

January/February 2022

Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America



Young Janice Grew on the running board of an original 1929 La Salle Phaeton in 1965. George Grew Photo

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John Lowell

# SPARK PLUG NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Schild jschild@htc.net

# **Director's Message**

By the time you read this column, the garage tour in the spring to a little iday Season.

tion for the New Year is a return to event...let us know. normalcy in our daily lives from this country. Things are certainly begin- anything......it is most appreciated! ning to point in that direction! That's Stay safe and healthy..... because the Annual Kick-off Meeting at Hyman Ltd., barring any unforeseen John circumstances, is back on the calendar after a two-year hiatus because of the pandemic. Mark, Shawn, Phillip and the rest of the nice folks at Hyman Ltd. continue to support the SSR by hosting us at their spacious facility housing an ever changing inventory of Classic, Special Interest and unique motorcars.....there may even be a special one that catches your eye, so don't forget your checkbook! More about this event in this issue of the Spark Plug.

What do you say? Let's get Spirit Nights back on the calendar too! For the benefit of new members, Spirit Nights are social gatherings at a restaurant or pub around town for the purpose of fostering good fellowship among the members of the Club in a relaxed atmosphere over dinner, and a cocktail or two....or three. I'll plan the first one in March 2022. Let me know if you want to host one during the year.

There's more to come! The Activities Committee is working on some other really exciting activities like a

month of December and the Year 2021 known car collection in the Bi-State will be in the rear-view mirror, and a area owned by a delightful gentleman New Year filled with hope and contin- and his son. I know the Committee is ued blessings will be upon us. I hope busy in their quest to top some of the you all had a Merry Christmas, Happy great events in 2021 like the Commem-Hanukkah, or other joyous celebration orative Air Force Tour, or the Bluff with family and friends during the Hol- Road Tour to Perryville, or the Perschbacher Collection Tour.....I'm Ever the eternal optimist, my predic- confident they will! Got an idea for an

Oh. and one final business pandemic, and the resumption of the note......National CCCA and SSR activities in the SSR that have made Membership Renewals are now due. our Region among the very best in the Get those in so you don't miss out on



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Another year is under our belts again and we all hope we here in our area. are all off to a much better start than the past two. There have not been as many events and tours as we would um of Transportation in St. Louis County in October so have liked but I am thankful there are always a few of that gives us the opportunity to get our 1929 Fleetwood our wonderful and enthusiastic members who find ways Town Car back on the road after about 23 years of rest. to enjoy our Classic Cars and the people around them. While it is still in our trailer I hope to get the carburetor This issue has a great story from Wendell Smith about cleaned up and working and the fuel system cleaned out his Virginia and West Virginia Silver Ghost Association so I can start the engine again. At least these older cars tour last October. It seems like members of the Rolls- with mechanical brakes do not suffer the hydraulic brake Royce Owner's Club always find a way to enjoy their system concerns our later classics have to deal with after automobiles and many of them happen to be Full Clas- long term storage. That work can be a pain. I also plan to sics. I wish I would have had space for more of Wen- get our 1947 Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith SDV running dell's great pictures but hopefully, the one's we chose again after I install two new pistons. Meanwhile, our will do the event justice. I hope they inspire the rest of 1936 Cord Convertible Phaeton restoration is coming our members to find some ideas for tours and events for along slowly. 2022.

edition to their growing collection of Cadillac and La Salle Classics and I know the story of the acquisition of what is happening in the Classic Car world. their 1929 La Salle Phaeton will be interesting to everyone. I especially like the great old B&W cover photo of submissions for the next Spark Plug is 20 Februthe car being pulled out of its sleeping space in 1965 ary. after many years. It is not often we get a chance to see Jim how these cars looked when they were awoken from storage or little use before restoration. This one looked good enough to drive away as is, and according to the story that is what happened. We are all happy to see it



Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday Closed

# C & C Auto Parts

7606 Florissant Road, Normandy, Missouri 63121 Phone: (314) 381-4700 Fax: (314) 381-0443

Both Todd and I pulled our Cadillacs out of the Muse-

Please check the calendar on the back age and the arti-Although among the younger members of our club, cles inside this issue to see what activities are planned Todd and Amber Tobiasz of Webster Grove's Missouri for 2022. Be sure not to miss the annual Membership are clearly some of the most active. They have a new Kick-Off meeting at Hyman's next month. That is always a great time to meet with members and catch up on

Don't forget the deadline for articles, ads and





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# **ADVERTISEMENTS**

You can now place an ad in the Spark Plug! Buy the full year.

### Full Page Ad 7x10"

\$40.00 per issue or \$210 for a full year

## Half Page Ad 7x5"

\$30.00 per issue or \$150 for a full year

### Business Card Ad 3.5x2"

\$20.00 per issue or \$90.00 for a full year

We ask that advertisers submit ads reflecting services or businesses consistent with our members' interests. Digital graphics are not required but will result in a higher quality advertisement. If submitting a hard copy of graphics please make sure there are no fold lines, tears in the paper or information that is not accurate.

### Make checks payable to:

Spirit of St. Louis Region CCCA

Send payment and graphics to: Jim Schild, 5 Rowan Oak Lane Columbia, IL 62236-4148

### jschild@htc.net

### For more information contact: 618-281-3311

Payment in full must be received before ads are published. Ads must be received prior to each deadline. If purchasing full year package the same graphics and or wording will be used each time unless otherwise notified before the next deadline. Deadlines are the 20<sup>th</sup> of every other month. Spirit of St. Louis Region CCCA reserves the right to refuse advertisement space. The Spirit of St. Louis region CCCA does not assume liability, either implied or expressed as to accuracy of any ad. The Spirit of St. Louis Region CCCA does not insure or endorse any product or services advertised.

# **Membership Musings**



### December 25, 2021

safe.

Please do not forget to renew your CCCA national and SSR local membership. We had 37 members renew during the last two months, but we still have 24 members who have not renewed. Best to get the administrative tasks taken care of now while you are thinking of it. You should have gotten a mailed hardcopy renewal by now, but you can also go to www.classiccarclub.org and renew online.

As of this writing we are planning to have our annual kickoff at Hyman Ltd on Saturday, February 5. I hope everyone has been vaccinated and boosted as appropriate to keep all our members Many thanks to Gene Bossaller and congratulations to Barb Knudsen for a wonderful event on a beautiful day in St. Charles on November 7. Many guests and well-wishers came out for Barb from many different car clubs in which Barb participates. It was a great opportunity to see and chat with lots of Barb's friends, many of whom drove collector cars to the park.

At a time of the year when we connect with family and friends I'll share one of my new friends. My 1929 LaSalle comes with a lot of non-local history. The latest person to take possession of the car posed this summer for a photo on the running board. I reached out this past fall to the daughter of a former owner and, in addition to getting some interesting stories, I received a black and white photo of her when her father acquired the car in early 1965. I was struck by the parallel. With some help from my buddy, Jim, and a lot of help from Rick Quirin and his contacts, I hope to have her on the road soon. See you all at the kickoff. Stay safe.

Todd





# FIND OUT WHAT'S NEW WITH THE SSR - CCCA....COME SEE WHAT'S NEW AT

# HYMAN LTD.!



# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP KICK-OFF MEETING

# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Since 1989 Hyman Ltd. has been internationally known as a purveyor of the finest pre and post-war antique, Classic and special interest automobiles. From the Scottsdale Auctions to Classic sales in Europe and even television shows, Mark Hyman and his crew are well known in car collecting circles worldwide.

We encourage you to bring family and friends to this annual event! You will hear about the state of the collector car market, and see the recent acquisitions in the collection. Find out what our Club has been up to and what we will be doing in 2022. And weather permitting, drive your Classic!

# PLEASE NOTE: MASKS ARE REQUIRED WHILE IN THE BUILDING .... THANK YOU!

We are pleased to once again host the Annual Kick-off Meeting and look forward to seeing you again....

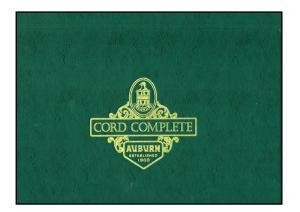
- Mark Hyman

Hyman Ltd. Classic Cars, 2310 Chafee Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63146

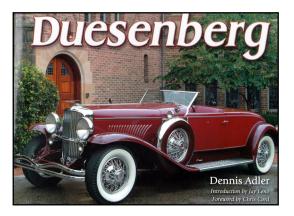
# **Books for The Classic Car**

# Enthusiast - By Jim Schild

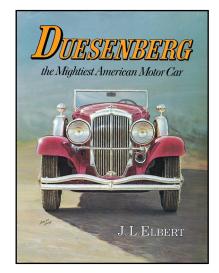
This is a small selection of some of my favorite books from my library that I use for references in my work and study. I highly recommend that any enthusiast or Classic Car owner make reading and studying about our favorite automobiles an important part of your enjoyment. Some of these may be hard to find or out of print but if you can find them they are well worth the investment. I have many more I have left out here.



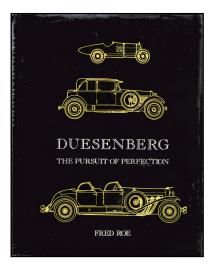
My autographed edition of Josh Malks' 304 page work, **Cord Complete**, is one of the finest historical and technical records for the Cord owner and enthusiast. It is extra large, hardcover and hard cased. It was worth the original \$151.00 price.



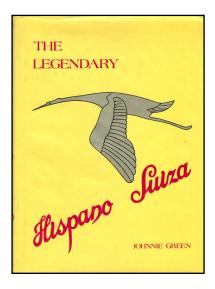
Although Dennis Adler is well-known for his Classic and antique car books, he was also the editor and photographer for **Guns of the Old West magazine** until his recent retirement. His color photography is the best. This book is quality hardbound with a lot of color pictures and lots of technical and historical information. This 276 Page book was originally \$34.95.



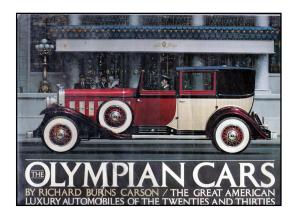
This 190 page book, by Missouri native J.L. Elbert was originally published in 1951 and is considered a "must have" for Duesenberg enthusiasts. It was one of the first books of its kind written back when these cars were not yet considered "Classics."



I am very proud of my personalized, autographed edition of the late Fred Roe's 286 page 1982 work, considered one of the best authorities on Duesenberg, although Fred never owned a Duesenberg. The publisher was Dalton Watson. Fred gave me a large number of important pictures for my Fleetwood book. I used to meet with him each year at the Fall Hershey meeting of the Society of Automotive Historians when I was a board member and Vice-President. Duesenberg authority Randy Ema was always with us in the SAH Hospitality tent in the White Field.



I was able to successfully bid on this rare copy of the 235 page definitive book on the Hispano-Suiza at one of the SAH Silent Auctions while I was the Chairman of that project. This copy was donated from the Alec Ulmann Collection. The book by Johnnie Green, was first published in 1977 by Dalton Watson Publishers in the U.K.

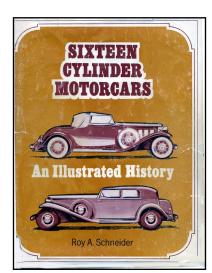


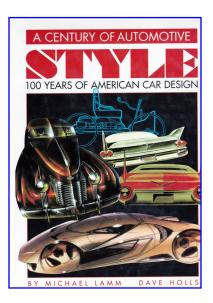
This is the first edition of this great extra large 274 page hardcover book by Richard Burns Carson published in 1976. I got this one when I saw a photo and article about Thomas Warth opening his new collector used book business. I called him right away and told him I wanted the book he was holding in his hand in the picture. British native Tom Warth was the founder of Motorbooks International and publisher of my first Model A Ford book in 1985. Lots of seldom seen photographs of some of the most interesting Classic Cars ever. The book was only \$25.00 when first published. A new edition was published in 1998 by the Upper Midwest Region of the CCCA.



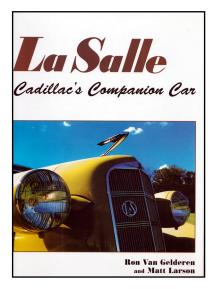
I believe that I may have purchased the last remaining copy of this great 240 page book available from the retail market. The author, Roy A. Schneider was a perfectionist at everything he did and accomplished his work without a computer from a wheelchair until his recent passing. The book includes drawings, photos and details on Cadillac, Marmon and Peerless 16 Cylinder Motorcars. A new edition is planned by Roy's Daughter at some point. This large 354 Anselmi was pusotta-Fraschini technical and h. late friend Robe collection many lished in Italian tional.

This large 354 page hardcover book by author Angelo Tito Anselmi was published in1977 and is the definitive work on Isotta-Fraschini is loaded with photos, drawings and lots of technical and historical information. I got my copy from my late friend Robert Hickman as he was thinning out his book collection many years ago. This book was originally published in Italian and this edition was by Motorbooks International.

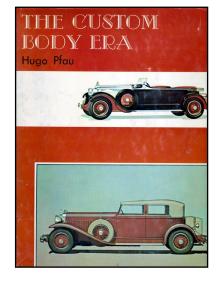




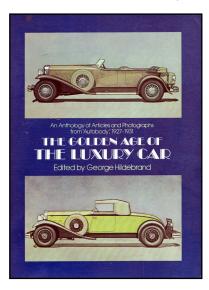
This well-researched book by Historian Michael Lamm My copy of the vary large format 426 Page, hardcover and GM Design Head Dave Holls is the best material ever published on coachbuilders and the design and construction of bodies for Classic Cars. My copy of the large format 306 Page hardcover 1996 book is autographed by Michael Lamm, a fellow SAH Board Member. It was originally \$59.95 and a bargain for what you will learn.



2000 volume on La Salle is autographed by Authors Ron Van Gelderen and Matt Larson, well-respected historians and authors. This book is done the way I like to do my own books with all of the information you could possibly want to know about La Salle. Cadillac's companion car of 1927-1940. As of this past year, all La Salle's are now properly recognized as Full Classics by the CCCA so their interest and value should grow. If you have or are interested in the La Salle you need to own this book. It is loaded with color and B&W photos and illustrations of every model.



One of my more interesting and rare editions is this 232 Page large format hardcover book from 1970 by former LeBaron designer Hugo Pfau. Its great value comes from the fact that Hugo actually worked for LeBaron and the late 1920s and explains the intricacies of the custom body business and how it worked. I acquired This copy from local and colorful Cadillac & La Salle Club member Roger Sprake before his, shall we say, untimely passing in 1991. You will have to ask some of our older members about this story.



This is the one softcover book shown here is from 1980. I chose it because it contains a unique mass of knowledge and details taken from era publications such as Autobody and Custom Salon catalogues of 1927-1931. Its 160 pages are filled with 377 original illustrations and photos of the finest American and foreign custom bodied Classic Cars. It offers colors and finishes found nowhere else. Edited by 1920s Classic designer George Hildebrand

# 1929 La Salle Phaeton—By Todd Tobiasz

Earlier this past year I purchased a 1929 LaSalle Phaeton. Unlike when I purchased my 1936 Cadillac, I got some owner history with this car. As it turns out this car even has history with two of our favorite classic car dealers in St. Louis. And so, shortly after I brought the car home, Kevin Williams sent me an eBay listing for a page from a 2002 the fuel line. The top of the vacuum tank was actually bro-AACA calendar showing my new car. It appeared that the car might have some interesting history and I took this as a sign that I needed to try to find some of that past.

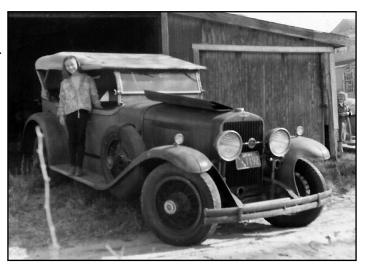
I did an internet search on one of the long-time owners, George Grew, and I found his daughter, Janice. I wrote her a letter and one night in August, as hurricane Henri was bearing down on New England, I got a call from Janice as she sat in the increasing winds off the coast of Massachusetts. We talked for nearly two and a half hours. I could hear the wind in the background and we only got cut off once.

George Grew purchased the car from the family of the original owners in April 1965. The black and white photo was taken at the barn when he pulled the car out. Janice is on the running board and her mom is peeking around the side of the barn on the right side of the photo. She shared a wonderful story from that day. She said that they had driven to the barn in the family Volkswagen. Janice rode with her mom as they followed her father while he drove the car the 18 miles home. It was dusky and she said the headlights picked up several things that appeared to be falling out of the car ahead as they drove. After a while they realized that the LaSalle was shedding mice the whole way home and Janice's mom gave a little jump every time another one hit the pavement.

George liked the car so much he bought it twice. After owning the car for 23 years, George sold the car, still in original condition, to John Stinger. John restored the car around 1992. George bought the car back in 1996. He enjoyed the car and showed it at several venues. He was particularly fond of the color combination, Calais Blue and Galahad Gray. He carried a copy of the build sheet documenting these original colors, because he had been challenged by judges. I understand that he owned several cars but that the LaSalle was one of his favorites.

I purchased it from a southeast Missouri merchant and auto enthusiast. It does not appear that the car has been driven much after it left George Grew's family in 2012. When I purchased the car it started easily enough but it

appeared to run the fuel out of the vacuum tank quickly and required repeated "goosing" with the electric pump. And sometimes not even that would keep the fuel flowing. The fuel filters also filled quickly with sediment. My buddy Jim and I dropped the gas tank and removed the vacuum tank. Rick Quirin took a look at them and gave me the good news that both of them had faults. The tank's baffles were disintegrating and pushing lots of sediment through ken in three pieces and was likely not holding vacuum. I've blown out the fuel lines and they appear to be clean. I've got the repaired vacuum tank with a replaced top that I found on eBay. I'm waiting for the repaired gas tank and the sending unit. I'm anxious to see that these fixes get the LaSalle back on the road reliably. Here's to keeping these cars on the road.



The original 1929 La Salle Phaeton as it rolled out of a barn in the spring of 1965 with young Janice Grew on the running board and her mother to the right of the barn. George Grew Photo



Todd's restored 1929 La Salle as it appears today in the original Calais Blue and Galahad Gray finish.

# Silver Ghost Tour of Virginia and West

Virginia By Wendell Smith



In October Jan and I participated in a two-week 1,400 mile tour of Virginia and West Virginia with approximately fifty other members of the Silver Ghost Association (SGA). The Silver Ghost is the first series of Rolls Royce. were released one class level at a time to come out to visit These cars were manufactured between 1906 and 1926. The Silver Ghosts manufactured after 1915 are all recognized as "Full Classics." There were 23 Silver Ghosts from all over the US and Canada on the tour. Most of the participants transported their cars to the tour via trailer while others drove their cars. We chose to trailer rather than drive our Ghost the additional 1,700 round trip miles from the world." SGA typically has two touring events per year St Louis to Orange, Virginia. Orange is located not far from Washington, DC.

past; however, none has been as challenging, yet fun for me. The tour organizer had grown up in Virginia and taught school in the region during his early career. He knew all of the old roads up and down the Allegheny Mountains. Most of the roads we traveled were two-lane blacktop. A few of the blacktop roads had center lines and guard rails; however, most did not. It seemed like every road we were on had hairpin turns. On occasion, we even found ourselves on gravel roads and crossing one-lane pre-Civil War bridges. In one instance we forded a stream that had hub deep water due to recent rains. Participants that had taken Alpine Tour reenactments said our tour was even more rigorous.

We typically drove approximately 100 miles per day and spent two nights in historic resort. Our stops included Civil War battlefields, historical museums, and venues where we could provide others with the interesting history of our vehicles. One of the educational sites, for example, was a junior high school. Prior to the tour we provided

the teachers at the school with information regarding the past ownership and mechanical features of each car. We parked in the school parking lot all morning while kids with us and sit in the cars. This resulted in our most embarrassing mechanical failure on the tour. My battery ran down as a result of enthusiastic kids trying out the horn. Jan ended up having to push the car so we could get it started.

Silver Ghosts are often noted as being the "best car in (a one-week tour and a two-week tour). Most of the owners are very familiar with their cars and personally preform I have participated in numerous car club tours in the the minimal maintenance that is usually required on a Ghost. There is no trouble truck accompanying SGA tours. Owners routinely go out to the parking lot an hour or so before the daily scheduled departure time. We perform a walk-around inspection, lubricate a few critical points, and warm the car up. The average age of the 23 cars on the tour was well over 100, ranging from 1908 to 1926. All of the Ghosts completed the tour without "failure to proceed" which is what Rolls Royce calls a breakdown.



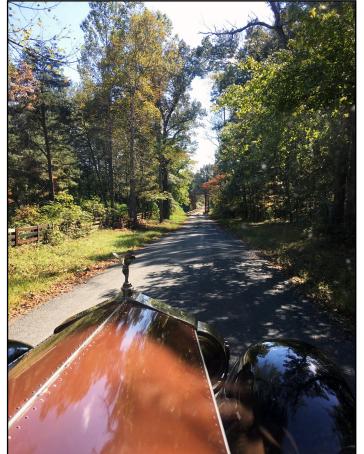
A Roadside Picnic.



Ghost Tours are not just for guys.



A Ghost gathering at the hotel at the start of the tour.



Fall foliage along the way was a colorful part of this tour experience for everyone.

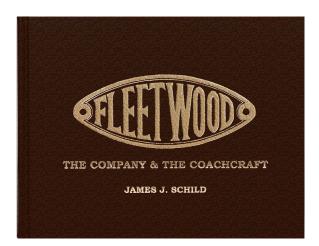


Our visit with Junior High School children during the Virginia Tour was a fine way to get new generations to appreciate Classic Cars and historic vehicles.

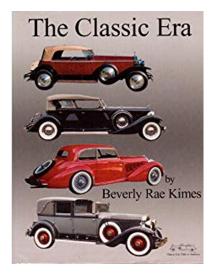


Wendell and Jan deemed this old bridge unsafe to cross for a 5,000 pound Silver Ghost..

# THE CLASSIC BOOKSHELF



The SSR Region proudly announces a re-issue of the book *Fleetwood, The Company and The Coachcraft*, by Region member James J. Schild. Long out of print, and a must for all Classic Car enthusiasts, the book is printed on high quality paper, and is the authoritative work on Fleetwood coachwork supplied to the finest American and European car manufacturers. Awarded the prestigious **Maurice Hendry Award** for excellence in journalistic contributions by the Cadillac & La Salle Club in 2012, and the **Thomas McKean Memorial Cup** by the Antique Automobile Club of America in 2013. Brown leatherette cover with gold foil stamping, 464 pages, 1100 b/w illustrations. \$99.50 postpaid. International buyers, please contact us for a shipping quote. Order your copy today from the SSR Region via email at ssr.ccca@yahoo.com, or via our webstore at www.spiritccca.com.



The SSR has a limited supply of the award winning book, *The Classic Era*, by the late Beverly Rae Kimes, available for sale. Hardcover, 8-1/2 x 11, 720 Pages. The top and bottom cover Classics are owned by SSR members. These books are brand new and a must for the Classic Car enthusiast. \$50.00. To reserve a copy, contact Bob Radel at 314-991-3590.

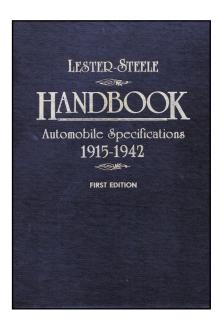
# NORWOOD HILLS COUNTRY CLUB IS CELEBRATING THEIR 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



To help them celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Norwood Hills Country Club has asked SSR – CCCA for 3-4 Classic Cars to display near the entrance to the main clubhouse. The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2022, from 4-6pm. Club management has asked that cars be in place by 3pm. To show their appreciation, the Club will make a financial donation to the SSR. If interested, please contact Dave Groerich at 314-607-7071, or email at dave.groerich@gmail.com.

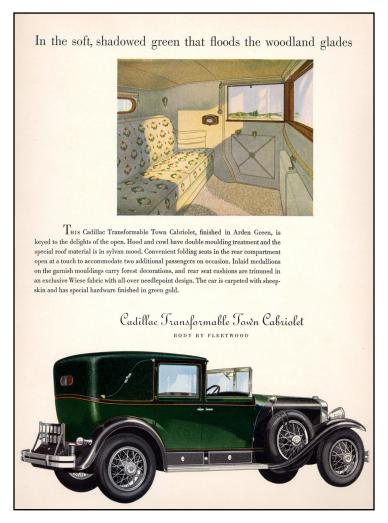
I have the Lester Steele 1st Edition book For Sale. 9-7/8" x 12-1/2" 746 Pages, Hardbound. This volume is no longer available. I would like to receive \$225.00 or best offer for it. Thank you. Dave Groerich 314 607 7071 Dave.groerich@gmail.com

For Sale: 1977 Lincoln. Owned by local Cadillac & La Salle Club member Pete Dapkus.
Excellent condition. Call his Daughter Pat at:
314-807-4773 or email—pwhitedove76@aol.com for more information.



Jim Schild 5 Rowan Oak Lane Columbia, IL 62236





From "Color Creations From Nature's Studios", Fisher Body Corporation, 1928.

# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

January 2022	
Mecum Kissimmee, Florida Auction, www.mecum.com	6-16 January, 2022
>>CCCA Annual Meeting, Palm Beach, Florida	5-9 January, 2022
February 2022	
>>2022 Membership Kick-Off Meeting at Hyman's Ltd. 11:00-2:00.	5 February, 2022
>>Deadline for Spark Plug Submissions and ads.	20 February, 2022
March 2022	
>>Spirit Night. Location TBD. First Tuesday of March.	1 March, 2022
>>Norwood Hills Country Club Display, 4-6 p.m. 3-4 Classic Cars. See info page15	5 March, 2022
Mecum Glendale, Arizona Auction, www.mecum.com	16-19 March, 2022