

# The Kisselgraph

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Official Publication of the Kissel Kar Klub  
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## **Kissel Gathering June 2009:**

At the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we discussed several times on how often we should have our Kissel gatherings. Some were at every and some were at every five years, some were at some place in between. So what we decided to do is to go somewhere in between. June 20th, we're going to do another Kissel gathering. We will have several activities planned, including the Banquet meeting Saturday night. We will also have some activities for the early arrivals on Friday, and for those leaving late on Sunday. And of coarse, our files will be open to anyone who needs them to gather information for their cars. Certainly hope we will be able to get more cars here and some different ones. There have been a lot of changes in ownership and restoration progress that have been

completed. We would certainly like to see how every one is doing!

**Just for early information, attached is a list of Motels and Bed and Breakfast, in the area.**

## **Kissel Owners Pass Away:**

Grant Quam and Chuck Cummings, are recent Kissel owners that have passed away. In the case of Mr. Quam, his cars were given to his family. In the case of Chuck Cummings his Speedster with extra parts, along with a Victoria Coupe were sold at Auction November 30<sup>th</sup>. We certainly regret their passing. Senior Quam I have never met. Chuck Cummings I have met several times, especially since he and I have shared another Hobby together. We'll certainly miss them.

### **Restorations:**

Well, it's happening again, many purchases have been made over this past year. Another Kissel has been saved in Australia, John Lewis bought the 1928, 65-5 Speedster from J.V. Carmody, also from Australia, this then gives him two Kissel Speedsters and I wish him a lot of luck in his continuing efforts to preserve them. By the way he has written a little book, "**Kissel Cars Down Under**" available here if you wish to purchase. Along those same lines, The Kissel was purchased by Lynn Kissel. There is attached article that he has kindly provided us for as a guest comment, I'm sure you will enjoy his very clever writing. Tom Harrington has been very busy restoring cars, as are many others. Keep us informed, the easiest way to write a newsletter is if people tell you what is going on.

### **RonHausmann/Tom**

#### **Harrington:**

Along with Ron and Tom, several Klub members have been winning awards all over the United States. Ron is the most recent one to participate in very many shows and has won many awards. The Kissels always attract attention; there is

no question about it. There are so few out there, you cannot help to look at them with awe. For those who like winning awards, doing it with a Kissel is a fine thing to do. It certainly raises the value of the Kissel car, which have been somewhat, neglected over the last thirty-fourty years for its real capabilities, design and construction.

### **Cars for Sale:**

There are several people in the membership that have Kissels for sale; Such as Bonnie Strand/Rare 1929 8-126 Brougham. Rather than list them in the newsletter you should put the notice on the internet web page, for the Kissel Kar Klub. [www.starship.org/kisselklubBB/](http://www.starship.org/kisselklubBB/) also keep me informed as I do get phone calls outside of the club membership from people that are looking to purchase Kissel's. Of course, they are always looking for Speedsters, but when they start looking at the price, sometimes they change their mind and are satisfied with something other than a Speedster. Either way if you wish to sell your Kissel, keep us informed.

### **Hall of Fame:**

The Wisconsin Automotive Museum has been designated as the Southeastern Wisconsin Short Track Hall of Fame.



As such we have several dirt track racing cars on display, along with tons and tons of memorabilia. The opening event and induction into the Hall of Fame took place November 3<sup>rd</sup> where twenty people were inducted into it. There were over five hundred fifty people in attendance for this event. This will be a regular yearly event, and we're very please to have this separate collection. With any museum you must have the things that people like to see, and this is another segment of the car collection hobby.

### **Grant Money:**

As I have indicated in previous newsletter, we did receive another two hundred and fifty thousand dollar matching grant, to continue with phase two of the modernization and upgrading of equipment for the Wisconsin Automotive Museum. We're getting close to our match, which is sixty thousand dollars. Yes, we are getting closer and closer, **but any help that you may wish to provide would be genuinely appreciated.** Also as you all know there is not a dues structure for the Kissel Kar Klub. Donations can be made directly to the Kissel Kar Klub for those activities. All are tax deductible as

we are 501(c)3 Non-profit educational organization.

### **A Rendezvous with Annie in Hartford! Guest Article**

By Lynn Kissel, Livermore, California

All the vehicles owned by Jeanne and me have names. Why, doesn't everyone anthropomorphize\* their vehicles by giving them names? Some Kisselkar klub members have already met (at least parts) of *Bugsby*, our 1924 Kissel 6-55 Speedster. Jeanne and I brought the running chassis of the oldest of twelve Australian Kissels to the 100-year anniversary celebration of the Kissel Motor Car Company in Hartford in 2006. Since then the car has been successfully reassembled and is back on the road. He runs beautifully.

(Bugsby's name is intended to conjure images of the "Jazz Age" as described in F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*. On one hand I fantasize about opulence and glamour of the "roaring" 1920s, yet am simultaneously bothered by the lack of morality and unrestrained materialism that this era of unprecedented prosperity represents. Maybe this story has some lessons for us in our own times?)

Given this predilection for naming our cars, you might not be surprised that we've selected *Annie* as the name for our new (old) 1914 KisselKar 4-40 Touring. Annie was formerly owned by E. Ann (Fisher) Klein (d. March 31, 2007, in Elizabethtown, PA). Ann's ~~grand~~father acquired the car in the fall of 1949 from John Edward Julian (b. June 8, 1928; d. July 2, 1999, in Milwaukee, WI). The car was painted in the fall of 1949 and an initial "F" matching the pin striping is applied to each side of the car body between the doors. Ann Klein wrote that when John Julien purchased the car, Annie was being used to power a farm saw and that John "brought her back to life."

Some of you may know that Ann Klein founded Universal Vintage Tire in 1968, to satisfy the demands of avid collectors (in particular her husband) to drive on vintage tires. Part of her car collection including Annie and a rare 1931 "blower" boat tail Bentley were sold by Gooding & Company at auction at Pebble Beach in 2007. (The Bentley went for no less than \$4.51M – that's *mil lions* of dollars!)

Jeanne and I acquired Annie (sight unseen) in October 2008, from Hyman Ltd Classic Cars in St. Louis, Missouri.

With the permission of Dale Anderson, we had the car shipped directly in the Wisconsin Automotive Museum in Hartford for display. I'm in Hartford, now (December 10-13, 2008), to get my first real look at our pretty girl. My timing is impeccable as I arrive in the middle of the biggest storm of the winter season, to date. While it isn't something I would have wished for, as I crawl at times at 10 mph on the drive from Chicago, the resulting fresh snow makes everything in Hartford especially beautiful.

Dale has graciously helped me make connections with a local mechanic and upholsterer to begin some needed repairs on the car. With luck, Annie will be in a more presentable state befitting a lady of her age for the **next meeting of the KisselKar Klub on Father's Day weekend, June 20th, 2009**. I expect that Jeanne and I will be there with Annie.

**Will we see you there, too?**

Annie's car number is 15471 (engine #15457). Currently only two other 1914 Kissel 4-40s are listed in the KisselKar Klub roster. One car is a 5-passenger Touring owned by Andrew Wilson (Brunswick ME), car number 15068 (engine #15118). The other car is a rebodied Semi-Racer (formerly also a 5-



passenger Touring owned by John Quam (Montara, CA), car number 15314 (engine #15240). Note that the engine numbers are in the same 15xxx sequence as the body numbers. I don't know for sure, but it would seem reasonable to me that Kissel wouldn't assign the same serial number to both a body and an engine.

It is reported that 1914 Kissel 4-40 cars were assigned numbers 15001-15601; numbers 15602-16000 are not listed as being assigned to any other vehicles of any year (Grace Brigham, The Serial Number Book for U.S. Cars 1900-1975). Kissel was known to pre-assign vehicle numbers, so not all numbers necessarily resulted in a manufactured vehicle. This would imply that no more than 600 1914 Model 40 vehicles were produced. If the speculation that 15xxx serial numbers were individually used for either a body or an engine but never for both, than fewer than **300 1914 Model 40 vehicles were produced.**

Kissel total production for 1914 is quoted as being 896 (TROMBINOSCAR.) In 1914, Kissel produced model 40, 48 and 60 cars, and a line of trucks of 1500 pound, 1-1/2 ton and 5 ton sizes. It

seems reasonable to me that 300 1914 Model 40 cars may have produced (about 1/3 of the total production). It seems less likely to me that Model 40 cars represented 2/3 of the total 1914 production by Kissel.

The list price for a 1914 Kissel 4-40 5-passenger Touring was \$1,850 f.o.b. ("freight on board" Hartford, WI). If you use the CPI (Consumer Price Index) to adjust this price, Annie would cost about \$40,500 in 2008 dollars.

I'm very interested to learn more about the history of Annie. If you can add anything to my brief narrative please feel free to contact me (send email to [Annie@starship.org](mailto:Annie@starship.org), or call me at home on 925-294-8047).

You can learn more about Annie, Bugsby, Penny, Moleka, Goldie, Gypsy, the Beast, Bullet and Scout at our website <http://starship.org>.

\*Anthropomorphism is the attribution of uniquely human characteristic and the qualities to nonhuman beings, inanimate objects, or natural or supernatural phenomena.

## Lodging in the Area

### **Americinn Motel & Suites – Hartford**

1527 East Sumner Street  
Hartford, WI 53077  
262 673-2200 or 800 634-3444

### **Americinn Motel & Suite – West Bend**

2424 West Washington Street  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262 334 0307 or 800 634-3444

### **Comfort Inn & Suites**

W227 N16890 Tillie Lake Court  
Jackson, WI 53037  
262 677-1133 or 800-4choice

### **Country Inn & Suites – Germantown**

W188 N11020 Maple Rd  
Germantown, WI 53022  
262 251-7700 or 800 456-4000

### **Country Inn & Suite – West Bend**

2000 Gateway Court  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262 334-9400 or 800-456-4000

### **Westphal Mansion Inn Bed & Breakfast**

90 S. Main Street  
Hartford, WI 53027  
262 673-7938

## 1926 Special Equipment Prices

Snubbers.....	\$35
Bumpers.....	\$35
Clock.....	\$15
Heater.....	\$20
Tire Cover.....	\$5
Dunn Spring Oilers.....	\$5
Spot Light.....	\$10
Combination Cigar Lighter Ash Tray And Trouble Lamp.....	\$7
SOS Horn in Place Of Regular.....	\$10
Kick Plates set of 4.....	\$5
Tire Lock.....	\$5
Vanity Cases.....	\$15
Special Color.....	\$50
Special Color wheels only.....	\$15
Radiator Bar Cap.....	\$10
Nickel-plating Bumpers.....	\$15
Windshield Wings.....	\$20
Electric Windshield Wiper.....	\$10
Wire Wheels Set of 5.....	\$115
Budd Disc Wheels Set of 5.....	\$75
Drop Front Seat.....	\$100
Stationary Window rear Quarter of Sedan.....	\$50
Mounting Tire Carriers on side..	\$100
Curtains for Side Windows.....	\$20
Double Tire Carrier and Extra Rim.....	\$15