

DREAM CARS



BY MIKE KOSKO

In this dream I am standing beside Professor Robert Peerless, Master's Degree in Automotive History. We are inside a mechanics garage somewhere in Pennsylvania. A couple of light bulbs above us shine weakly. The workbenches are dark and shadowy. There are no other people. Quiet like a deserted church surrounds us.

Robert spoke. "Well mike, what a strange car to chance upon. I've never seen one of these in person."

"What year is it?" I asked.

"1956."

It was a gray and white '56 Hudson four-door sedan before us. It looked like new, though the dim light discomplemented it.

Robert and I walked around the car. We stopped at its front. "Unusual grille", I said, studying it.

Robert shrugged in his mauve sportcoat. His bald head slightly glistened.

"Yes," he said. "It makes the car look ugly, so the history looks say."

It was a chromeey, curious affair, with a big "V" formed across it by a big chrome strip.

"It looks as if it's smiling," I noted



“Yes”, said Robert. “A pitiable, innocent smile. Consumer Guide’s Cars of the 50s said the ‘56 and ‘57 were horrendous chrome – plated nightmares, the ugliest Hudsons in a generation.”

“It’s a ‘Hash’, isn’t it?” I said. “Nash took over Hudson in 1954, when Hudson was going down the drain. The merger was called American Motors. Hudsons from 1955 onward used the Nash bodysells.”

“Precisely,” said the Professor, “They look like Nashes. But this Hudson grille is controversial.”

“Professor, is it true that to a person who really loves old cars, there are no ugly old cars?”

“In many cases, yes.” Robert made a wry mouth. He went on; “The 1958 Edsel, the 1938 Phantom Corsair, the 1961 De Soto, the 1934 to ‘37 Chrysler Airflow; were they ugly cars?” He made a throw-away gesture, “Maybe,” he said. “But we old-car lovers tend to look at the old cars differently than most people do. We try to sympathize. We try to be open-minded.”

I asked “Do you think this Hudson is ugly?”

“No, Mike, I think it’s different. Another imaginative design. That’s my opinion. Mike, my Aunt Matilda is 73 years old and is still a spring chicken. She once owned a 1956 Nash. I think she would like to have this nice old Hudson, V-line styling and all. I’m going to ask the owner of this car to sell it to me. If it runs well I’m going to offer him \$8,000.”

I smiled, “Great, Professor. Let’s find him.”

“Let’s find him,” said Robert.

And the dream ends, but the old cars never really die ☹️

WRECKS OF THE PAST



BY GARY COOPER

I believe this is a 1947 or 48 Coupe Champion. It crashed in front of my house about 1959. It was a nice car, I'm not sure if it was repaired. But it would be a nice car today because you don't see many. My 55 Ford is in the background.

A Studebaker Golden Hawk, I'm not sure of the year. Tangled with a guardrail cables. They would really tear a car up. Note the back quarter panel with the bolt-on fiberglass fin. Studebaker used the same body shell since 1953, putting on the fin to upgrade the car. This would really be a nice car today. We repaired the car. 🚗



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