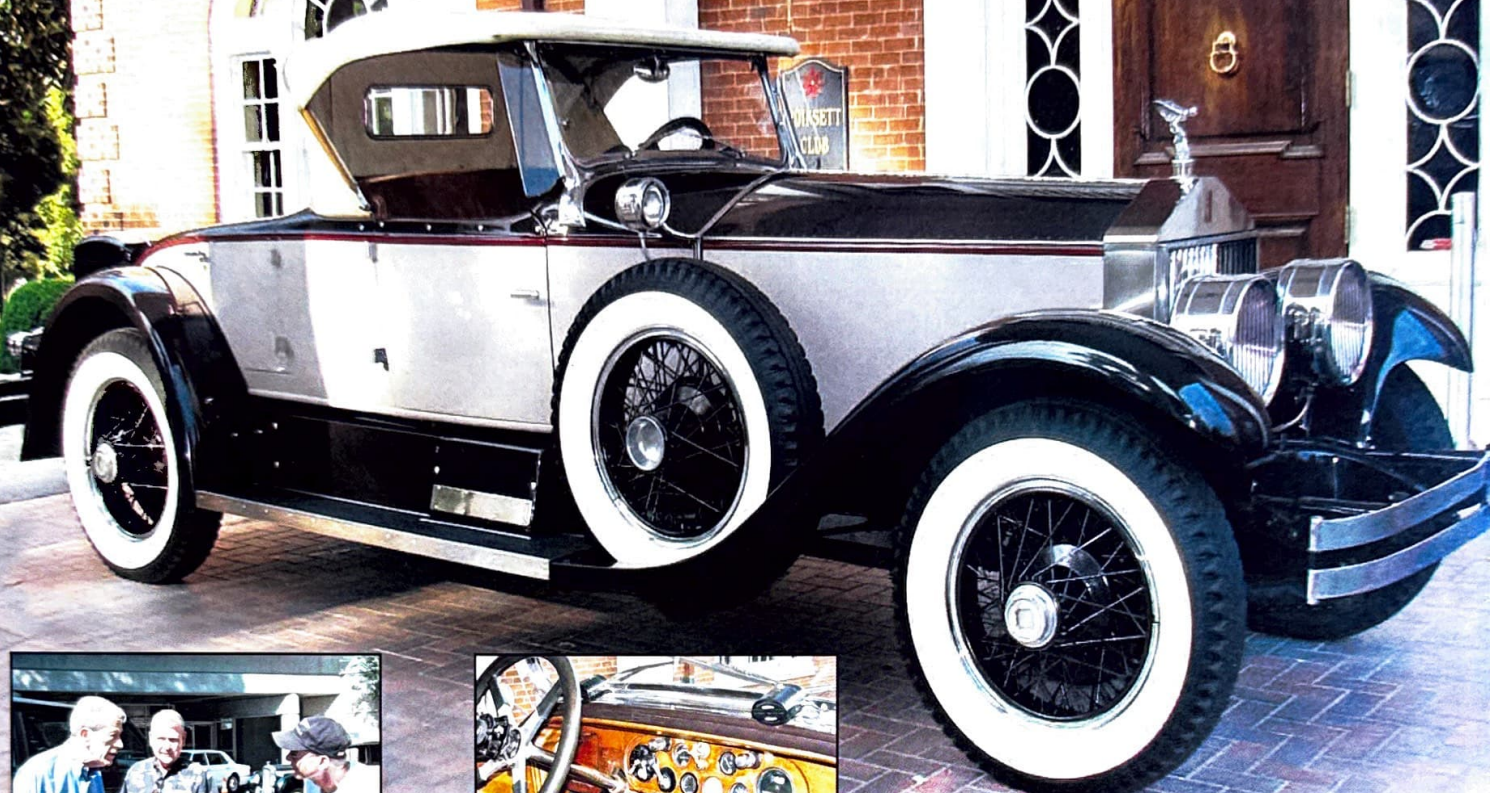


Greenville 2007: S260RM

CHARLES & SALLIE GRIFFIN'S PHANTOM I PICCADILLY ROADSTER



Charles Griffin (L) shows Paul Cabe and Mark Meachem under the bonnet and inside S260RM

In keeping with the "Phantom" theme of the Rebel Region's 2007 Memorial Day Meet we were honored to have in attendance a pair of outstanding classic Phantoms we haven't seen at our Region meets before.

Charles and Sallie Griffin (Marshville, NC) brought their recently-acquired 1927 Springfield Phantom I Piccadilly roadster (S260RM). This charismatic roadster attracted much attention from members and spectators alike. Charles Griffin, a longtime collector, previously owned a 25/30 Park Ward limousine, which he sold in the spring of 2006 while trimming back his collection. But soon Charles began to miss owning a classic Rolls-Royce so he started looking for another one. A friend located this Piccadilly in – amazingly – Springfield, Massachusetts where it was originally manufactured! Charles flew there to see it and purchased it in November, 2006.

According to documentation Charles received with S260RM, it was originally delivered to a Texas rancher named Swenson in October, 1927. Apparently oil was discovered on his property in the 1920's, and in a precursor of "The Beverly Hillbillies" he high-tailed himself out of Texas and moved to the New York area (okay, wrong coast). S260RM was the first of three Rolls-Royces owned by Mr. Swenson. While there are gaps in the chain of ownership, the car was

later owned by a Eugene Heid of Willamantic, CT, and still later by an M.A. Lemaitre also of Connecticut. Does anyone know them?

Charles Griffin does most of his own work and spent many hours since November, 2006 bringing S260RM back to life for the Memorial Day meet. While the car did run, it had suffered from non-use and required recommissioning. Charles knew that the engine was noisier than it should be, and the oil pressure appeared to be low. Charles performed the typical items of engine maintenance (carburetor adjustment, plugs, condenser, etc.) and he cleaned out the engine journals (not a fun job), all of which improved the engine performance considerably. The German silver-plated accessories and trim were highly tarnished so Charles spent many hours polishing. In addition to the satisfaction of reviving such a magnificent automobile, Charles received the Region's James L. Haines Memorial Trophy for Best Personal Restoration.

Charles and Sallie Griffin's collection includes several notable cars such as a brass-era 1912 Hudson and a 1932 Chrysler Imperial LeBaron phaeton (both restored) and a 1957 Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz convertible which Charles plans to restore for their daughter.