

BARBARA'S ADVENTURES by Barbara Smith

Adventures with my '84 Cadillac Seville.....

My friend, Barclay Sheaks, is an acrylic artist in Hilton Village in Newport News. He has been consulting me on my ongoing project to decorate the roof of my '84 Seville.

I started decorating the car after an ice storm slivered the original tan canvas top, that covered the fiberglass top piece. I had a blue replacement for the old canvas installed, which the insurance company paid plenty for. After a few years the blue faded. At that point, I refused to buy another new top. Jill a friend of mine, used a sponge to dab pink and blue over the blue canvas. Then another friend, John Carper, a sample of oriental carpet and I took it to Office Max and had it imaged full size. Jill used polyethylene glycol under and over the paper design on the center of the top. My friend, Nelson, put a green crisscross stripe border around the paper design.

At that point, I consulted Barclay, getting his opinion on the project. He thought a white border, outside the stripe, would be a nice touch.

After years of wear and tear, the top looked like one of those lumpy clay maps, with tears galore. I went to Lee's upholstery shop to have them cut out the design area down to the fiberglass top piece. After much scrubbing and Nelson's sanding, the fiberglass was ready for primer and white paint, which Barclay suggested. Terry, from Poquoson body shop, put the primer on for me. I bought white polyethylene boat paint from a boat supply company. My friend, Carlton Ann, and I sanded the primer and after masking the areas that were not to be painted, she put on the white boat paint on the primer. After that dried we sanded that and Carlton Ann gave it a second coat of white. When we pulled the paper off, days later, I carefully touched up any tiny areas that needed it.

I entered the car in our region's car show at Suttle Motors, that year. I used Save Tibet as the theme with a Tibetan bell, ringer, Tibetan drums, and Tibetan sand painting tools in the front window. Also I put on Save Tibet bumper stickers on the rusty areas of the back bumper. I put a large sand painting mandallas in the center of the white area of the top. I also put two small ones on the sail panels of the top. My car won a second place trophy!

A few weeks after this show, I dolled up my car just like it was for the show. I planned to take it over to, my friend, Barclay Sheaks, to show it to him. It wouldn't start, so I picked him up and brought him to the car. He was impressed with the project and said, "You did real good."

I get these great ideas of how to redo the top of my roof and have great friends that pitch in, for the fun of it, to help this 71 year old lady. I didn't have the slightest expertise for doing what needed to be done. I always give credit where credit is due. By the way, I forgot to mention that I am allergic to paint.

Submitted by Barbara Smith