

THE MARTIN AUTOMOTIVE TIMES

Car of the Month (page 2): 1948 Tucker #1021



COLLECTORS CORNER

This month we are highlighting Martin Auto Museum Volunteer Gene Sparks.
Read more on page 2.

EVENT CENTER

Plan your next event in one of three beautiful event rooms and one of Arizona's best places to see classic cars.

Event Coordinator:
(602) 684-8305
Read more on page 4.

MUFFY'S SIDE OF THE GARAGE

Meet Muffy Bennett and look forward to reading her insight into the automobile world starting in the August issue. This month read her bio on page 3.



FIND US AT:

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August's Car of the Month: 1948 Tucker

#1021



This car (21 of only 51 ever built) was originally sold from the Tucker Corporation on February 16, 1949 to one of Tucker's Californian dealers, Charles DeCosta, who loved the Tucker automobile and kept this car until May 1967, when he sold it to another California-based Tucker enthusiast, Gene Clarke, an active member of the Tucker Automobile Club of America. He maintained the car and kept it roadworthy until 2021 when failing health intervened; in 2023, following Mr. Clarke's passing, No. 1021 was purchased by Mark Lieberman, senior director of the Tucker Automobile Club and noted Tucker historian.



Collectors Corner

This Month's M.A.M. Team Member is Gene Sparks

Aside from Chief Historian, Newsletter Editor, Author of the Martin Auto Museum Digital Library, I am a volunteer here.

I grew up in Oregon and after graduating from high school, I joined the US Navy and I was assigned to a Destroyer in the Pacific Fleet. My passion in photography began on board ship when I was requested to be the ship's photographer (that was very exciting and very fun). After serving over eight years, I got my first real job as a civilian working at Varian Associates on the defense contracting programs and completed my education through graduate school on the GI bill. My career at Varian ran 35 years as I supported the sale of Varian's Electronic Contract Manufacturing Division to Jabil Circuits where I continued supporting U.S. Defense programs until I retired in 2019.

I loved my job, I loved the people I worked with, but I love retirement a little more. I can now spend more time traveling the world with my wife Debi, with whom I have spent over 42 years with.

Being retired I can also volunteer here at the museum. The very best part of this gig is meeting all of you, our guests, hearing your stories and sharing Mel's incredible collection of cars, dreams, experiences and stories.



Muffy's Side of the Garage



Meet Muffy Bennett, CEO Bennett Automotive Specialists, Inc.

www.HusbandAndWifeCarTeam.com

Collector Car Consultants / Appraisers / Collection Management / Former Barrett-Jackson Executives

Representing high-net worth and celebrity clientele, Muffy is considered an expert in the collector car and car auction sectors. Her addiction for all things “wheeled” began as a very young child with an infatuation with motorcycles - much to her parent's dismay. In her teens, the ideal weekend night involved window-shopping at car and motorcycle dealerships, and attending local car shows with friends.

Always a bit eccentric, her love for cars and bikes has been evident throughout her life: from matching her dress to the turquoise '59 Thunderbird she went to prom in, to obtaining her motorcycle license,

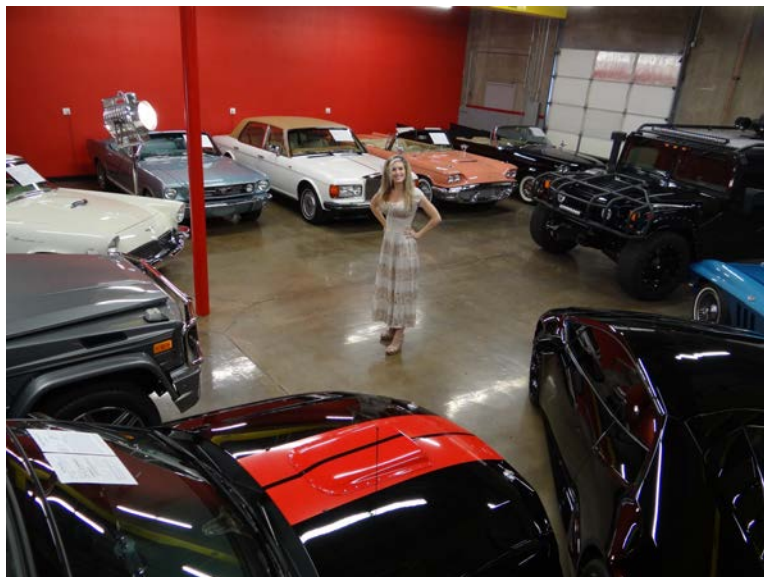
followed by a racing license. After a successful career as a paralegal in business, real estate, and sports/entertainment law, she broadened her horizons by accepting a position as the Operations Director/Paralegal for a Phoenix - based auction firm ASAA, wherein she was tasked with revamping the company and streamlining the model for rapid growth and franchising. As a result of her leadership, vision, planning and execution, the company expanded globally.

From there, she established a collector car dealership with the goal of combining her two passions: cars and auctions - purchasing cars, coordinating light restorations, and selling them at auction on a full-time basis. Among her noteworthy accomplishments, she holds a world record for the highest hammer price for a 1957 Ford F-Code Fairlane Skyliner Retractable that sold for \$330,000. She also privately brokered several exceptionally rare pieces, including the original \$4.6M Batmobile. Her dealership specializes in catering to high net worth and celebrity clientele, and services include collection expansion and liquidation, appraisals, representation of client's assets in an auction consignment liaison capacity, and collection storage and vehicle concierge services.

In 2013, Muffy was asked to open a retail facility for Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auctions. The dealership is located in Scottsdale, and compliments the auction division. Among its offerings was a full-service center, detailing services, collector car insurance/financing, merchandise sales, and a rotation of the finest collector cars available for purchase.

In 2017, Muffy joined Ritchie Bros' Auctioneers the largest auction company in the world to spearhead its entry into the collector car auction sector, and oversaw the collector car division until its closure due to the pandemic. Muffy now works alongside her husband, and together they formed HusbandAndWifeCarTeam.com.

When she's not playing with cars, Muffy enjoys riding motorcycles, target shooting, and donates her time to various charities.



EVENTS & TOURS

Plan your next event at Martin Auto Museum & Event Center

No doubt, walking around viewing over 175 very cool cars is an experience all by itself. Within our 100,000 plus square foot museum we have 3 event rooms: The Cadillac Room - seats up to 80, The Mustang Room - seats up to 150, & the Bristol Ballroom - seats up to 500. Karen Gallaher and Dan Heldenbrand represent the Event Department at the Martin Auto Museum & Event Center. They can create and organize truly great experiences of all types. Contact one of our Event Coordinators at (602) 684-8305.

We recently hosted The Arizona Corvette Club for a member meeting and luncheon.



RICK DEBRUHL - COLLECTOR CAR PROFILE

1948 Tucker #1021



Interested in becoming a sponsor

Gold Sponsor: \$50,000 annually

- Bristol Ballroom named after you or your business
- Use of the facility two times per year for private events or car shows
- Gold sponsor signage throughout museum
- Gold sponsor recognition on website
- Gold sponsor recognition on all marketing materials
- Signage outside museum during car shows
- Email blast to our entire database introducing you as a Gold sponsor
- 20% discount on all museum room bookings

Title Sponsor: \$25,000 annually

- Mustang Meeting Room named after you or your business
- Use of the facility one time per year for private events or car shows
- Title sponsor signage throughout museum
- Title sponsor recognition on website
- Title sponsor recognition on all marketing materials
- Email blast to our entire database introducing you as a Title sponsor
- 10% discount on museum room bookings

Foundation Sponsor: \$10,000 annually

- Cadillac Classroom named after you or your business
- Use of the facility one time per year for private events or car shows
- Foundation sponsor recognition on website
- Foundation sponsor recognition in all marketing materials
- 5% discount on museum room bookings

Supporting Sponsor: \$5,000 annually

- Supporting sponsor recognition on website
- Supporting sponsor recognition on all marketing materials
- Your company's flyers/brochures on display at museum entrance

Friends & Family Sponsor: \$1,000 annually

- Friends & Family sponsor recognition on website
- Your company's flyer's/brochures on display at entrance

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

