

# The Builder

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## Renovation Greatly Improves Museum's Ability to Serve the Modeling Public

**T**he Trustees of the Museum have been involved over the last 4 months in a major renovation of the facility. When the Museum moved to its current location in 1991, we had to make do with donated glass display cases and the "as-is" status of the office that we rented. While it was *okay*, a lot needed to be done.

In June 1995, Museum Trustees Mike Barlow, Mark Benton, Pat Covert, Mark S. Gustavson, Bill Helm and Alan Raab got together and planned a major rejuvenation of the Museum as part of a larger effort to improve and take the Museum "public" in 1996. Those plans included the creation of a series of public service announcements created by Pat Covert, the publication of a quarterly newsletter available by subscription, the creation of the "Adopt the Museum" program where clubs and individuals could contribute one month's rent, *and* a major physical renovation of the facility.

As one leg of the plan, the Museum approached IPMS/USA and other key contributors, to raise the money needed to repaint the facility, install carpet for the first time, purchase new bookcases to handle the burgeoning literature and video tape collection, and buy a new desk for the newly-acquired, used 3.486 computer. Trustee Raab also generously donated four new, custom-built, wall-mounted plexiglas and oak display cases to house the nearly 100 historic models. Those cabinets have been retrofitted by Joel Dimberger with a regulated power supply and grid to "power-up"

### Special Kit Enclosed!

Through the generosity of *Rik Hoving Customs* and *Bob Korunow's Model Car Garage*, each subscriber to *The Builder* gets the enclosed specially-issued photo-etch/photoreduced Museum detailing kit!. This "premium" is available **ONLY** from the Museum. Thanks to Rik and Bob!

*Sorry this newsletter is late!  
Regular publishing schedule back!*

the restored Dave Shuklis models — and other models — requiring power.

Work started in late May, 1996 as literally *everything* in the Museum was boxed up and stored on site. The larger of the two rooms was painted, and the old display cases were sold. Dark grey carpet was installed to cover up the awful old tile. After that, the Oakland Roadster Show Diorama was moved into the larger room. Then, everything in the first (smaller) room was moved into the first room so that it could be painted and carpeted. New bookcases were then delivered by a local carpenter after which *everything* was unboxed and reorganized. A new desk kit was obtained from Office Max (thank Bill Slayton!), assembled, after which the 386 computer was installed.

As this newsletter is being written, the combo TV/VCR that Alan Raab donated will be mounted on the ceiling to permit visitors to enjoy the several

video tapes covering much of the last 15 years in our hobby. The contents of the three filing cabinets are being reorganized to permit access.

This effort will permit the Museum to better serve visitors, subscribers to *The Builder*, and model car historians. We are finally well-organized, and can now move forward with the overall goals and objectives of the Museum! Thanks

### *Remember: Museum has a WEB page. See it Now!*

The Museum's WEB page continues to grow with the addition of new information. Trustee Benton, the Museum's WEB master, is in the process of uploading nearly one hundred photos of the Shuklis, Barnett, and Keeler collections currently undergoing restoration, as well as photos of other memorabilia in the Museum!

The WEB page is one part of the Museum program to disburse the greatest possible range of historic information to anyone with a computer. Also, *all* of the WEB information can be downloaded! A selection of the photos on the WEB page will also find their way into this newsletter next year! (Wait for the big announcement in the December newsletter!).

If you can, please join us on the I Museum WEB page *soon*! Please visit us at: <http://www.xmission.com/~msgsl/nmcbm>

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## Update: The Museum Video Tour Out Soon!

The long-anticipated "Museum Tour Video" will be shot sometime in early December 1996 following the completion of the renovation of the Museum. Long in the planning stage, the tour will feature the camera work of Dale Angell, an associate professor of film at the University of Utah. Dale will add graphics, voice-over narration, occasional music and other details to make the video the best possible. After all, this will be a promotional tool for the Museum!

The video tour will be presented as a "walk through" view of the Museum which will include elements from the extensive library, the Oakland Roadster Show Diorama, many items contained in our three full filling cabinets, the display cases (with the newly created nameplates and index tabs by Joel Dirnberger), other dioramas, the vintage paints/putties/vintage parts paks, the thousand-item decal set, artwork, box-art models, the famous Kallen "Moose Hat", and dozens of other items.

Advance orders can be placed in the next newsletter (out in mid-December) which will detail how a copy might be preserved. The cost will probably be about \$20.00 (plus shipping) and all individuals and clubs who have adopted the Museum will receive a complimentary copy because of the magnitude of their contributions. Hopefully, the "tour video" will be another element in our effort to widely disseminate the maximum degree of information about the Museum.

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### Next Time:

- *Article on IRS application!*
- *Big Announcement for 1997!*
- *Start of "Items of History"*
- *More on "Clone the Past"!*
- *Shuklis/ Keeler model reports!*

## Donors Provide More Stuff!

In response to recent published advertisements in this newsletter and major hobby publications, supporters of the Museum have literally flooded the Museum with hundreds of items. Many of these items were received in the middle of the renovation, requiring many of them to be stored off site.

While there is not enough room to give credit to everyone, John Antczak donated a box load of vintage Auto World and other items, Bruce Clement, G. Franklin and Jeff Morelli donated a full set of Ulrich upholstery kits, John Quayle donated a mint original AMT '57 Ford Styline kit, John Slivoski is restoring a very rare 1956 Lincoln electric promo, Dennis Doty donated mint copies of the 1959, '60 and '61 Auto World catalogs, Dale Wright and Donnie Biggers donated a boxload of rare kit and "air boxes". Brian

Gushliak and Mike Reed also contributed lots of old Auto World parts, including hinge kits and vintage paint sets. And, then there is the incredible help of the many restorers of the Keeler, Shuklis and Barnett models who have worked tirelessly to restore the models of those famous builders (more on this next issue)

The point here is that a LOT of enthusiastic Museum members and supporters have greatly helped out. Thanks to everyone who has so generously supported the Museum by contributing items and old kits.

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### No Show at Oakland!

At the last minute, the Oakland Roadster Show Diorama at the Oakland Museum show on California's car culture was cancelled because of concerns for the safety and structural security of the Diorama

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### Nominate the Hot 100 Models of All Time!

One of the chief purposes of the **National Model Car Builders' Museum** is to acquire, where possible, and to clone, where necessary, the greatest model cars of all time. It is one of our goals to display a chronological presentation of historic models so that visitors and historians can see, understand and appreciate the progress of model car modeling that that has defined our hobby.

Thankfully, a number of key individuals and clubs have stepped forward and offered to clone historic models that are unavailable to us so that a combination of cloned and original models can be presented to chronicle the history of our hobby!

The Museum is now asking for help from subscribers to *The Builder* and others (Press Releases will be sent out soon to all hobby media) to name the greatest models of all time. Respondents are urged to consult the following criterion in naming their *Top Forty* picks: each models needs to have established a new modeling trend, or pioneered a new building technique or technology, or was widely recognized in the general auto press, or in some other way advanced the goals of quality building and positive publicity for the model car hobby

Please find enclosed a form that you can use. Your choices should be carefully considered, listed chronologically (the most important model listed first and then on to the balance of your nominations), be accompanied wherever possible by a reference to a magazine article, and a comment on why you have selected that model. Poll results will be tabulated and published in a newsletter next year. Once that list is created, the list will be sent to the "cloners" who will work their magic! We need your help so that the results represent the widest possible opinion base. *Please respond!*