

The Builder

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Museum Restoration of Shuklis, Barnett and Keeler Models Underway!

Following its acquisition of the famed Dave Shuklis model car collection — which also included a half dozen early Sixties vintage trophies that Dave won — Museum Trustees were faced with a daunting task. Who would restore the 17 models? The problem of the restoration and completion of the models is significant. Done well, the famous historic models would consume hundreds of hours of labor. And the labor had to be dedicated and carefully performed: There is a *lot* of history here.

The problem faced by the Trustees was compounded by the presence of a dozen unfinished Bob “Dream Truck” Barnett customs as well as a smaller number of Jim Keeler models that need full restoration.

Happily, some very dedicated hobbyists, learning about the need to complete the unfinished Barnett models or return the other pieces to their former glory, volunteered to help.

The Barnett models were the first to enjoy the support of a few volunteer hobbyists. Gary Grassman and two fellow Texan models, Ohioans “Uncle Bill” Aitchison and Tom Dillion III, and Mark S. Gustavson agreed to complete some of the Barnett models. Slated for completion in late 1996, these models will be displayed in a special Barnett memorial display area to be dedicated in late 1996.

Museum Trustees Pat Covert and Alan Raab and Mark S. Gustavson all offered to each do a Shuklis model.
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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. *Subscriptions run from January through December. Remember, every dollar goes to funding the Museum*

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

Additionally, Larry Boothe, Ken Hamilton, Cody Grayland, Norm Veber and Bill Taylor each agreed to restore a model, and Mike Felix and Rick Hanmore, of the Town of Newburgh Model Car Club, offered to restore 5 Shuklis models! However, there are still 5 models that need to be restored.

Regarding the Keeler models, Oregon builder Harold Perry signed up to restore the 1961 Winternationals-winning “Carnation” The 1963 *Model Car Science* “X-100” is already under restoration by Mark S. Gustavson; However, the *Rod and Custom* “Turbine Tub” still needs to be rejuvenated. In the late Seventies, Jim attempted to update the model to then-current street rod appointments, but was unable, for medical reasons, to complete the task. This model needs to be restored to its 1962 version. Most of the original parts are still available.

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When completed, each of these famous models will be covered in a major hobby magazine article and then placed on permanent display in the Museum. Each display will include photos of each restorer along with a full pictorial history of the model. Each restored model will add immeasurably to the preservation of the history of our hobby! Please help out!

Restoration Help Needed!

Despite the wonderful help recently offered some modelers, a *lot* of help is still needed to complete the balance of the Shuklis, Keeler and Barnett models.

If *you* want to help, please submit to the Museum a resume and a statement describing your interest and ability to complete the project and a list of models that need attention. Wherever possible, qualified builders will be granted their wish to restore specific models.

If selected, you would be provided with the model, all available parts, a completion deadline, and a copy of the Museum’s *Restoration Guide* which provides some suggestions and guidelines to preserve the maximum degree of the original modeler’s work while still permitting the model to be restored for display and historic research. A copy of the **Guide** is included with this issue of *The Builder*.

PLEASE HELP OUT!

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Historic Car Model Magazine "Crusader" Has Been Restored!

Virtually every model car fan over 35 years of age remembers the incredible impact that the "Crusader" had on scale vehicle construction in the early Sixties. Covered in many issues of *Car Model Magazine*, this chopped and sectioned AMT '40 Ford Tudor Sedan set new standards for chassis construction, custom body design and building, and finishing techniques.

In 1988, *Model Car Journal* editor Dennis Doty came into the possession of the remains of the "Crusader." Soon after that, Dennis called Mark Gustavson and asked if he would restore the model and place it in the fledgling Museum which was still a year away from opening.

The model arrived in very poor condition. The body was broken into three major pieces, and the once beautiful candy red paint had been covered with thick, gooey black primer. However, the famous chassis and engine were in remarkable good condition. Salt Lake modeler and car kit historian Ed Wright carefully cleaned up and restored the innovative chassis and provided dozens of original parts to complete the restoration.

While the chassis was being cleaned, Mark started an extensive 7-year restoration on the body which needed to be pinned back together. After the major pieces were re-attached, significant body work preceded a fresh candy red lacquer paint job matched from the still-beautiful original custom dashboard.

The model can be seen in a full feature in *Model Car Journal* #114 (January 1996). Copies are available from PO Box 154135,

Adopt the Museum Program

With any public interest endeavor, enthusiasts are often called upon to financially support that project. Art museums, symphonies and other cultural activities all turn to sources of monetary support because there is seldom sufficient support within that group to sustain the effort.

The National Model Car Builders' Museum is no different. With rent at \$2,400 per year (and that doesn't take in account funds for other activities), there is a constant need for money *just to keep the doors open*.

Though a very small group of people have funded the Museum in the past, the time had come to expand the base of monetary support. The original donors had done about all that they could do.

At the suggestion of Trustee Pat Covert, the Museum initiated the "Adopt the Museum For a Month" campaign in mid-1995 which sought the support of individual clubs and other hobby organizations to contribute \$200.00 to pay for one month's rent.

Invitations were sent out to over 200 individual hobbyists, clubs, and businesses. The theory was that if only 10 percent of that group responded favorably, the Museum would have \$4000 in its coffers — enough to keep the facility in business for 20 months.

While the program is still young, the response has been gratifying. Public spirited hobby associations started to come to the aid of the Museum. First, it was the Tri-State Scale Model Car Club in Brooklyn. Next came the Magic City Car Modelers in Birmingham followed closely by the Maryland Automotive Modelers Association. Next, the Town of Newburgh Model Car Club contributed \$200.00 as did the Utah Model Car Association. Individuals also jumped onto the "Adoption" program: Bill Slayton, Dennis Barker, Alan Raab, Mark S. Gustavson, Pat Covert and John Mahaffey also sponsored the Museum for a Month. Other individuals also made a donation in lesser
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but still *much* appreciated amounts: Larry Porter, Michael Hemp, Augie Hiscano (Orange Blossom Hobbies), Martyn Faistnauer, Lylle Willits, Dr. Chis Walley, Vere Recider, Roger Yu, Roger Erskine, Dick Groenheide, Bruce Grumney, John Larkin, Davis Lauer, Frank Leisnig, Clarence Moore, Tim Pentecost, Harold Perry and Tim Powers.

Monies from these clubs and individuals has paid the rent on the Museum since July 1995, with monies to pay the rent through April of 1996. After that, the problem returns.

An application has been made with the Internal Revenue Service to secure tax-deductible status through a {501(c)(3)} application. If granted in early 1996, all donors to the Museum will to deduct the value of their donation. It is important to note here that approval has *NOT* yet been granted.

Thanks to all of the individuals and groups who have provided much-needed financial support. Your help—has been critically important and will probably be needed again. .

Darryl Starbird and the Museum cooperate in creating a new display!

In late Summer, 1995, famed custom car builder and promoter Darryl Starbird opened his Rod and Custom Hall of Fame award in Oklahoma. Long a leader in the custom field, and an important influence over the model car hobby during his stint as Custom Consultant with Monogram Models from 1963-66, Darryl saw the need to construct a facility where famous cars from his shop and others could be displayed. Darryl turned to the National Model Car Builders' Museum for help in creating miniatures of famous "real" custom show cars to be displayed at his Museum. Though the first effort will focus on Starbird cars, the display will eventually expand to include kit-based and scratchbuilt replicas of historically-significant custom cars that have been constructed over the last 50 years.

In early August, Mark Gustavson and Bruce Pearce visited Starbird's Hall of Fame and presented the first model to inaugurate the display. Mark donated his Monogram "box-art" *Predicta* model to Darryl which now sits next to the fully-restored *Predicta* custom car in a specially built display case donated by J.D. Boothe (PJ Plastics, 5813 W 27th Place, Gary Indiana). Qualified hobbyists are invited to write to the Model Car Museum if they are interested in helping out with this program. All models will be displayed at the Hall of Fame #1 Star Kustom Avenue, Afton, Ok 74331.

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

-Randy Vandraiss, Research Director

Stephen E. Gustavson, Editor, *The Builder*

Next Issue:

- Research Department Opened! Randy Vandraiss Appointed

- Oaklanda, CA Museum Display in 1996!

- New Display Cabinets Soon!