

Celebrity car is screen star

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America, including the Detroit show. "I've been rebuilding old classic cars like Chevrolets of the mid-1950s for some time as a hobby and it was my restoration abilities that led to my involvement with this Cleten," he said. "So I have an opportunity to drive it occasionally, and it sure does attract a lot of attention. As soon as someone sees it in their rear-view mirror, everyone turns around for a look."

"The president of Group Publications, Robert Larabee, is a business associate who knew of my restoration work, and he asked me if I'd help to maintain the Cleten's cosmetics, like the chroming of the engine department and the car's detailing," said Patlow, a theatrical agent by profession. "I enjoy working on the Cleten, and I've contracted people with the necessary expertise to help me."

He said Redford resident Ed Slinder, owner of Pro Collision in Redford, helps with touch-up paint work, and Stanley Highe, a Ford Motor Co. technician who also lives in Redford, helps with the mechanics.

"THIS CLETEN is strictly a show car that is featured with cars of the '30s, or with hand-built cars, or as an exotic, special-interest car in all the Autorama circuits and other auto shows. When not on display, it is stored in a warehouse in Lake Orion. This Cleten was purchased in 1979 and has been driven less than 100 miles," Patlow said.

The first Cleten was built in 1976 in California as a gift for the designer's wife. The car later gained exposure in the auto show circuit on the West Coast, Patlow said.

"It kind of became a car for the star because it caught on among a few celebrities in Hollywood," he said. "Cletens have been sold to such Hollywood stars as Wayne Newton and Sylvester Stallone and rock star Rod Stewart."

"Cleten initially agreed to build 250 of his cars for Roadster Series I. The car's popularity prompted him to manufacture a second series, which is now near completion, and a third that has just begun."

"This Cleten is the 190th built in Series I and is valued at about \$90,000," said Patlow. "They start at about \$57,000 and go up in value depending on the type of accessories added to it. It is hand built on a Ford frame, manufactured by the Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn, and the engine is a Ford 351 Cleveland (where it is built), he said.

The Cleten is a two-seater convertible with running boards and a rear-mounted spare tire. This one features air conditioning, power steering, disc brakes, cruise control, power antenna, AM-FM stereo cassette player, leather seats and etched-glass designing, Patlow said.

Any takers?



Leslie S. Geddis is Cooley grad

Leslie Suzanne Geddis, 26, a 1974 graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, received her juris doctorate in law from Lansing's Cooley Law School recently.

Geddis is the daughter of George and Delores Geddis of Farmington Hills.

She is presently living in Lansing and working with her brother, George Geddis III, in his private law practice in Owosso.

She received her BA degree in political philosophy and social science at Michigan State University in 1978.

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