

The Kisselgraph

☆☆☆ The official newsletter of the KisselKar Klub ☆☆☆

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Anita King on the Road in a KisselKar in 1915



From the Wisconsin Automotive Museum, published in *A Reliable Car and a Woman Who Knows It*, by Curt McConnell, 2000 (McFarland & Co).

Many Klub members know of Anita King because of her solo 1915 drive across the USA, using a Kissel automobile in that feat. Yet, few of us have know more of King's interesting life story until now. Purdue University Northwest student Kayla M Vasilko has made it her mission to help bring Anita's story to life and we learn more about her project is this issue.

Anita King was born Aug. 14, 1884, as Anna Kepplen in Michigan City, Indiana. At the age of 14, she would become an orphan, the oldest of eight siblings. Family was of great importance to her, and Anita would care for her siblings even after moving to Hollywood.

A modeling career in her late teens led to stage acting in Chicago. Following advice from actress Lillian Russell, Anna Kepplen became Anita King and moved out west. Working as a auto show model, she became interested in automobiles, becoming the first woman to compete in auto races until an accident encouraged her to go back to a career in acting.

Overheard by Anita, a conversation between director Cecil B DeMille and producer Jesse Lasky speculated it would be years before a woman could travel alone across the country using the newly built Lincoln Highway, stimulating Anita to undertake her epic road trip.

Inside this issue, a special exhibit created by Kayla is noted at the La Porte County Historical Museum (Indiana) which features a KisselKar Touring; new on-line resources from this effort are listed.

The Kisselgraph is published for the benefit of members of the KisselKar Klub through substantial support from the Wisconsin Automotive Museum.

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Please forward Kissel-related activities, proposed articles and other KisselKar Klub correspondence to the editor, Lynn Kissel.

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Our website is an on-line presence for the KisselKar Klub and features a **gallery of member vehicles**, back issues of *The Kisselgraph* and other information.

Website: <http://kisselkar.net/>

E-mail: webmaster@kisselkar.net



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Card # _____ Expiration date _____

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Send this form and your tax-deductible contribution to:

**Wisconsin Automotive Museum
147 N. Rural Street
Hartford, WI 53027**

From the editor

It's a Go! Our Kissel Meet 2021 is Scheduled for Launch Aug 27-29

By Lynn Kissel

I am pleased to declare that we are in final planning to hold our virus delayed 2020 meet on **August 27-29, 2021**, in Hartford Wisconsin.

“Kissel Meet 2021: At a Glance...” is a high-level graphic overview of our meet. As we finalize our plans, you can always find the latest details on our **event website**.

kisselkar.net/Events/2021/Meet2021/

Here are some of the activities and the members helping to make them a reality.

Car Show

Chuck Kissel (Yorba Linda, California) is working through the details of our **car show** on **Saturday**. I'm excited to learn that there are plans for short, owner-led discussions at each vehicle. Chuck has plans for signage with similar information on each vehicle at each vehicle. There may also be posters that help place these exhibits within a more general context and history of the Kissel Motor Car Company. In spite of significant barriers, Chuck is working to provide era-appropriate music to help us set the mood and buoy our spirits. Exhibited cars are expected to be in place from 9 AM to 2 PM, after that, the judging and official program ends. Exhibitors are encourage to stick around until 4 pm. Go, Chuck!

Driving Tour

Doug and Sheila Kissel (Hartford, Wisconsin) are designing a **driving tour** on **Friday**. I understand that they plan a fun geo-location game for participants. Doug and Sheila will wrap-up our active day with a social hour and **fish fry**. Wisconsin

fish fries are something special and a thing I always look for on my visits to the state.

The driving tour **requires real time driving instructions given only a numerical latitude and longitude**. (For example, using 43.321840,-88.381979, can you find driving instructions? These are the coordinates of the Wisconsin Automotive Museum.) We will be publishing setup of a smartphone that participants should verify before tour day.

Let's go touring with our century-old vehicles, enjoy a delicious fish dinner and spend some quality social time together.

Ladies Activity

Sheila Kissel (Hartford, Wisconsin) and **Jeanne Kissel** (Cameron Park, California) are planning a **ladies event** on **Saturday**. This event includes a visit to an historic covered bridge, lunch in Cedarburg with quaint and historic shops, and stops at a winery and an old mill. The ladies have time for a thorough review of the show cars before heading out on their own adventure.

Presentations

Mark A Kissel (Evergreen, Colorado) is coordinating **presentations**. Mark created a document on our event website with **presentation guidelines**. Please note that Mark has requested some summary **information from presenters with a July 21, 2021, deadline**. Mark's guidelines allow for a wide range in the delivery of talks and strives to minimize burden on the speaker; please locate the one page of guidelines on the event website to learn more.

I'm hoping there will be reports by members who have solved a difficult technical or historical issue related to their antique vehicle. Will others solicit help with issues that remain unsolved, or give our cars context with reflections of life and history

during the first third of the Twentieth Century? I'm hoping to hear some real pearls of wisdom. I know that we have interesting things to share. (Talks with a piece of hardware or a demonstration are always exciting.)

Here's a couple of titles I am considering.

Perils of a 6V positive(+) ground car in a 12V negative(-) ground world

Secrets of a 1929 Kissel 8-95 Tourster

Please forward the information requested by Mark at your earliest convenience, but no later than the **July 21 deadline**, by email to "mark.a.kissel@gmail.com".

Kissel Parts Exchange

Ron Hausmann (Birmingham, Michigan) is working the **Kissel Parts Exchange**. Ron has already initiated this effort and you can find out more on the **members section of our website**. There you will find a description of the effort and how to contact Ron. You should tell Ron about your excess Kissel items or needs.

Ron notes that he can offer free shipping to the meet for items that he has for sale. Contact Ron to discuss the particulars.

www.kisselkar.net/Members/KPE/

You can contact Ron with email to "ronaldhausmann@yahoo.com".

Banquet and More

Dawn Bondhus (St Lawrence, Wisconsin) and the staff of the Wisconsin Automotive Museum will be providing the **facilities** that make our meet possible. Dawn is handling **registration**, our **banquet** and **vendors**. Without Dawn's work and the support of the museum, our meet would not be happening.

While insurance restrictions prevents fueled cars with connected batteries on the museum floor, there is **limited overnight parking** for running vehicles in the "train shed." If you are bringing a vehicle and

need overnight parking, you should definitely get on Dawn's **train-shed list**.

You can contact Dawn with email to "info@wisconsinautomuseum.com".

Lynn Kissel (Cameron Park, California) is working **awards and judging**, and **publicity**. He will also convene a meeting of the **Klub Board of Directors on Thursday**. That meeting is open to all members. Contact Lynn Kissel via email to "editor@kisselkar.net".

Meet Registration and Deadlines

When I last checked, the museum had received only a handful of applications. **Now is the time to act, please submit your registration**. You can find a form on our website and there is a copy in this issue.

Based on constraints imposed by catering and ordering of merchandise, we have established **August 1** as our registration deadline; also the last day to request a no-fault refund of a prior registration.

Pandemic Protocol

The Covid-19 pandemic remains a concern and our meet is a "large meeting" as defined by the CDC; it will bring together people from multiple households from different parts of the country. All attendees are requested to review the pandemic protocol on our event website. If you still have concerns, please bring them to my attention.

Lodging

We have no rooms blocked at local hotels. There is a list of local hotels and contact information on our event website. I'm not aware of any large events competing for lodging, but it makes sense to reserve your lodging early.

Help Make Things Better

A realization came to me earlier this year as Jeanne and I first ventured forth on a visit to a national monument after more

than a year in semi isolation; the world had changed. In my opinion, “the needle” has been permanently shifted; we will never get back to the way things were before; society is adjusting toward a new normal.

I hear it in conversations, at the moment, there is a sense of optimism and that things are getting better. But I think it is undeniable that the pandemic has left a bitter mark.

I respectfully suggest that we all show more than usual tolerance for off-normal

occurrences at our meeting and when are traveling to and from it. I will endeavor to be wearing my “travelers cloak” that helps me cope with things like a missed meal or a perceived slight. I sense a lot of tension in society and hope that our meeting helps us reduce the angst.

I’m ready for a Klub meet! I am hoping to see you in Hartford in August.

Contact Lynn Kissel via email to “editor@kisselkar.net”.

John and Gail Lewis (Brisbane, Australia) send their regrets on traveling to *Kissel Meet 2021*.

We should note that issues beyond those in the USA are impacting our members. As a member of the Klub Board, John has been tracking our plans and tells your editor...

“Gail and I will be unable to attend due to travel restrictions into and out of Australia. We were hopeful that the situation may have eased by now, however, this is not the case and we have had to cancel our plans to attend.

We are still restricted to domestic Australian travel. The Australian borders have been closed since the start of the pandemic and anyone arriving in Australia is required to complete a mandatory two-week hotel quarantine which is government run and costs around \$3500 per person. Many Australian citizens are having difficulty getting home. The Australian Government is talking about restricting general overseas travel until at least the end of 2022.

We are bitterly disappointed at not being able to catch up with all our Kissel friends and missing out on making new ones. Gail and I look forward to hearing about the success of the event and seeing many of the photos taken over the weekend. We will be with you in spirit.”



Herman (foreground) and Annie at the Wisconsin Automotive Museum. (Dawn Bondhus)

Andrew and Cindy Wilson (Brunswick, Maine) also send their regrets on *Kissel Meet 2021*. In the case of the Wilsons, the time we selected for the meet conflicted with another car tour commitment. The Klub was aware of their conflict when we selected our date, but we could not accommodate all the constraints on the date. The Wilsons are the owner of **Herman**, a 1914 KisselKar 4-40 Touring (car# 15068), the older brother of Annie whose story also appears in this issue. Herman is currently on display in the Wisconsin Automotive Museum, and is one-of-three surviving 1914 Model 4-40 Kissels.

Registration Form KisselKar Klub Meet

August 27-29, 2021, Hartford, Wisconsin

Kissel vehicle owners, family and friends are cordially invited to celebrate the vehicles, people and history of the Kissel Motor Car Company. The 2021 KisselKar Klub Meet will feature a driving tour, display of vehicles, swap meet, presentations, banquet with award presentations, and a concluding light breakfast and conversation with friends at the museum on Sunday morning.

Pre-meet activities include a Klub Board meeting on the afternoon of Thursday (8/26) and a Schauer Center Courtyard Concert.

Registration deadline is **August 1, 2021**. Make checks payable to the "**Wisconsin Automotive Museum**". Please mail check and completed registration form to "**KisselKar Meet 2020, 147 N. Rural Street, Hartford, WI 53027**".

Principal Contact: _____
(Please print name exactly as you want it to appear on your nametag)

Additional Names: _____
(Print names exactly as you want them to appear on the nametags, comma separated)

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____
(Helpful for contact at the meet)

Address: _____

Bringing a Kissel vehicle? _____
(Year, Model, Body Style; please enclose a photo or email to 'editor@kisselkar.net')

Registration (one per attendee)? _____ # of people x \$10/person = \$ _____

Going on the Friday driving tour? _____ # of people

Attending the Friday fish fry? _____ # of people x \$25/person = \$ _____
(price includes gratuity; non-fish entrée available upon special request)

Attending the Saturday banquet? _____ # of people x \$35/person = \$ _____

Attending the Sunday breakfast? _____ # of people

Klub Meet embroidered shirts? _____ # shirts x \$35/shirt = \$ _____

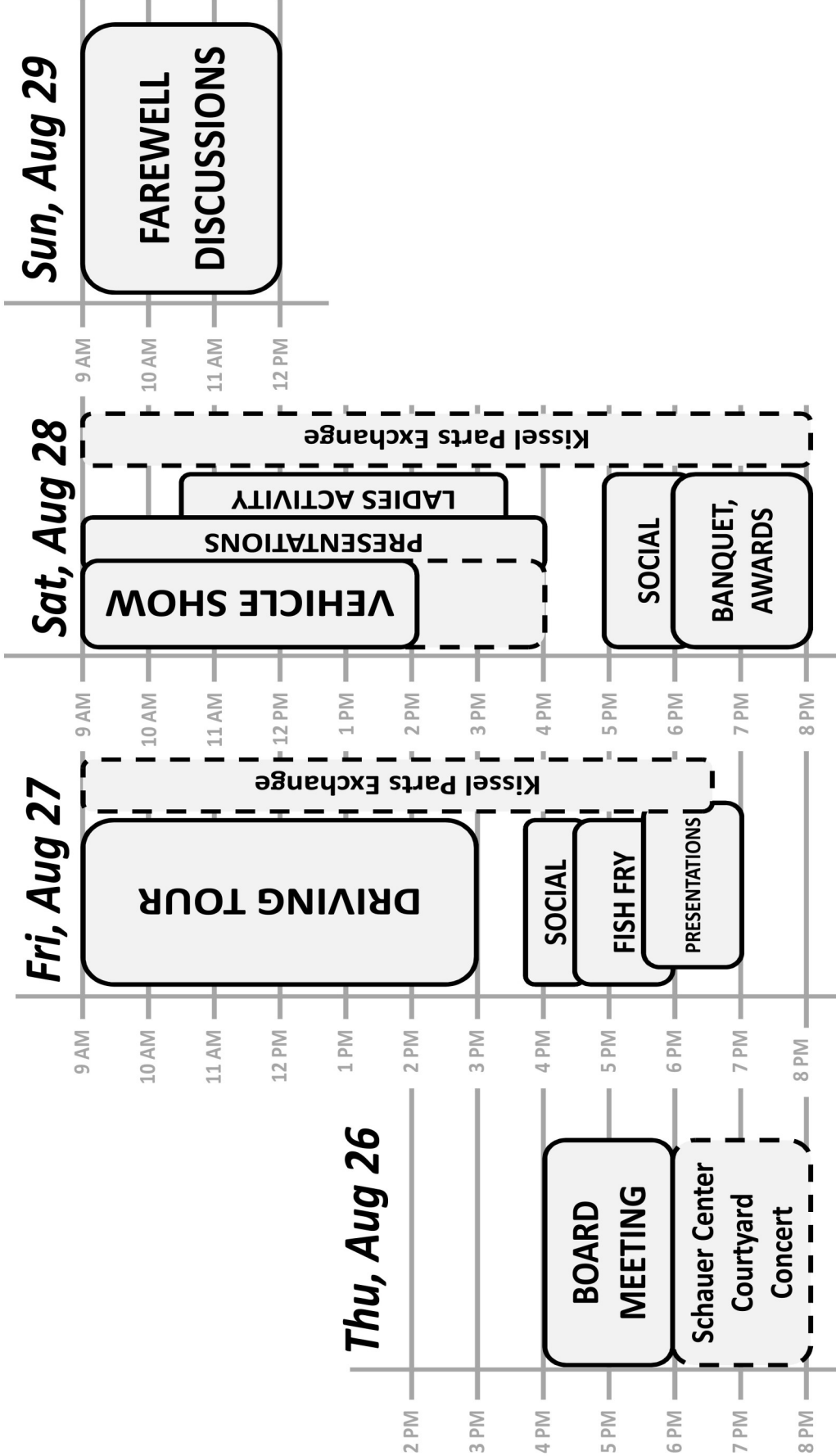
Mens: ___ # XS, ___ # S, ___ # M, ___ # L, ___ # XL, ___ # 2XL, ___ # 3XL

Womans: ___ # XS, ___ # S, ___ # M, ___ # L, ___ # XL, ___ # 2XL, ___ # 3XL

Total = \$ _____

Kissel Meet 2021

At A Glance...



In Brief...

Find *InBrief* files on the Klub website, www.kisselkar.net. From the home page, click on the “*Members*” link, then “*The Kisselgraph*” link to find the *InBrief* files here.

<https://kisselkar.net/Members/Kisselgraph/InBrief/2021/>



(Ronald Hausmann)

Ronald Hausmann has sent us this extensive article, at my request, on his recreation of a **1917 Kissel Light Army Truck** (car# 38-4444). This is quite a remarkable project with an impressive outcome.

Ron has done some research into what kind of trucks Kissel *might* have built. While finding reports of staff cars and trucks supplied by Kissel to the US Army, Ron found no pictures of actual vehicles. He did find one of a Kissel-built light truck supplied to the Serbian Army!

After reviewing images of light trucks used in World War I, Ron recognized that many of the designs were similar. Using these characteristics, he created the light army truck that Kissel might have built.

Ron's looking for a suitable artillery piece to pull behind his truck!

[_____HausmannR_1917-truck.pdf](#)

We've heard that **Doug Kissel** presented “**Kissel: The 360 Experience**” at the **Wisconsin Automotive Museum** on June 23. Pulling his **1925 Kissel 6-55 Enclosed Speedster** (car# 55-5003) from the display line at the museum for a up close and personal look, Doug shared his knowledge of the car and company that his grandfather, William L Kissel, built, also sharing his expertise on the restoration of his 1925 Speedster.

[_____KisselD_1925-360.pdf](#)

Kayla M Vasilko has sent a list of the many on-line resources that have resulted from her special project to study and illuminate the life of actress **Anita King**. Titles and hyperlinks to these articles are collected in this HTML document. Kayla's detailed WordPress website is quite impressive, it beautifully organizes her extensive research and makes for easy viewing. You can also enjoy listening to an interview with her on Public Radio.

[____VasilkoKM_AnitaKing.htm](#)

Doug Kissel had fuel delivery issues with his **1927 Kissel 8-75 Brougham** (car# 75-5436), evidenced by heavy carbon deposits and too-easy cold starts. These problems started after installing an **electric fuel pump** that replaced a vacuum fuel pump. Without success after rebuilding the carb and installing an in-line regulator, Doug took two steps to successfully regulate the fuel pressure at the carb without an in-line regulator: 1) installed a "tee" in line to the carb, with a return-to-tank line; 2) used a PWM (pulse width modulator) as a DC speed controller for the electric pump. Combined with a new, universal Zenith carburetor, Doug happily declares that his car never ran better.

Doug estimates the sub-PSI pressure at the carburetor created by a vacuum fuel pump. My estimate of about 0.2 PSI from a 6-8" head of gasoline is even lower than Doug's. If unregulated, most electric pumps deliver much more pressure than vintage carburetors can handle, overwhelming the float and needle valve.

[____KisselD_fuel-pressure.pdf](#)

Charles D "Chuck" Kissel has been doing research on the Warner Gear T5B-1 transmission in the **1930 Kissel 8-95 Sedan** (car# 95-4616) that he owns with his father **Charles L Kissel**. Chuck has found a detailed 20-page document with lots of background information on the **Warner**

Gear Company, which has become BorgWarner, today.

[____KisselCD_WarnerHistory.pdf](#)

Lynn and Jeanne Kissel had a coming-out-party of sorts with **Miss Amy**, their **1929 Kissel White Eagle Tourster** (car# 95-1504) formerly owned and restored by Joseph Koller. After more than six months of effort, Lynn was ready to show the car to other members at a Norcal CCA event, taking the 92-year-old vehicle on a 35-40 mile tour with back-seat passengers!

[____KisselL_MissAmy-cotillion.pdf](#)

Lynn Kissel took these Memorial Day weekend photos of his immediate family loading into **Miss Amy** (see previous note), for a drive around the neighborhood. Grandpa Lynn (behind the camera in these photos) feels a lot of self satisfaction with these Kissels in a Kissel. In spite of an uncertain and changing world, everyone in these pictures has appeared to flourish under the pressure; interesting.

[____KisselL_MissAmy-family.pdf](#)

Lynn Kissel is working hard to make his recently acquired **Miss Amy** (see previous note) a reliable touring car. In this note, Lynn shows us the dual, independent, redundant, AMG batteries he's installed in the car.

Over many months Lynn has systematically disassembled, inspected, fixed or enhanced, and then reassembled all of the easy stuff, and some of the hard stuff on Miss Amy. With encouragement, maybe we can get him to document some more of these efforts.

Lynn has particularly focused on things he considers foundational to care-free touring in a 92-year-old automobile, like the starting battery.

[____KisselL_MissAmy-batteries.pdf](#)



Anita King Tribute

By Lynn Kissel

Wife Jeanne and I have loaned *Annie* (our 1914 KisselKar 4-40 Touring, car# 15471) to the LaPorte County Historical Society Museum (Indiana) to be a part of a special exhibit for Anita King, the Paramount Girl. Born in LaPorte County, Anita has a fascinating life story. Today, Anita is best known for her 1915 solo drive across the USA, the first woman to accomplish this feat. Of particular note to Klub members is that she completed this adventure in a 1915 KisselKar 6-42.

Kayla M Vasilko (Purdue University Northwest) is completing a two-year research project on Anita King, and is the curator of this special exhibit. Kayla, pictured here in driving goggles and boots, transformed our KisselKar Touring into this tribute to Anita. The opening reception for the exhibit was held May 15 and Kayla sent me these photos.

Jeanne and I are tickled with the resulting transformation of our favorite car. We are delighted that our Kissel horseless carriage is helping to bring the century-old Anita King story to life. We hope it serves

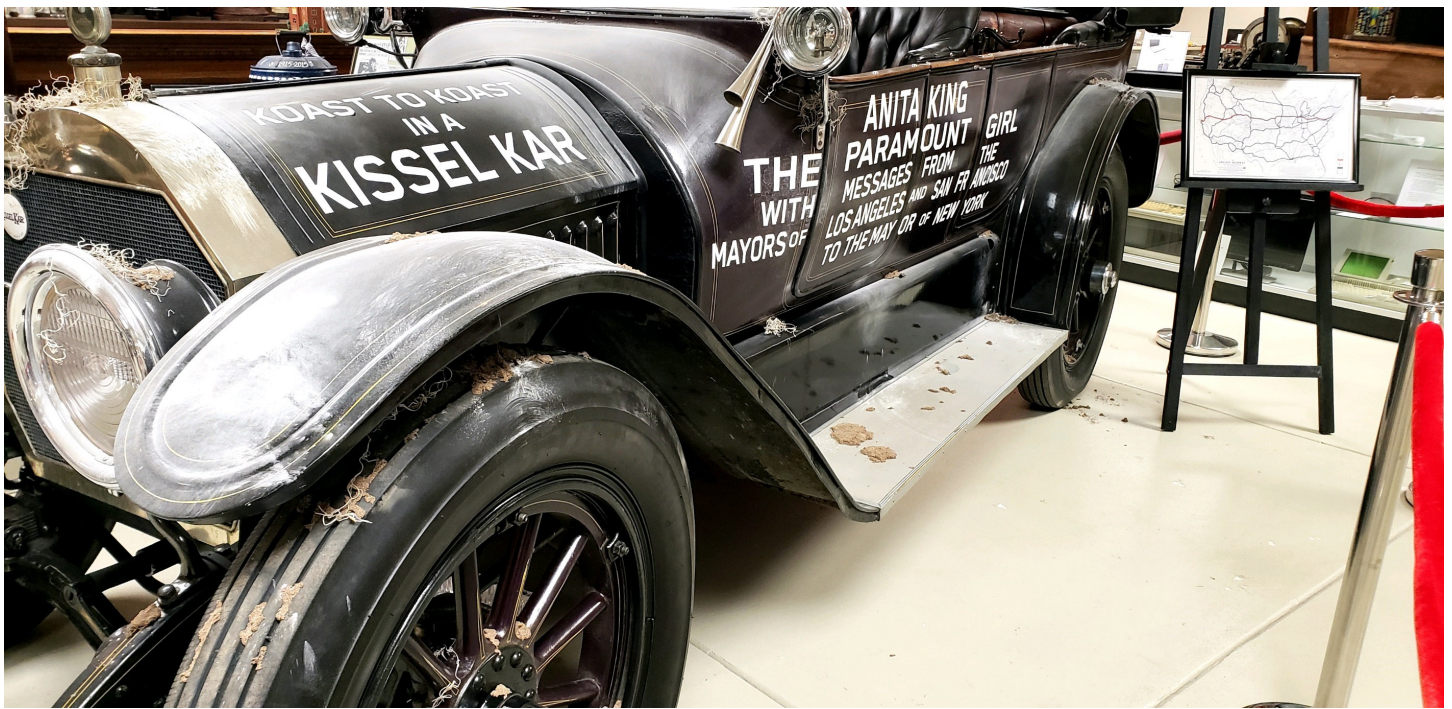


(All photos, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum)

as an inspiration to a new generation of women.

Contact Lynn Kissel via email to 'editor@kisselkar.net'.





The KisselKar Klub
c/o Wisconsin Automotive Museum
147 North Rural Street
Hartford, WI 53027

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Annie Plays Her Part in a Tribute to Anita



(LaPorte County Historical Society Museum)

Annie, a 1914 KisselKar 4-40 Touring (car# 15471), is decorated in a special tribute to **Anita King** and the Kissel that she drove across the USA in 1915. Anita was the first woman to complete this drive unaccompanied by others, a daring endeavor in the day.

It is interesting that this car is named in honor of **Ann Klein**, another pioneering and independent woman that blazed her own trails and had important accomplishments in her time. Owners **Lynn and Jeanne Kissel** tell us more about the transformation of their favorite car inside this issue. The Kissels are pleased that their Kissel is helping to bring the Anita King story to life. The special exhibit at the LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, Indiana, runs from May 1 through the end of July.

Annie is scheduled to return to the Wisconsin Automotive Museum at the beginning of August. She expects to be an active participant in Kissel Meet 2021. Still adorned in her tribute markings, Annie should be easy to spot.