

## RESTORATION SHOP

### 1932 Helicron (France)



Lane Motor Museum's 1932 Helicron ([click here](#) for full description) came to the museum in driveable, but worn, condition in the spring of 2004. It went on display almost immediately, and was driven occasionally that first year. Desiring a bit more power, and recognizing the need to repair the sagging front axle, Jeff Lane, Director of the museum, set about the project in earnest during the fall of 2005. The goal? To show and drive the Helicron at the 2006 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance.

Major work began in September, 2005. A significant bend in the front axle prompted the removal of the engine, in order to more securely mount it, and at the same time, replace the beam axle with a stronger tubular axle. As with most restoration projects, the "while you are in there" syndrome struck!

A new propeller was ordered, which necessitated a new crankshaft mount and a new hand-crafted shroud. "While we were in there" it also seemed a good time to clean up the old, brittle wiring,



mount the battery more securely, install a real fuel tank, have carpets made, paint the fenders, true and paint the wheels, fabricate a new engine cover and on and on...

After several months of work, the Helicron was once again beginning to look as it should. A fresh coat of French Blue on the fenders and wheels really looked good against the wooden body. A new brass dash plate was created, the instruments cleaned and rewired, and the steering wheel was sent out for restoration. Once the new carpet was installed, the interior work was almost complete.

At the same time, Jeff, Greg Coston (the museum's Restoration Specialist), and several other craftsmen were working long hours to meet the Amelia Island deadline. The wheels, one of the last items needed to complete the restoration, had mistakenly been sent to California! They were finally re-routed and arrived via air freight with only one day to go before the car had to be loaded for the trip south. After a quick trip to the tire store for fresh rubber, the wheels and tires were ready to go - and so was the Helicron.



A couple of short test drives revealed some need adjustments to tire pressures and alignment, which were quickly tended to. The car was finally loaded on the trailer on March 8th, destination Amelia Island, FL. While at the Concours, the Helicron successfully completed the 50 mile White Oak Plantation Tour and it also took its place on the Concours field in the Alternative Fuel/Alternative Power Class.

We think the effort was worth it!

