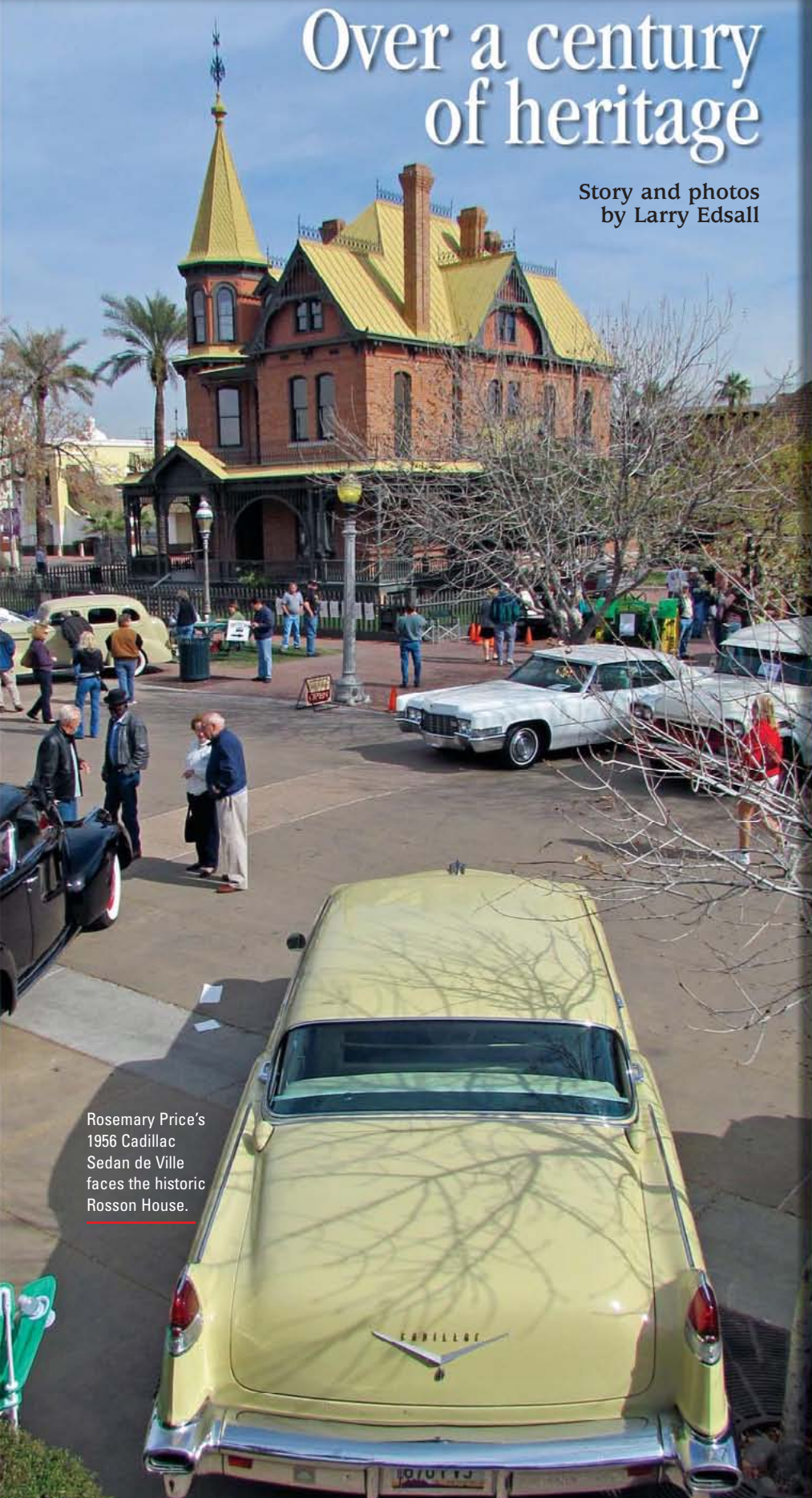


Over a century of heritage

Story and photos
by Larry Edsall



Rosemary Price's
1956 Cadillac
Sedan de Ville
faces the historic
Rosson House.

Ford Model AA truck does not run with the herd

Robin and Scott Evans grew up on opposite sides of the street. Each of their fathers owned auto shops and restored old cars for fun and profit. Robin and Scott also owned Ford Mustangs. His was a 1969. Hers was a '64 built on just the second day of the pony car's production.

"He and his dad would come over and watch me work on my car," Robin recalled at the fourth annual Motoring Thru Time car show, staged by the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department in Heritage Square, downtown. After watching her work awhile, "they'd tell me I'd done it wrong and then they'd go home."

But one evening, Scott lingered after his dad walked back across the street. With his dad out of earshot, he asked Robin out on a date. One date led to another and dating led to an engagement and the Evanses now have been married for 18 years. Robin still has that '64 Mustang, but now it's just one of a dozen vehicles in a collection that includes five Mustangs—including a 1969 428 Cobra Jet drag racer with 30,000 miles on its odometer—two Edsels, a pair of Triumph motorcycles, a 1953 Willys military Jeep and a 1931 Ford Model AA truck.

The Evanses' '31 Ford truck was among the vehicles that drew the largest crowds at the Motoring Thru Time show, which included some 130 vehicles that ranged from two 1905 models—a 1905 Cadillac Model E and a 1905 Sears Motor Buggy—to a 1986 Chevrolet Corvette, as well as several vintage travel trailers, fire trucks, motorcycles, bicycles and a scooter.

But the Evanses' truck stood out because it had been outfitted for use by a shepherd, with such unusual features as features as a couple of old tractor seats mounted on the wooden front bumper—no doubt a great place to sit and watch the sheep—with all sorts of tools attached to the sides of a truck bed covered by a Conestoga wagon-style canvas top, beneath which there is room to eat, sit, and even a cot for sleeping.

The Evanses have owned their truck for six years. They bought it from a

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(Above) Robin and Scott Evans' 1931 Ford Model AA (double rear-wheeled) truck set up for sheepherder use, complete with tools and living quarters.

(At left, clockwise from top left) Bob Jordan's 1959 Ford Skyliner, Daniel J. Obele's 1906 REO Town Car chassis, Jim and Debbie Wagnon's 1939 Packard Super S, Frank Kummerfeldt's 1927 Franklin sedan, John A. Clark's 1956 Oldsmobile 98, Larry Rovey's 1928 John Deere Model D, Francis Knuckley's 1952 MG-TD, and Ed and Elaine Cain's 1952 Chevrolet pickup truck.

"motorcycle friend" in California. The friend also was a Boy Scout troop leader and used the truck for scouting campouts. The friend found the truck sitting in front of an antiques store in Colorado, where the truck apparently was used for many years by actual sheepherders.

Although the Evanses have had to replace an exhaust system that rusted off, the Model AA's dualie-style rear wheels still are turned by the truck's original four-cylinder engine as it emits its characteristic "puckity-puckity" sound.

Robin said that when they bought the truck, they drove it Beverly Hillbillies-style from Southern California to Phoenix on Interstate 10. However, she said, they were careful to remove the sharp tools and any glass objects hanging from the truck's side so nothing would fall off and damage other vehicles and their gawking occupants.

She said the truck gets a lot of attention on the road, especially when it's on its way to various car shows in the company of her father's Model A roadster. ■

