Well, I guess it all started in 1955, the year we first saw a 1955 Pontiac Safari. It was parked in a driveway next to my grandparent's home in Newark, NJ. Wow, what a cool looking wagon! Two-tone bronze and cream with wire wheels. Very impressive to a boy of nine years of age. The wagon belonged to Vinnie, a sharp dresser and a cool guy. He owned three restaurants and was a successful gentleman.

As the years passed, my dad and I would talk about Vinnie's car. It was ever so classic back then. Dad thought that since it was a few year old, it might possibly be for sale. As usual, we visited my grandparents on Sunday. Dad and I went over to see the wagon. Well, in its place was a new 1960 Caddy Eldorado. Dad told me that Vinnie was just fine in the food business and that the '55 was traded in. The Pontiac Safari was just a long, but one never what next's in life.

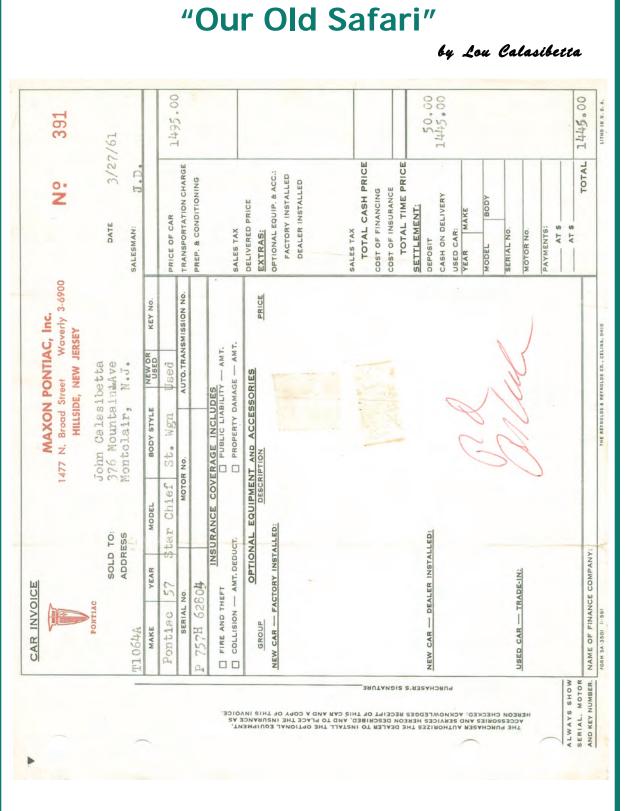
About then, our 1951 Mercury Woody SW was getting tired. At least my dad and I were getting burned out giving it another coat of finish every Spring. That was when our search really got hot again for that two-door Pontiac Station Wagon. The year was 1961, only fifty year ago. It all came together one day as we were reading the newspaper car ads. On March 17.1961, we purchased our 1957 Safari. How cool was that, with dual exhaust and added on AC? Pop bought the car for \$1,495. The silver and white wagon really had the pep that was needed after we sold the old Mercury.

The Pontiac was our family car and was used to haul all kinds of articles. Every time we visited our small home in the country, the car was packed with food, furniture, etc. This was our work horse for sure. Dad let me play with the car and I had a lot of fun with it. I had the custom bug way back then. Red rims and mild dechroming was on its way. We also had a 1961 Bonneville four door, so I used the Safari more often than my dad. Did I mention my mother never drove a car? She never had an interest. Her motto was we lived in town, so she never needed to drive.

I took my driver's test in the Safari and passed with flying colors. It was my cruzer to school and to the Drags. I really never raced it, but I did drive it to Island Drag Strip the Gartlits went 200 mph. There were so many great memories in the wagon. Dances, football games, movies, and just hanging around with the guys.

As the years went by, many changes happened in my life. I went to college, worked in NYC, and got married. And divorced. Everything seemed to fly by way back then. The decade from 1965 to 1975 was a time of growth for me and most of my generation.

Fast forward to 1976. On a sunny May Sunday, my dad and I went for a ride to visit some old friends in Somerville, NJ. After visiting, we came upon an antique auto show. Wow, what a cool event. I was sort of out of the car scene at the time. We walked around and bingo, we stopped in our shoes. There was a brown and gold '57 Safari, as well as other Pontiacs. I started talking to Tony and Gill, the owners of the Wagon. They got me excited all over again. The Safari was modified and very cool with its black and rolled interior. I told them about my gray '57 that was de-chromed and lowered. Once again, I had the bug.



Above: The original Car Invoice for Lou's Dad's '57 Safari. How many of you kept these and only paid this much?

by Lou Calasibetta

Well, to make a long story short, I started on a redo of our old wagon. This time I built it the way I wanted it. I imagined I could go into a showroom and order one....a color change to Stock colors and tri-power and three on the tree. Yes, it's stock, but it's also modified! May of you know me for all the crazy cars we have built. I still have y HS cruzer and enjoy it to this day. The restoration of on our old wagon is starting to age, just like me.

On another note, about four years ago I located that brown and gold Safari with the rolled and pleated interior. Now it has a fifty nine 389 and tri power. I can never leave anything alone. I have gotten in touch with Gil and he advised me that they it to the first POCI convention in Wichita, KS. It won the long distance award in 1974. Wow, what history!

Well, that is my Safari story and I am sticking to it. Hope you all enjoy it along with some of the old photos. Wow, where did the time go? Who knows, I just might have another redo of the wagon and more years of cruzen, cause I just cannot let things be.



Above: Lou's Dad's '57 Safari in its original condition. Circa 1961 -62.

by Lou Calasibetta



Above: "Pop" and their dog, "Wiskers" with the original car, Circa 1961 - 62. **Below:** The now Dove Gray Safari with Red Rims. Lou's Dad's new '63 Grand Prix. Note exhaust extensions! Cool - huh!



by Lou Calasibetta



Above Left: It was Custom time, Circa 1963, Lou does a "mild de-chroming". **Above Right:** In front of their Summer home, Circa 1963-64. Lou paints the '57 a lite Gray "Dove", adds Red Rims and Blackwall tires. **Below:** Hey, it's been 12 years, time to strip the "old" car in 1976. Note: Working in front of the same Summer house.



by Lou Calasibetta



Above: After the 1976 restoration, the '57 is now Red and displayed at the 1981 Springfield, IL POCI Convention.



Above Left: At the 1974 Wichita Convention, Gill, is seen with his '57 Safari. **Above Right:** Lou and his Dad go to the Somerville car show in Somerville, NJ on May 15, 1976. There they meet Gill and Tony, (pictured above), who own their '57 Safari. This starts "the Safari bug" again in Lou. He later buys this Safari to add to his collection and of course, modifies and restores it. That's for another story.

by Lou Calasibetta



Above: The original '57 as it is now. Shown at the Northeast Classic Car Museum in Norwich, NY, as part of the "Class of '57" display. **Below:** The musuem information plaque.

1957 PONTIAC Star Chief Custom Safari

Engine: V-8, 347 cu. in., 290 hp
"Tri-power" option

Factory Price: \$3,636 Production: 1,292

Both Pontiac and Chevrolet offered a sporty, 2-door, hardtop-style wagon for the three years of 1955– 1957. The two 1957 models can be compared here in this exhibit, since the Nomad is just across the aisle.

The Safari is the only Pontiac from these years to be designated a Milestone Car by the Milestone Car Society, which functions for post-war cars as the Classic Car Club of America does for pre-war cars. This car has the "Tri-power" set-up, which consists of three Rochester 2-bbl. carburetors. The colors are called Cordova Red and Kenya lvory. It has been owned by the same family since 1961, and the present owner took his driver's test in it, drove it to his high school prom, and otherwise associates it with significant events of his youth.

On Loan to the Northeast Classic Car Museum from Lou Calasibetta, Stillwater NJ

Member of the Quarter

Your Name: Victor Dennis Dana

Spouse's name: none

Safari(s) Owned: 1 - 1956 Safari, Sandlewood tan and Sun Biege interior, single color Sun Beige body

When/Where did you acquire your first Safari? Bought my first 1955 Safari when I was 13 years old in 1968, while living in Arcadia, California

What was your first car? 1939 American Bantam 5 window coupe, powered by a 60HP Ford Flathead V-8

What was your first Pontiac? Bronze and cream 1955 Safari

Reason for "collecting" Safaris: I've loved Safari's for as far back as I can remember. I've owned four throughout my life.

Reason for joining the Custom Safari: *To reconnect with fellow Safari-holics. I first joined the Custom Safari Chapter in the late 1970's*

Favorite Safari Accessory owned: Toss up between my factory wire wheel covers and a 6-way power seat

Most Wanted Safari Accessory: Rear mount power antenna

Do you have "other" Pontiacs? If so, list model and year: No

What are your favorite non-Pontiac hobbies? Writing stories

Least favorite car task: Getting greasy

Most favorite car task: Detail before a show

Best thing about being a Custom Safari Owner: Owning a truly unique and stylish station wagon

Favorite non-Safari car: Cadillac Allante'

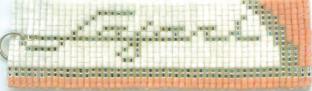
Favorite car-related web site: Etcetera.com

Favorite parts vendor: California Pontiac Restoration

Best car care tip to share: 30 years ago when I owned a 1956 Continental Mark II, someone shared a leather care product I have used since. That product, most everyone uses when cleaning around the house, is Lemon Pledge! Simply spray it on, let it sit for about 10 minutes, and buff to a soft and supple shine. On the hard to reach areas or around glass, spray Pledge onto a rag and wipe on, let sit, then buff. This is the only leather care and interior wood product I have used for years. It is also excellent on plastics.

Custom Safari Key Fobs

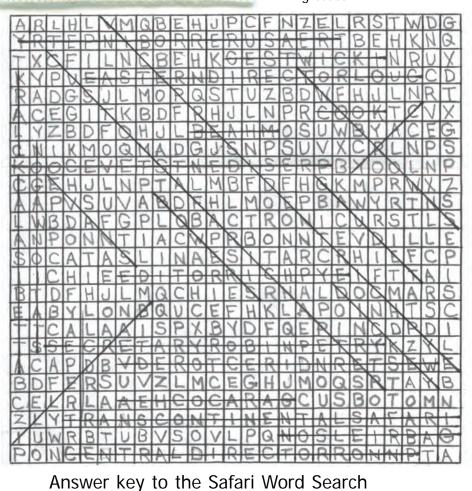






by Victor Dana

Victor Dana and a friend are creating the Custom Safari Key Fobs as seen here at the left. Each fob has its unique shape that is associated with the year of the car. The top two are representative of the '55 and '56 door scripts. The bottom one is representative of the '57 rear quarter panel script. Soon to be available is the '57 Transcontinental fob. These fobs will be custom orderable in the desired color to best match your individual Safari color scheme. They are made of durable, long-lasting beads of various colors. Check out the issue on the web-site for color versions. Also, it was difficult to scan these and get the proper exposure. There is a little reflection in these images which makes it a little hard to see the contrast. More to come in upcoming issues.



Safari Tracking Project

I'm writing a special article this month as President because we have a new member that has instilled a new enthusiasm into me about our Custom Safari's, and I hope to spread this energy to our membership and prospective new members. Victor Dennis Dana is our newest member, just (re)joined in January of 2011. He wrote me a 3 page letter this month, stating that he still has a 1956 Safari that he acquired in 1974 at age 19. It was the "cover car" of the June 1980 Safari News.

Victor is on a quest to identify as many 1955-1958 Custom Safari's that still exist, and compile a directory with data relating to where built, what transmission, accessories, etc. He stated that unlike many of us that can't find time for such projects, he has time to spare as a "Guest" of the Nevada State Penal System. I think it is important to include vehicles that only exist as parts cars or even scrap as well as those still registered and on the road. He would appreciate if everyone could send him information from the data plate and VIN tag. Per his request, for security, it is best to omit the last digits of the VIN.

Here is what I am providing for mine:

VIN K 756 H xxxxx Style 56 2764 DF Body No 4000 Trim 278 Paint VK Acc B

To get Victor started, I found (5) Safari's for sale on E-bay, and was able to provide this info on 4 of them, so far. I hope that all of our members will assist our newest member in compiling what should turn out to be a great archival of our 1955-1958 Custom Safaris. All correspondence with Victor needs to be by mail, since they have no internet access, and follow these rules:

- 1 Only 10 pages or photos per envelope
- 2 No stickers or mailing address labels
- 3 On back of pictures, write "Victor D. Dana 91601
- 4 Return address hand written, best if club name included (Custom Safari Club, etc)

Address to: Victor Dennis Dana 91601 L.L.C. 1200 Prison Rd. Lovelock, NV 89419

Here is something to think about. It began with Oakland, and there were no Pontiacs. Then came Pontiacs and soon there were no Oaklands. Then came station wagons. Then came Custom Safaris. And then there were no station wagons or Custom Safaris, and now there is no Pontiac. It is our responsibility to keep and preserve the Custom Safari/Pontiac legacy. Please assist Victor in his effort to document these fabulous cars.

Thanks. Steve

How I Got my First Safari

"The one that got away"

by Victor Dana

In 1968, I was 13 years old and liberated my first Safari from her original owners. She was a beautiful Bronze and Cream 1955 purchased new from Byron Stout Pontiac, Topeka Kansas, by Mr. and Mrs. William Meadows. They bought the Safari shortly before they moved from Topeka to Arcadia in Southern California, where their daughter, Corby, and I would later go to school together.

The Meadows' happily drove the Safari until a new 1961 Lincoln Continental hardtop followed them home. Instead of trading in the Safari, they decided to retire her to their garage with only 44,000 miles and in beautiful condition. There the Safari rested, waiting for me.

One sunny day in 1963, when the Safari and I were 8 years old, we saw each other for the first time. Usually I rode the bus to and from school, but on this particular day, walking home school seemed like a good idea. This was something I had never done before by myself. While walking home down Santa Anita Ave., a major street name after the famous Santa Anita Horse racetrack, the Meadow's garage door was up, and the Safari's 7 chrome tailgate ribs caught my eye. I stopped in my tracks, not believing what I was seeing.

As many times as I had been down this street, I'd never seen her before! Considering the coating of dust, she obviously wasn't being driven. Then the "bright" idea came to me to sneak into the garage for a closer look at this beautiful and elegant station wagon. Upon looking her over carefully, I fell in love for the first time. Now I was a Pontiac fanatic already and Safari's were my favorites. My family owned a 1955 Safari when I was small and my only memory of it was a picture I had with my dad standing beside it. So discovering this Safari was like finding gold.

From that day forward, and continuing on for the next 5 years, I rode my bike, or walked to and from school at every opportunity. I was hoping to visit my new friend as often as possible, which happened at least once a week. Even while riding with my parents, if I saw the garage was open, after arriving home, I would rush off on my bike for another visit with my favorite car. To further illustrate just how obsessed I became over this car, when I could, after my chores and homework were done, I would ride the 1 mile to the Meadow's house only to see if the garage door was up. The true definition of a Safariholic to say the least!

One time I asked Corby if she knew why the Safari was in the garage. She didn't know anything about the car or why it was there. So instead of finding out for myself by going up to their door and asking her parents about the Safari, my preteen logic told me to continue with my secret visits with the car I loved so much. During all this time, it was always important to me not to touch the car or anything else in the garage for that matter. Since the garage was around the corner from the house, I felt safe to continue my inspections.

When I was 12 years old, some friends of my mom's were selling their 1956 Dodge Station Wagon. By following in my dad's footsteps as a car nut, (they didn't know about my secret Safari addition), my parents let me buy the Dodge for \$10.00, with the understanding it was to be sold after I fixed it up, which was agreeable with me. The Dodge was my project, but dad assisted me when needed, by guiding me through the rough spots instead of doing it himself with me watching. In the Spring of 1968, I sold the Dodge for my asking price of \$125.00. A lot of money, to be sure, for a 12 year old kid in 1968.

How I Got my First Safari "The one that got away"

by Victor Dana

All the while my visits with the Safari continued. From the time I was 4 years old, I went to work with my dad on Saturday's and every vacation. School just let out for the Summer of 1968 and I just turned 13 years old. My dad and I were driving home from work. I looked ahead and could see the Safari's garage door open, my excitement grew, expecting to get another look at my beloved Safari. As we came even with the garage, I was shocked to find the Safari wasn't in there. It was gone! As we passed the house, I discovered she was hiding behind some tall hedges on the circular driveway opposite the garage. After breathing a sigh of relief, the panic set in. What were they doing with it? Why I didn't ask my dad to stop and see about the Safari is still unknown to me.

After we got home, I rode back to find out about the Safari's fate. This time I threw caution to the wind and rode right up their driveway, up to the front door and rang the doorbell. This was NOT the time to be shy. When Mr. Meadows answered the door, I asked him what he was doing with the Safari. He said they decided to sell it. My next question was, "how much do you want for it?" His response was for me to make him an offer. My reply was that I only had \$125.00 cash, would that be enough? He accepted my offer, but said he couldn't sell it to me because of my age. He would only sell her to my dad or mom. Mind you, my parents didn't even know about this car!

We went out and looked the Safari over. He told me her history, he let me start the engine. It REALLY needed a tune up! This was the first time I touched the car of my dreams. I did tell him about watching it all these years, but left out my trespasses into the garage. Discretion is the better part of valor after all! Upon leaving my name and phone number, I floated home the happiest kids on earth, knowing my parents would let me buy her. The Safari was finally going to be mine!

Over dinner I told my family about the Safari, about watching it for so long, and with some hesitation, about already setting up the purchase. With my dad's approval, my mom agreed. After giving the payment to my dad, we left to pick up "My First Safari". We were invited in the Meadows' home where my dad paid for my Safari. We received in exchange, a cash receipt, the ownership certificate and the keys. After the transaction was complete, we said goodbye and I led dad over to the Safari so he could see it for the first time.

It was after dark by then, and as we looked it over, dad asked me if I thought I could drive it home by myself. I have a resounding, "YES". At 13, I was a very accomplished driver, thanks to all the practice with my dad over the years. So while sitting on the "like new" soft leather seats for the second time, my thought was "It was now really all mine!" Our house was one block south on Santa Anita Ave., with the remaining trip down side streets. To put it mildly, I felt like a million dollars piloting my very own 1955 Pontiac Safari home.

The following day we relocated the 1953 Buick Skylark that was parked outside my bedroom window, so the Safari could be parked there. Mr. Meadows said she was garaged her whole life. As I began the tedious, but rewarding, task of detailing her, this fact became obvious. As I cleaned, polished, scrubbed, shampooed, and de-spider webbed her, I could see her real beauty. She ended up looking and running like new.

How I Got my First Safari "The one that got away"

by Victor Dana

My dad and I drove her a couple of times a month. During one of these outings, he dropped a bomb on my world. After owning her for just shy of a year, dad said it was nearly time to sell my Safari. No 14 year old boy in history cried more tears than I did over a car. I begged, pleaded, bargained, ignored, pouted or cried every time the "sale" subject came up. I even tried the age old guilt trip of "You don't love me if you make me sell my car." That didn't work either. My parents didn't want to store it until I got my driver's license. In my opinion, it was just fine outside my window. A few months later, the realization finally set-in; No matter what I said or did, this was not a winnable argument for me. Years later, as I thought back on the "sale" experience, their reasoning probably was that they needed to remind me who was the kid, and who were the parents. They did give in to me and let me buy it after all.

So after owning the Safari for 15 months, I advertised her for sale in the local newspaper. Someone bought her who lived by my school. The check they gave me had their old address, which I promptly copied down. Now being in junior high school, I rode my bike to school every day. After school, I reverted back to my age-old habit of hoping to see the station wagon I've watched for years and owned for such a short time. Maybe I had "abandonment" or issues with "not letting go". One day upon arriving at their house to see my Safari, it was sitting in their driveway with the whole front end wrecked. This was a huge blow to me and I felt as mangled as the car looked. The next time was the last time I saw my Safari. She was being driven down the street by a stranger with a black front clip. Several more times I rode by her new home, hoping to see my old friend, but to no avail.

My high school car was a 1955 Thunderbird my dad and I restored. After I got my driver's license, I paid the people a visit hoping to find my Safari and buy it back. They said it was sold to the stranger I saw driving it and they didn't know where it was. So now she was truly gone. A large chapter of my life was over. Now the hunt began to find another Safari. As I grew older and had kids of my own, a few things became clear about my formative years.

For the 15 months my Safari and I spent together, I was the most blessed of kids for three reasons. One, my parents loved and trusted me enough to let me buy this beautiful station wagon. Something I'm sure most parents wouldn't let a 13 year old boy do. Two, I had the honor and pleasure of buying my first Safari, my hearts longing at that time. Three, I was blessed with loving parents and a supportive father who took the time to put me first and teach me the patience and skills necessary to bring my Safari back to live-new condition.

So there you have it, the patient, joyous and ultimately sad saga of "How I got my First Safari - the one that got away". My next submission for your reading tells how I bought my 1956 Safari in 1974 and still own, "The one that didn't get away!"



Good

Well there you have it, this months feature car. In case you are wondering why you never saw any other "feature cover cars" in the SAFARI NEWS, the answer is simple, this is the first! Why not sit down right now and send me a photo (preferably blackswhite) and some info on your car. Who knows, maybe your car will be our next "cover grille"! (I wish I hadn't said that).

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Jan-Feb 1980

T HAVE RETURNED

Even though I am borrowing the above phrase from a great American from the past, it certainly says it for me. I have returned to both the editorship of the SAFARI NEWS and (believe it or not) to South Florida. (For those of you who don't know me, its been said that I change addresses more often than most people change their. facial expressions!) At any rate please bear with me and make note of my new address on the back of this newsletter. Any correspondence Safari Windshields-\$125.00 to be published in the SAFARI NEWS should be sent directly to me or co-editor Bob Johnson.Now lets get down to business.

Do a friend a favorl

I received a letter awhile back from a fellow Pontiac lover who owns a 1957 Super Chief Safari. His name is Jerry Berks and he is presently an inmate at CRC Norco, California, serving time for armed robbery. While he has been in prison, his car has been at the mercy of uncaring neighborhood children who like to throw rocks. Seems that they have destroyed the glass clear around Jerrys car and he is in the market for more. If you can help Jerry out then contact him by writing to.Jerry Berks, B83109 W/C#60, PO BOX 3535 Norco,Ca. 91720. Jerry says he has learned his lesson well and will be released because of his good behavior in June or July. He can turn a wrench with the best of them and will need a job real bad. If you know of anything then.. DO A FRIEND A FAVOR...and let him know.



TIP:CSC Member Karen Campbell send these prices along. Classic Auto Glass c/o Bob Welman PO BOX 1 Golden.CO. 80401 (303)237-1996

Tailgate glass-\$115.00 Glass shipped freight collect. ED NOTE-Be sure and check out the article by Dennis Vaughan in last months issue, before accepting "freight collect" packages of any kind.

TIP: Don Bougher is at it again! He is now in the process of reprinting the entire two volume,800 page 1958 parst catalog with includes all Safari parts numbers and some drawings.A real must for Safari owners.For further contact Don at Rt 1, Box 42, Dayton, Oregon 97114.

TIP:While browsing in the bookstore this week, I came across a book that was written by Charles Webb called: THE INVESTORS ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO AMERICAN CONVERTIBLE AND SPECIAL INTEREST AUTOMOBILES 1946-1976. Of course the first place I looked was the 1955-57 section. Sure enough he had all three 2dr Safaris listed and the TC mentioned. He gave them all a very high desirability rating (AAA, the best was AAA+) and stated that they are one of the most sought after post-war auto's on the market. Not bad, huh? Although our chapter proves his "estimates of cars still in existance" figures incorrect, I thought that I would still pass them along to you. He estimates that there are only 32 1955 Safaris, 30 1956 Safaris and 20 1957 2dr Safaris still in existance.

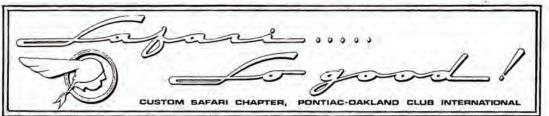
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Jan-7cb 1980

PLEASE SEND OFFICER NOMINATIONS!

The time has come and gone for Custom Safari Chapter officer elections. This issue was supposed to have announced our nominees for CSC President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer, however we have not received any nominations...that's right, ZERO..ZIP...NONE! How about it guys and gals, give us officers a break and get some fresh blood in this organazation. If not fresh blood, at least let the incumbents know that they are doing OK by re-nominating them. Nuff said.

BUY YOUR BUMPER STICKER NOW!



ONLY \$1.00 EACH, OR THREE FOR \$2.50

Well there you have it! Our new bumper sticker is finally ready for your back bumper,window,toolbox,showboard or anywhere else you want to put it! The sticker has a pinkish-red background with white letters that are outlined in black. It is a real eye grabber on the back of your car. You can buy your stickers from either Bob Johnson or myself, so jump on board and support this club sponsored activity now by ordering yours!

As you have probably noticed by now I have enclosed our updated chapter application for your use. If you Xerox a few for yourself before you give them away, then you'll be sure to have plenty this coming year. If you don't have access to a photocopier then give one of us a yell and we'll gladly send more. We hope to double our number this year and show the rest of the club chapters that we are a chapter on the move!

I have also made available to the membership, an 8½ x 14 inch chapter recruiting poster. This poster is printed on inder card stock so it will last a long time when you post it at your favorite gas station, auto parts store or junkyard. Two 15¢ stamps and a letter, story, ad or picture of your car will get you five of these super posters. (Pretty sneaky way to get newsletter contributions). Many of your cars are pictured on the poster...so send for yours now!

the parts counter

** Denotes new member

<u>WANTED</u>: '55 Pontiac Safari side trim-stainless.AIso NOS ill. hood ornament or plastic head, wheel covers,stainless trim behind rear wheel,inside rear view mirror and outside drivers side mirror. Write to Wayne Crump 545 Hawkins Road, Fenton,Mo. 63026

(Cont'd on page 4)

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(Cont'd from page 3)

WANTED: Both curved quarter glass for my 1955 Safari! Write to Jon Braaten, 2092 Minnesund Norway.

FOR SALE: Safari tailgate glass, new exact reproduction. \$130.00 each. Please specify tinted or clear.Write Bud Stowers, 8792 Quigley, Westminster, Colorado 80030

FOR SALE: 1955 Pontiac Air Cond. unit plus right iner fender, core support or tie bar(upper), no lower crank pulley.Also removed complete dash except knobs on center air unit. Can not ship-You pick up-\$300.00 1955 power window set up.Motors were tested and work.Wiring harness included less one wire to starter. \$300.00(Money Orders Only-Will Ship UPS) Paul Roberts,6550 Celestine St. Dayton,Ohio 45424 No Phone Calls Please.

FOR TRADE: NOS '55 520214 speaker grille nameplate "Starchief";984945 ash tray lamp; '55 & '56 984957 courtesy lamps '56 521817 speaker grille nameplate "Starchief" & gold color emblem PONTIAC; complete set of front bumper brakets '57;4711487 moulding, rear fender lap joint lower right hand; 524626 & 627 moulding extensions; 5947742 door assy.; headlamp prime w/bezel;4168051 dome lamp lense for T.C.;988719 parking brake signal;4711504 molding center pillar belt upper right & lower right for T.C.; 5947721 body aasy. for rear license; 524168 bumper cap with single exhaust; also one pair of used dealer books.Trade for 1957 parts only.Bob Brown, 16800 Country Club Drive, Livonia Michigan 48154 ED.NOTE(Why not sell the whole car Bob?)

WANTED: EZI right rear curved glass and sliding window for 1955 Safari. Also need complete interior-prefer brown.Reply To Don Elias,PO BOX 673 Altona,Manitoba,Canada ROG OBO **

WANTED: 1957 Ivory Steering Wheel-John Eichinger, RR 3, Box 36 Aberdeen South Dakota 57401 (605)225-7093 WANTED: '57 remote control outside rear view mirror,spare tire hold down bolt,spring etc.,good A/C compressor or info on where to get on fixed,'57 A/C engine oil dipstick. Steve Brumm,16786 Willow Circle,Fountain Valley,AC 92708 (714)963-7303

FOR SALE OR TRADE: NOS '57 Taillight housings (pair),'55 &'56 hood ornaments,'56 right front bumper,other good used front end chrome.WANTED: '56 Wonderbar,PS horn button,two center caps for '56 wires,'56 grille,bumpers, quarter chrome,'55 bumpers,ill. ornament,suspension parts,grille and lots of other chrome parts. Dennis Statz,204 E 47th St, Indianapolis,Indiana 46205 (317) 283-1463

FOR SALE: Owners Manuals for 55, 56 & 57 Pontiacs-\$8 each; color catalogs for 55,56 & 57 \$9 each all in excellent condition; air cleaner for 57 \$20; mint non-spinner hubcaps for 57 Pontiac \$25 for set of four.WANTED: For 1956 Safari NOS V8 Emblems; RH & LH "Safari" door script new or used; RH & LH mirrors new or used; NOS rear bumper guards #520670-1;blue door panels with silver panels on top; power brake rebuild kit. Contact Chris Swanson,66 Salmi Road, Cloquet, Minnesota, 55720 (218) 879-2742

safari for sale

FOR SALE: 1956 Safari,all original missing one hubcap,no rust,50,000 miles, good leather seats,\$2000.00 Also parting out two 1955 Pontiacs many rust free parts.Joe Buckalew, Box 12,Colstrip,Montana 59323 **



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Behind Enemy Lines

By Agent Double-057



9 AUG 79 0630 HRS

My wife and I arise to a cool foggy North Carolina morning and prepare to engage in Operation FASPCARBTTCSCOPOCII (Find A Safari Parts Car And Report Back To The Custom Safari Chapter Of Pontiac-Oakland Club International Immediately). On many occasions previous missions had been fruitless, but that was back in South Florida. Now we are in a new land with many hidden treasures as yet unknown to us.

0800 HRS

To confuse the enemy we camouflage ourselves by driving my 1974 Toyota Landcruiser. In full battle dress, including tow strap and 4WD for those hard to get to places, we point the vehicle toward Smoky Mountain National Park. The fog is lifting as we wind our way through the park. We are overwhelmed by the park's unending beauty. Eventually, we find ourselves 72 Kilometers (that's "45 miles" to you civilians) from home and pulling into Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

0945 HRS

Driving down the main strip of this resort and convention town, it's not long before we confront the enemy, three Chevrolet Nomads in full battle dress (Car Show Placards on windshields and smell of fresh wax). A sudden quickening of the pulse and a feeling of anticipation overcomes us. We realize we are near an enemy encampment. Being well disguised, we blend into traffic behind our prey and follow carefully; down a winding road, up a hill, around severals curves; suddenly, we are amoung them. We can't believe our eyes as we look at more than 220 "Safari Parts Cars" at the...... National Nomad Convention.

All joking aside, I was advised by our chapter president, Bud Stowers, that the National Nomad Club would be holding their annual convention near my new home this past August (6th - 9th). Consequently, Lisa and I were able to attend. Though my first allegiance is to Safaris, I'm sure any Safari/Nomad lover would be happy to attend a meet like this! I talked about Safaris to anyone and everyone who would listen, and asked if they knew of the where abouts of any old Safaris. All were either ashamed to say they had parted out a Safari, and its remains were in their back yard, or they didn't know of any. Most parts at the convention that would also fit Safaris were priced way too far out of my range (even if I had been seriously looking). I looked for Safari Chapter member Ron Pittman (who also owns a Nomad) but missed him by just a few minutes. I did get to meet author Pat Chappell who did a great article about the Safari vs. Nomad and our chapter in the April 1979 issue of CAR COLLECTOR AND CAR CLASSICS Magazine. She's a very nice person, and I gave her a personal thanks on behalf of the whole chapter for the great service she provided for all us Safari owners. She assured me that she would fill me in on any "finds" that she might come across as well as stear any prospective members our way.

Well, thats about it!

1300 HRS

Unable to figure out how to tow 220 "Safari Parts Cars" behind a Toyota Landcruiser with only one tow strap. Any suggestions (keep it clean, Panzer) can be forwarded to:

Agent Double-057 (Alias Steve Cory)

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530-724-0154

505-327-9406

651-731-0061 510-685-1422

412-445-3858

860-526-9748

770-532-8124

801-544-9714

215-722-3717

0046-433-62669

Safari Search Cars for Sale

1955 Pontiac Safari: 144K miles, same owner since 1971 averaging less than 2K miles/year. Garage stored for 14 years. Near all original with very little rust and only minor dings. Paint almost through to primer from polishing. Interior fair, no carpeting. Extra parts available. December, 2010 Old Cars Report Price Guide values a #3 - 1955 Custom Safari at \$26,100. Price is negotiable but close to guide value. Contact Louie E. Brown, 316-685-0540 H, 316-393-9362 C, or L_EBrown@att.net

Services

1955-1957 Pontiac Safari: Rear upper liftgates. straightened and triple plated to beautiful fit and finish. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back. Best you will find. Will straighten your liftgate only, if you prefer to use your own chromer. Also available rear liftgate gas struts to help open liftgates after torsion rods are removed. All safari/ nomad interchangeable parts including window trim. Please call or email. michaelbakotich@ca.rr.com (310) 528-0482 - Mike





Parts for Sale

1957 Pontiac: Front Brake Drums complete with Backing Plates, Shoes, Wheel Cylinders and Wheel Bearings, \$100 each; also Two Radios with Speaker Boxes, one Maroon and one Green, \$150 each; Complete Rear End Differential with 3.23 Gears, \$100; 5 Hub Caps Good Condition, \$100..... call Bill Hanners @ 239-543-3510, FL.

1955 Pontiac: Parting out a 2 door Chieftain. email Rich Pye @ rpye@rochester.rr.com or phone 585-637-2720 with needs.

1957: hi comp engine core for rebuilding/parts, includes 4 bbl intake & exhaust manifolds, valve covers, block, \$150. 1958 radiator, last used over 20 years ago, did not leak, \$50. Delivery in California may be possible for costs, otherwise, you pick-up. Tom Young, Newbury Park, CA 805 375-1320 pontiactom@ix.netcom.com

Wanted

1957 Safari: Stainless Spear, front of gas door. Trim under the tail lights. Donn Fallenbuchel, (928) 855-5494. **1957 Safari Car Wanted:** If you have any leads on one, please contact Dwight at white the set of a cell acting 2152 (2014) and 2252 (2014)

dwhitmire3153@charter.net or call cell 770-851-1010 or work 770-531-1010.

1955-56-57 Pontiac station wagon, Exterior Tee handle for liftgate on with as many attached parts as possible. Steve Cook jumbodog54@sbcglobal.net or 314-795-4700

1957 Pontiac (Any Model): Air Conditioning components that mount to the engine, brackets, compressor, condensor, etc. Don't need firewall pieces, but interested if part of package deal. Rich Pye, rpye@rochester.rr.com or 585-637-2720

To place a free ad to sell a car or parts or to place a want ad, send your request to Rich Pye @rpye@rochester.rr.com. Your ad should be related to 1955-58 Pontiacs, and it is recommended to include photos.

POCI Chapter #10

www.customsafari.org

The Custom Safari Chapter is an official international chapter of the Pontiac Oakland Club, International, Incorporated. The POCI headquarters address is: P.O. Box 539 Victor, NY 14564

Annual Dues are \$21.00. Renewals are due January 1st of each year. New member dues are prorated quarterly from January 1st. Applicants must be a current member of POCI prior to joining the chapter. Send payment to Robin Petry.

The Safari News is a quarterly publication produced by the chapter. Volume 1, Number 1 was distributed in December of 1993. A limited number of back issues are available. Write for further information.

Steve Cook, 16565 Lancaster Est. Dr, Grover, MO 63040 Rich Pye, 436 LaDue Rd, Brockport, NY 14420 Robin Petry, 2806 Scarlett Dr, Augusta, GA 30909 Rich Pye, 436 LaDue Rd, Brockport, NY 14420

Directors: Eastern Region: Central Region: Western Region:

Lou Calasibetta, Box 1957, Stillwater, NJ 078775 Ronn Pittman, 1024 Raddant, Batavia, IL 60510 Ed Vassar, PO Box 171, Dunnigan, CA 95937

For chapter information: Email: chiefpontiac57@gmail.com



2011 POCI Convention July 5-11, 2001 Bowling Green, Kentucky



