

BUGSBY

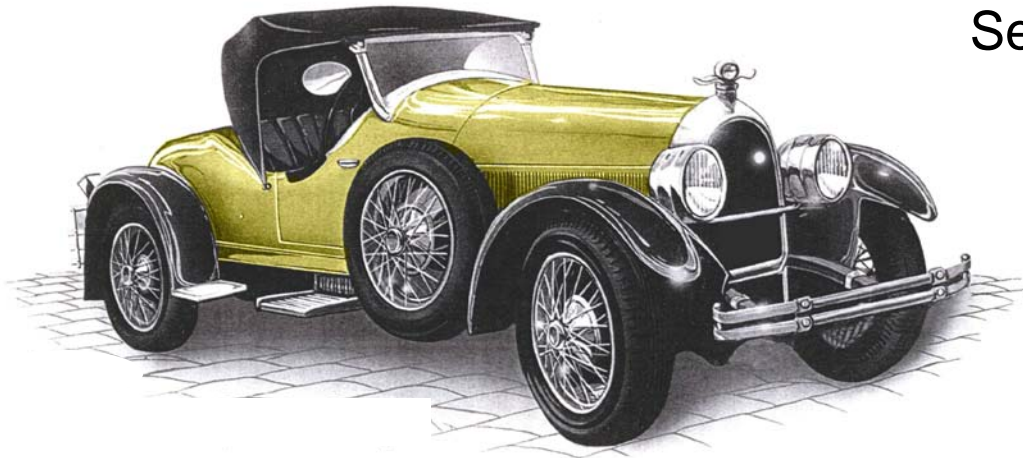
1924 Kissel Speedster Model 6-55 “Gold Bug”

Lynn & Jeanne Kissel

Livermore, California

16th Annual Nostalgia Day Car Show

September 25, 2005



The Kissel is a unique and increasingly rare piece of automotive history – less than 150 exist today for all models and years!



- Founded by Louis Kissel and Sons, from 1906 to 1930 Kissel hand produced about 35,000 semi-custom automobiles in Hartford, Wisconsin
- Never a large producer, sales of Kissel cars depended on the quality and custom-built appearance of its vehicles.
- Kissel sold 2,123 vehicles in 1923, 803 in 1924

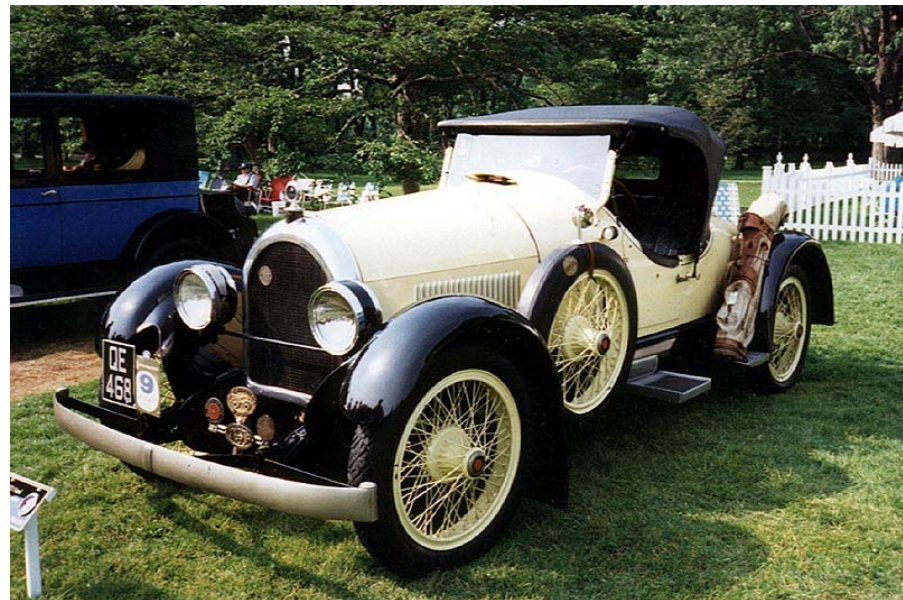


1908 Kissel Kar Model II Touring

Of all the models, the Speedster model made the biggest historical impression – less than THIRTY are left today!



- First introduced in 1918 as the Kissel Kar Silver Special Speedster, the “Gold Bug” was a sporty roadster that achieved significant notoriety
- “Kissel chrome yellow” (a brighter yellow than the car shown here) was a very popular color for the Speedster
 - Known by the nickname “Gold Bug” with the general public, this was never an official name for the car
- The 1923-28 Model 6-55 used Kissel’s own long-stroke, L-head six-cylinder engine that they had been perfecting since 1915 – it was used through 1928

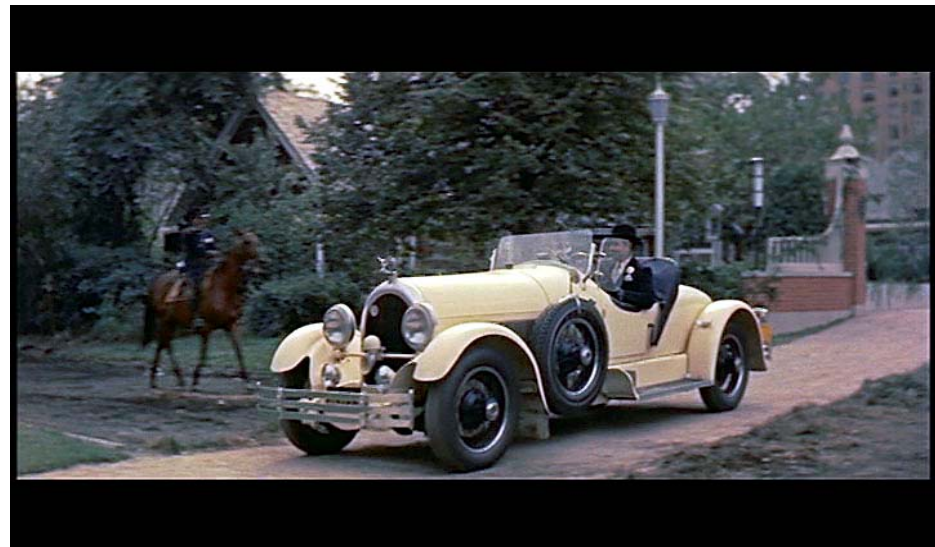


1923 Kissel Speedster
Model 6-55 “Gold Bug”

The Kissel Speedster was seen in films and was owned by a number of celebrities



- Amelia Earhart owned a 1922 Gold Bug that she called the “Yellow Peril,” making national headlines for driving from LA to Boston with her mother in 1925 – a difficult and uncommon practice at that time
- There were other famous owners of the Gold Bug included entertainer Al Jolson, auto racer Ralph De Palma, boxer Jack Dempsey, and comedian Fatty Arbuckle



Tyrone Power driving a Kissel Gold Bug
In the movie “The Eddy Duchin Story” (1956)

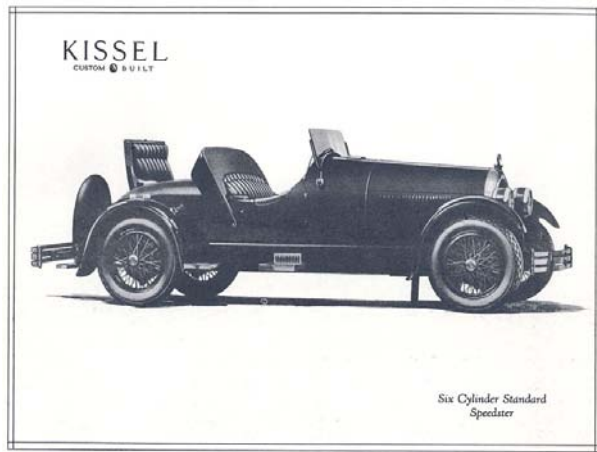
“A 1925 Kissel Speedster in fine condition is easily worth \$50,000 or more,” 1998 Concours d’Elegance



- This blue 1925 Kissel Speedster sold at auction in 2000 for \$116,600
 - Class winner 1999 Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance
 - Complete documentation of 75 year history of this car
 - Completed 52 mile tour at Pebble Beach 1999 with no problems
- At an Arizona auction in 2003, a 1920 Kissel Speedster sold for \$68,200
- This yellow 1920 Kissel Speedster is currently for sale in St. Louis
 - Original asking price of \$115,000, has been reduced to \$97,500



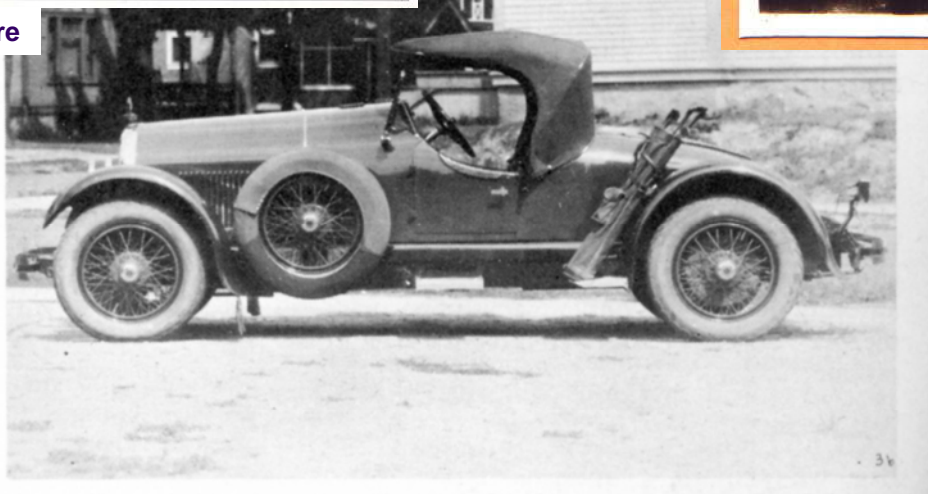
Original photographs, Kissel literature, other owners offer guidance for restoration details



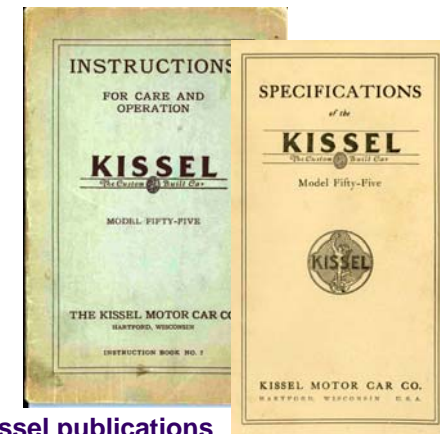
Sales brochure



Woman in 1925 Kissel Speedster (eBay)



1924 Kissel Model 6-55 Speedster, official company photograph



Kissel publications

***BUGSBY* was purchased from Bill Trollope, Sydney, Australia**



- *BUGSBY* was “discovered” by Lynn in early morning hours of April 13, 2005 – offered for sale on the Internet
- Seemingly endless email exchanges and phone calls result in signed sales agreement on June 3 (51 days)
- Car is shipped by cargo container on the Kapitan Maslov, a Russian container ship – sails from Sydney June 18 (66 days), docks at Oakland July 13 (96 days)
- Lynn takes possession of *BUGSBY* on July 25 (103 days)



Bugsby as owned by Bill Trollope in Sydney, circa April, 2005



Bugsby arrives at its new Livermore home July 25, 2005

A Florin on the flywheel? An Edison in the head? Lynn finds “Easter Eggs” in the Kissel.



- It came as a big surprise when Lynn found a silver Australia Florin (2 Shilling) coin soldered to a flywheel cover plate
 - Issued to commemorate visit of Elizabeth II to Australia
 - 1953 or 1954, this coin caused controversy due to missing religious title F:D: (Defender of the Faith)
- Another surprise was the find of a single Edison spark plug in with the other five Champions





Freshening of Bugsby is the current agenda

- Clean oil pan
- Refit brakes
- New hoses, clamps
- Change all lubricants (rear differential, transmission, wheel bearings, chassis fittings, engine grease cups, repack fan bearing)
- Polish nickel bright work



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

Several near-term restoration goals will keep Lynn busy and bank account empty for awhile



- Dashboard instruments (eBay)
 - Speedometer not working
 - Clock not historically correct
- Fabrication of new top (Auburn)
 - Plans obtained from Kissel Kar Klub Prez
- Restore missing shocks
 - Shocks located in Salt Lake City, home of 100-point 1925 Kissel Speedster
- Restore original oil cups on chassis
- Restore vacuum fuel system
- Convert to four-wheel hydraulic brakes
 - Opportunity to add small (BMW motorcycle, Honda Civic?) disks brakes inside drums





Motoring in 1920's California
with a Kissel Speedster





Lynn enjoying his new toy