



Style and Speed at the Masterpiece

Article and photos by John Gunnell

A Double Six v-windshield limousine, the largest automobile ever made in Britain, took Best of Show at the latest and greatest of the five Milwaukee Masterpieces held so far, this year on Aug. 22-23.

An enthusiast viewing the show may have wondered about the link tying together special showings of Bentleys, Ferraris and Chrysler 300 Letter Cars. The unifying aspect was performance, according to show chairman Leon Flagg. Dealer and author Colin Comer pointed out, "Seasoned collectors will recite certain things" inherent in their value. "The common thread, regardless of the car or era, is performance."

The Masterpiece featured a half-dozen Morgans, from Ian Furness' 1937 three-wheeler to Charles Miller's '71 Plus 8 roadster, to honor the Malvern, England, coachbuilder's centenary. 2009 was also the first year for a "circle of elegance" devoted to motorcycles. The 10 participants were described as "beyond the commonplace" and included a made-in-



Above: Karl Wuesthoff brought out this 1962 VW 23-window bus. Right: This bright-red Chrysler 300 E belongs to Guy Morice. Below: Ron Schneider's 1936 Stout Scarab symbolizes "streamlining."

Kansas 1909 Shaw and a 1910 Merkel Light, built after its maker relocated from Milwaukee to Pottstown, Pa.



There were 31 classes at the Sunday concours, with 200 vehicles accepted for exhibition in a grand setting on the shores of Lake Michigan. A day earlier, about the same number of totally different vehicles took part in the show's Club Day, which highlighted American Power, European Sports Cars and World-Class Exotica.

Initial counts and feedback indicated the show's gate grew from the prior year, no small feat given 2009's economic climate. The Masterpiece benefits JFS Inc. (www.jfsmilw.org), a social services agency. 