

# LONG LOST FINAL

## 2016 Report

Pontiac-Oakland  
Club International,

### *Custom Safari Chapter*

Winter 2016

Volume 20, Number 3

In this issue .....

Chapter Chatter & News  
Accessorizing Your Safari  
Mecum Auction Update  
Rides and Show Pictures and  
Articles

New Safari Search Ads

**Your Next Mission  
(If You Chose to Accept It)  
Find This Boneyard  
Restore This Safari**



**A 1955 Firegold and White Safari wagon supports the pile**

# From the President's Garage

Message from Lou for the New Year 2017

So here we are into the second month of the year. It is good that the ground hog made it through the Winter. I guess I will see it in our garden this coming Summer. I hate the little critter and wonder why it ever was created in the first place? Anyway, every day is closer to the nice weather here in New Jersey, so why should I complain about February?

As I think of this first letter for the Custom Safari this year, a few things come into my mind. Did you know our dues are supposed to be paid in January? I just sent mine in last week. For some reason it seems to go through the cracks in the sidewalk. Might just be getting old and forgetful. Also, for those that will be going to Texas in July, remember to sign in with our chapter in the folder that is usually in the chapter display area. We need the push for members there. All of us officers of the chapter want to thank each and every one of you for your support and sending in photos and articles to the editor. Remember we need all the information as possible to put out a good newsletter to you.

It has come to my attention that an input page would be great for you folks. Like who has had the best luck in finding a company to recast the Safari steering wheels? D&D in the South? Also who is your favorite Pontiac parts supplier there are so many I hate to list them and leave out a friend! Members I think you get the point share some of your good experiences as well as bad ones we all would like to know. Also remember the POCI swap meet in Texas is a future place to locate items. Any favorite vendor?

I got in touch with Larry Crider from POCI. He is going to try to locate a close place for a light lunch cruise after our chapter meeting. **What do you think? I think it is great time to meet greet and take photos. Also, I'd like to mix** in the Modified chapter since many of us are in both of them. Sounds like a good time for all, doesn't it? We have done this in the past and I feel it was a big success, and hey after all, we all need to eat right?

A special thanks to Robin, Tom, Starr and Rich all true members and hardworking team players. We could not have a great chapter without them. So when you see them in TX, please give them a bid howdy and thanks..... In this newsletter, if there is space, we are going to put in some old photos of the past and see how it was back then..... That is it for now.....watch out for the ground hog?



*Lou Calasibetta*

## ***Member reminders:***

- *If you haven't had a chance, Please send your yearly dues for 2017 to our Treasurer, Robin Petry. Refer to the back page of this newsletter for her mailing address.*
- *Sign-up for the 2017 POCI National Convention NOW while hotel rooms at the guest hotel are still available. Dallas/Fort Worth Marriott Hotel and Golf Club. Call (866) 348-3984 (mention "Pontiac National Convention")*
- *Send pictures of your Safari wagon to our editor, Rich Pye. As you will see in our next newsletter, your pictures will make our newsletter great.*





# Safari Flash Back



Here is another random flash back from May/June of 1999. The *Safari News* contained a "PONTIAC PARTS" page filled with parts and cars for sale or wanted. Back in those days,

## S a f a r i

### CARS For Sale

**1955 Safari:** Originally turquoise & ivory. PS, manual brakes, glass is good, deluxe grill guard, tissue dispenser, nice glass, solid body. Has '59 engine w/3-2s



& a 3 spd manual trans w/floor shift. Engine will run. Needs full restoration. Stored indoors last 5 years. Body #3731 \$5,500 Richard Oro, 364 S. Anderson St., Los Angeles, CA 9003 213 305-3762

**1955 Pontiac 4 dr wagon:** Stored 12 years, 91,000 miles, sunvisor, lighted hood ornament, metallic silver exterior, red & white interior, runs. \$4,500 firm. Marty Chism, Yucca Valley, CA 92284 706 365-0523

**1956, Pontiac Safari,** 38K miles, \$13,000/OBO Just completed, PS/PB, discs, Nova clip, New red/white pearly paint, tires, seat upholstery, carpet except back, door/tailgate/liftgate rubber, 350/350, 9" Ford. Hot Rod built from High Desert California RUST FREE car! Consider some trades half \$ half trade. Like 70 Challengers, Dusters, other wagons, old Harleys, Indians, This car runs great. 818) 340-5736 Winnetka, California - L.A. Area 91306

**1956 Safari Catalina:** Blue/white top, 98,000 original miles, 316-6ci V8 engine, AT, PS, PB, new interior, new re-chrome bumpers, repainted in 1994, 90% finished. Asking \$13,500. Bob Bove, 973 366-2151 after 6 pm or 973 575-4060 days NJ

**1957 Safari,** automatic, ivory/blue, excellent condition \$13,500 obo or trade for 1950s to early 1970s Chevy, Pontiac or Oldsmobile convertible., must have a/c 508 760-1893 MA

This is the place to sell / find parts or Pontiac cars!

Everyone is welcome to submit an ad for free. All you have to do is write your request and send it to the Chapter Editor. Your ad should be related to 1955-58 Pontiacs and please limit your text to no more than 100 words. Photos are highly recommended, especially if you are selling a car or specialized parts. Your photo will be returned. It pays to advertise!

### PARTS For Sale

**Good condition, used 55-57 parts from Tom's garage:** '57 fuse "box", sandblasted, ready for installation, \$8, '55-57 non-power steering water pump pulley, \$5; '57 battery tray, sandblasted & primed, \$10; '57 2-piece cast chrome cowl grill, replatable, \$20. '56 Safari pass door, solid & straight, no trim or windows, \$145. '57 rear bumper, good for plating, \$45. Prices do not include shipping. Tom Young, 204 Acacia Lane, Newbury Park, CA (805) 375-1320.



### WANTED

If you are looking for some parts, literature, memorabilia or information about your Safari, why not place a want ad here? Send your want ads to:

Tom Young, CSC Editor  
204 Acacia Lane  
Newbury Park, CA 91320

**Wanted:** Parts for 1941 Pontiac Wagon. Many parts I need are same as Model #29 sedan and all 41's. Most important is rear fenders, wagon or #29, hood hinges, headlight bucket, grill center, 8 cyl, fit turn signals, speedometer and gauges. Anyone with '41 parts or information, please call or write me. Thanks.  
Brian Conaway, PO Box 1682, Hood River, OR 97031 (541) 387-2486



# Behind the Wheel in the Editors' Seat

*Hello Everyone!*

*I'm back, but still not caught up. The broken wrist set me WAY back with everything, including making money to help support my family and getting newsletters out.*

*Thanks again to Tom Young for putting the content together for this newsletter. As we move forward, Tom and I will be collaborating a lot on the future issues. Rest assured, there are future issues. The Spring issue is nearly complete and will follow this one shortly. I've had technical difficulties in editing some of the files that we share back and forth, but I think we have them solved going forward.*

*If I forgot any requests for posting information, please email me back so that I can get it in the next issue which will include a follow up article from Dennis Dana on his \$20 Safari and a tribute to the CSC's 40th Anniversary! On a technical note I have one question.....why does the 2GC carburetor found on the 1957 Pontiac Safari have a 3 inch diameter neck???? In the next issue I will post a picture of my "temporary" fix for a broken casting mount for the air cleaner. It's so ridiculous only some pictures can describe it. Okay, this issue is now officially off to the printers.*

*Rick*

## Wrecking Yard Safari Wagons

Back in the 1960s and 70s, you could find Safari wagons in most wrecking yards throughout the county. In the east, Custom Safari Chapter member Ron Huddy found several Safaris including a '55 on the cover of this issue and some 56 Safari wagons. **Below:** A 1956 Avalon Blue & Mist White Safari. Both cars were at Green Lane was in Northeast PA in the 70s. Photos by Ron Huddy.







A 1956 Mist White & Avalon Blue Safari at Kobber's in Northwestern NJ, 1977. Photos by Ron Huddy.





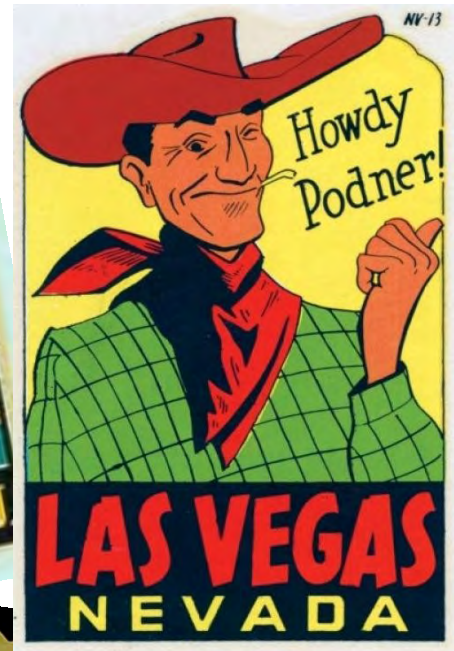
# Accessorize your Safari—50's Style

With long summer days are coming, many of us are working to get our cars ready for some road travel. In days long past, there was no better way to celebrate road adventures than by placing a travel decal on the family car. It was a great tradition that you can still maintain today with your own Safari wagon.

Take a look at the following page. Its full of travel decals from places you may have visited in your life. So why not show some pride by adding travel decals to your road warrior?

Vintage decals can be expensive but many common decals can be found at affordable prices at swap meets, estate sales and eBay.

Many eBay sellers offer repro vinyl based decals at affordable prices. Some may last longer than originals but most reproductions simply do not have the authentic look of a true vintage water decal.



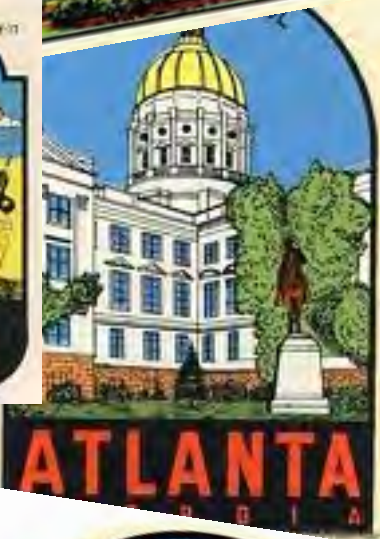
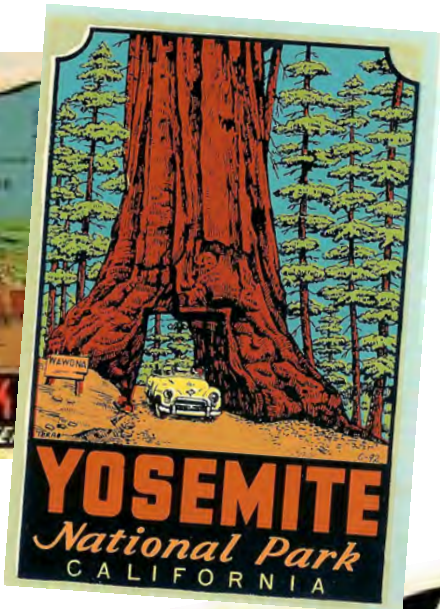
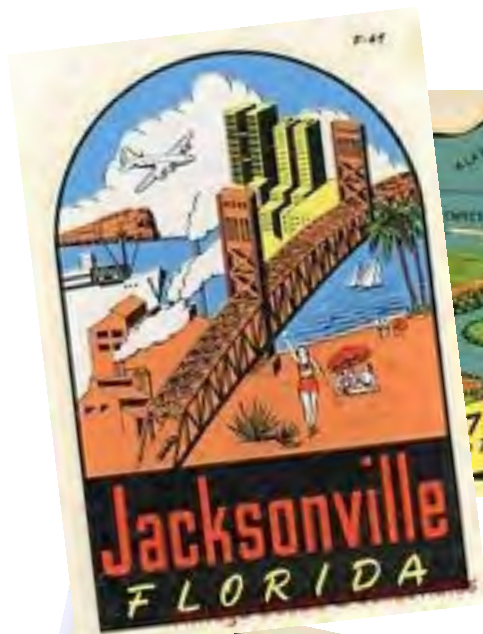
Quick Reference: VINTAGE WATER DECALS

What to buy: 1950 TO LATE 1960s era decals provide the best age appropriate look.

Where to buy: SWAP MEETS, ESTATE SALES, EBAY & AMAZON.

How to apply: SOAK IN WATER. WATCH FOR FIRST SIGNS OF THE DECAL LIFTING OFF THE PAPER BACK. CAREFULLY SLIDE THE DECAL OFF THE PAPER AND DRY WITH A COTTON CLOTH.







# Picnic & Tour at Paramount Ranch

The last week end of September, 2016 proved to be a fun filled adventure for Safarians who attended the first Annual **Car Corral and Picnic** at Paramount Ranch in Southern California. The weather was perfect and the gathering place was one of the most unique venues that you will ever find—a historic movie ranch & 50s era raceway! Equally impressive was the fact that the event was sponsored by the National Park Service—a first time event ever conducted by that agency!



**Above:** Tom Young's '57 Tri-Power, factory stick convertible is parked on Turn 8 of the Paramount Ranch Raceway. Aspen Pittman's '57 Safari wagon is in the background next to the "Doctor Quinn, Medicine Woman" train depot set.

This was no ordinary car show. In fact, the event was not really about the cars, it was about having a picnic in a park and enjoying tours of the historic movie western town and raceway. Participants took the opportunity to attend ranger led tours and movie presentations that were offered throughout the morning and early afternoon. The event was limited to 80 vehicles and they were allowed to park on the historic raceway and Western Town. More than 400 people enjoyed the event. Attending Safarians included Aspen Pittman, Mike Green, Marvin Morton, Randy Kerdoon and Bill Baquet & his family. Tom Young not only attended but he helped create and produce the event while working as a volunteer for the National Park Service. Tom arrived early to set up displays and park cars. He conducted presentations on the historic movies produced at the ranch that featured automobiles. He also led a short hike along the raceway with a former race car driver who raced at Paramount Ranch. Everyone had a great time learning about movie and racing history.





**Above:** Beautiful views of vintage cars in a vintage setting.

Paramount Ranch was established back in 1927 as one of Hollywood's most successful movie ranches. Famous classic movies such as the 1930s "Adventures of Huckleberry Fin and classic early TV series such as "The Cisco Kid" were filmed at Paramount Ranch. The Ranch was sold in 1943 and eventually was purchased by the National Park Service in 1980. During that time, many important events occurred at the ranch including the filming of the worlds first commercially successful 3-D movie in 1953, the "Bwana Devil". In 1956, a race track was built next to the Western Town movie set. The 2 mile curving track featured high banked turns and a figure eight bridge crossing. Sports and stock car races were held for two years. During that time, famous race car drivers including Sam Hanks, Troy Ruttman, Dan Gurney and others won races there. Today, Paramount Ranch continues to be used for filming movies, commercials, TV show series, weddings and large public events. The next Car Corral & Picnic will be scheduled in September.

**Below:** Western Town history presentation. Somewhere in the crowd is a full battalion of Safarians. Worlds first commercially successful 3-D movie, Bwana Devi, Herbie the Love Bug, 67 Munsters Go Home, Elvis Spinout Frankie Avalon How to Stuff a Hot Bikini Movie making continues today,





# Mecum Auctions Comes to Pomona, CA

By Tom Young

In February 2017, Mecum Auctions conducted its first event at the Pomona Fairgrounds. With no big money in our pockets, Chapter members Bob Garacochea, Randy Kerdoon, my neighbor Henry and I, planned a day full of fun admiring cars that we dare not bring home. We started our day by gathering in the morning at McKinley's Grill at the Sheraton Hotel. We ate a lot of tacos! The prices were reasonable and the service was good. After our tasty lunch, we walked to the Mecum Auction gate. By walking, we saved on parking fees and we avoided traffic congestion. Nice! The auction stage was located on the big Fairplex building next to the NHRA museum. There was not a lot of spectator room in the building so we casually passed through the bidding area.



**Above:** Bob Garacochea (left) & Randy Kerdoon (right).

Nearby, we stopped to take a close look at two cars that immediately struck our interest, a Kenya Ivory & Fountane Blue '57 Bonneville and a dark red '56 Windsor convertible. Bob called the '56 Windsor just as it should be....."bad ass"! I am not sure if the colors were correct for the car but it sure did look great! The '57 Bonneville was not the same one that was recently auctioned at Barrett-Jackson in Scottsdale. Both shared one common characteristic, the leather seats were a few color tones too dark



from the factory look. Bob quickly noticed that the Pomona Bonneville lower quarter panel trim was restored improperly and we noticed that a lot of detail work was missing under the hood. This was not a top-dollar Bonneville but it was certainly a very nice car that everyone could appreciate. Bidding the car reached 120K which was not enough for a sale. The '56 Windsor was sold at 77K.



Much to our surprise, we found auction vehicles in all 7 Fairplex halls. Many vehicles auctioned on Friday were already gone but some cars remained. One of my favorites was a '58 Chrysler 300D convertible. It had an older restoration that was showing some age but it still looked great. Bidding went to 70K for the car but fell under the owner's reserve. Station wagons continue to hold their own values. A '54 Chrysler Town & Country wagon restored to a very high standard was bided up to 50K; not bad for a stogy wagon.

Our next gathering of Safarians is scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd in the beautiful Southern California sea town of Newport Beach. Russo & Steele promises to provide an exciting circus-like show while offering some affordable cars. You got to see this auction!

*Tom*



**Below:** A view of the Pomona Fairplex gardens back in the days when our Safari wagons were all daily drivers. Much of the garden grounds remain today and provides a great place to enjoy a lunch.





# The Wounded Warrior Show

Story by Tom Young  
Photos by Randy Kerdoon

Under the leadership of our Chapter's own Mike Green, the 9th Annual Wounded Warrior car show held last August was another great success. Now at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, everyone agreed that the change in venue was an excellent decision. Close to the beach, the weather was perfect and the locals were very supportive of Wounded Warrior program. The event was visited by the City Mayor and representatives of the police and fire departments.

Count 'em! Five '57 Safari wagons plus one very special '58 Safari wagon. Built by Lou Calasibetta and owned by Bob Garacochea, the beautifully modified '58 Safari ventured out of the safety of Bob's garage for a short trip to the show. I was honored when Bob offered to join him on the drive to the show. I was the first person EVER to have been a passenger in his pristine car! I loved the adjustable air suspension ride feature. We were the coolest dues in Redondo Beach!

The show had a very impressive selection of raffle items including a super large flat screen HD Smart TV and a expensive pearl necklace. Believe it or not, one of our Chapter members won the pearls along with two other raffle items. The pearls were presented to a very stunned wife after the show.

The show raised a lot of money for the Wounded Warrior fund. It's become the best show to attend for Chapter members in Southern California.

The next Wounded Warrior show is scheduled for **August 17, 2017**. The venue will remain the same but the show will likely grow in size and fun. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Custom Safari Chapter's unofficial West Coast meet. See you there!



Mike Green's & Marvin Morton's Safari wagons.



Bob Garacochea's cool looking '58 "Bonnevood."



Our Chapter display of Safari wagons was impressive!



# Back to the past in Northern California



From Tom Young's collection is a rare post card featuring the Lonnie's Coffee Shop in Healdsburg, California. The business is long gone but the moment of the past was nicely captured in the post card.

The close-up view (below) shows a Charcoal Grey and Silver Beige colored '57 Safari wagon that appears to be all original.

This post card dates sometime between 1957 & 1964. By 1964, the State of California switched from yellow plates (as shown in the photo) to black plates.

Note the closed rear bumper caps and deluxe wheel covers.





# Technical Tips #1

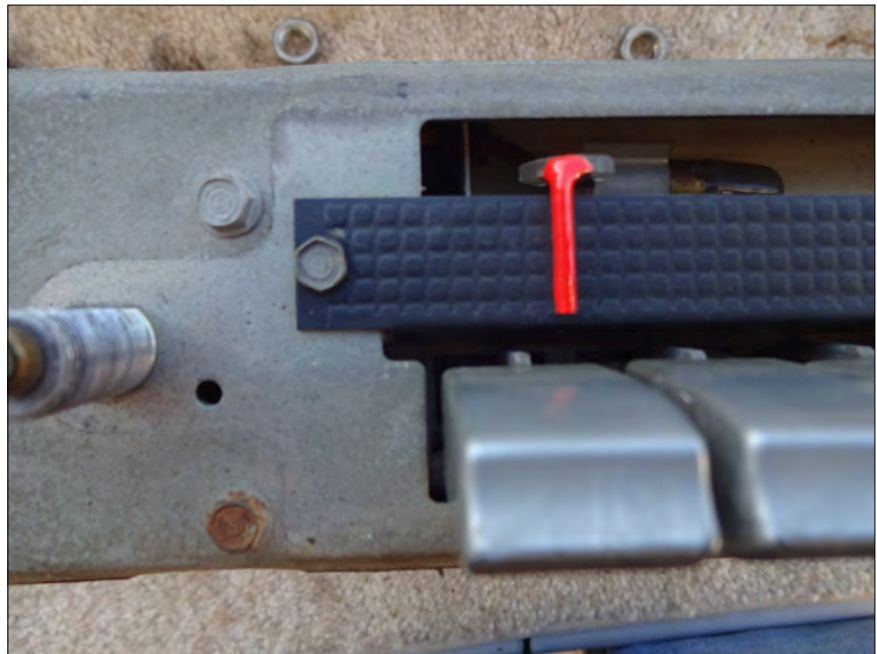


Some of the most important components of your Safari wagon are the dash board controls and gauges. As we drive our wagons, we are constantly looking our gauges. Unrestored gauges will always distract from that new car feeling. Short of having your gauges restored by a professional and often expensive service provider, you can dramatically create a fresh appearance by painting the indicators back to their factory fresh color. You can do it yourself! Just use Testors Hobby Paint enamel #1127 Orange. It's a great color match to the color used by GM. The color was used on dash board gauges, clocks and radio dial indicators.

Be sure to properly clean the surface of the indicator before painting. A cotton tip lightly soaked with alcohol will work.

**Right:** A freshly painted '57 Pontiac Deluxe radio indicator. Application was done with a toothpick!

Above image taken from the November, 1956 issue of the Pontiac Service Craftsman News



Quick Reference: GAUGE INDICATOR PAINT

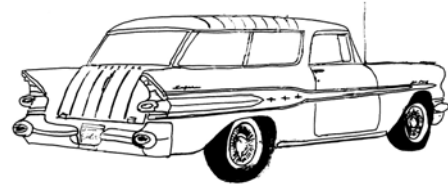
What to buy: **TESTORS ENAMEL #1127 ORANGE**, 1/4 fl oz.; FINE PAINT BRUSH

Where to buy: MOST HOBBY STORES, EBAY.

How to apply: CLEAN OFF DIRT & LOOSE PAINT WITH ALCOHOL. APPLY WITH FINE PAINT BRUSH or to save money, USE A TOOTH PICK OR PAPER CLIP. Really, they will work with a steady hand!



# Safari Search



**FOR SALE:** 1957 Custom Safari 2 dr: Restored in 2000. 1968 428 motor with disc brakes, vintage AC- car came with air. 7000 miles since restoration. Very nice car. \$50,000. Call 231 690-0429 for more info.



## PARTS For Sale

**1955 Pontiac:** Parting out a 2 door Chieftain. Email Rich Pye at [rpye@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rpye@rochester.rr.com).

**1955-57 Pontiac:** Custom Safari new gas tanks, \$399.00 plus shipping. New lower tailgate assembly, \$850.00 plus shipping. NOS 1956 Pontiac lit hood ornament, original box, \$600. Jay Hammond. 302 322-1833 [jhchevyparts@aol.com](mailto:jhchevyparts@aol.com).

**1957 Pontiac:** Front brake drums complete with backing plates, shoes, wheel cylinders & wheel bearings, \$100 ea. 2 radios & speaker housings, maroon & green, \$150 ea. Complete rear differential, 3.23 gears, \$100. 5 hub caps, good cond., \$100. Call Bill Hanners at 239 543-3510 FL

**1957 Pontiac:** Original hood mounting bolts, set of 4, three



styles available, round, semi round or flat head, \$25 a set, un-restored. Headlight switch, cleaned and tested, all functions working, excellent used, condition. \$75. Free shipping to US address. Contact Tom Young 805 375-1320 CA

**FOR SALE:** Four 15' Rally 2 rims (5x4 3/4 bolt pattern). Rims restored. Includes four mounted like new tires. Two are 225 60R15 and two are 23570R. Asking \$550 or best offer. Will consider separating them. Please contact Rick at 401 934-0663 or [frdigi@cox.net](mailto:frdigi@cox.net).

**'56 Safari Parts For Sale:** Member Tom Kelly is selling the following items from a '56 Safari (contact Tom Kelly at [bstk1@msn.com](mailto:bstk1@msn.com) and put 56 parts in the subject line. '57 347 engine w/bell housing & 2bbl carb, asking \$500. left & right spindles complete, shoes, bearings, drums, and kingpins, asking \$75 ea. Dual coupling transmission, all new rebuilt, w/gears, front pump, & nose cone, \$1700. Power steering pump w/ bracket, \$75. aluminum flywheel w/steel ring gear, \$125, starter \$50.

## WANTED

**1950-52 Pontiac:** Exterior & interior trim. Contact Paul Gore

**1955 Pontiac:** OEM side view mirror (#519802) ? And a OEM non-glare rear view mirror (#51170 or #988647) ? For a '55 Safari. Not sure about the correct part #'s. NOS is not necessary but would like to find something in good to very good condition with minimal pitting. [gpark14@aol.com](mailto:gpark14@aol.com)

**1956 Safari:** Information needed on how to replace rear leaf springs. Contact Gary Birenbaum, [mrpontiac@mindspring.com](mailto:mrpontiac@mindspring.com)

**1956 Safari:** Lower SS moldings for the 56 safari wagon, Tom Kelly, [bstk1@msn.com](mailto:bstk1@msn.com)

**1957 Safari Wanted:** If you have any leads, Dwight Whitmire, [dwhitmire3153@charter.net](mailto:dwhitmire3153@charter.net) or 770 851-1010.

**1955-57 Pontiac station wagon:** Exterior Tee handle for lift-gate on with as many attached parts as possible. Steve Cook

**TO PLACE AN AD:** Looking to sell parts or a car? Send your request to Rich Pye at [rpye@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rpye@rochester.rr.com). Your ad should be related to 1955 to 1958 Pontiacs and include photos when possible.



## POCI Chapter #10

[www.customsafari.org](http://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 pro-rated quarterly from January 1st. Applicants must be a current member of POCI prior to joining the chapter. Send payment to Robin Petry.

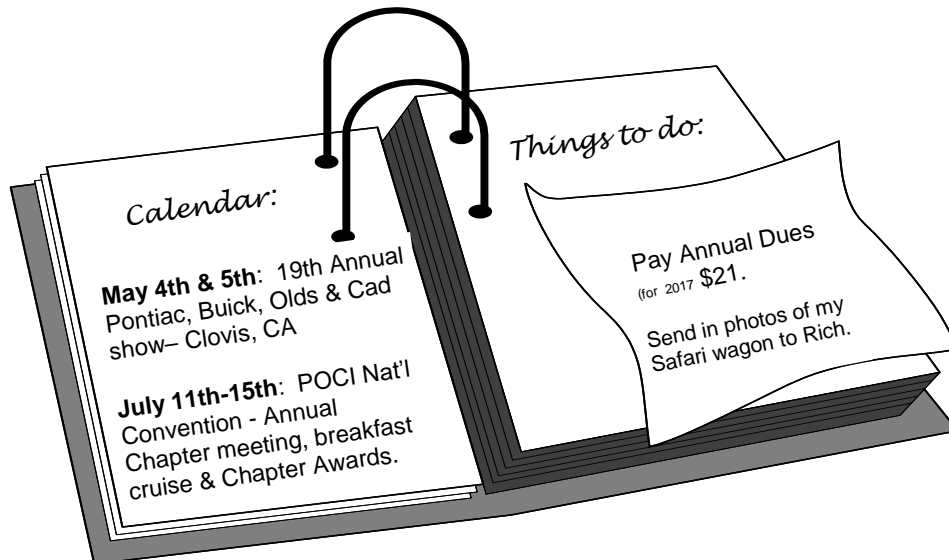
The Safari News is a quarterly publication produced by the chapter. Volume 1, Number 1 was distributed in December of 1993. A limited number of back issues are available. Write for further information.

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Professional Digital Lab

For chapter information: Email: [chiefpontiac57@gmail.com](mailto:chiefpontiac57@gmail.com)



**In the next issue of *SAFARI NEWS*...**

**Our SPRING season issue featuring:**

**Our Chapter's 40th Anniversary, National Convention News Update, technical repair & restoration articles, and more Safari flashbacks.**