



"For What It's Worth"TM

Wall Calendar Round-Up

In our series of articles about cars featured in one of our 2014 wall calendars, this month's focus is on the 1931 Cadillac Sport Phaeton from the GM calendar. We asked AAG agent Tim Pawl of Detroit, Michigan, curator and past president of the Cadillac-LaSalle Club Museum & Research Center, for some comments about this noteworthy vehicle:

What was happening at Cadillac during the time of this vehicle's production?

Pawl: This was a defining time for Cadillac. In 1930 they shocked the motoring world by offering the first V16 engine. In 1931, they followed up with a new V12 engine, which complemented the already successful V8 engine, and vaulted Cadillac to the top of the luxury car market.

What is significant about this model?

Pawl: In 1931, there were three engines available in the Sport Phaetons: V8, V12, and V16. Since the automatic transmission would not appear for almost another decade, the high torque available at low rpm in the V16 engine meant that the driver could launch the car in third gear and never have to shift again. Combined with its resistance to stalling, the V16 engine was a new driving sensation.

Why buy the 1931 Cadillac Sport Phaeton instead of any other cars available in 1931?

Pawl: With the advent of Cadillac's Hydramatic transmission in 1941, the V8 engine became the model of choice. Until then, Packard had their 'Twin Six' twelve-cylinder, but the only competition Cadillac had for the V16 engine was Marmon. GM's 1931 Cadillac remains a desirable collector car for that reason.



1931 Cadillac Sport Phaeton from AAG's January 2014 GM Wall Calendar

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