

# The Builder

August 1995

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## Dave Shuklis Models Acquired! Long Lost, 18 Models Are Now At the Museum

**I**n the history of the model car hobby, a few names shine above other modelers as examples of craftsmanship, willing teachers anxious to acquaint others with their skills, and pleasant representatives of the hobby.

Of all of the names of the "First Generation" in the model car hobby (roughly the time from 1956 through the mid Sixties), the name of Dave Shuklis stands nearly alone. Though burdened with muscular dystrophy, Dave was named as the Technical Editor of the historic *Car Model* magazine. Dave's models pioneered many of the techniques still not common today: working doors, operational convertible tops, roll up windows and other techniques. Though Dave succumbed to his disease in 1972, his legacy for risk taking and expert craftsmanship has survived.

With his death, Dave's collection of remarkable models disappeared from view. For a time, many of Dave's models were displayed at *Auto World* where many enjoyed them. Later, the July-August 1983 issue of *Scale Auto Enthusiast* magazine carried a fine historical on Dave and his models, featuring many of them. After that, only a few modelers knew of the models and they disappeared once again.

Enter Oscar Koveleski, co-founder and co-editor of *Car Model* magazine and founder of *Auto World*. In late 1994, he contacted Museum founder Mark S. Gustavson, speaking of the possibility that the Museum might acquire the entire surviving Shuklis collection. After a few letters and a phone calls, Ed Shuklis, Dave's father, graciously agreed  
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### Subscription Information

Interested hobbyists can subscribe to *The Builder*, published approximately four times per year, by sending a check for \$12.00 to the National Model Car Builders' Museum at 353 East 400 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84104. Remember, *every dollar goes to funding the Museum*

*The National Model Car Builders' Museum exists to chronicle our hobby!*

to donate all of his son's models to the Museum.

Subsequently, on August 3, 1995, Museum supporter Norman Veber made an eight hour round trip (travelling over 400 miles) to pick up the models. After a pleasant 45 minute conversation with the elder Shuklis, Norm left for home, the unopened box of models in hand.

When he got the unopened box home, Norm discovered that, among other pieces, the *Shamrock*, the *Red Rev-er* and the *Bob Tailed Cat* as well as 13 others, were in the box. Remarkably, almost every model was in excellent condition though all need a thorough cleaning. Norm removed the worst of the accumulated dust and carefully packed the models and then shipped this most significant collection to the Museum. Once a careful list has  
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been made, all of the models will be repaired and placed in a special permanent display in the Museum, along with the many trophies that Dave was awarded for his terrific work. Full hobby press coverage will be forthcoming.

A special thanks to Oscar Koveleski, Norm Veber and Mark S. Gustavson for their hard work in acquiring this very significant collection for the Museum.

### Restoration Help Needed!

When Museum Trustees recently canvassed the collection of models in the Museum, it became clear that a lot of help is needed from qualified modelers to restore many of the models to their original condition.

Not only will some of the Shuklis models need repair, but the models of Jim Keeler (like the X-100 and the famous "Turbine Tub") need significant work. And, thanks to the wonderful generosity of Kay Barnett, we have about a dozen of the departed Bob Barnett's wonderful customs that need repair. In some cases, a full paint job is needed; in other examples, a thorough cleaning and polishing is only needed. In all cases, careful work and an attention to detail is needed.

Because of the great importance of these items, the Museum is interested in securing the help of interested and dedicated hobbyists. There is no fee for your work, and you must provide all of the materials needed (shipping charges will be reimbursed). Already, Gary Grassman and a few other Texas modelers are working on some of the Barnett customs, and Bill "Uncle Bill" Aitchison will be signed up soon.

If *you* want to help, please submit to the Museum a resume and a statement describing your interest and ability to complete the project. The hobby needs your assistance!

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## Thousands of Decal and Instruction Sheets to go on display!

One of the most important aspects of the collection of the National Model Car Builders' Museum is the collection of thousands of instructions sheets and decals.

Collected from donors from throughout the United State and Canada, the *entire* collection of decals and instruction sheets literally chronicles the last 38 years of the hobby. The decals are entrancing, with items from Ed Roth, Budd "The Kat" Anderson, George Barris decals and plenty of other "personality" decals.

The Museum has been presented with a problem, though: The documents were deteriorating rapidly in the dry Utah climate. Never printed on high-quality paper, it was clear to the Trustees that the time would come when everything would simply deteriorate into crumbs if something wasn't done.

After thinking about possible solutions, Trustee Alan Raab generously agreed to laminate everything in clear plastic to preserve them for the future.

When completed, the hundreds of sheets will be placed in a large "parts counter"-type three ring binder with an accompanying index which will permit interested visitors or researchers to examine the hundreds of fascinating items.

The display will be ready for public viewing in early Fall 1995.

## The National Model Car Builders' Museum

For further information, or to arrange a tour of the Museum, or to contribute an article to the newsletter, or to donate a model or money, please write to: 353 East 400 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84103

### Trustees:

Mark S. Gustavson, Founder  
Mike Barlow, Trustee  
Mark Benton, Trustee  
Bill Helm, Trustee  
Alan Raab, Trustee  
Stephen E. Gustavson, Editor, *The Builder*

## Ad Campaign to Start Soon!

**T**he National Model Car Builders' Museum has a bit of a problem. Located in Salt Lake City for the reason that its founder lives there, the Museum is not precisely in the demographic center of the United States. Though better than a hundred visitors annually visit the Museum during the annual installments of the GSL International Model Car Championships, such pilgrimages will only occur occasionally during the GSL Reunions.

Because of the significance of the Museum and the importance of spreading information about the collection, the Museum Trustees have decided that if most of the modeling public can't come to the Museum, we will take the Museum *to them!*

Starting in late 1995, the Museum will launch a substantial advertising campaign in all major hobby publications. Conceived and produced by Museum Trustee and professional advertising guru Pat Covert, each of four different ads will feature a different model from the Museum's collection, in that way acquainting the *(continued on next column)*

## Donations of Models, Supplies and Other Items Needed for Display!

The recent Shuklis model acquisition made plainly clear the point that unless dramatic steps are taken in the next few years to locate and acquire historic models, building supplies and other memorabilia, such items may be lost forever.

Therefore, if you have any spare parts, instruction or decal sheets, vintage built models (particularly those with an established history), building supplies, magazines or other items, please consider donating or loaning them to the Museum. If you only want to loan your property, you can specify the duration of that loan. On the other hand, if you donate items, be assured, be assured that they will NEVER be sold, given away or disposed of.

Please look through your collection and consider donating that historic item to the Museum. The future will thank you!

public with the vast collection in the Museum. Additionally, the ads will encourage readers to write to the Museum for more information about the Museum and concerning items to seek to raise money for the project.

At about the same time, different informational articles on the Museum will be sent to hobby publications. Those articles will detail and discuss different aspects of the Museum: The diverse instruction and decal sheets (described elsewhere in this issue), models in the collection, historical contest information and artifacts, vintage paints, interesting bits from the extensive magazine collection and hundreds of the other items in the incredible collection.

The Museum extends its special thanks to Pat Covert, and the hobby publications, for their support!

## The Museum Depends Upon Financial Donations Help from Dedicated Hobbyists

—You can help!—

The vigorous and enthusiastic activities of the Museum depend upon the assistance and support of hobbyists who have caught the vision of the hobby. For all of the donated work and supplies of the Museum Trustees, there is a constant need for funds to keep the doors open. No love of Keeler's Dodge Fever replicas, no passionate dedication to the Dave Shuklis collection, and no devotion to the Oakland Roadster Show Diorama project amount to much if there isn't money to keep the doors open.

You can help. And there is a good example of the very practical way through which the hobby public can support the Museum. Recently, the Tri-State Scale Model Car Club, through the leadership of President John Slivoski, was the first to participate in the "Adopt the Museum for a Month" program. More details next time!

In the next issue of the newsletter, the "Adop; the Museum For A Month" program will be announced which will seek \$200.00 donations to pay the rent for a month! Watch for details,