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1930 American Austin $\frac{3}{4}$ Scale Replica Designed by Tennessee Fabricator Latest Addition to Lane Motor Museum

Nashville, TN, October 5, 2006. Lane Motor Museum likes to showcase the talents of gifted automobile fabricators and designers. Bill Minor, of Columbia, Tennessee, was an artist, gifted fabricator, and automotive enthusiast. It was said that Bill could make or repair anything.

In the 1970s, Bill was interested in making a micro version of an American Austin. The vehicle would need to be large enough for Bill and his wife to drive the vehicle. It was decided that a $\frac{3}{4}$ scale version of the Austin would be a perfect size. The car was completed in 1988, and Bill enjoyed taking the vehicle to many shows. Bill Minor passed away in the spring of 2005, and Lane Motor Museum was fortunate enough to acquire his one-of-a-kind vehicle that stands as a testimony to his talents (photo attached).

About American Austin

The American Austin Car Company was a United States automobile manufacturing corporation tied to the British Austin Motor Company. The company was founded in 1929 in Butler, Pennsylvania, in order to assemble and to sell a version of the Austin 7 car in the United States. This car would be called the American Austin. The company was at first successful, but the Great Depression caused sales to fall to a point that production was suspended. In 1934, the company filed for bankruptcy after producing 20,000 cars.

In 1935, the company was reorganized under the name American Bantam. Production resumed in 1937 and continued until 1941. American Bantam is credited for producing the first prototype of what would later become the Jeep.

About Lane Motor Museum

Lane Motor Museum showcases approximately 150 unique cars and motorcycles from around the world. Cars on display represent countries from Asia, Europe, North and South America, and date from 1922 to 2003. Highlights of the Museum include the largest Czechoslovakian vehicle collection outside Europe, microcars, amphibious vehicles, alternative fuel vehicles, competition cars, and prototypes. The Museum also offers a display of automotive art, a play area for children, and a gift shop.

Lane Motor Museum welcomes guests Thursday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday; Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day & New Year's Day. Regular admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors (55+), and free for children 17 and under. Group rates are available. Lane Motor Museum is located at 702 Murfreesboro Pike just minutes from downtown Nashville. For more information on the Museum, call (615) 742-7445 or visit the website at www.lanemotormuseum.org

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