

# The Kisselgraph

MAY 1987

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Official Publication of the Kissel Kar Klub  
c/o Hartford Heritage Inc., 147 N. Rural Street  
Hartford, WI 53027  
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## MUSEUM UPDATE

I'm sure that all of you have seen the articles in the Antique Automobile Quarterly and in Old Cars Weekly in reference to the museum here in Hartford. We have had excellent co-operation from both publications and in particular, Old Cars Weekly. It certainly is a help to us for hobby publications to print our press releases, and we sincerely thank them.

Well, we did make it through the winter which was a critical period of time considering the high cost of electricity and with, of course, the wonderful Wisconsin heating bills. Winter did deplete some of our reserve. Our visitation has certainly been pleasing. Considering that we are so very new, we did manage to have approximately 4,000 people visit the museum since we opened. In fact, we had more than 600 people attend during the first quarter of the year, which in Wisconsin is not the best time of the year to be traveling!

We have joined forces with the Manitowoc Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and the fabulous EAA Museum in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to do advertising and marketing to capture the bus tour trade. Our three museums represent land, sea, and air, and are within one hour between locations.

When the museum first opened, we had 45 cars. We had a few extra during the car show when some of you were here, but that is where we started. Presently we have 76 beautiful automobiles and trucks on display including 13 of those excellent Kissels. Due to donations by Kissel Kar Klub members and others, the museum now owns three complete Kissel vehicles. The following is a list of Kissel Kar Klub members that have made various donations in 1986.

### CAR DONORS

- ✓ 1921 Kissel - donated by Fred and Beatrice Schauer.
- ✓ 1930 Kissel - donated by Dr. Frederick Simeone.
- ✓ 1926 Kissel - unrestored, donated by Robert Troller.
- 1930 American Austin - donated by Delyle Beyer.
- 1902 Rambler - donated by Chester Krause.



MUSEUM UPDATE CONT.

CASH DONORS

We received the following cash donations ranging from \$10 to over \$1,000 from M. B. Belden, Dave Lanning, H. R. Davis, Joseph Antrim, Edward King, Diane Trumpp, Earl Young, Robert Troller, Bud Striegel, Delyle Beyer, Frederick Schauer, Carl Messer, and Robert Collins.

DONATIONS OF OTHER ITEMS

Equipment, parts, and artifacts from Dave Lanning, Robert Troller, E. Ann Klein, Lyn Schuette, Delyle Beyer, Eugene Husting, Robert E. Kissel, Robert E. Kissel Jr., Edmund Gibes, Ralph Dunwoodie, H. R. Davis, and David Wolbrink.

(Hope we didn't miss anybody!)

All of the above were donated by Kissel Kar Klub members. We also did receive donations both in cash and artifacts from other people across the country.

Our donations of artifacts have been excellent. Our donations of cash have been a little bit on the low side, however, I'm sure that this will be changing in the future as we become able to qualify for private and public foundation grants. This museum is here to stay.

NEEDED ITEMS

It has become apparent that some areas of the museum cannot be seen as clearly as we would like from a standpoint of security. I ask for anyone that may have closed circuit black and white TV equipment that is no longer being utilized, yet is operational and interesting in donating it, to call us.

We would also like to record and play music from the 20's through the 50's as background music for the museum. Consequently, we are also looking for a large tape recorder system similar to what Muzak uses or radio stations, where an 8 hour tape can be placed on the machine.

We are also looking for some type of a sign maker. Museums use a tremendous amount of signs. There is a lot of equipment available on the market. What we have been using will get us by, however, we would like to have a more professional display area if possible. A regular sign making machine would be most ideal.



NEEDED ITEMS CONT.

These items, of course, are something that can wait. However, we felt it might be a good idea to ask. There may be some Kissel Kar Klub members out there that may have access to this type of equipment.

C A R S - - - B O U G H T A N D S O L D

# 6279  
rec'd 1/14  
23  
The following is some activity in Kissel sales and purchases: Frederick and Beatrice Schauer of Wisconsin purchased Henry Reimers '21 Kissel and donated that to the museum.

# 1964  
Arthur Spanjar of Wisconsin had a Kissel Speedster that originally was one of Gene Husting's. It was recently sold to Mr. Koller of Washington, D.C. Arthur Spanjar still has some parts available for sale.

Robert Collins of Wisconsin bought Dick Braund's Speedster recently. It is being completely restored and should be on the road very, very shortly.

# 1013  
# 6907  
Mr. 1912  
Mark Kisiel of Massachusetts bought the Semi-Racer that was at auction in Las Vegas this past April. He also informs us that the former Speedster owned by Johnson of Wisconsin, more recently by his daughter of Las Vegas, was sold at auction. However, we do not yet know the new owner.

Rick Guriel, as far as I know, still has a Kissel available for sale.

I recently saw in Old Cars Weekly, a 1928 Kissel White Eagle Brougham, model 8-90, in California for sale. Also Mr. Lohnes in Union, Maine, still has his vehicle available for sale. Henry Schwister of Wisconsin has his 1924 Kissel which is presently located in the museum available for sale. Alvin Kieft's Enclosed Speedster is also available.

Do you know of anything else bought or sold, or of any other Kissels that we may not have listings of? We certainly try to keep the roster of Kissels in as good as order as possible, but we don't know what you sold, bought, or heard of unless you let us know.

If you wish any further details, please contact us.

A N N U A L M E E T I N G

The annual meeting of the Kissel Kar Klub will again coincide with the Chamber of Commerce Old Car Show which is scheduled



### ANNUAL MEETING CONT.

for August 15th and 16th. The Klubs annual meeting will be held August 15th, in the museum itself at approximately 7:00 P.M. Last year the meeting was very well attended with between 40 - 50 people. We certainly hope that more will be able to come this year. To those of you that are planning on attending the car show, please bring your Kissel automobile with you. It will be displayed within the museum itself with full security. We certainly appreciate a good turn out of Kissels.

We are making an effort to have a special guest speaker which we have interviewed just recently. She was the former secretary to George and Will Kissel and has many stories that she can relate to the group of the Kissel Company and thereafter.

As always good food, camaraderie, and a good time will be had by all that attend the annual meeting.

### NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND PICTURES

Along with this newsletter you will find quite a few copies of articles on Kissel which were printed in our local newspaper from 1906. We haven't quite completed all of the articles since we do want to cover through 1931. The old newspapers are available here through Kissel Kar Klub member, Mike Schuetz. We felt that it would be important to pull these articles from the newspapers. There are things to be learned about Kissel, its formation, and its vehicles, from these articles. We certainly cannot guarantee the accuracy of these articles because it is a newspaper, but they are well written local articles with local color. Also included with the newsletter this year are pictures of what the inside of the museum looks like. I certainly hope that when you're in the Hartford area you spend some time with us and go through our collection of articles and automobiles.

### MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS

Recently the board of directors of the museum set up a lifetime membership program which provides access to the museum at no cost and access for special events. This lifetime membership is priced at \$1,000 in cash or in donations.

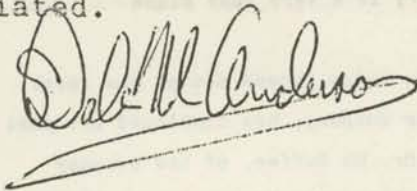
The board has also authorized the setting up of a plaque for donors in the \$10,000 and \$25,000 brackets. I hope that many of you might consider becoming a lifetime member.



MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS CONT.

If all of the Kissel Kar Klub members made a donation of at least \$25 it would certainly help to insure the maintenance of this museum. As you know, there has never been a formal dues structure since the start of the klub. It has always been covered by donations of individuals. The museum is now the recipient of donations and the Kissel Kar Klub operates as a division of the museum, therefore, donations made to the museum help to cover costs involved in telephone calls, newsletters, to help people restore their Kissels, to find Kissels that are available for sale, and to maintain the roster of members.

Please give it your deepest consideration to send \$25 or more. It will be genuinely appreciated.



HARTFORD PRESS  
Friday, February 23, 1906

**WILL BE READY SOON**

The Kissel Manufacturing Company will soon have their little gasoline runabout ready for exhibition. They have ordered all the parts for the finishing, and have their designs for box part. The runabout is to be a four cylinder machine from sixteen to eighteen horse power. The auto will be finished in dark blue and upholstered in black leather. All who have seen the drawings say the runabout is to be a little beauty.

HARTFORD PRESS  
Tuesday, February 26, 1907  
**SHIP TOURING CARS**

The Kissel Motor Car company shipped a touring car yesterday to Los Angeles, the car going to the western agents of the Lord the Mc Duffee company. A car is also being put in readiness for shipment to the Boston automobile show to be held March 9th to 15th, the Mc Duffee company of Chicago. This car is of the handsomest ever turned out by the company. It is of French Grey, with black running gear and upholstery, and although one would expect that combination to be somewhat somber, the bodies are painted at the Waupun factory where they are built, and the chassis is painted here by Adam J. Ruhl.

HARTFORD PRESS  
Tuesday, January 29, 1907  
**CARS WERE SHIPPED TODAY**  
**By the Kissel Motor Car Company**  
**EXHIBITION IN CHICAGO**

The touring cars which the Kissel Motor Car Company will exhibit at the automobile show in Chicago this week, were shipped today. Three of the cars were sent in the shipment, one of which goes to the Mc Duffee garage and the others to the show. One of the latter is equipped with a red box, with gold stripes, upholstering and the other from is dark green with the purpose of exhibiting the chassis alone, and the box will be replaced on its being removed to the Mc Duffee garage. The autos are very handsome and will no doubt attract considerable attention at the show.



HARTFORD PRESS  
Friday, January 18, 1907

TEST IS GOING ON

Automobile factory is a very busy place

The test of automobiles is being turned out at the local factory of the Kissel Motor Car company, has continued the past few days. We understand that Mr. Mc Duffee, of the company which has contracted for the autos, says he considers the Kissel Kar the finest hill climbing touring car he was ever in, and that he is well pleased with the prospects for a successful season.

Next a large force of men will be put on, five crews to have charge of the work of assembling the parts. During February the company expects to turn out fifteen cars and each month thereafter will complete between fifteen and twenty cars.

The two cars which are to be exhibited at the automobile show in Chicago were completed this week, and were tested yesterday and today. As soon as they are equipped with the body they will be shipped to Chicago. The auto show begins February 2 and lasts one week.

HARTFORD PRESS  
Friday, October 5, 1906

BUILD AN ADDITION

Kissel Mfg. Co. will enlarge their plant  
Begin work at once

Work will be commenced next Monday on an addition to the plant of the Kissel Manufacturing Company at present used as their gasoline engine factory. The addition will be fifty by one hundred feet, and two stories in height.

The front building of the plant is 50 x 176 feet and two stories, and this with the new addition will be used by the Kissel Motor Car Company for erecting and assembling their automobiles. This present building has been used for storing engines and tools to be used in their new manufacture. The new building will have a cement floor and be equipped as a thoroughly up to date factory.

J. H. Mc Duffy, representing the company which is to handle the Kissel Kar, came up Wednesday evening to accompany U. S. Dist. Atty. Butterfield and G. A. and W. L. Kissel to Maupin of that city to complete a contract with the Kissel company for a number of drawings furnished here last evening and left this morning for Chicago to place orders for additional machinery to be turned out here for a time assisting the local company in their plans for turning out the large output of machines.

HARTFORD PRESS  
Friday, February 22, 1907

ALL NIGHT CURRENT  
Work day and night shift  
ARE RUSHED WITH WORK

Beginning next Monday, Hartford will have an all night electric current. As we already have an all day current, it will mean that users of electric lights can turn on the light hereafter at any time.

This has been made possible by the fact that the machine shops of the automobile department of the factories of L. Kissel & Sons will be run all night; the new shift of workmen going on evening and working until seven in the morning.

This has been made necessary by the manufacturing of the large number of autos the company wishes to turn out. The additional amount of machine work done by the double shift will enable the company to put on a large force of men in the other departments, thus doubling the output of the factories.

As the night work will require all night service, and as the machinery is run by electricity, it will give the entire city an all night service. This will be greatly appreciated by every user of electric light, who will find it value rather disagreeable at times to close one's social it having been at midnight, the time when the current has been cut off heretofore.



HARTFORD PRESS  
Tuesday, April 16, 1907

### BIG CONTRACT

The Kissel Motor Car Company completed a contract last week with the Mc Duffee Automobile Company of Chicago, to take their entire output of touring cars for the season of 1908. The contract for the 1907 placed the lowest number of cars manufactured at 100 while the contract for 1908 requires that no less than 400 cars be delivered.

The 1907 contract with the Mc Duffee company expires the first of the coming July, and the 1908 contract is to commence immediately upon its expiration. The 1908 deliveries will begin during July. This early placing of their contract enables the Kissel company to continue the manufacture of their cars without delay and will keep their men busy throughout the fall and winter. They expect to have their 1907 contract completed promptly by July 1st.

There is to be little if any, change in the working parts of the 1908 car but the appearance will be changed to conform to the 1908 styles.

The company has at present close onto 100 men employed in its auto department.

The Mc Duffee company is well pleased with the success with which the Kissel Kar is meeting. The renewed contract is an evidence of the fact. Recently a run was made from Chicago to Kankakee, Ill., with a car to be delivered in the latter place. The route selected took the car through seventeen miles of bad marsh land, and at just the time the roads were the worst. They were advised not to try to pass through the marsh but the chauffeur was confident the car could make it. It did, in good shape, and on the strength of the achievement three Kissel Kars were sold at Kankakee to be delivered this week.

HARTFORD PRESS  
Tuesday, June 25, 1907

### THE KISSEL KAR IS A WINNER Exceeds expectations of its makers

#### WIN TWO OUT OF THREE

The Kissel Kar seems to be destined to be a winner. The many tests that have been made with it seem to indicate that the car is far exceeding the expectations of its makers, the Kissel Motor Car Company of this city.

Last week Wednesday the Minneapolis representative of the company entered one of the Kissel Kars in a hill climbing contest in that city. The Kissel Kar finished third, coming in 1 1/2 seconds behind the winner, or a trifle less than half of car's length. The winner was a forty horsepower Packard, a \$3,000 machine, and the second a Locomobile, a forty horse car, costing \$3,000. At least twenty other cars were entered in the contest.

The Kissel Kar is entered for the reliability run next Saturday from Milwaukee to Madison and return, a total distance of 180 miles. The car is to be driven by George A. Kissel of this city who will probably be accompanied by Mr. Tarkington. The car is to be a regularly equipped car, now at the factory, which will be delivered immediately after the run, to H. L. Knight of Chicago. It is a handsome red car and will be seen on our streets Friday, on which day it is to be taken to Milwaukee for the run. The start is to be made at seven from Milwaukee, and five hours are given to complete the run. No adjustments can be made on the trip, and the association superintending the test is to send an observer with every car to make sure that this rule is enforced. The object is to test thoroughly the reliability of the various cars. About fifty cars are to be in the test, embracing all the leading makes sold in Milwaukee.

A hill climbing test was made in Milwaukee Sunday between two Kissel Kars and a Stoddard Dayton, a car costing \$2,750 in which the start was made even the Kissel Kar winning out two out of three.

The 1908 model car is now being constructed at the local factory and will be finished in about three weeks. It is to be a beauty.



A PERFECT BEAUTY

The first Kissel Kar was shipped to Chicago yesterday

The Waupun Democrat last Friday contained a letter written the Zimmerman company of that city relative to the body that firm is making for the Kissel Kar, built by the Kissel Motor Car company of this city. The letter is written by Mr. Mc Duffee of the Mc Duffee Automobile company of Chicago, which has taken the contract for disposing of the entire output of the local factory. The Zimmerman company formerly manufactured vehicles but have discontinued that work entirely in order to build the boxes for the Kissel Kar which the Mc Duffee company will sell for the local company. The letter follows:

"Gentlemen: - I want you to know how well pleased I was with my visit to Waupun on Tuesday of this week. I had expected to find a body which was built and finished in the same as the ordinary bodies fitted to automobiles which sell along at \$1800 to \$2000. What was my surprise to find the body was in every way equal to any body I had ever seen on cars selling as high as \$4000. I am satisfied that as soon as that the auto body is seen in Chicago it will create quite an impression on different automobile experts, as it is certainly a very fine piece of work."

The body for the new Kissel Kar arrived last week from Waupun and the first car equipped according to the 1907 model, was shipped to Chicago yesterday where it will be placed on exhibition at the Mc Duffee garage. The new body is a perfect beauty, and the very newest thing in touring cars. Its shape is different from that of the car turned out this summer, being both longer and broader as well as of a more graceful shape. The color is however the striking feature, and the novelty is that it is striped. The main colors are shades of amber brown, the body being of a lighter shade that the trimmings. The body has vertical stripes of a deeper shade of the same brown, about two or two and a half inches wide, broken with fine and almost imperceptible lines of black and red. Between these stripes is a corresponding stripe of the solid brown. The effect while very striking, is harmonious and beautiful and will without a doubt create a sensation.

The company will soon commence work on the machine they will exhibit at the automobile show in Chicago in the spring. We hear they have secured a very good position at the show, their space being opposite that of one of the large foreign companies.

HARTFORD PRESS  
Friday, September 28, 1906

LARGE AUTO CONTRACT  
Signed by the Kissel Motor Car Co.  
Name is "The Kissel"

What was probably the largest contract ever signed by Hartford parties was made in Chicago yesterday by U. S. Dist. Atty. Butterfield, and George and Will Kissel, the three representing the Kissel Motor Car Company of this city. By the terms of the contract the Mc Duffee Auto Company of that city agrees to take the entire output of the local auto factory for the coming year, the number of autos to be delivered to the Chicago company to be not less than one hundred. They will take as many over that number as the local company can turn out.

The Mc Duffee company will be the sole distributors of the cars made by the Kissel company. As the price at which the car is to be put on the market is to be \$1850, the amount of money involved in the contract is quite a sum.

The name under which the car will be placed on the market will be "the Kissel."

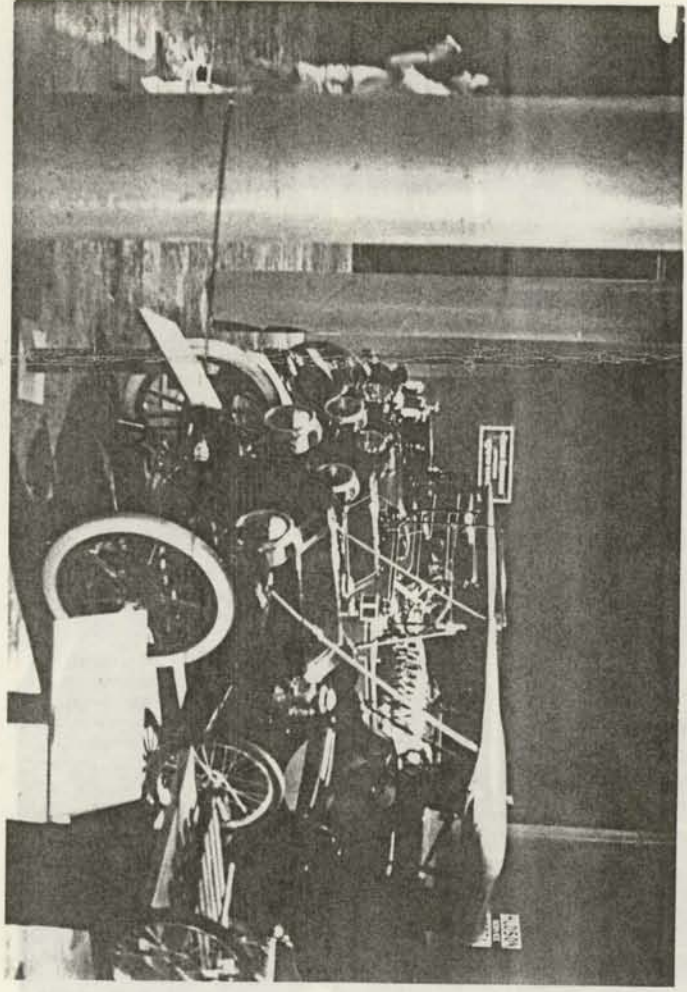
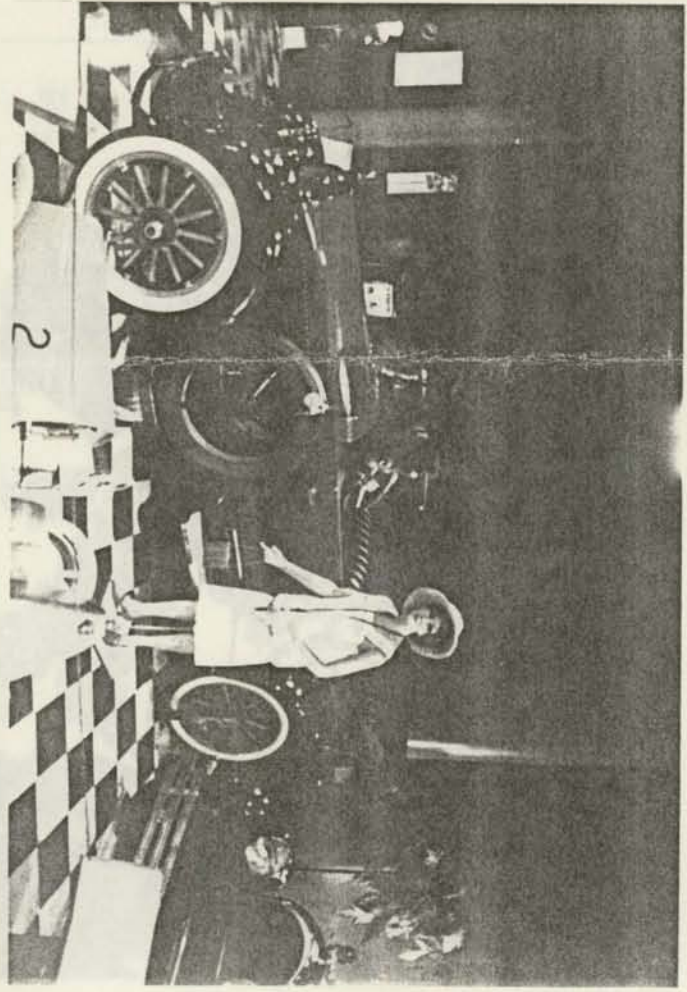
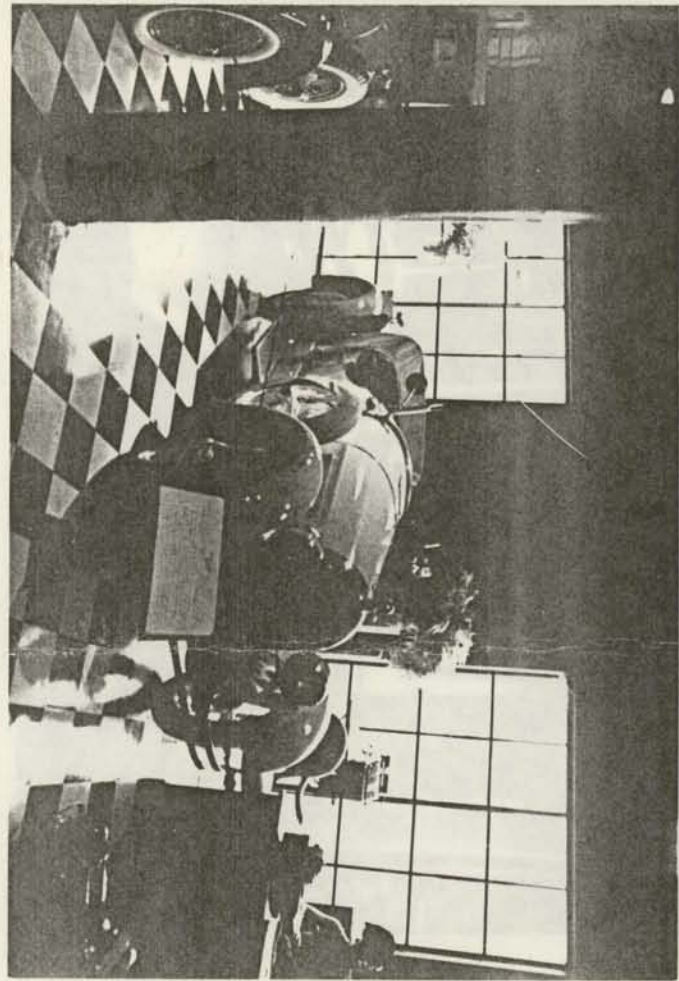
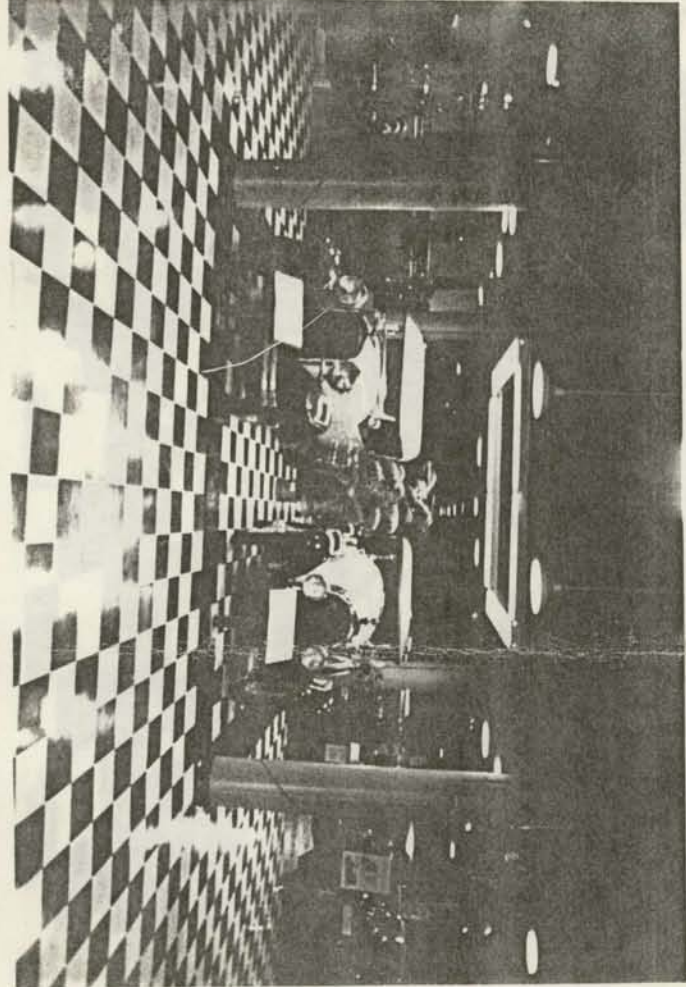
Messrs. Mc Duffee, Babcock and Harvey of the Chicago firm were in the city Monday to look over the local plant, to see what facilities they had for making the number of machines wanted, and were most favorably impressed. They like the car very much, and while they wish a few minor changes made in the body, the chassis will remain as turned out heretofore. The body will be built by the Waupun company from designs furnished by the Mc Duffee company.

The closing of the contract means quite an addition to the laboring force of the city, as the auto company expect to put on fifty more men as fast as they can secure them. As soon as they are obtained the machine shop will be run day and night. As the material is nearly all bought in the rough state, the greater part of the work will be done in the local factory, thus giving employment to a large number of hands.

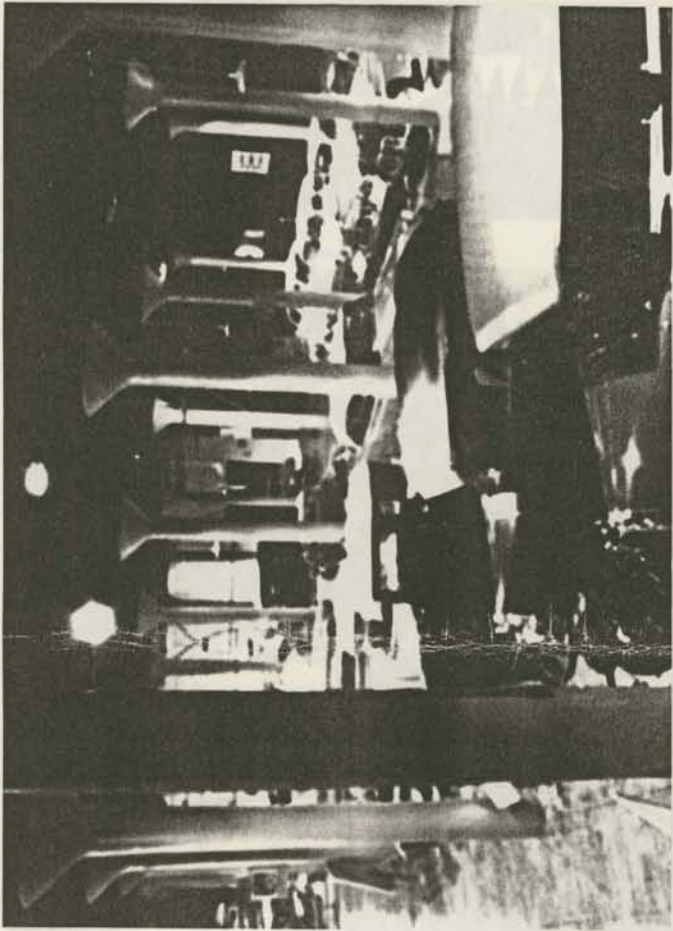
The firm will commence at once on a number of demonstrating cars and cars for exhibit at the auto show in Chicago.

The Mc Duffee company has been in business for a number of years, and have three garages, two in Chicago and one in Milwaukee. They intend to advertise the car extensively and the local firm will also do the same by catalogues and in the magazines. The local company is freed by the contract from any worry or bother in disposing of their output, and will thus be able to put their entire attention to the work itself, and will be able to turn out more machines than they otherwise would be able to do.

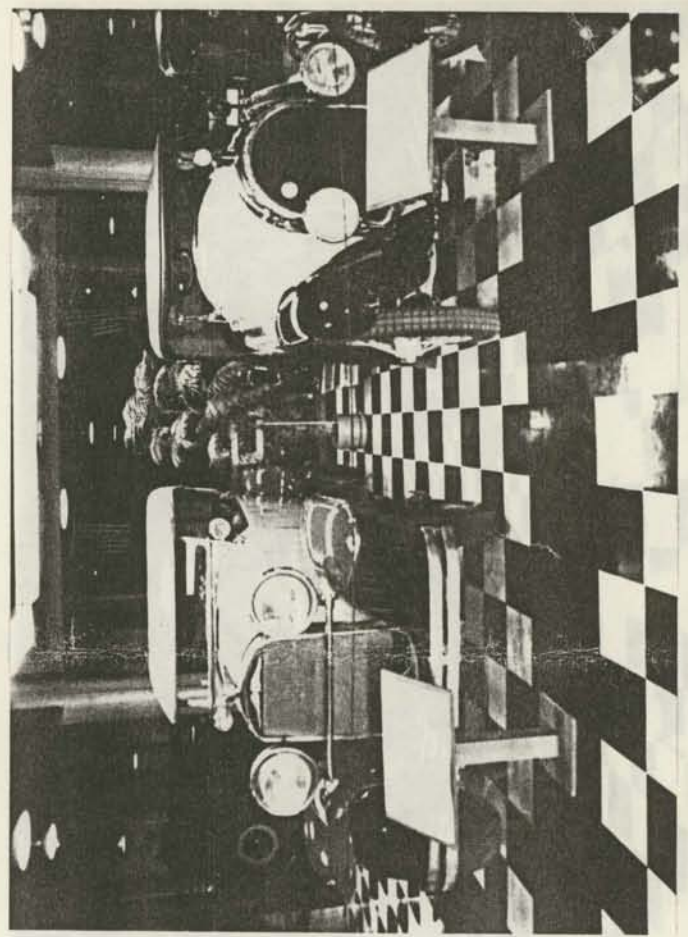








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