

Lee Iacocca Turns Down Senate Appointment

Newly-wed Lee Iacocca almost became Sen. Iacocca recently, but after some thought, declined the appointment.

The Chrysler Corporation chairman — who as chief executive of the Ford Motor Company in the 1960s was instrumental in the development of the Mustang — was offered an appointment to the U.S. Senate by Pennsylvania Gov. Robert P. Casey recently.

The vacancy was created by the death of Sen. John Heinz, who was killed in an airplane crash earlier this year.

"After lengthy discussions with my family and close friends, I concluded that I was not prepared to make the commitment necessary to fulfill the heavy responsibilities of a United States Senator," Iacocca said.

Proposed LA Ordinance Threatens Car Hobbyists

A proposed ordinance in Los Angeles County, CA has caused a great deal of concern among classic car collectors, according

to recent reports in the *Specialty Equipment Marketing Association News*.

The ordinance, in effect, bans hobbyist vehicles on private property unless the owner pays the county \$125.

The ordinance would prohibit county residents from parking their inoperable and non-street legal vehicles on their property. However, for \$125, Los Angeles County would issue a site plan for the property that would allow the owner to park, store or maintain a vehicle as the discretion of the county planning director.

In effect, Los Angeles County would impose a user tax for property owners to use their own property, SEMA said.

"The objectionable language is part of a proposed Inoperative Vehicle Ordinance which is intended to remove 'blighted' or 'junk' vehicles from Los Angeles neighborhoods. SEMA has no objections with that goal, and in fact, has offered an amendment to the proposed language which would allow for inoperative and non-street legal vehicles

to be kept on private property provided they are screened from ordinary public view. That would meet the criteria of removing blight without trampling the rights of hobbyists and property owners," the national organization said.

The group added:

"The danger of this type of proposal extends well beyond Los Angeles County. These types of ordinances tend to spread like wildfire as other local governments pick them up and put them into effect."

Smithsonian Institution Opens Indy 500 Exhibit

A new exhibit, "The Indianapolis Motor Speedway," has opened in the Road Transportation Hall of the National Museum of American History and will continue through December 31.

The exhibit includes original bricks from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, a gift of the Speedway Corporation. The bricks, set on the front of the Road Transportation platform, have been re-laid in sand and mortar just as they were placed on the track at Indianapolis in 1909.

Displayed with the bricks are two racing cars that compiled outstanding records at the Indianapolis track. The No. 6 built in 1930 by Harry A. Miller of Los Angeles is reported to have run more races at Indy (12 between 1930-47) than any car. The second car, No. 2, is the STP Brawner Hawk that Mario Andretti drove to his only Indianapolis 500 victory, in 1969.

William L. Withuhn, Curator of Transportation, noted that the Smithsonian is seeking gifts of vehicles to expand its collection of cars, particularly from 1903-69. "I hope this exhibit will generate interest among collectors in helping us acquire a few significant vehicles, particularly cars that ran at Indianapolis," Withuhn noted.

The National Museum of American History, a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution, is devoted to the collection, care, study and exhibition of objects that reflect the experience of the American people. It also offers lectures, concerts, and other programs which interpret that experience. The Museum is located at 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW in Washington, DC.

Many advances in automobiles began in racing, from the rear view mirror (1911) to engines, tires and fuels used today. The twin overhead cam engine used in many 1991 passenger cars was anticipated in racing by Harry Miller in 1920.

The Mustang Times/June, 1991

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