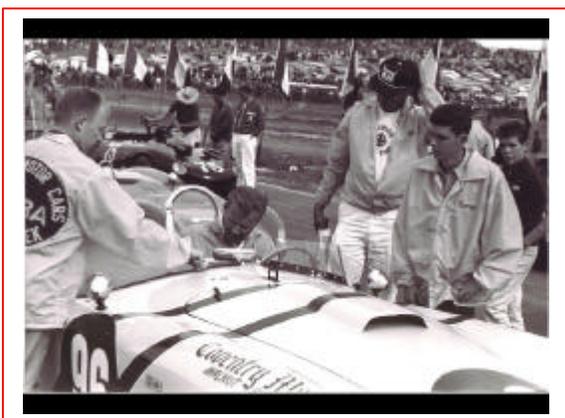


Classic Car News

Read All About It!



Can You Top This: The question is when and where? If you know the answer, tell me? The Cover of Mopar Action dawns a 2 Million-Dollar Cuda. Barrett Jackson, West Palm Beach FL nets 189 K for a Mustang Shelby GT 500, 4 Million is a Dussey of a price for a 1935 Meteor Race Car sold at the Gooding Auction,

Pebble Beach. Can Russo/Steele Set a new record for A Shelby Race Bred Cobra in AZ. Wow! Can the Man of the decade, do it at again in Scottsdale's # 1 event, (BJ)? Be proud Momma Jackson.

It's My Opinion! TM

IAAA Announces Russo Steel Seminar

More Photos from West Palm

Preview: Barrett Jackson/Russo Steele 2005

Can the AAAIC Really Answer Those Questions?

Some Top Cars at 2004 Auctions

Watch the IAAA Banner at WWW.auto-appraiser.com for future event coverage.

It's My Opinion!

By Tony Monopoli



Former patrons and friends from over four decades converged on the Elks Lodge on Spruce Street in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey to help Tony Monopoli celebrate 40 years in the Specialty Car Business. The celebration started a year ago at the Good Guys Rhinebeck, New York East Coast Nationals. The event was moved to the Ridgefield

Park location where the Street Legends ran an annual car show to benefit local charities. The site was chosen because Tony's automotive career started in a basement-run speed shop in his mom's house in the same town. By 1964 he opened B & T Automotive in Palisades Park, NJ. The decades that followed saw the B & T name followed by the words "Strictly Speed Equipment," "Street Rod City" and "Chrome Makes It." AVM Automotive Consulting is his present Appraisal & Consulting enterprise and the International Automotive Appraisers Association and the All Auto-Appraisal-Industry-Conference are his latest brainchild. The IAAA celebrated its first ten years in 2004.

For more information on the reunion, email Tony at avmtony@yahoo.com. As promised, you will get another Santa photo with the "It's My Opinion" column later. Visit us often at WWW.autoappraiser.info to read my words of wisdom or just to see another Santa shot. Recipients of my yearly Christmas card tell me they are still collecting them. G-e-t-a—L-I-F-E!

Now on to My Opinion! 2004 has been a banner year for collector car values. The question is: Can the market retain these lofty heights? Muscle cars continued to surge forward along with the True Classics, Vintage Race cars and turn of the last Century Vehicles in this last year.

Mecum auction gained stature in 2004 and the Gooding auction showed real potential as the new Kid from Pebble Beach. Russo Steele is the oldest New Name making headway as the –innovator– with buyers and sellers at Monterey and Scottsdale. – See more on page 5 about an IAAA seminar at the R/S event.

More Opinion

Speculators will subside with time but the market will still be strong in 2005. “The next generation of all-time highs will be from foreign buyers with stronger Yens, Euros and Drachmas. They have seen the Scottsdale and West Palm Beach TV coverage and want to participate in REALITY AUCTION TV.” Its okay for journalists to use my predictions, JUST “ ” ME.

Barrett Jackson West Palm Beach Florida 2004



Pictured is the 1967 Shelby 500 GT as it was sold at the BJ West Palm Beach, FL this past spring. It was not an all-time high price for a Shelby, but it was a record for a 67 GT 500 auto w/air. The rare combo and just completed ground up restoration by Miami Mustang helped the new owner buy it, which brought down the hammer and the house”.

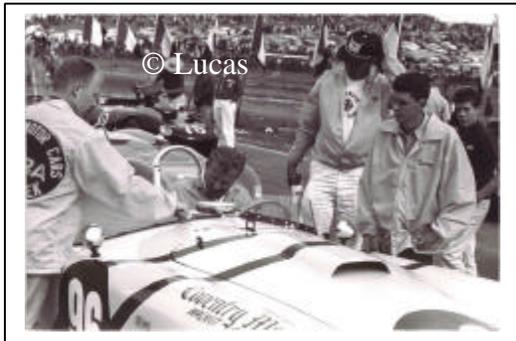
Mr. David Ritter and family worked hard as a team. His wife and daughter are seen smiling with the billboard size sign that contained the Mustangs history and documentation. This was a marketing tactic that worked.

Outstanding sales results create controversy with collectors. Some are offended by the upsurge in prices and they tickle others. Muscle Cars showed no sign of weakness at auction around the country and collectors had a fling with racecars, show cars and the old timers from late 1800s and early 1900s. I have written about the interest in the early 20th century iron since the year 2000, so this was not a surprise to me. One hundred years old and counting spur “Antique” collector interest.

SCOTTSDALE JANUARY 2005

The upcoming auctions in Scottsdale are offering a plethora of vehicles for speculators, collectors and antique marketers. Russo/Steele consigned the Shelby America Factory team race Cobra #CSX 2128 from 1963.

R/S Previews



Carroll Shelby campaigned CSX 2128 from March to July of 63. Coventry Motors bought and raced it after that with such success that Carroll bought it back and raced it again in 1964. Its notoriety came from racing and being on the cover of the “Hey Little Cobra” album by the Rip Cords.

Another significant car that R/S consigned is a one-off Simca Special that marked the beginning of the era of Tail Fins. Virgil Exner Jr. who is the son of Chrysler’s legendary chief designer built the Simca Special in 1957. The car was Exner’s Masters Thesis for Notre Dame. It appeared for the first time in the April 1959 in Road and Track Magazine and went on to cause a huge sensation at the prestigious Paris Auto Show later the same year. It is believed to be most influential concept cars ever built.



Exner's thesis, drawings, restoration photos and magazine articles along with letters regarding the car and other important documents will be included in the sale.

Barrett/Jackson Previews



This two-seat 1954 Oldsmobile F-88 with Corvette sized fiberglass-body has a hopped-up 324cid Olds V8 engine producing 250 horsepower and a 4-speed Hydra-Matic transmission.

Legendary General Motor’s stylist Harley J. Earl designed the F-88.

MORE Barrett Jackson



This 1958 GM Concept/Dream Corvette with a 245 horsepower 283 and a 4-speed transmission is another B/J offering. GM stylist Francis H. Scott designed it. It is the only one known to exist with a Hide Away Hardtop. The Car participated in the Bloomington Gold Special Collection XIII, the Chicago Vette Fest Nationals Showcase, Corvettes at Carlisle,

McDorman's Corvette Show, NCRS National Convention and Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. It was featured in Car Collector, Corvette Fever and Vette Vues Magazines; and pictured in a Corvette Calendar, Christie's catalog, a 53-62 Sports car History Book and a Historical Corvette Collection Video. It has also won the DuPont paint "Top Gun Award."

Reality TV Junkies will get expanded coverage of BJ again in 2005 along with the addition of a Wednesday line-up. Lights-action-camera--See you there!

THE AAAIC

The 2nd AAAIC (All-Auto-Appraisal-Industry-Conference) will take place January 28th 2005 in Scottsdale AZ. Enlightened automotive appraisers and associated industry professionals will descend upon the AAAIC TM for their yearly dose of interaction with peers and other industry professionals. The Conference is timed to coincide with the world renowned Automotive Car Auctions that take place in Scottsdale, Arizona in January. Industry professionals willingly share knowledge and the latest information for the benefit of all. Speakers that attend contribute to the development of the automotive appraisal-acceptable protocol for insurers, lenders, leasers, publishers of value guides and the legal community.

The IAAA, the N.A.D.A. Appraisal Guides, Black Book CPI Value Guides and VMR Collector Price Guides are all Major Sponsors for the 2005 conference. Enthusiasm for further education and idea sharing makes the All Auto Appraisal Industry Conference TM, a favored venue of industry entities. Industry professionals can find more information and register at the WWW. All-Auto-Appraisal-Industry-Conference.com website.

A Week of Monterey by Lance Coren



Pebble Beach Cigar Cutter Sale

The ultimate automotive event that takes place on Planet Earth remains the property of Monterey and Pebble Beach. Vintage automotive sensory overload runs rampant in August on the California Peninsula. The weather was great and the cars were beyond amazing.

The number of exotic, classic and racing automobile venues around this area of collector car heaven has grown to unbelievable proportions. The rundown is as follows.

The Quail Rally began along with the Christie's auction preview started on Monday. Automobilia Monterey along with Vintage Race Central began on Tuesday at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The main ballroom was filled with vendors from all over the world hawking their Automobilia.

Bonhams & Butterfields auction preview got rolling at the Quail Lodge in Carmel and the Blackhawk Classic Car Exposition opened in Pebble Beach on Wednesday. The Pebble Beach Tour for cars entered in Sunday's Concours, the RM auction, Gooding (Pebble Beach) auction and the Christie's auction preview also started on Thursday.



The Concorso Italiano took place at the Black Horse Golf Club in Seaside with its magnificent "sea of red."

The Quail Motorsporte Gathering plus the Pacific Grove Auto Rally also got in gear along with the Kruse, RM and Bonhams & Butterfields auctions on Friday.

Russo/Steele Monterey Auction sold the Factory 69 Ford Trans Am Mustang pictured above. It broke the previous world record by selling for \$473,000.

MORE Monterey 2004



The Monterey Historic races at Laguna Seca Raceway took place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday

RM and the Russo/Steele auctions took place Saturday evening. Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance took place on Sunday followed by Gooding's Pebble Beach Auction on Sunday evening.

The festivities spilled over into the next week this year with the Ferrari Club of America's leading it off with an open track at Laguna Seca, followed by their Concours at the Quail Lodge and the Rolls-Royce Owners Club International Meet at the Hyatt Regency Resort. The week ended with the RR Concours d' Elegance on Saturday.

Additional events included the Running of the Bulls run for Lamborghinis from Los Angeles to Monterey and automotive related parties galore spanned two fun-filled weeks.

The desirable cars present in and around Monterey are mind-boggling. Just the 20 odd 62 – 64 Ferrari 250 GTO's with a face value of around 200 million drove the Ferraristi and other car fanatics in attendance mad with passion. Just the sight of a ten million dollar Ferrari pulling up to the entrance to your hotel gets one's mouth to water and their palms to sweat.

World Record prices at a number of the auctions happened with regularity along with new and old friendships forged and renewed. After all this, even car aficionados were ready for at least a week's vacation to recover. Who knows what next years events will bring? Is there room for any more? Let's hope so!

IAAA and Russo Steele Auctions Announces:

The IAAA will provide a valuable service to Bidders at upcoming RUSSO STEELE AUCTION'S starting January 2005. IAAA members versed in inspecting and evaluating Exotics, Street Rods, Customs and Collector automobile will give a 2hr course designed to enlighten the bidding public who plan on buying cars at auction.

MORE on IAAA Seminars

Association members with help from sponsors will provide their efforts free to R/S buyers and sellers.

The first Seminar (Collector Car Buying 101) will take place Friday January 28, 2005 on the Russo Steele Auction Grounds site in Scottsdale AZ. For more information Watch the IAAA moving Banner on the WWW.auto-appraiser.com website or look for the information in the Russo/Steele Auction bidder brochures.

Go to the IAAA Seminar Link on the www.auto-appraisers.com website to sign up.

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