

The Builder

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Research Department Created! Randy Vandraiss Appointed First Director

One of the most important goals of the National Model Car Builders' Museum is to chronicle and identify those modelers whose work has affected the development of the hobby. Whether by appearing in magazines, winning major contests or otherwise helping to define the nature of scale vehicle construction, it is essential that the history of the hobby — as acquired and preserved in the Museum — include the many famous builders who have helped define the hobby since its inception in the mid-Fifties.

In order to expand the scope and services of the Museum, it was necessary to seek the assistance of a trusted, highly-motivated enthusiast who would take on the task of doing research into the history of various elements in the collection, and of trying to locate the famous modelers whose names were household names in the past.

Long a dedicated supporter of the West Coast NNL, the GSL International Model Car Championship, the Oakland Roadster Show Diorama Project, the Gold Coast Challenge and the Museum, it was natural for the Trustees to approach Randy Vandraiss to see if he would accept the task of serving as the **Director of Research Services** for the Museum.

Randy enthusiastically accepted the appointment in November 1995 and immediately got down to work researching *(continued on next column)*

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!

the history of the two hundred-odd models in the collection. With the help of assistant Rex Barden, Randy combed through several extensive West Coast magazine collections. Already, many pages of history have been downloaded into the Museum's computer on which is stored the 60 page, 10,000-item inventory. This effort will never end as more models and other memorabiliz are loaned or donated to the Museum.

But Randy needs help, and a lot of it, because his tasks are substantial. If you are willing to work hard, and are dedicated to assisting with the substantial research tasks for the Museum, please contact Randy at 1-408-267-0156 in California. Randy has a complete list of the items that need to be researched and the work to be done. He can let you know what tasks need to be completed. With your help, the Museum can progress!

Shuklis Restoration Underway!

Destined for a major media blitz in late 1996, the following individuals graciously offered their restoration services: Larry Boothe, Pat Covert, Joel Dirnberger, Mike Felix, Cody Grayland, Mark S. Gustavson, Rick Hanmore, Ken Hamilton, John Mahaffey, Tim Pentecost, Alan Raab, Bill Taylor, Town of Newburgh Model Car Club, and Norm Veber.

New Model Display Cases To Be Installed!

When the Museum opened in 1991, the only display cases that we had were well-used glass jewelry cases retrieved from a couple of supportive K-Mart managers. They were cleaned up, and placed in the Museum. They served us well, but were inadequate.

In response to the real need for more accessible display cases to properly present the dozens of models on display, Museum Trustee Alan Raab (who owns the furniture manufacturer emporium, C&A Industries) very generously decided to offer his services to design and manufacture some new display cases. These cases are thin rectangular units which will hang on the walls, thereby permitting visitors to view the models from three sides.

Made from hardwood and plexiglas, each case will display almost 50 models each.

Modelers everywhere are grateful for the generosity of Alan Raab.

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Clone a Model!

As part of the mission of the Museum to present to visitors and researchers a view of the history of the model car hobby, and because the Trustees know that only a few of the very famous models will ever be located, we need to *Clone Some Models!* We need the help of interested builders to construct precise replicas of historic models.

The objective is clear: It would be great to have on display some samples of model car construction throughout the history of our hobby. In that way, we could understand the importance and development of model car construction.

Of course, to be "authentic," some rules should be observed. *No* modern building techniques, materials, parts or techniques. Rather, only those kits, building supplies and parts that were used *when the original was built* should be used. The point here is to recreate *a bit of history!*

The next step is to develop a list of those models which should be cloned. Obviously, not everything should qualify. The model must be significant by having placed well in a major contest or otherwise having distinguished itself by displaying an innovative building style or an advance in building construction.

While the list is still under development, here are some initial models that **must** appear on the list. If you want to nominate others, write to the Museum and identify the model and give a magazine reference.

Tom Davison's '63 Revell Pactra Paint Winner, (chartreuse metalflake "Vette"); and The "Dixie Bee", cover of *Car Model Magazine*, October 1963; and Lonm Stern's "Astrodan", cover of *Car Model Magazine*, June 1964.

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*

Where Are They Now? Help!



One of the most important tasks the Museum will ever accomplish is to attempt to locate famed modelers from our history.

It is through the work of individual builders that each of us — all hobbyists — learned of the work of others and validated our own interests in model car building. Therefore, it is natural that we should try to locate and honor those builders who have blazed the path for all of us.

These modelers might have constructed a contest winning or trend-setting model. Think of Charles Gibilterra's Jaguar/Corvette hi-bred that stunned Judges James Keeler and Bob Paeth in the first (1963) Revell Pactra Model Car Contest. Charles' delicate pearl white/silver painted sports coupe was cast in thin fiberglass and cleared the way for highly styled customs in the future. Or, what about the pioneering efforts of Lonio (Lonn) Stern who, having been apparently influenced by the *Car Model Magazine Crusader* (see the story on its restoration in *The Builder*, Vol. 1, #3), built the "Astrodan" which was featured on the cover of June 1964 issue of *Car Model Magazine*. Lonn's asymmetrical '40 Ford Sedan, while a bit "heavy" by today's standards, was a stunning custom *tour de force* in 1964. If those models aren't enough to warm up your hobby room, then consider Bob Nordberg's '62 Ford COE that garnered him a co-National Senior Championship in the Second Revell Pactra Contest in 1964 (which he shared with Augie Hiscano, whose winning roadster was displayed in the Museum recently). Bob's largely scratchbuilt truck is impressive by any standard. There are dozens of other (continued on next column)

In the Next Issue:

New Column Debut: "Bits of History" which will take a good look at model car history; and
Research Department Report: More from Randy Vandraiss!
Report on Bob Barnett Model

examples that we will profile in future issues of *The Builder*.

Well, you get the idea. There are literally hundreds of wonderful, cutting-edge builders over the last thirty years whose efforts and successes helped promote and define our hobby.

Here's how you can help. In this, and future issues of this newsletter, we will print the names of famous builders in the hope that one of you might know where these gentlemen live. With the recent success in locating and acquiring the entire surviving Dave Shuklis collection, the Trustees of the Museum are heartened by the possibility of repeating that success with other famous builders.

Please check your local phone books, make a few calls, ask around at your club meetings, and see if you can't help. Please do what you can to try and find these guys: Forward any information that you might have directly to the Museum (address elsewhere in this newsletter).

The data following each name represents the year in which the Trustees believe this person's work first appeared in print, State of last known residence (if available), and the last known city of residence (if known); thanks for your interest in this on-going project!

Tom Davison (1963) Revell-Pactra Paint Winner.

Richard (Rich) Morgan (1964), Revell-Pactra 2 Intermediate Winner.

R. A. Smitty" Smith (1962), Scranton, Pa./Auto World Company.

Jim Ray Yonts (1964) (Intermediate Winner, Second Revell-Pactra Contest).

Charles Gilberterra (1964) Encine, CA

Mike H. Yamashita (1965), Spokane World's Fair Contest

Bob Sifferd (1965)

Bob Nordberg (1964)

Richard Carroll (1970) IMCA contest fame, brass models with pearl/candy paint
Mike Baltes, 1962, Pa., early author of "how-to" articles and chief participant at Auto World business.

Bob Wingate, 1963, El Monte, CA. Bob was an early collector of promotional models.

Jack Herndon, 1964, subject of several features in *Car Model Magazine*.