

MY MACHINE[®]

MUSIC CITY'S MOTORCYCLE AND AUTO LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE.

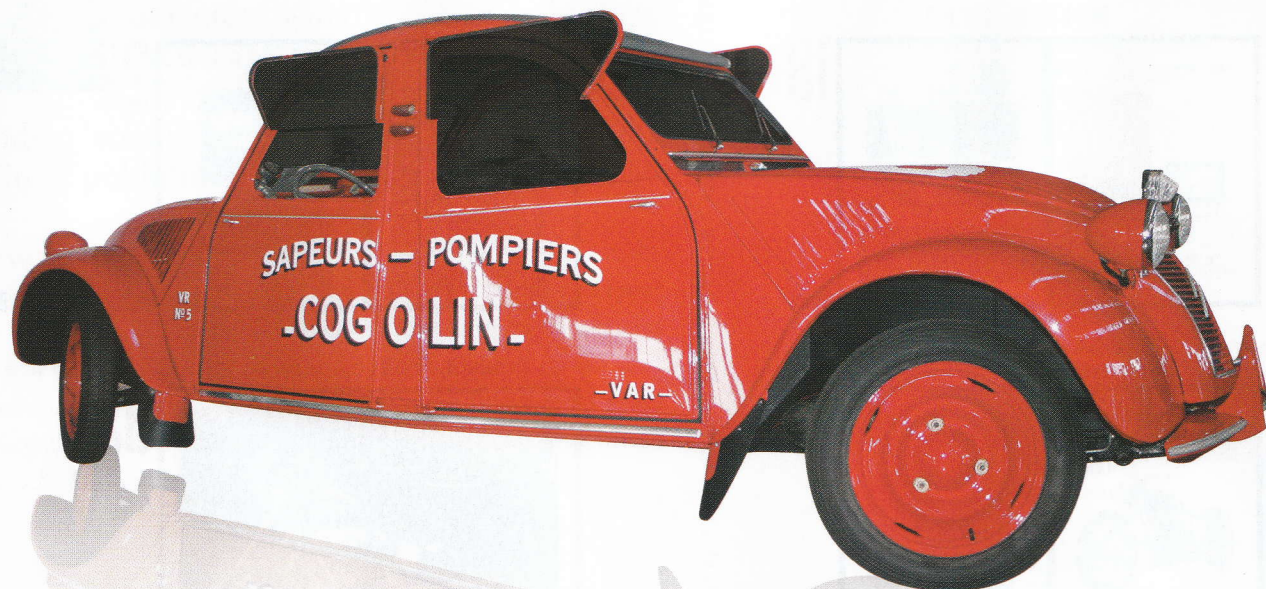
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INTERVIEW

JEFF AND SUSAN LANE: OWNERS OF LANE MOTOR MUSEUM

by Mark Helbock



MH: What made you decide to open Lane Motor Museum?

SL: We met about seven years ago, and at that time Jeff had a "smaller" collection of automobiles, around sixty-five or so, scattered throughout garages in town (the museum now houses 350 cars). I come from an administrative background and started thinking, How could we share this collection with the public? And the idea came about to start a museum if we could find a large enough space for the collection.

MH: How did you find this building? (the museum is the site of the old Sunbeam Bread Bakery)

JL: We must have looked at forty buildings or more. This building became available and it had the character we were looking for as well as the space we needed. Then it was just a matter of making the deal work.

MH: Is there a theme to your collection?

SL: I would say we have a European collection. Our main focus is on cars that not many people have seen in the United States, and then we add in a few prototypes, and our one of a kind American made cars that fit in with our streamline or micro car collection.

MH: What would you say is the most interesting car in the collection?

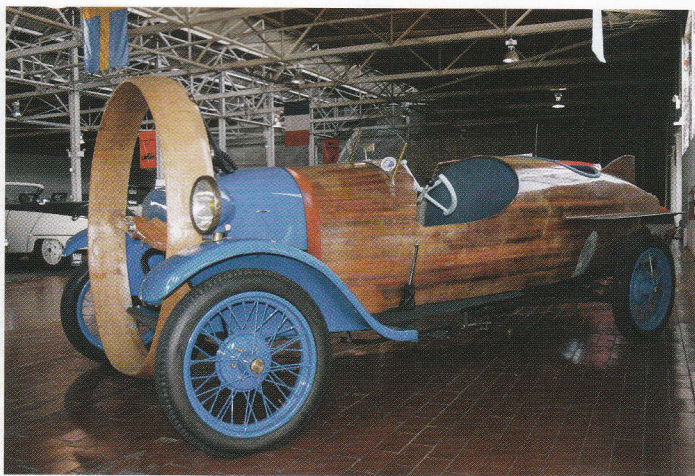
JL: I guess we would have to say our propeller-powered car: a 1932 Helicron made in France. It is probably one of the highlights 'cause there are very few of them around and we're really the only people in the world that actually drive one. A few other people own them, but they don't actual drive them around. The micro cars are also interesting to the American public.

MH: Do you have anything for our Motorcycle readers?

JL: Yes. We have about thirty bikes. We have a rotary powered Hercules and we have the Suzuki powered motorcycle RE5.

SL: We have an interesting French bike with a big car engine.

JL: Yeah that's an interesting bike. It's called a BFG. It was built by a bike company that was funded by the French government and they only built about 400 of them. They used a GS engine so it's a big cruiser-type bike. They were very expensive to make and the company ultimately went out of business and sold most of the bikes back to the French government. We also have a monocycle, which is an interesting bike.



MH: How many people visit the museum each month?

SL: We have approximately 2,000 visitors a month on average.

MH: Any special events coming up?

SL: On Veteran's Day all veterans get in for free.

JL: One of the biggest days of the year is the day after Thanksgiving. That's one of the only days when we give rides to the customers in some of our cars; and on Super Bowl Sunday we let anyone who visits in for free.

After the interview Jeff took me for a ride in the propeller car – it was a blast and we ended the ride by getting pulled over by the cops who said, "Hey! What is that thing!?"

My Machine® would like to thank Jeff and Susan for taking time out to speak with us.

Please visit the museum at 702 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville, TN. Also visit their website: www.lanemotormuseum.org