

The Kisselgraph

MAY 1986

Official Publication of the Kissel Kar Klub
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C A R S H O W 1986

As I have mentioned to you before, the Hartford Old Car Show and Swap Meet will remain the responsibility of the Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce. It will be under the direction of Miss Penny Van Vleet.

It is my understanding that the car show is going to be expanded to include activities all over Hartford on that weekend. There will be Arts and Crafts Shows in the downtown area, special sales by retail merchants downtown, and at the Show itself, there are some new rules in coordination effort to ensure that cars are placed in proper age group areas, and newly included is a Flea Market, above and beyond the regular swap automotive parts area.

The museum activities will be somewhat different in that all of the Kissels that come to the show will be placed in the museum in a highly secured area for display. Also, outside, we will be having an old fashion ice-cream social.

We are cooperating with the Chamber in that tickets will be available so that you can attend both the museum and the car show for a combination ticket price of \$5.00, which will include shuttle bus service from the museum downtown and from the car show at the airport. This is an effort to try to have more activities going on to keep more interest in the area.

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The Car Show is slated for August 16th and 17th, 1986. As you probably are aware this is also the 80th Anniversary of the formation of the Kissel Automobile Company.

The annual meeting of the Kissel Kar Klub will be held at the museum. We do have banquet arrangements made and the entire activity will take place on Saturday night, August 16th. As of this writing, we do not have pricing available. But, we certainly hope that more of you can come this year as did the first year of the car show, so we can have full attendance and you can see what progress has been made in the museum facilities.

MUSEUM PROGRESS

As of this writing the 21st of May, the museum has progressed quite well, with a potential opening of the third or fourth week in June. The painting has been completed. The heating system, which consists of gas fired modine heaters donated from one of our local companies, have been installed. The floor tile and the cleaning and sealing of the concrete needs to be done. It will be done within the next ten to fifteen days. The entrance wall and archways will be completed shortly. Our security and fire alarm system has all been installed. So at this point in time, it would appear that we are 95% complete with the renovation for the first section of the museum, consisting of approximately 25,000 square feet.

We are looking for a few more items such as an old fashioned telephone, desk type of the lipstick variety from the 1920's. We still need to find a couple of male mannequins and 1920's clothing for these male mannequins, and anything else that we can add to what we will be developing as a 1920's style car showroom.

As of this writing, we have approximately 35 cars committed and I'm sure we will reach our 50 to 60 car goal by the time we open.

For those of you who have not seen the museum or will be unable to see it, because of distance from here, let me verbally describe to you what the museum looks like. We have painted the ceiling and walls black, and the pillars, as indicated on the last newsletter we sent, are done in a gray color. The lighting for the display areas is provided by Quartz spot lights, along with Quartz flood lights. The aisles are all lighted with incandescent, old fashioned, lamp shaded lights, hanging on 7 foot long pipes. These units are all in white. The trim areas are in a gray-green color for the fancy trim moldings. The entrance area and part of the museum floor will be done in black and white tile right out of the 1930's.

We are pretty much on target as far as the cost of this renovation, which is \$80,000 through a low interest loan that we have obtained through the Housing and Urban Development. It must be paid back over a twenty year period. Most all of our operating expenses are being covered through the rental of excess warehouse space. We will be renting out approximately 76,000 square feet as of the end of June. This is what keeps us going and pays the bills. The charges that we collect for people to view the museum will be utilized to make other improvements as we go along. We do not anticipate that this project will ever end, it will just continue to grow and with 165,000 square feet of available space, there really are no limits to our growth potential. It would appear to me that probably by the end of 1986, this will be the largest automobile museum in the state of Wisconsin. This project has been going so good that during the summer months we will start working on another 12,000 square foot room, that we will probably need by the summer of 1987 to contain other artifacts.

I would like to invite all of you to come and view the museum. We would also like to invite you to participate through donations of Kissel artifacts, in particular, and any of you that have other vehicles and/or Kissels that you would like to have on loan in the museum, contact me directly so that we can make arrangements for display of same.

If any questions over the museum operation, please feel free to contact me.

LOST KISSEL

An interesting article was supplied to me from Gene Husting, written in an old Alcoa Aluminum Newsletter to all of the foundries that were involved in aluminum castings.

In this very old newsletter, there was an article indicating that a 1919 Kissel had been manufactured for the Chicago Car Show of 1919. It detailed how more than 100 patterns were used in its construction and that it was built from original Kissel drawings. We never knew for sure where that model went, although the article said that the company was going to donate it to the Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. What's interesting about the situation is that our insurance man has a client at the Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry, which manufactured parts for Kissel cylinder heads and other aluminum components. He had indicated to me that he had seen this model located in their offices. We did make contact with Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry and we have obtained this all aluminum unit, which is approximately 2½ feet long and 1 foot high. This model of a 6-45 Kissel All Year Staggerd-door Sedan will be featured at the museum. Upon checking with their pattern makers and casters, we find that to reproduce the model in today's dollars would cost an estimated \$25,000. The model is in our possession, on loan.

MUSEUM VOLUNTEER CORPS.

A very interesting occurrence happened at the museum in our volunteer corps, which at the present time consists of approximately 15 people, who will be responsible for the operation of the museum on weekends. A Dr. Val Quandt, a local medical doctor in Hartford was due to retire in May, and brought a donation check to me along with a letter stating that he was interested in our project. He started working here on a part-time basis, doing research on Kissel and sorting through the volumes of letters and articles that we have obtained through the years. Dr. Quandt became so very interested in this project that he may be spending up to 30 hours a week helping out. Not only is he providing volunteer help, he then became interested in autos and mechanics, in general. He has devoured huge volumes of mechanical books to learn about automobiles. The next thing he has done is that he has indicated to me that he has always wanted to have a car and on display in the museum. So he did go out and purchase a 1937 Bently for the express purpose of placing in the museum. Now that's a volunteer we could all use!

CARS AND PARTS

The recent board director, Delyle Beyer, advertised in Hemmings for Kissel parts etc., to bring you up-to-date on what is available out there, and he has received this response.

One response is from a Donald Fradd in Michigan, he states that he has a 1928 8-cylinder Kissel engine with most of the parts on it, and the transmission. He states that it has been outside

CARS AND PARTS

for quite some time and water has gotten into the unit, frozen, one piston wall and broke a piece out of the side. The identification plates has Kissel Motor Car Company, engine number 803911.

Rick Guriel of Indiana, stated that his remains of a 1927 Kissel has been outside for 20 years. It is missing several parts and what is left is poor, but he does have a complete frame and front axle with four wheels, all body parts with most wood, not in good condition, no hood, headlights, radiator shell, steering wheel, third member in differential, gauges and various small parts. If interested in trading for a Austin Healy parts car, 1957 or 1967 Cadillac Convertible, 1951 Ford Victoria, 1957 or 1958 Olds 2-door, hard top. He also stated in his letter that he knows of a long-wheel base chassis, no engine or transmission, model 1955 in Kansas. If someone might be interested in that item.

Al Kadzielski of Parma, Ohio writes that he has a 1928 Kissel with the original mileage (9,250 miles) its a model 8-80 Brougham and this vehicle is for sale. This particular unit has all wire wheels with dual wire wheel side mounts, we do have photographs and pricing if you are interested, contact Al directly or the museum.

Dick Braund - We just received a letter from Dick who has sold his Kissel recently. I do not know the new owner as of yet. I'm sure Dick will be suppling that to me shortly.

Hope to see you soon!

Dele M Anderson