

## Both remaining 1953 Cadillac Le Mans scheduled to appear at *Cadillac Dream Cars* event

**October 17, 2008 – Greenbelt MD:**

### **1959 Cyclone Out and 1956 Maharani In**

Capitol Cadillac and the Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region announced that the 1959 Cadillac Cyclone that was scheduled to appear at the *Cadillac Dream Cars* event on Sunday October 26, 2008 will not be at the show. The vehicle has developed some major suspension issues and is currently in repairs. GM had anticipated it would be done in time, but that no longer seems to be the case. We apologize for the inconvenience. Capitol Cadillac and the Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region are working with GM to identify a possible fourth car from the Heritage Center collection.

Capitol Cadillac and the Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region also announced that the 1956 Cadillac Maharani will be at the show and displayed with the other dream cars. The Maharani is a special Series Sixty Special sedan, nicknamed the *Kitchen Sink Cadillac*, and is one of four cars shown during the 1956 Motorama circuit. It features recessed toaster, folding table, hot-plate, cutlery tray, cooling unit (the compressor is in the trunk), coffee and water dispensers and a flip-out table. In addition, the appointments include a small safe and a safety deposit box. The car is owned by a CLC Member in New York and received the Past Presidents' Preservation Award for its originality at the 2008 CLC Grand National Meet in Cherry Hill.



**1956 Maharani  
2008 CLC Grand National  
Photo by Lou Commisso**

**October 10, 2008 – Greenbelt MD:**

Capitol Cadillac and the Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region announced that **both** of the remaining 1953 Cadillac LeMans are scheduled to appear at the *Cadillac Dream Cars* event on Sunday October 26, 2008. One is **Le Mans #4**, owned by General Motors as part of its Heritage Center collection, which will be displayed along with the three other Cadillac concept cars, the **1959 Cyclone**, the **2002 Cien** and the **2003 Sixteen**. The other remaining **Le Mans is #3**, which is privately owned by a Washington DC area collector and has not been available for public viewing in over 20 years. No one knows for sure when two Le Mans were last seen together at the same event.

These two LeMans are the only known survivors of four of these sporty two-seat dream cars built by Cadillac in 1953. **Le Mans #1** had serial number 02 [serial #1 was used for the Orleans show car that year]<sup>1</sup>. It was the Motorama show car first exhibited at the Waldorf Astoria in January 1953, subsequently customized by George Barris for shoe magnate Harry Karl, and later acquired by John Crowell. This one was destroyed in a fire in Pleasanton, CA, in 1985.

**Le Mans #2** had serial number 03. It was owned briefly by Harley Earl; repainted black and on show in Oklahoma in late 1953. Then Le Mans #2 disappeared, never to be seen again.

**Le Mans #3** had serial number 04. It was painted Apollo Gold (a pale yellow hue, used later also for Cadillac's La Espada), and was owned by Floyd Akers, owner of Capitol Cadillac. During his ownership it was repainted white. Then, Coleman Cadillac acquired the car and eventually sold it to a discreet local collector who still owns the car, but has never before displayed it to the public.



**1953 Le Mans #3  
Coleman Cadillac in Bethesda MD  
Circa 1980s  
Photo by Richard Sisson**

<sup>1</sup> History of the 1953 Le Mans provided by Charles D. Barnette - source: Cadillac Database

**Le Mans #4**, built later in the year, has a serial number that is out of sequence with the other three. It was built for Jack Goodman of the Fisher Body Corporation, and was restyled and fitted with a new motor in 1959. This car is now owned by GM as part of the Heritage Center collection.

Capitol Cadillac, established in Washington, DC in 1934, is a 25 minute drive from the BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport and a five minute drive from the Holiday Inn Greenbelt (301-982-7000), where rooms have been reserved for Saturday October 25th at the special rate of \$94 (mention Cadillac & LaSalle Club when making reservations). The Holiday Inn will also be the site for a dinner on Saturday October 25th hosted by past CLC President Richard Sills & Shelley Chadick prior to an exclusive invitation-only reception at Capitol Cadillac to preview these unique vehicles.

For more information on the event, visit [www.clcpotomacregion.org](http://www.clcpotomacregion.org).



**1953 Le Mans #4**

**2008 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance**

Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ikeya/2841676182/>