

## Rocky Mountain Thunderbird Club hosts Vintage Thunderbird Club International Regional Convention

The Rocky Mountain Thunderbird Club hosted a VTCI Regional Convention from July 23 - 25, 2015 in Grand Junction, Colorado. There were 43 Thunderbirds registered and 88 people attended the event from 10 states.

Activities included a driving tour through Colorado National Monument. The scenic Rim Rock Drive stretches 23 miels through the park, offering awe inspiring views. Also on the docket was a trip to the fabulous car collection at the Gateway Auto Museum in Gateway, Colorado.

A fun and rewarding time was had by all, and the hard working club members of the Rocky Mountain Thunderbird Club are to be commended.



(More photos on page 8)



## 100-year-old Silver Ghost Rolls-Royce



The design chosen by its original owner echoed the luxurious "Pullman" Railway carriages pioneered by American George Pullman. The elegant passenger compartment complete with 29 bevelled glass windows and the stylish steering wheel



The car was commissioned by Rolls-Royce connoisseur John M. Stephens, who also bought the first Silver Ghost the luxury car-maker produced in 1906. The body was built by former royal carriage-maker Barker's of Mayfair which had previously built coaches for King George III and Queen Victoria.

The 7.3-litre, six-cylinder engine is still purring smoothly and is capable of doing around 15 miles to the gallon

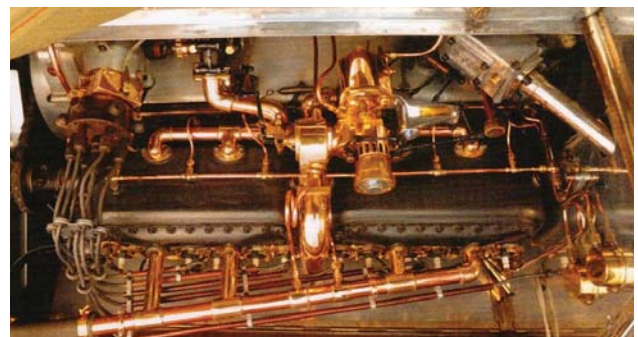
The original owner employed the services of the best coach-making company, Barker and Co. Ltd, to do the bodywork

The car even had an early speedometer – an important addition given that a 20mph speed limit was introduced in 1912. Unlike most car enthusiasts of his time, Mr Stephens, from Croydon, South London, asked the makers not to include a glass division window between the driver and the passengers as he wanted to drive it himself rather than rely on a chauffeur.



The car's distinctive cream and green design echoed the luxury 'Pullman' Railway carriages of the time, and it was known as a Double Pullman Limousine.

Mr Stephens's car is believed to be the only one of its kind to survive with its full interior and bodywork, as many Rolls-Royces from the era were converted into ambulances during the First World War.





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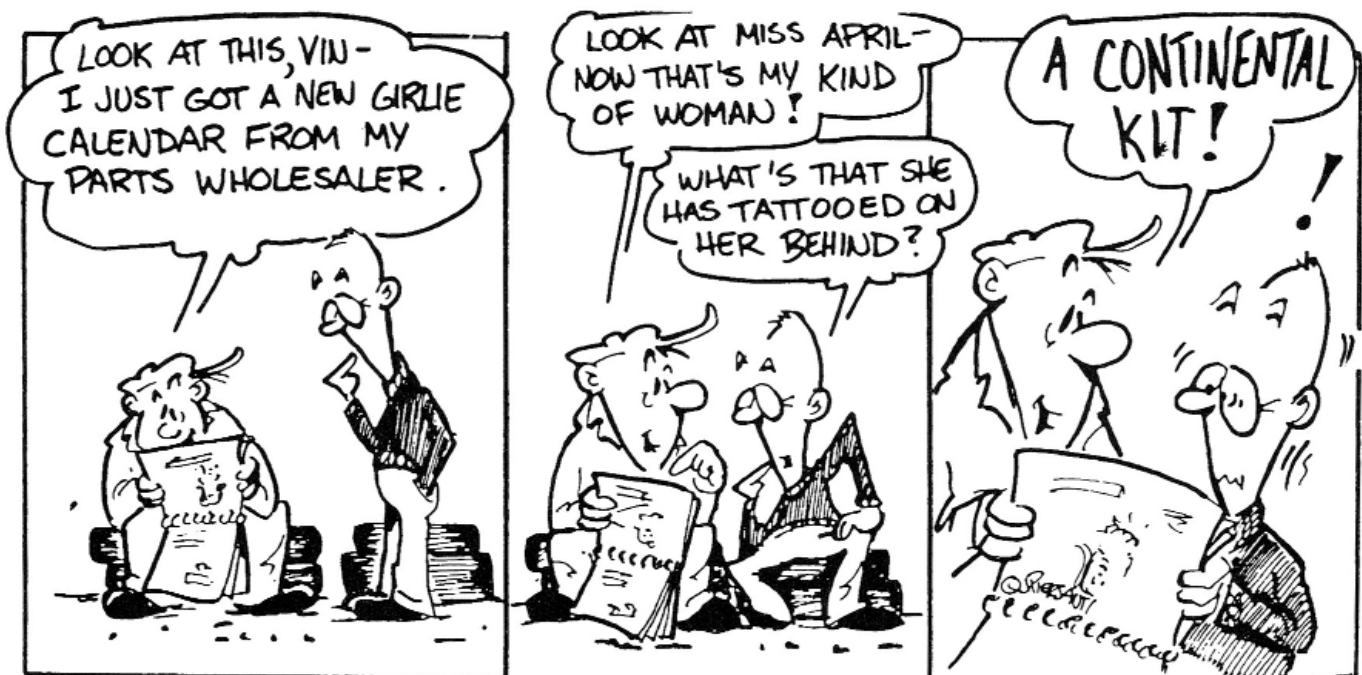
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## "Otto Mechanic"

By Jay Piersanti





## CONCEPT CARS



The Pontiac Club de Mer was a purpose-built, concept car that was unveiled at the General Motors Motorama in 1956 to celebrate GM's commitment to futuristic design. The brainchild of GM engineer-designer was Harley Earl. The "de Mer" was a two door sport Roadster that incorporated innovative breakthrough styling like a sleek, low-profile body encasing a large powerplant.



The Lincoln Futura was a concept car designed by the Lincoln division of Ford Motor Company. It was built by Ghia entirely by hand in Turin, Italy, at a cost of \$250,000 (2014 equivalent: \$2,200,000) and was displayed on the auto show circuit in 1955. In 1966 the car was modified by George Barris into the Batmobile, for the 1966 TV series Batman.



While the X-2000 was not revolutionary in anything other than design, it was still an outstanding example of the 1950's design trends. The car might have been the inspiration for the U.S.S. Enterprise - the spaceship from the Star Trek series. In 1999, a car enthusiast saw a picture of the car in a book and decided to build his own version. That car is now appearing in car shows around the world.



The Centurion featured a red and white fiberglass body, airplane like interior design, a full clear "bubble top" roof and the first Backup camera in place of a Rear view mirror, although it was never shown to be functional, merely a concept.



Designed to resemble its namesake, the Golden Rocket had a fiberglass body, and was one of the first cars to have a tilt-wheel. When either door was opened, the roof panel would automatically raise and the seat would come up 3 inches and swivel outward for easy access.



This hardtop coupe's design followed the lines of the planned 1957 cars. It had many unusual features, among them a roof section that opened either by opening a door or activating a switch, well ahead of later T-Tops. The car had seats that rotated out allowing the passenger easy access, a feature later used on some Chrysler products. The Predictor also had the opera windows, or portholes, found on concurrent Thunderbirds.



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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeptH\\_eqfTc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeptH_eqfTc)

#### **Back to the Fifties car show at the Minnesota Fair Grounds**

12,000 cars. Man, this looks like fun too.

<http://safeshare.tv/w/hooJXpBljK>

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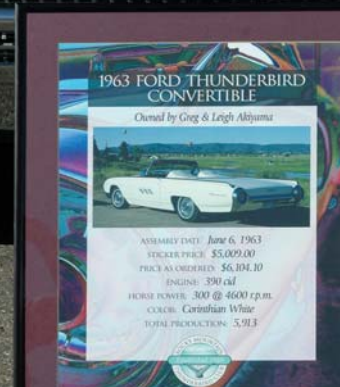
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Greg Akiyama / Publisher / 303-680-8298

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This is a monthly publication  
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collector car hobby in Colorado.

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