

The Builder



Volume 3, Issue 4

The Quarterly Newsletter of the National Model Car Builders' Museum

Make it great in '98!

1997 was a banner year for the Museum thanks to a dedicated group of members who continue to strive to make it better. We've had more projects going at one time than all the previous years combined and the exposure we've received this year has been great!

Let's carry this momentum over into 1998. All of the hard work we did in 1997 can be a springboard for even better things in this new year. How can we do it? Simple. First off, take a look at the recaps of the various projects you see going on and ask yourself, "Can I help the Museum on any of these projects?" We can always use more volunteers for the many things going on and if you're not currently participating in any of them I highly urge you to do so. All you need to do is write the Museum and volunteer your time and effort. I'll guarantee we can use you!

Secondly, please take the time to renew your membership. Except for a few outside contributions, the Museum operates solely on the dues of its membership. In essence, you and I have to make it happen. Timely renewals help us plan what we can do and when we can do it so please re-up at your earliest convenience.

Finally, if you do only one thing for the Museum this year, pledge to recruit one new member. Think about it...if everybody in the Museum did this one thing we would double our membership in one year! We can do it.

In closing, let me say thank you on behalf of the Museum and its trustees for your support and dedication to the cause. Without you we could have never gotten where we are today!

THANKS!

-Pat Covert, Ed.

-----1997 IN REVIEW-----

What A Year It Has Been!

By Mark S. Gustavson

It is hard to overestimate the great progress that the Museum has made this year! After years of hard work, many long-term projects have bloomed this year. Consider the following:

-We installed four wall-mounted cabinets (donated by Alan Raab) and can now finally display dozens of historic models in a proper setting. With the Joel Dirnberger-fitted power strips, the work of Dave Shukliis and others have "come to life" for the first time in more than thirty years;

-Models by Bob Barnett are being finished, and the work of Jim Keeler is being restored;

-The Builder is now professionally edited, and the Museum Web page is finally updated (see the article elsewhere);

-A large diorama display case is now in place (again, donated by Alan Raab) so that the many dioramas and large scale models can be properly displayed and protected;

-The Museum was the focus of a major three-page article in the November 24, 1997 issue of

AutoWeek after which the Museum has been contacted by dozens of new supporters;

-The Museum will be featured in a major television production to be distributed throughout the Western United States;

-Membership jumped by 27%;

-The two filing cabinets have been totally reorganized with new folders and titles; and

-Donations to the Museum inventory continue apace - combining models, memorabilia and written material, there are now almost 860 more items in the Museum than on January 1 of this year; and

-The Museum was presented to over 300 people at the now-famed GSL Reunion in April.

Whew! What a year! The Trustees of the Museum express their great appreciation to the dozens of individuals who have caught the dream of the Museum to preserve the history of our hobby for future generations!

1998 promises to be another year of great progress and achievement so please stay with us by becoming a Member of the great Museum club next year!

Museum Update..... BY MUSEUM STAFF

The Hot 150/Clone the Past Program Progresses! by Mark Gustavson

Though we have promised for several issues that the Hot 150 list would be published in this issue of *The Builder*, it is still not possible to do so. This is a very important project since we are trying to identify, from many hundreds of candidates, to the most influential and significant scale vehicles in the history of our hobby. The list has been compiled from the dozens of lists returned to the Museum. The models nominated for the first two "Ages" are now being reviewed by Dennis Doty, Tim Boyd and Mark S. Gustavson. After their review, those two lists will be circulated to the larger group of advisors: Gary Schmidt, Rick Hanmore, Bruce Pearce and Pat Covert. After their input (and the similar completion and review of the list for the other "Ages" of the hobby through 1994), that list will be published in *The Builder* for your review and commentary.

Great care is being taken in preparing the lists for your review since the Trustees – and those assisting us – understand that a lot is at stake in preparing this list, both politically and in terms of which models will be cloned for display. We are working very hard on this project and we are confident that the list will demonstrate the care and fairness that those working on this project have taken.

The GSL Book is about Ready! by Mark Gustavson

After years of work, the major book on the GSL Championship, **THE GSL INTERNATIONAL MODEL CAR CHAMPIONSHIP, A Tradition of Auto Modeling Excellence**, is just about ready to go! This project, like other efforts, has taken a lot longer than we had anticipated because of the scope and detail of this book. The book contains 35 Appendices, 20 footnotes and a color photo section featuring every one of the Best in Show winners. As this newsletter is being written in late-December, final editing is going on after which Bob Wick will complete the design and layout following which Museum WEB Master Mark Benton will do the thankless job of doing the actual computer layout.

To be published by the newly formed Championship Press, LC, this book will be limited to 250 copies for its first run. You can reserve your copy now by filling out the enclosed GSL Book Order Form. Each copy will be autographed for the purchaser by the author, and all net proceeds will be split between the Museum and the seventeenth GSL Championship to be presented in 1999!

The Museum WEB Page has been Updated! by Mark Benton

You know, we waited too long to get the updated material on the Museum's web page. It takes a lot of work to update a web page but I think you'll find it's been worth the wait. The page has been significantly expanded. Among nearly 4 dozen new photographs and an extensively upgraded text, we now have an entire cyber Museum "tour." You can literally "walk through" the Museum and see many of the features of the Museum including the research library, the computer, the hundreds of models in storage, the Oakland Roadster Show Diorama, the new wall mounted display cases, the model building construction memorabilia and other details. We will be able, soon, to communicate updated information on the Museum with everyone who registers so be sure to "register" so that e-mail upgrades can be sent to you!

Visit us soon at: <http://www.xmission.com/~msgsl/nmcbm/index.html>.

Museum plans for 1998

by Mark Gustavson

The Trustees and I have been planning for 1998. Here's what we have in mind:

- Completion of the computer inventory of the entire collection. This will eventually lead to full internet access to items in the collection by Museum members via a password.
- Creation of the Long-Delayed Museum Tour Video. With all of the display cabinets in place and the Museum fully renovated, we can now shoot the video. Remember, this video will be sent free of charge to every person or group that has donated at least one month's rent in the past. For others, it will be for sale as a fundraiser (probably sold at \$19.95 plus shipping).

- Completion of the Museum Instruction Sheet and Decal Projects. Museum Trustee Alan Raab has been working hard on laminating the thousands of instruction sheets and vintage kit decals. When finished, the binders will be displayed for all visitors.

- Completion of the Hot 150 List, and Commencement of our Clone the Past Project. After literally dozens of hours of research, and list tabulation, we will publish the list and then ask for qualified builders to start the cloning project.

1998 will be an action-filled year! Please remember to join up again as a Member!

Join the club!

When you join *The Builders' Club* you automatically become a member of The National Model Car Builders Museum--the only organization that is dedicated to the preservation of car modeling. Club members are entitled to special benefits including a one year subscription to *The Builder* newsletter, a club membership card and a chance to receive special promotional materials at a discount.

Membership in The Builders' Club is \$12.00 annually. All fees go directly to the funding of the Museum.

**Join today by sending a check to:
National Model Car Builders' Museum
353 East 400 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84104.**