

StarTracks 2012



Volume 8, Issue 2

March-April 2012

NNJS Antiques Road Show



Alan “King of the Road Show” Snyder once again educated and informed us on the treasured articles that our members brought for appraisal on March 18. Alan is a certified antiques appraiser and dealer and has been kind enough to volunteer his time and services for this event for the past 11 years. He explained to us that when you watch the “Antiques Roadshow” on television, they are not doing a “cold” appraisal. The appraiser, or his/her staff, has spent several hours researching the item in order to give an accurate description and appraisal. Alan shares his vast knowledge with us and gives us an “off the cuff” appraisal along with a great deal of history. He also explained to us that what a particular piece is worth in New Jersey might not be the same for California. The location of the item plays an important part in the value of an item, also, items fall in and out of favor. So what might have been very popular a few years ago might not have that same appeal today, and therefore, a lower value.

This year, as in the past, we have had some very beautiful and some very unusual items show up. There was a very beautiful antique gold lady’s pocket watch, which was very unusual because very few women of that time period even owned a watch, no less a very fancy gold one. One of our members brought some beautiful paintings that he had cleaned and reframed and also told us the story of how he had acquired them, including one painted by his grandmother, a woman way ahead of her time. There was also a magnificent Reposse coffee pot by S. Kirk & Sons and a silver plated cold water pitcher with matching cups. There were interesting stories that went along with the egg cups, French ink well, and china coffee set that delighted those in attendance.

One of the more unusual items was a gorgeous lady’s snuff box that had belonged to one of our member’s grandmothers – hint – save the stuff from grandma’s attic – you never know.

After the appraisals were finished, we enjoyed a sumptuous luncheon that only Bella Italia Ristorante could provide. The food was wonderfully prepared and presented and if you wanted more, all you had to do was ask.



Following the main course, but before the dessert was brought out, Joe Grattan, Past-President, had the pleasure of presenting our 2011 “Member of the Year” plaque and pin to long time member Robert Donnelly. Bob and Joan have enthusiastically participated in many of our club events for years and we truly value their support.



Then, it was time for the door prizes – there were 2 of them – a \$75.00 gift certificate to Bella Italia. This is where we seem to follow tradition – last year – each young lady pulled her parent’s name as the winner – we deviated a little this year, but not too far: Frankie picked his brother, Joey’s, name, and then Joey picked his grandmother, Lucille’s name.

So just think, next year, bring a child with you, let them pick the winner, and you could go home with a gift certificate.



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Sunday, May 6, 2012

AACA Car Show - Florham Park, NJ

The show begins at 9:00 am on Sunday, May 6, 2012 at Automatic Switch Co. 50 Hanover Road, Florham Park, NJ 07932 - rain or shine.

In order to enter the AACA show, your car must be 25 years or older.

If you are showing your car you must register with the AACA - see the registration form below.

There will be a special grouping for Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

If you are bringing a car less than 25 years old or would just like to come and enjoy the show, please register with Lucille at luluchab@aol.com or 973-731-9133

There will be a group of us with younger cars in a designated area outside of the show. Come on over and say "Hello" and enjoy some great NNJS fellowship and fun.

If you are entering your car in the show you must register your car with the AACA by completing the registration form which is available on our Website at http://sections.mbca.org/northern_new_jersey/AACACarShow.html

When you enter the show please remember to enter via the south entrance off of Hanover Road. Please do not drive your car into the show car entrance.

Should you have any questions about the event or registration, please contact Claire Wegner at my190sl@verizon.net or 973-515-0052



Directions to ASCO—Automatic Switch Co. 50 Hanover Rd. Florham Park, NJ 07932

From Rt. 287 N. or S. Exit #32, Rt. 510 (Columbia Turnpike) Head South towards Florham Park. app 3 miles to Hanover Rd. turn left, travel app 1 1/2 miles. ASCO will be on your right,

From Rt. 10 N. or S. in East Hanover there will be a turn off for Mt. Pleasant Ave. Go to Hanover Rd. turn right on Hanover Rd.- travel app. 1 mi.- ASCO will be on your left.

As an alternative, you may go to any driving direction website or use a GPS device and type in the destination of ASCO - 50 Hanover Rd. Florham Park NJ 07932.

FOR SALE: 1985 500 SEC. Rare imperial red, saddle leather interior, A/C, AM-FM-Cassette, Sunroof, 105,000 original miles, Excellent condition, One owner, 25 years from new until May 2010. Original paint, no rust. Drives great. Asking \$10,475
Andrew Permison thepermitage@comcast.net 973-379-7283



FOR SALE: 1985 380SL – Wonderfully-maintained, garage-kept, dependable car. Red with red hard top, dark brown convertible top, and tan interior. I have had tons of fun driving this vehicle since purchasing it in 1998 from a member of the Mercedes Club, and it has been a very reliable car. 185K miles. \$14,950. Car is garaged in Morristown in case you want to check it out. Contact Joe at 646-245-8926 or joe.stivaletti@gs.com



FOR SALE: Mercedes Benz SL removable hard top including stand and cover, \$1000.00 or best offer. This mint condition top (signal red with a palomino headliner) is from a 1991 SL with 34,000 original miles. Located in Northern New Jersey. Carl 201-401-4421 nbehringer@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: Four Mercedes Rims - W140 Chassis. Will fit 92-99-S Class vehicles. \$240 all four re-conditioned and clear coated rims. Like new. Dave Veith 973-985-6179



FOR SALE: 2005 Mercedes E55 AMG in excellent condition. Low miles (36,800); Pewter w/ black interior and wood grain accents; Original (non-smoking) owner; Leather, carpet and windshield perfect; No mechanical problems; Wheels beautiful and in excellent condition; 8 cylinder / 472HP; Tiptronic/Automatic; Heated and cooled leather seats; Harmon Kardon stereo w/ 6 CD changer and iPod doc; Remote keyless entry and ignition; Navigation; Xenon headlamps;

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FOR SALE: 1995 E320 Cabriolet – 98,000 miles - Near showroom condition, inside and out - Car comes in very desirable triple black - Black with Black Leather Interior Black Soft Top - Full AC- Very tight, smooth running engine - No transmission slip-page - All accessories in full working order – Only 4500 miles on new tires. W124 Platform Only 6500 built - very good potential to become a Collector's Car - Original

MSRP \$77,300 Asking \$15,800 – please contact Peter Jansen 732-416-0023 or peter-jansen@comcast.net



PARTING OUT: 1983 300D four door sedan 160,000 miles: Silver Exterior/Perfect Blue Interior Most parts still available. Please call: John Longo 201-454-7490

FOR SALE: Two (2) Alloy Wheels for W123 with Tires, Perfect for Snow Tires. No Curb Rash or Visible Damage. Fits 240D or 300D \$100.

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FOR SALE- 1998 Mercedes Benz ML320 AWD Black with gray leather interior. Well maintained and mechanically reliable. 243k miles. Mature, original owner & non-smoker. Mobil 1 oil changed every 5k miles. 3.2L V-6. Complete, professional transmission rebuild @ 216k miles in October 2009. High and low range transfer case. Vehicle is loaded including sunroof, tilt wheel, cruise, PW, PDL, OEM Bose AM/FM cassette & 6-disk CD, heated seats, power seat, PS, roof rack, etc. Towing package. Michelin tires. All records since new. \$4,750. Call 908-377-5982 or e-mail kwmccauley@earthlink.net

2012 Spring Drive - Sunday, May 20



Newton, N.J., High Street on the Green

May is one of the loveliest times of year in New Jersey, and NJ 519 is one of the loveliest and varied drives in the state.

It's easy to get to our starting point, Yetter's Diner in Augusta. It's on US 206 south of its intersection with Augusta Hill Road, which is NJ 519. To get there, you can take NJ 15 north from I-80., It goes from four to two lanes and continues past NJ 94 in Lafayette, where it's called Lafayette Road and becomes US 206.

Park, have a bite, and get ready to start out at 11:00 a.m. Armed with handouts and water, we'll drive south through Newton, the county seat of Sussex County, and down through Warren and Hunterdon Counties, ending in Delaware Township on NJ 29, just north of Stockton. We'll have plenty of time along the way to stop and admire the scenery, take pictures, go antiquing, etc., before meeting at the Stockton Inn at 3:30 p.m. for a 4:00 p.m. dinner.

Registration will be \$10.00/Car either in advance or on the day of the drive. Dinner is \$45/person, exclusive of alcoholic beverages and \$10.00 for children under 12 years (chicken fingers or pasta, drink, & dessert.) Please inform Lucille Chabala by May 16 if you are participating.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Email: _____

No. of Cars Attending: _____ @ \$10.00/car = \$ _____ No. of People having dinner: _____ @ \$45.00/person = \$ _____

Make check payable to MBCA-NNJS and send to: Lucille Chabala • 6 Brook Way • West Orange, NJ 07052

LuLuChab@aol.com or 973-731-9133

Welcome New Members

Beth Balinski

Gary Bettman

Michelle Bettman

Mercedes Coulibaly

Michael Dipani

Bruce Iannelli

Will Laforge

Chad Leland

Paul Levitsky

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Ed Ozery

Robert Schwartz

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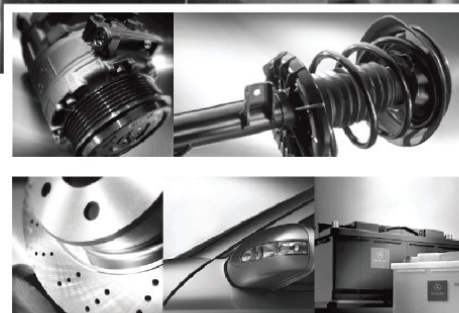
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HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm. Saturday 9am to 1pm

The Stable – Saturday, April 21, 2012

Come join us at The Stable in Gladstone, NJ on Saturday, April 21st at 10:AM. We will gather and check out some of the vehicles that are on display and some are even for sale. You might want to think about some of the upcoming holidays – Mother's Day or Father's Day – and doing some early shopping.

There are many wonderful examples of automotive craftsmanship on display from America, Britain, and yes, Germany. Come take a look at a 1929 Packard 633 Rumbleseat Roadster, a 1948 Lincoln Continental Coupe, a 1950 Jaguar MK V 3-Position Drop-Head Coupe, or even a 1982 Porsche 928 Sunroof Coupe - just to mention a few.

You can check out what will be available to be seen by going to their website www.stableltd.com for updates on inventory and new arrivals and what you can expect to see when you arrive. There is no cost to members for this event however, it is very important that you register with Lucille in advance so we can plan for the proper number of attendees. You can email Lucille at Luluchab@aol.com or if you do not have email, you can call Lucille at 973-731-9133. Email is the preferred method of registering for this event. The Stable is located at 217 Main Street in Gladstone, NJ.



Did You Know?



Sure, you know about the discount at participating dealers, and the 15% discount at the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center, but what about...
Sears – 5 – 50% off regular priced items and 5 – 10% off sale items
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From the President Valerie Cristiano



'Tis Spring and the time that an NNJS member's fancy turns to cars! The weather is getting better, not that we had a bad winter by any means, and it is time to get out of the house and do something, and as a Section we will provide you with many opportunities to do just that.

Take a look at our calendar of upcoming events and come and join us for some, if not all of them. Also, check out what another section is doing and you can join them for an event – it is a great way to make new friends. As President of NNJS, I have spoken with other section Presidents and we are all encouraging our members to try as many events across section lines as they would like.

You might find that a day that you are free that there is an event not too far away that you would like to participate in – go for it! Also, we have a [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MBCANNJS) page – <http://www.facebook.com/MBCANNJS> . If you are on facebook, please go to the page and click on the “Like” icon – the more “Likes” that we get, the more content that we can put on the page. So check it out as we will also be posting upcoming event information, past events, as well as interesting articles about Mercedes. Don't forget to check out our website as well.

Seminar at Shade Tree Garage

Another super event at Shade Tree Garage in Morristown on Feb 11. John O'Connor is always a great host. See his ad on page 14 in this newsletter. John and our club have put together a fine selection of seminars.



He engaged JP of Madison Auto Body. Our own Pankaj Dayal was the final of the three presenters.

JP's topics sounded interesting / benign enough “new water-borne paints” sounded like a nice quiet and informative topic. Not the case. We got into a discussion about various ages, colors and types of paints.



His presentation about ‘dent wizard’ was straight-forward and informative. Using the 2007 6 speed, stick-shift Cadillac, 4 door sedan John had in his show room JP demonstrated how the dent wizard would repair minor dents (hail damage, door dings) on any smooth surface of any car. Creases in the body shape are far more (probably not) difficult. Dent wizard needs to have access from the INSIDE of the dent area.

John's topics – Automotive Myths also sounded pretty straight- forward. Oils, tires, and extended maintenance intervals.

You should've been there to hear the questions / comments regarding oils. Everyone had a question; most had a view, and no one hesitated to express them; took us 15 / 20 minutes to get from oils to the next topic – tires.

The pizza guy arrived just in time and we broke for lunch; sausage, pepperoni, cheese, diet, regular or water; plenty for everyone. Then back upstairs for the tires discussion.

Again, lots of thoughtful, firm opinions – not always in agreement with others in the room. Knowledgeable guys quietly disagreeing with other knowledgeable guys. Temperature, comfort, handling on curves / entrance ramps (my fav), composition, mileage probabilities all came into the discussion. How long is the car going to be on the road?

Then Pankaj, who had driven up from Atlantic City that morning - snowing heavily for most of the way, took the floor to provide information on the Historic Vehicle Association as well as insights on insurance.



June Jamboree – June 16, 2012 MBUSA Headquarters – Montvale, NJ

The **49th Annual June Jamboree** will be held at Montvale, NJ on Saturday, June 16, 2012. This is the longest running car show event for the MBCA. Come join us for this fun-filled day.

Concours class cars will be judged by teams of judges according to MBCA National rules. **Concours** cars will need to be cleaned and detailed inside and out. They will be judged in four categories: 1 – Interior, upholstery, trunk, hard top, soft top; 2 – Chrome, plastic, rubber, glass, lights, trim; 3 – Engine compartment; 4 – Exterior paint, finish, bodywork. The chassis, underbody, and exhaust systems will NOT be judged in this event as we will not have a Show class only a Street class.

Popular Vote cars need only to be clean and presentable. Pre-registration is greatly appreciated as it allows the judges to have the field set up more accurately. Pre-registration for Concours and Popular Vote is \$45 prior to June 14, 2012, registrations on the day of the event will be \$55 per car. Meals and facilities are \$10 per person for those not registering a vehicle, (children under 12 – no charge).

Popular Vote cars will be divided into 7 categories: New – 2008-present; Modern Sedan – 1998 – 2007; Modern Sport – 1998 – 2007; Old Sedan – 1988 – 1997; Old Sport – 1988 – 1997; Vintage Sedan – pre 1988; and Vintage Sport – pre 1988.

49th Annual June Jamboree Registration Form

Form and check must be received by June 14th

I/We will be attending the June Jamboree on Saturday, June 16, 2012

Name(s):

No. of Guests:

Address:

Phone #

Email address:

Cost: _____ #of cars @ \$45 Pre-registration, or \$55 the day of the event = Total \$ _____

Car registration includes meals and facilities for the people in the vehicle

Model	Year	Chassis	Concours or Popular
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Model	Year	Chassis	Concours or Popular
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(Please circle the category)

Registration for meals and facilities only:

of persons over the age of 12 _____ x \$10 = Total _____

Please send this form along with check or money order to:

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High Gear

John Kuhn Bleimaier



Weight counts. Have you ever noticed that racehorses are lean and jockeys are diminutive? Every race car engineer knows that weight is the single most important factor in establishing performance. The legendary Mercedes-Benz competition cars which set the tracks afire have had every spare ounce paired off and were constructed of exotic light weight alloys. There are three elements of performance: speed, handling and economy. Vehicle weight impacts all of them.

There is an intriguing two-seater vehicle now on the market with a moniker which signifies that it is "intelligent" or "bright." This tiny automobile with maximum carrying capacity of some 500 pounds and top speed of 90 mph boasts 34 mpg city, 38 mpg highway, on premium fuel. Its curb weight is just over 1800 pounds and its wheelbase is 73.5 inches.

My friends know that my favorite automobile is my 1965 Mercedes 190Dc which has been in our family since new. Of course she has had a name since day one. But recently we have begun to call her, "The Genius." That's because of 190Dc's phenomenal performance. The Genius is capable of posting respectable times on give-and-take byways. Her road holding is on a par with out-and-out sports cars of her day. AND, she delivers 37 miles per gallon of Diesel fuel. Once in a Club economy run in 1991 we managed to eke out 47 miles per gallon, coasting down hills in neutral and radically limiting engine rpm. The 190Dc seats five adults and has a 22 cubic foot trunk capacity. Compared to the intelligent contemporary two-seater my 1965 Diesel really is a genius.

But, in the final analysis, there is no real mystery about automotive IQ. The key to impressive performance is always weight. Despite its ample dimensions, the Mercedes 190Dc tips the scales at just over 2700 pounds. That's for a five passenger saloon with capacious trunk, on a 106 inch wheelbase, powered by a 1998cc displacement compression ignition engine. On the other hand, the 2012 intelligent vehicle is just a chubby nerd. For its size today's bright lad is way too heavy. Consequently the lack luster fuel economy.

I'm certainly not knocking the 21st Century intelligent car concept. There is clearly a need for an urban vehicle with a small physical footprint. But I would suggest that substantial weight savings, and exploration of Diesel technology, might render such a vehicle a truly stellar performer, an efficiency champ.

In the meantime, I happily get behind the wheel of my 1965 Mercedes-Benz on a spring weekend and enjoy the fruits of an earlier technology as I drive out to my favorite dining establishment. And, in the spirit of practicing what I preach, I am ordering a Caesar salad.



Technical Corner

Sean Connor, Technical Advisor



CONSIDERING IMPORTING A CAR TO THE U.S.? YOU MAY WANT TO CONSULT A VEHICLE IMPORTER OR SPECIALIST ATTORNEY FIRST

As an automotive enthusiast, you may have grown to admire specific Mercedes models sold in other countries that weren't available in America. Or maybe before living in the United States, you experienced one firsthand on foreign soil. For example, I've always thought a 1986-89 300SL six-cylinder with a 5-speed manual transmission, a 1989 190E 2.5-16 "Evolution", or a two-door Geländewagen would be great choices to own.

Recently, I began investigating how practical this would be. In short, I found importing any car 25 or more years old is relatively simple, and importing anything newer than 25 model years old can be very difficult, time consuming, and expensive. I even found cases of criminal convictions related to smuggling non-approved vehicles into the U.S.

Because Department of Transportation (DOT) and National Highway Traffic Safety Authority (NHTSA) guidelines can be a dry and confusing read, I consulted several registered vehicle importers and an attorney with expertise in the field for help clarifying my questions.

VEHICLES 25 OR MORE YEARS OLD

U.S. federal rules allow any car on their roads 25+ years old to be considered as a "classic", no longer required to meet emissions, crash, or safety standards. As long as headlights work and the vehicle is demonstrated to be roadworthy, Customs usually gives an okay. Right-hand-drive needs no modification on older cars.

However, according to specialist attorney Lance Beyer, there can still be challenges with such older cars at the dock.

"I often run into problems if the cars have been really nicely restored and don't look old. Convincing a Customs agent of authenticity isn't fun."

He emphasizes while the federal government may okay entrance to the U.S., some states may still require one-time inspection and emissions testing before allowing a vehicle to be titled and registered as a "Classic".

VEHICLES UNDER 25 YEARS OLD

A vehicle under 25 years old must be brought up to U.S. emission and safety standards effective the model year of the vehicle. This means things like airbags, knee bolsters, lights, lenses, seat belt buzzers, door reinforcement crash beams, must all be present and to specification. Then it must pass separate emissions cleanliness tests. All these modifications typically cost around \$15,000.

Attorney Beyer also attributes most of the problems he sees to vehicle owners not realizing how involved regulations are. *"I could tell you horror stories of cars that came here without proper homework, and worse - sometimes the owners get some really bad information. So when the DOT and/or EPA go to examine the paperwork, there's a problem. Sometimes there are also issues when a State refuses to issue title/registration based upon foreign documents and lack of U.S. DOT or EPA approvals."* One vehicle importer I spoke to cited a case where a customer didn't check the rules first, and faced

a Customs roadblock. *"I got a call from folks with a Euro 1993 Mercedes 600SEL that is sitting in a container with their personal belongings, because they didn't figure on DOT/EPA requirements. The 12-cylinder engine needs a lot of emissions work that will bring modification costs to twice the value of the car. They'll abandon it at the pier, most likely."*

Crashworthiness

If the manufacturer originally crash certified and sold the same model in the U.S., the DOT will usually accept that as prior precedent that your newer vehicle (now modified to U.S. standards) would be equally safe in an accident.

But if the model of car you want to import was never certified for U.S. sale, then you will bear the responsibility of proving crashworthiness. Translated, this means you will need to provide three modified subjects for crash testing, and bear agency testing costs (typically \$200-\$400 thousand). Not practical for an individual at all.

RIGHT-HAND-DRIVE

Right-hand-drive will likely be a roadblock on cars under 25 years old. Importers feel it is a risky proposition no matter what. Another importer commented *"NHTSA put out a newsletter about two years ago saying no new petitions for import of a vehicle would be considered if the vehicle was right-hand-drive, or had been converted from right-hand-drive. I'm going to say that if the vehicle was being imported for use by mail carriers, there might be an exception, but it would be tough."*

EXEMPTIONS FOR CARS UNDER 25 YEARS OLD?

There is a "show/display" exemption reserved for vehicles with extremely unique historic or engineering characteristics - however it is rarely granted.

According to NHTSA wording, if you wish to import such a vehicle for minimal use, show or display, you *"must apply to NHTSA for permission to do so and establish that the vehicle is of such historical or technological significance that it is in the public interest to show or display the vehicle in the United States even though it would be difficult or impossible to bring the vehicle into compliance with the Federal motor vehicle safety standards. This provision is intended to facilitate the importation of historically or technologically significant vehicles that were never certified by their manufacturer for sale in the United States."*

Importers all added that this translates to a very slim chance for cars under 25 years old. *"Did the Queen of England use this vehicle?" is often used by NHTSA as a litmus test for historical significance. One car that was actually accepted was Mikael Gorbachev's armor-plated Mercedes limo.* Another specialist also felt getting an exemption is unlikely *"unless a famous person owned it or the car has a million dollar value."*

TYPICAL SHIPPING COSTS

Charges from shippers I contacted ranged from \$3,500 to \$4,500 from England to the East Coast, and from \$4,500-6,000 from Japan to the West Coast. There is also a \$500 entry fee plus a 2.5% U.S. duty tax.

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NNJS Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 21 — The Stable —
Gladstone, NJ — See page 6

**Sunday, May 6 — AACA Auto Show
at Automatic Switch—**Mercedes-
Benz Grouping—East Hanover,
NJ—See page 2 — See our [Website](#)
for updates.

Sunday, May 20 — Spring Drive —
Starts in Sussex County — drive
down through Warren and Hunter-
don Counties, ending in Delaware
Township — See page 4 — See
our [Website](#) for updates.

**Saturday, June 16—49th Annual
June Jamboree—**MBUSA Head-
quarters— Montvale, NJ — See
page 10 — See our [Website](#) for
updates.

**Saturday, July 14—Fleetwood All
German Car Show—**Fleetwood, PA

Friday, July 27—Summer Car Show
at the **German American Club—**
Clark, NJ

**Friday, August 3—Biergartenfest &
Auto Show—**Germania Park, Dover,
NJ

**Saturday, September 22—Annual Re-
gional Picnic at Falconhorst—**Hopewell,
NJ

**Sunday, December 2—Holiday Party at
the German American Club—**Clark, NJ

