

Lindy's Speedster

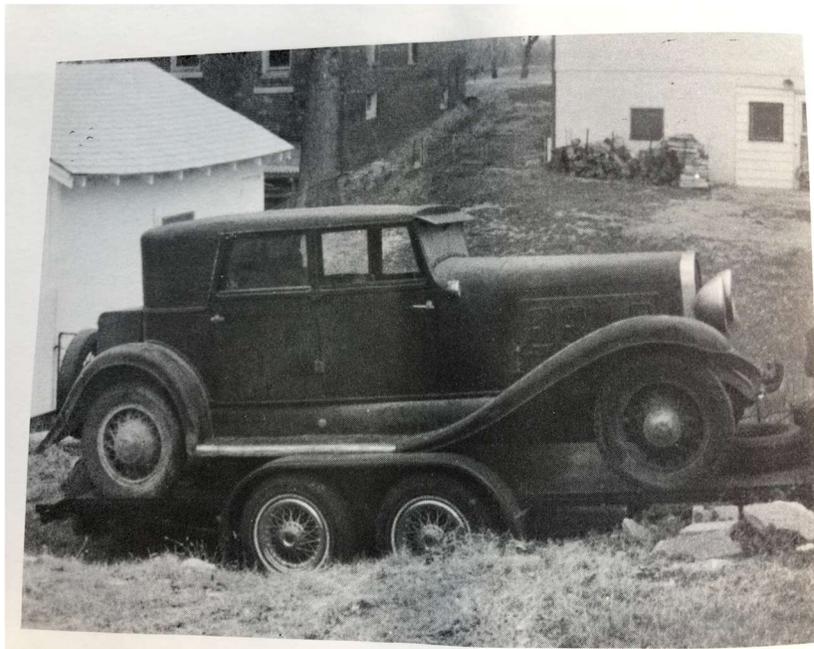
MMOCC member Wes Scott is working to put a 1931 Franklin Dietrich Speedster back on the road that may have, originally, belonged to the famous Spirit of St. Louis pilot, Charles Lindbergh.



Charles Lindbergh 1932



Wes and Betty Scott 2020



Independence Mo. 1979

Wes and his son, Don, first saw this car in May of 1983 when

they followed its owner home from the Lawrence Swap Meet to his home near KC. Jim Bray had bought the car in 1979 in Independence where it had been stored since 1951 and, like the previous owner, Jim was going to “Restore It” so it was not for sale.



Daylight after 40 years of storage 6/20/20



Jim had taken it apart Sept. 2019

Over the years, Wes lost track of Jim and his Franklin until August of 2019 when a lady from Arkansas called and said that her mother had inherited, what they thought, was a 1927 Franklin and a whole house full of Franklin parts. They found a letter from Wes in Jim's stuff and wanted to know if Wes would come look at the car and tell her what it was worth.

In September of 2019, Wes and Don got another look at the car that they wanted to buy 38 years earlier. It was sitting in the same garage and the garage doors were still screwed shut... it was just in more pieces. Inside the house were two Franklin engines and a disassembled 1925 Franklin coupe.

With the help of MMOCC members and three trucks and trailers, all the Franklin stuff was hauled to Wes' garage in June of 2020 and the process of sorting out all the parts started.

The 1931 Dietrich Speedster was a very low production model, with only six others known to exist in the world. When the black paint was removed from Wes' Speedster it revealed that it had originally been painted Stone Brown and Arabian Mocha. That was the same color as Lindbergh's Speedster. Wes' Speedster was built in April of 1931 and Lindbergh was given his car in the first part of May 1931. Other distinctive dents and accessories also match Lindbergh's car.

At this point Wes has finished replacing rotten wood in the wood frame body and is working on rebuilding the six-cylinder air cooled engine. It may be back on the road in 2022.