

SUMMER SHOWS & EVENTS

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NEW BRASS



**HORSELESS
CARRIAGE
DEBUTED AT
NYIAS** PAGE 20

Season Opener

Carlisle opens northern swap season

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Opened again

Kelsey collection re-opened to visitors

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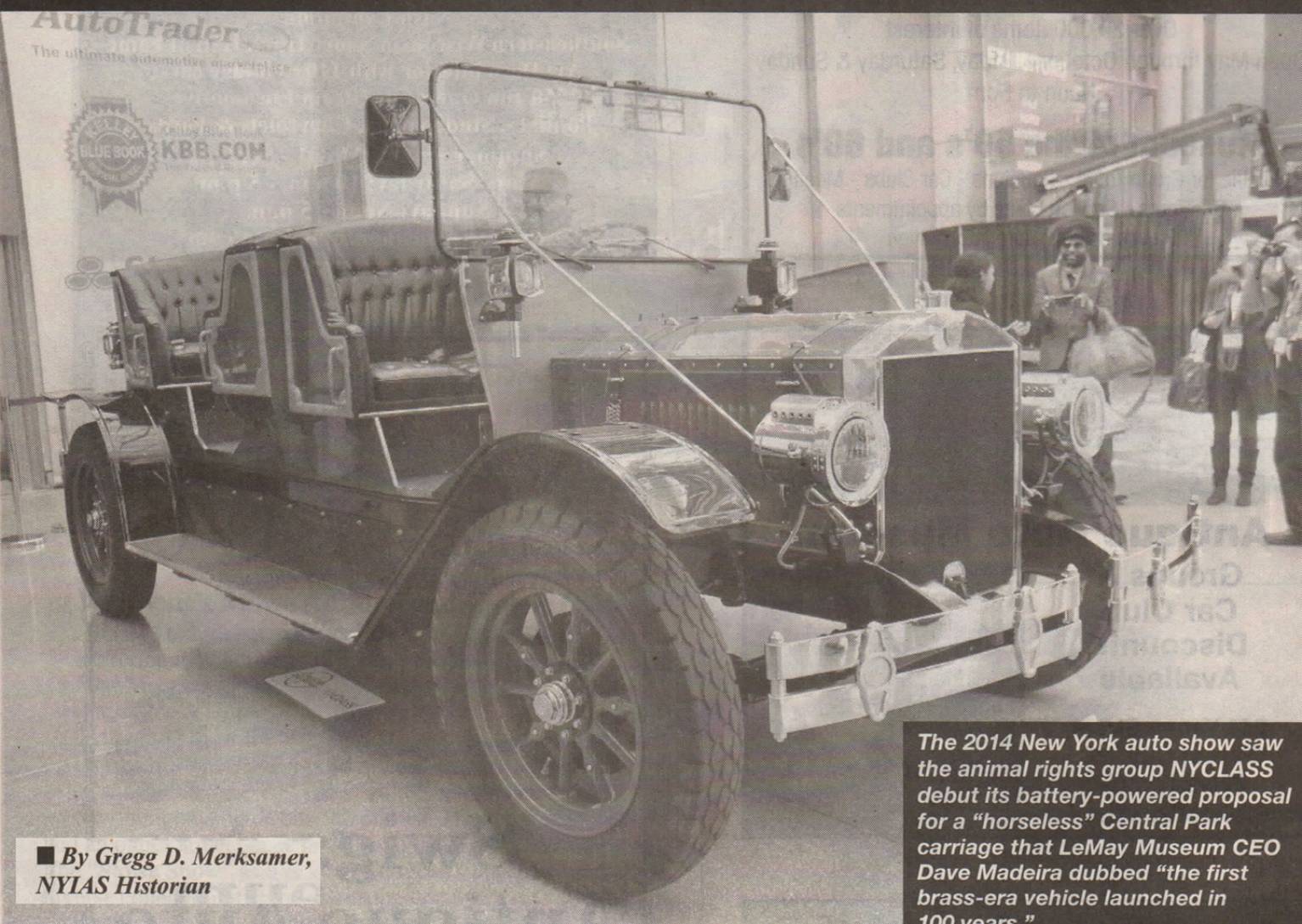
Mantiques

Inside a collector's paradise

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Goin' BIG in Gotham

Anniversaries
abound at the
2014 New York
International
Auto Show



■ *By Gregg D. Merksamer,
NYIAS Historian*

The 2014 New York auto show saw the animal rights group NYCLASS debut its battery-powered proposal for a “horseless” Central Park carriage that LeMay Museum CEO Dave Madeira dubbed “the first brass-era vehicle launched in 100 years.”

A long-standing irony of New York's auto show is that one of the last horse-drawn carriage stables in Manhattan is located just a block from the Javits Center on West 38th Street. This only deepened the context for this year's final press conference hosted by the animal rights group NYCLASS (New Yorkers for Clean, Livable And Safe Streets), which commissioned The Creative Workshop of Dania Beach, Fla., to construct an antique-looking “electric horseless carriage” that could “effec-

tively and respectfully” replace actual equines in Central Park. Jason Wenig's nine-passenger, 7,000-lb. prototype certainly looked the part with its bulb horn, brass radiator, external hand brake and ten-spoke artillery wheels formed from solid aluminum and shod with Coker reproduction Goodrich Silverton tires. Wenig said the 84-hp AC motor's 30 mph top speed would be safely limited to 5 mph to within Central Park by a “GPS fence that's like a dog's electronic collar.” Though NYC Mayor Bill de Bla-

sio's proposed ban on horse-drawn carriages faces strong opposition from city council members concerned about the potential loss of 400 livelihoods, Wenig stressed “my job was to build something as magnificent as I can to get people to conceive an alternative.”