



MMOCC Newsletter –

FEBRUARY 2021

*Mid Mo Old Car Club
PO Box 1594,
Jefferson City, MO 65102*

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 Kansas City. 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 on 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.

AIRMAN
Series

5-Passenger Sedan

Why your next fine car should have an air-cooled motor

THE new Franklin Airman has achieved nation-wide fame and an outstanding sales increase in four months' time. Because of its *powerful* air-cooled motor, the Airman has introduced new standards of fast travel. Because of its *efficient* air-cooled motor, it is advancing greater economy in fine car operation. Because of its *dependable* air-cooled motor, it is the car that interests aviators. Because of its *trouble-free* air-cooled motor, the motoring public is demanding the Airman.

The advantages of Airman performance are matched by superior comfort—the Airman is the most comfortable mile-a-minute car ever built—and by distinctive beauty—the Franklin has set the style for many of America's most modish cars. A drive will reveal at least a score of other valuable advantages in owning a Franklin and at the same time give you a new thrill in motoring. Telephone for a demonstration and let us explain the favorable terms on which Airman ownership may now be arranged.

FRANKLIN

FRANKLIN MOTOR CAR COMPANY

3947-73 Lindell Boul., ST. LOUIS, MO. Lindell

Other Franklin Dealers in this Vicinity

Quincy—Franklin Motor Sales
Harrison—Messrs. Barrett & Foley
Jacksonville—Franklin Sales Company
Decatur—F. T. Wickoff

Peoria—Macham-Franklin Company
Kansas City—Franklin-Williams Motor Company
Evansville—Schneke Motor Company
Vincennes—D. D. Aldrich

Ironton—J. E. Baldwin
Centralia—Shary & Bauer
Bloomington—Franklin-Neff Motor Sales Company
Springfield, Ill.—Illini Motor Company
Springfield, Mo.—Franklin-Proctor Motor Company

The **H.H. Franklin Manufacturing Company** of Syracuse, NY built America's most successful air-cooled automobile, with its first innovative air-cooled motorcar in 1902 and continued production until 1934. Of the 150,000 Franklins built between 1902 and 1934, it's estimated that about 3,700 have survived.

The Franklin motor car was invented by the engineer John Wilkinson and manufactured by the industrialist H. H. Franklin and marked under his name. The Franklin was one of the most innovative motor cars of its time, featuring an air-cooled engine, scientific light weight and flexible construction at a time when other luxury car manufacturers were making ponderous machines. Although it was a luxury car, its unique features made the Franklin a pleasant and easy car to operate, and consequently most Franklins were owner driven. The company always featured many body styles, both factory and custom-made, which were conducive to being owner driven. The Franklin's design allowed it to set many records in point-to-point races which revealed its superior nimble handling, durability, economy and speed over the rough roads of the day. Throughout its history Franklin was a luxury car and it was in this part of the automotive market that it competed with the other notable makes of the day. As such it fell victim to the Great Depression along with many of these same fine luxury car manufacturers.



3947 Lindell Blvd –
February 2021

SHIRTS:

We have increased our MMOCC Shirt Inventory. We have T-shirts in gray and white, collared polo-type shirts, and a humorous T-shirt addition. If your shirt looks dingy, time to upgrade! Shirts available at future meetings and events. \$20 for collared shirts. \$15 for t-shirts. \$10 for hats.



HOW TO FIX

- Squealing brakes
 - Exhaust leak
 - Belt squeaking
 - Exhaust rattle
 - Engine tick
 - Wheel bearing going out
- Turn the radio up

I have been perusing my scanned and saved documents and ran across the attached, Frank Kurtis (hand written!!) letter, on Frank Kurtis letterhead, regarding the Muntz Jet car.

- MMOCC Member Bill Bicknell

Muntz Jet car

The **Muntz Jet** is a two-door hardtop convertible built by the **Muntz Car Company** in the United States between approximately 1949 and 1954. It is sometimes credited as the first personal luxury car. ... The car sold for \$5,500 in 1953 (about \$51,500 in 2017), but cost \$6,500 to produce.

Manufacturer: Muntz Car Company

Designer: [Frank Kurtis](#); [Sam Hanks](#)



FRANK KURTIS

ROUTE 1, BOX 158 • PARKER, ARIZONA 85344

(602) 662-4273

Dear Mr. Starnes: Oct. 4, 1975

I must apologize for not answering your letter sooner, but we just got back after being away most of the summer.

I'm sorry too that I don't have much information that I can give you regarding the Muntz car, since every thing we had went with ~~the~~ the project when we sold it to Muntz and it was moved to Illinois.

Yes, many of the parts remained the same after the car was changed by Muntz.

You might write to Earl Muntz % Muntz Motors 5601 N. Sepulveda

Van Nuys, California, and he might be able to help you.

I don't know how much help you could get out of the Kurtis-Kraft Story which gives a few details on the cars that we built, it is available from the author, Edward Hitzge 1514 No. 12th St., Lafayette, Indiana 47904 \$6.00 postpaid.

I will keep your letter on file and if I do get any information pertaining, I will gladly send it to you.

Many thanks for your interest.

Sincerely,
Frank Kurtis



WHEN BETTER AUTOMOBILES ARE BUILT
BUICK WILL BUILD THEM

UTRO IN U.S.A.—706—11-45

BUICK'S
special
DRIVING CONTROLS
for
DISABLED VETERANS
of
WORLD WAR II



BUICK MOTOR DIVISION
General Motors Corporation
FLINT 2, MICHIGAN

Submitted by MMOCC Member Bill Bickell: A Buick brochure from 1946 on how to modify cars for veterans with disabilities. Full brochure is available at <https://midmoldcar.club/odds-and-ends>



2021 Officers:

President Lyle Rosburg
Vice President Dennis Smith
Secretary Vacant (it could be you!)
Treasurer Larry Rhea
Historian Ron Bandelier
Car Show Chairs Tom and Karen Winters
Immediate Past President Nathan Fuller

MMOCC EVENTS

A. February MMOCC Meeting.

- Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 6pm
- HyVee (JC) Community Room (upstairs).
- Topic? Lyle will think of something.
- Get your meal and come on up!

B. St. Patrick's Parade.

- Saturday, March 13 lining up around 1:30 with parade starting at 2pm.
- Meeting, starting, and returning at Patty Malones at 700 West Main Street / JCMO.
- Downtown Jefferson City route (the parade, itself, is small, with about 500 feet of participants), but it brings a lot of smiles!

C. Bicknell Engines –Spring Trip – Rolla.

- Date to be determined during the Winter/Spring of 2021.
- MMOCC Member Bill Bicknell (970-218-1352) invites us back to Rolla.
- Caravan leaves Gerbes on Eastland at 9am.
- Arrive about 10am at 410 North Elm Street / Rolla.

D. USS Aries Road Trip.

- A weekend day in (now) May/June/July (depending on the water level). Date TBD.
- Leaving from Gerbes on Eastland.
- Tour of the USS Aries in Gasconade, Missouri (confluence of the Gasconade and Missouri Rivers).
- Restored Hydrofoil Guided Missile Gunboat.
- Pack your own lunch and beverages. Arranging for a port-a-potty.
- <https://www.ussaries.org/>

E. Sheriff's Barbeque Car Display.

- Old Car display at the annual Cole County Sheriff's Barbeque.
- Tuesday, June 1 serving from 4-7:00 pm.
- Arrive when you can. Leave when you want. Bring a chair.
- BBQ pork steak or chicken.
- Old Car parking inside the Cole County Fairgrounds.

Versailles, Missouri SONIC Drive In...

SONIC SUMMER NIGHTS 2021 SCHEDULE

APRIL 18TH - DARRELL BIAS MEMORIAL CRUISE
MAY 15TH JUNE 19TH
JULY 17TH AUGUST 21ST
SEPTEMBER 18TH - END OF YEAR BASH

FOR SALE: **1955 Ford F-100 Big Window 1/2 ton pickup**

390, cam, 2 4-bbl carbs, Auto 9" rear end, Chevelle front end.
Mallory ignition, Dakota digital wiring, show winner.

Bill at 573-289-4731, Columbia, Mo. wwhites@centurytel.net



1931 Ford, 1942 Chevrolet, 1953 Chevrolet, 1966 Ford, and 1978 Mercury.

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