

Classics at the Museum



# THE CCCA MUSEUM GRAND REOPENING CELEBRATING THE ADDITION OF A NEW WING

BY **VICKI ZEIGER**  
PHOTOS BY **VICKI ZEIGER** AND **FRED LAX**

**A**ugust 27 through August 29, 2021 marked the gala and dedication of the new expansion of the CCCA Museum on the Gilmore Campus in Hickory Corners, Michigan. I must share that the improvements and the look and feel of the new museum with the addition of roughly 11,000 square feet now puts the CCCA Museum in a class with the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, Indiana! What distinguishes the CCCA Museum now is the sophisticated interactive exhibits strategically placed throughout the entire space. There are tutorials, films, still photographs, storyboards and more, all chronicling the Classic Era and the Full Classics® we celebrate. There is even one Classic car that museum goers can jump in for a “selfie.” In fact, Museum volunteer docent and Board member Al Kroemer (of the Texas Region) told me that the “Selfie Car” is one of the Museum’s top attractions. The new roof line, the lighting, the windows, all set this Museum apart from the mainstream.

This addition wasn’t just a spur-of-the-moment idea. No, the idea had been in people’s minds for several years, but it was the vision and prodding of Lee and Floy Barthel who were major cheerleaders behind this effort. The addition really is special, thanks in large part to the Museum Board hiring Group Delfi, an organization that specializes in crafting museum space for learning, engagement and wonder. A team was assembled to design the interior of the Museum and these members worked tirelessly on this project for the past 18 months. Credit goes to Group Delfi, including Matt Short (former Executive Director of the ACD Museum, and former Executive Director of America’s Packard Museum and now an Account Executive for Group Delfi), Mary Seelhorst (contract writer for Group Delfi,) plus the hard-working team of individuals and Board members including Candice Robbins Haag, Bob Joynt and Carl Zeiger along with Don Desmet, CCCA Museum Executive Director.

PHOTOS THIS PAGE, FROM TOP: 1930 Duesenberg J LeBaron Dual-Cowl Phaeton owned by Don Ghareeb; Exhibit showcasing Gary Severns’ Marmon Sixteen effort; The Diner on the Gilmore Campus.

## WEEKEND EXTRAVAGANZA

The weekend festivities were over the top starting with a tour and lunch on Friday, August 27. I was fortunate to be able to enjoy the tour while riding in Don Ghareeb’s 1930 Duesenberg Model J LeBaron Dual-Cowl Phaeton along with David Kane, National CCCA Board member and a friend of Don’s. Later on Friday evening, Bill and Barbara Parfet hosted a Lobster Boil attended by donors, Museum Board members and committee members.

Saturday was the day of the official opening and lunch. Carrol Jensen, First Vice President of the Museum kicked off the event at lunch followed by the dedication of the Katie Robbins statue and the Katie Robbins patio. Fred Lax, CCCA President Steve Babinsky and First Vice President, David Kane and I were there representing the CCCA National Board.

The piece de resistance was the beautiful black-tie gala for 150 attendees, hosted on the floor of the new addition of the Museum. The gala was planned and executed by Amy Jidov of the Michigan Region. I have attended a lot >



## MUSEUM EXPANSION

of gala's, but this one was the best. The meal began with a perfectly prepared scallop dish, followed by beef bone consommé, beef Wellington, salad and a scrumptious dessert. (A far cry from the generic chicken dinner served at most "galas".) The tables were set to perfection and even the butter was in the shape of cars, lovingly created by Amy.

I know you are probably curious about the new cars on display plus some of the other displays. Here are a few highlights:

On loan, Bob & Sheila Joynt's rare 1920 Locomobile, Model 48 Dual-Cowl Phaeton by Farnham & Nelson and Christine Snyder's 1930 Stutz Supercharged MB Convertible Coupe by Derham, in memory of Bill Snyder.

### NEW CAR DONATIONS

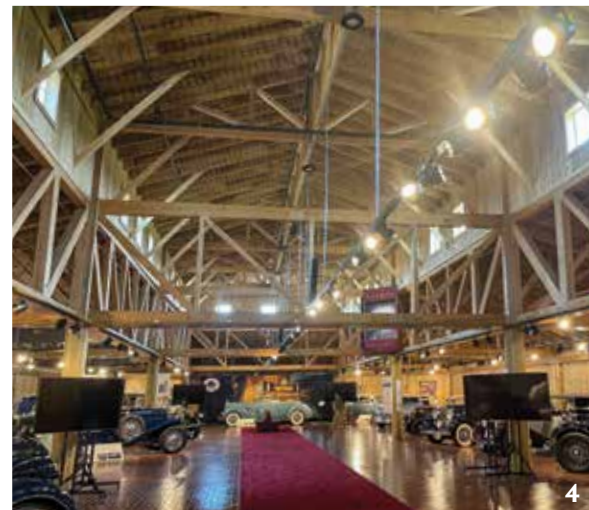
Recently donated to the Museum were a 1947 Cadillac 62 Series Convertible Coupe and 1940 Packard 1807 Darrin Convertible Sedan donated by Ray & Barbara Giudice, a 1941 Packard 1907 Touring Sedan donated by Howard Freedman in memory of Evelyn Freedman and a 1938 Cadillac 90 Series V-16 Formal Town Car by Fleetwood donated by Candice Robbins Haag in memory of her mother, Katie, her father, Jim and brother Jamie Robbins.

### GARY SEVERNS' EXHIBIT

One of the best exhibits is the one donated by Southern California Region member Gary Severns which covers the tooling for Marmon Sixteen engine heads that represents the five years of dedicated work completed by Gary on behalf of the hobby. Gary and Margarita Severns were present at the event.

### DONATIONS STILL WOULD BE APPRECIATED

Donations were received to support the new addition and the Museum would still appreciate additional contributions. The Museum serves as a wonderful advertisement and educational resource about our cars and our hobby. Please consider contributing now and in future. ●



1 Crowd at the dedication; 2 Classics in front of the Museum; 3 Katie Robbins statue with Lee Barthel and Bill Parfet leading the dedication; 4 The New Wing of the Museum; 5 Carl and Vicki Zeiger with the Museum's 1938 Packard 1607 Convertible Victoria; 6 1924 Packard 143 Town Car by Fleetwood; 7 Bob and Sheila Joynt's 1920 Locomobile 48 by Farnham; 8 Christine Snyder's 1930 Stutz MB Supercharged Convertible Coupe;