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## A Life-Long Attraction To Cars

Doris Phelps is a life-long resident of Carroll County and a confirmed “Car Gal”. By her own admission, she says that “I’ve always loved cars, even when I was a child.”

Doris’ first attraction to an antique car happened back in 1963, when she was an EEG medical tech who traveled to Montgomery County once a month to provide training courses. She often took a route through Olney, MD and noticed a Ford Model A parked in a yard along the way down to Rockville. Intrigued by the car, one day Doris stopped by the house and inquired if the Model A was for sale. It was a 1929 Roadster, a very desirable car, but in fairly rough shape. The owner’s answer at the time was a definite NO!

But Doris can be persistent. Every so often she stopped in Olney and asked about the Model A. Eventually after about a year, the owner declared that Doris was “becoming a pain”, but decided that if she wanted the Model A he would sell it to her for \$400. She immediately agreed to the price and promised to return with the money. Of course, the owner didn’t know that Doris didn’t have ready cash, but she was able to obtain financing to be paid off monthly. Her second problem was that she didn’t have a place to keep her newly acquired antique car. She soon found a garage in Manchester, MD, so that’s where her antique car was stored starting in 1964.

But life’s journey keeps going and Doris met her husband-to-be and soon settled down in Manchester. Her husband was not an antique car nut. He was a real outdoors type who loved to hunt and was an avid snowmobile aficionado. So Doris became involved in the winter snowmobile scene and the Model A remained in storage for forty

years. But, again life’s circumstances prevailed and Doris became a widow and eventually sold the snowmobiles.



*Doris Phelps’ cars from the top: 1950 Cadillac, 1929 Ford Model A roadster, & 1967 Cadillac Deville.*

With a lot of energy and involvement in many pursuits, she decided to have the Model A restored, selecting Richard Reinhold and his family in

Pennsylvania to restore the car. Reinhold’s advice to her was that she could buy a well-restored Model A for far less than what it was going to cost to restore her car. But Doris wanted this Model A restored because of her long connection to the car. It took eighteen months to restore the car, but the result was certainly well worth the wait of more than 42 years. Her 1929 Ford Model A roadster has received its AACA Senior award, a Senior Grand National, and a first place award at the Carlisle All-Ford Nationals.

About four years ago Doris started looking at other antique cars. She wanted a more modern antique that would be easier to drive than the Model A; something with an automatic transmission and power assists. She found a pair of nice Cadillacs that belonged to Howard Klare, of Hampstead, MD, who had passed away. They were a 1950 Cadillac coupe, and a 1967 Cadillac DeVille, with only 17K miles on it. She was able to buy the ’67, but the son decided to keep the ’50, even though Doris wanted both cars.

But Doris was happy to have the 1967 Cadillac and began showing it at AACA National Meets where it received Junior and Senior awards. It was such a pristine original car that it needed nothing but good maintenance.

About two years ago Doris happened to be in Hampstead passing by the Wooden Indian hardware store and saw the 1950 Cadillac, which was now for sale. She immediately contacted the owner and arranged to buy it. Since then, it has been awarded a First Junior.

Doris says that her three antique cars have received 42 trophies from all types of local, regional, and national shows. She enjoys showing and driving these antique cars and is truly a Car Gal.