

Golden Age from page 20D

these features are important.

"We're looking for something unique with a lot of pizzazz to it," said Sommer, chairman of this year's selection committee. "But this is really about cars and people. We want to get exciting people to come to the show."

Featured vehicles this year are German cars, notably a 1930 Mercedes-Benz "Count Trossel" SSK owned by Ralph Lauren and a 1938 Adler Lemans Speedster. Adler, which is German for eagle, was a 1930s' marque noted for engineering advances. Also the English sports cars built by Morgan will be featured.

American cars will also be well represented including a 1936 Duesenberg SSJ Bobtailed Speedster built specially for Clark Gable. Only one other was made, for Gary Cooper.

Sommer, 62, said he began collecting cars when he was 9 years old and has been in the hobby "forever."

"I'm partial to Packards — also Chryslers, post war convertibles. You relate to cars that were popular when you were a kid. I grew up on a farm and didn't see Packards or Duesenbergs, mostly Model A's," Sommer said.

"Packards had a long, lean, racy look and a smooth engine."

Joseph's favorite is a 1928 Duesenberg with a double cam supercharged engine with 320 horsepower.

"It was the most impressive car built in America," Joseph said.

Joseph, who has been restoring cars for 20 years, said his interest is primarily in mechanics.

"The first place I worked, the first thing I did was work on a Duesenberg. It was the most expensive car in America. They sold the chassis, the body was more. . . . A finished car would cost

\$12,000 in 1928. Today they bring \$400,000 to \$1.5 million," Joseph said.

Elegant, personally styled bodies; interiors of buried wood, soft, tufted leather and tapestry designs; powerful, complex, aluminum engines that glister in the sun are all the elements of classic car design. They define an era, they echo the design ideas of the late '20s and '30s and also inspired them. At Meadow Brook all this beauty comes together.

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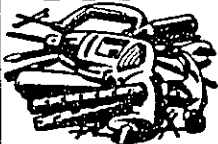
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