

A KISSEL AT THE HEART OF A FAMILY

My grandfather, Preston Heller, courted my grandmother, Ruth Schulein, in a Kissel — I believe it was a Gold Bug — in the early or mid-1920s. They soon married, and my father, Preston “Pete” Heller Jr., was born in 1929.

When my father decided to start collecting antique cars in the 1980s he decided to honor his father’s memory by collecting Kissels. He purchased a 1921 Kissel Gold Bug, plus two other Kissels that I believe were from 1925 and 1928 — one a cream and pistachio speedster and the other a red and black two-door sedan.

My father passed away in 2013, and I chose to keep and restore the Gold Bug to honor his memory (and to continue to honor my grandfather, who died the year before I was born).

I gave the car to Jason Wenig at The Creative Workshop with the hope of creating the greatest restored Kissel of any sort, which I believe we accomplished. In 2018 we won First in Class among Vintage Era Sporting Cars at the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance.

I gathered my entire extended family at Pebble to participate in that wonderful moment in honor of my father.

— ANDREW HELLER

The extended Heller clan gather around the class-winning 1921 Kissel 6-45 “Gold Bug” Speedster that was restored and shown at Pebble Beach to honor the memories of Preston Heller and Preston “Pete” Heller Jr.



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