

# *A Source of Whimsy and Magic... Sherman Auto Sales (and Nostalgia)*

By Larry Hassel

Whimsical is the only description I would use to describe it. It is a plethora of nostalgia from a golden age of motor-ing across America. It is stuff many of us remember from those quintessential family vacations across America in our dad's Chevy, Ford or Vista Cruiser station wagons in the 1960s...Pecan Joes, Stuckey's, Nickerson Farms, Meramec Caverns, Silver Dollar City, mixed with roadside antique and curio shops all rolled into one. This is 2013 and those places are largely long forgotten...places from an age of innocence. Remember when you would stop at a filling station and the attendants would check your oil, water, battery, wash your windows and fill your tank like it was sort of a "feelgood" event and they would say Ma'am or Sir and not "how's it going guys?" Those are the days I'm talking about...that age of inno-cence where we appreciated that Bermuda Shorts reigned supreme (some changes have been good). Now you roll in with your run-flat Suburban Assault Vehicle (Soccer Mom Car), blackened windows with your vinyl stick figure family that no one cares about and soccer ball stickers on the rear window and you clandestinely fill up with "fuel," for fear you are being watched by Obamadrones as you inadvertently fund some obscure Middle-Eastern Terrorist organization or find you are offending some left-wing green organization that wants you to use bio-something or other that largely takes vastly more energy to produce and doesn't impact migratory armadillos. Sad, but true...we may have become a nation of "self-centered special-interest" wimps with COEXIST bumper stickers for fear we'll offend the sensibilities of some-undocumented per-son that wishes to impose their culture upon us. Dad and Mom taught me to respect everyone and at age 57, I don't need "political re-education." I hope they don't see my "Gee-Haw Whimmy Diddle" in action...essentially two sticks...one with a propeller and serrations that you rubbed the other stick against to make the propeller spin and those frustrating mer-cury filled mini-mazes that we would rock back and forth. Well, its fun to time-travel back to past memories of good mind-less thoughts away from the din depicting tension, political correctness, forced cultural diversity and the turmoil of CNN vs. Fox News that makes for nightmares that keep us up worrying. The land of "OZ" is right here in Fenton, MO where one can smile and laugh and not takes sides on any issue.

Normally, I wouldn't advocate any business over another business in "The Brass Lamp," but this place is so unique, it is more of a museum and you soon forget that virtually everything is for sale as you try to look at every object while memo-ries of the past are often evoked. This is a collection of things that a man and his wife have created on junkets across America...Americana at it's finest...bubble gum machines, juke boxes, art and art objects...no made in China stickers pre-sent! I've periodically visited the location of our members, Mark and Audrey Sherman, and their new place of business, Sherman Auto Sales...Classy antique cars and antiques numerous times, just because it makes me good to walk in the door. I've taken friends from as far away as the UK to visit this magical spot. Mark has relocated his business from the North City/County area to Fenton at 519 B Rudder Road, Fenton, MO 63026 and has given it a different flavor that is not just about cars, but nostalgia. Sadly, the north neighborhood changed and urban decay started to take its toll on the old land-mark business...there since 1946. If you haven't visited Mark, you need to see what he and Audrey have done. It isn't just about antique and special interest cars, but it is about memorabilia (or rather, should we say automobilia). You walk in the door, rather unprepared for what you'll find. There is art hanging on the walls, there are antique signs, and my favorite, a lamp that is a parking meter transformed. Your turn the meter, after depositing money of course, and you have up to 60 minutes of light before the meter maid comes knocking at your door. There are signs from places long forgot-ten...including a no-vacancy/vacancy sign from the infamous Route 66 landmark "no-tell motel," the Coral Court. Yes, that sign used to blink on and off by the hour. To compliment that, Mark has a completely stocked fully functional "dispenser" of expired "product" removed from some long demolished gas station/truck stop men's room should you wish

to install such a "unit" as a point of humor in a rec. room bathroom... just in case the need arises! There are old phonographs, his father's carriages, and a good assortment of beautiful cars from the 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s. I'm a bit partial to the art, which is largely my photo-graphic creations...simply exquisite! Mark writes, "Sherman Auto Sales is a 66 year old family automobile business. We have relocated to Fenton from St. Louis City. Our company is a wonderful store built on per-sonal passion. Our business is a gallery setting with classic cars, an-tiques, and gifts. There is a lot of history in our store. We welcome visitors. It is a store to have fun in and hopefully get lost in." You can find Sherman Auto Sales on the web at: <http://www.shermanautosalesinc.com/>

