

Well, here I am in Tempe, Arizona. I did start out life in Pittsburgh, PA., but it was so cold that I just needed to head way out West, and settled in Arizona. I ask you, what's not to like about a pool float and Margaritas?

My father, a funeral director, in Munhall, PA., always used Cadillacs in the business. The first being a black 1954 Fleetwood Sedan, next a black 1958 Sedan DeVille, and the best ever, a grey 1961 Fleetwood Sedan. I loved that grey Fleetwood. I took my drivers test in that classic, and I drove it to my Senior Prom at the Golden Hilton Hotel in Pittsburgh.

In 1967 when I arrived in Phoenix, it was off to college. First, Phoenix College, then to Arizona State University for a degree in Environmental Design, which led me to a career in Landscape Architecture. I have been at this job for 30 years now.

When the money started pouring in, and being a car guy since 5th grade, hiding a copy of *Rod & Custom Magazine* in my text book, I needed to move to the next level. I purchased my first future collectible, a gold 1966 Thunderbird, and next a white 1965 Thunderbird.

Just what was I thinking? I'm a GM guy. There it was, in *Auto Trader Magazine*, a 1953 Coupe, 62 series, white with a red interior. This was my very first Cadillac car. I referred to that car as the Mayflower. The Cadillacs that became part of the collection were, that white 1953 Coupe, a white 1953 Cadillac Convertible, 62 series, a white 1958 Eldorado Seville, a white 1961 Coupe DeVille, and a white 1961 Fleetwood Sedan. Both of the 1961 cars matched, white with a rose interior, after all I am a design guy. Did I mention that I bought the 1961 white Fleetwood in 1987, restored the car and gave it to my Mom as a Mother's Day present in 1988? I presented to her on local TV at a car show, and was sick as a dog with the 24 hour flu. Mom loved that car. This car is listed as C&LC, Senior #133, awarded at the Grand National Meet in Phoenix, 1992.

My second career, began in 1990. During the board meeting at the Grand National Event in Carson City, Nevada; I raised my hand and become the first Membership Promotion Chair. The job lasted until 2002, when I relinquished the position, along with Chair of Public Relations. I started with 4000 members and finished with 7000, thanks for the help and memories. I've been at the national board level since that fateful hand raising, and along the way helped found the Grand Canyon Region in Phoenix, the Sonoran Desert Region in Scottsdale, and the Saguaro Region in Tucson, AZ. I also developed the Newsletter Award Program, Life Membership Program, and the Concept for Chapters. I am the technical advisor for the 1961 Cadillacs. Remember that grey 1961 Fleetwood?

Well, no good deed goes unpunished. Today finds me still serving at the national board as the Southwestern Regions Vice President. There you have it, my story as a GM car guy. That's it, up to date, now you know what I know. I don't know what the future may hold, but boy, do I ever look forward to it. Great cars, great club, and most of all great people.

DAVE RITCHIE