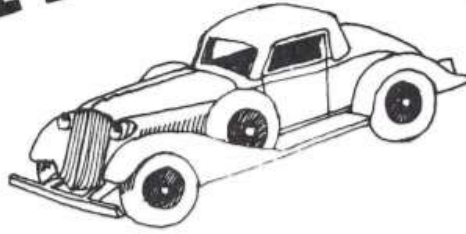


**CAPITOL MINIATURE AUTO  
COLLECTORS CLUB**



**FEBRUARY 2026: NEXT MEETING-  
FEBRUARY 8, 2026**

## **CMACC MEETING DETAILS**

### **FEBRUARY 2026**

**DATE AND TIME:** SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026 11:00 A.M. TO 2 P.M. (JACK WILL BE HAVING 1/64 SALE 8 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M. IN MAIN HALL)

**LOCATION:** VIENNA FIREHOUSE BOARD ROOM, 400 SOUTH CENTER ST., VIENNA, VA 22180

**THEME:** RECENT ACQUISITIONS

**RSVP:** HAROLD BLEVINS 517-224-1123,  
[shadyvalley48@gmail.com](mailto:shadyvalley48@gmail.com)

### **SAD NEWS: NOLA GURSKI**

Nola Gurski, widow of long-time CMACC member Jeff Gurski, passed away on the evening of January 12, at Reston Hospital. She had just transferred to a new rehab center and was unresponsive. As Harold said, Nola and Jeff are together now.

Nola and Jeff had few family members, one relation on the west coast that I know of. There is no formal service scheduled, I think we will try and set up something similar to the get together we held for Jeff at one of their favorite restaurants. More news when I have it.

## **EVENTS: Let me know if you know:**

- **TJ's Diecast Toys, (Jack's show) 1/64 Show, Sunday February 8, 8 AM -2 PM, Vienna Fire House, 400 Center St S, Vienna, VA 22180.**
- **1/43<sup>rd</sup> Show, Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at the Holiday Inn in Countryside, Ill.**

## **Editor's Corner**

Special thanks to our contributors to this issue, who rose to the occasion with interesting new articles and OAST! Once again the variety of interests impresses, and the thought that goes into the curating of photos and topics.

Robin Godwin's article on the happy and the sad is certainly food for thought—how many of the finds that we acquire are parts of a previous owner's treasured collection, whether they were owned by someone we knew or not. In that sense we are all just caretakers for a while. But it doesn't mean that we don't treasure these same items, and wonder about their original owners and the history of each item. This has particularly come to me with Jeff's collection, seeing items I know in the bid lists for an auction. I know that I had to bid on two of the Greyhound items in the last Ralston auction because I knew them from Jeff's display case.

See the last three pages for some more CMACC history, Harold found these at Jeff's. The Club membership list from 1988—I hadn't even been accepted yet!

The tariff tax hit me again this month, three more models I preordered from BBR in Italy before the tariff imposition suddenly were ready for delivery, and you have to take it or lose the deposit. As before they were Alfas and I had to take them, and I wasn't surprised when DHL sent me the tariff bill—just the amount!. I owed \$243.56 on \$393.49 (including shipping) worth of models—62%!.

Hope the weather improves and we can get together at the next meeting—it's been a heck of a week getting the "snowcrete" off the driveway—we had to hire a guy with a Bobcat to bust it up and move it to the side. Three days of beating it with steel shovels was enough for us. Take care,

Fred

[Editor's Note—see last pages of this month's issue]

# Minutes of the CMACC Meeting of January 11, 2025

## By Fred Fravel

The January meeting was held at the Vienna firehouse in conjunction with Jack's 1/64 Sunday show—we are planning to have the February meeting there as well, and Bill Patton has volunteered to host the March meeting at his house, but we also have the option of having it at the firehouse with Jack's show, which will be there. Lunch was your choice of barbeque or hot dogs a la Vienna Inn, chips and soda.

January attendance was small—Harold Blevins, Todd Blevins, Doug Campbell, yours truly and Bob Short. In the hall at their tables we also had Linda Short, Jimbo, Jack Dye, and Brian Berry. Harold brought us up to date on Nola Gurski's impending move to another rehab facility, and his plan to have a show at the Vienna firehouse in March to sell more from the Gurski collection, primarily 1/18, and mostly Cadillac models. Harold noted that we haven't seen anything about auctions of the Dan Danielson collection—everyone should keep an eye out.

OAST and the program (TV and movie cars plus what you received for Christmas...) were combined. Todd got Harold a new Lego kit in the Icons series, 1,241 pieces, a large scale Shelby Cobra in black. Complete with Carroll Shelby autograph on the dash. Todd will need to build it for Harold. For Carol, there was a new Lego Disney kit of Cruella d'Ville's car, 378 pieces, to be built by Carol and Aston, if I understood correctly.





Doug went to New York, and got a NY Taxi snowglobe as a Christmas souvenir.



For my TV series car, I brought a built kit of the Munster coach from the TV series of 1964-1966, i.e. long ago. Not sure who made the kit, I lost the box at some point. I gave it to Todd for his collection of TV/movie vehicles—didn't fit in with Alfas, Packards, Saab or buses....

From that same era for the movie car I brought a 1/18 AutoArt Alfa Romeo Giulia Spider, red, as seen in "The Graduate" starring Dustin Hoffman, Anne Bancroft, and Katharine Ross. Here's to you Mrs. Robinson....

As a TV car, Doug brought a 1950's Renwal TV Mobile truck and equipment, mint in box with all accessories including the TV camera. Doug found it at the original wholesalers in Baltimore. Amazing find, you would never see this with all the pieces in an original box—it was too much fun to play with. The box said it was for WREN (Renwal, I guess), but the truck was lettered for WROA.







Bob Short brought a trove of new IXO models, including a 2009 Dodge Challenger SRT, a 1971 Plymouth Satellite Sebring Plus, a 1971 Chevrolet Nova SS, a 1987 Buick Grand National, and a 1970 Plymouth Superbird.







# OAST-Doug Campbell

This, probably late 1950's RALSTOY (Nebraska, USA) conventional semi-truck, was issued as Promotional advertising to the old ADLEY Express Company of New Haven, CT. When I saw it recently on EBay, it was of great interest to me, as in all my years of collecting Ralstoys, this was the first I had ever seen of this model, and growing up here in Baltimore in the 1950's, I remember seeing many old ADLEY EXPRESS smaller straight van trucks delivering freight in this area. For some reason, it attracted no other bidders on EBay, as it's not mint, but all the graphics are perfect, and this is exactly what old ADLEY trucks looked like, which surprised me that it sold for less than \$30! (MANY old Ralstoys are selling for well over \$100 now!) It has the old rubber tires, made by Tootsietoy, as all Ralstoys tires were, and features a straight side freight van-graphics were silk-screened onto all 4 sides of the trailer. Adley Express was founded in 1918, and by 1970 had over 1700 units on the highways and was one of America's most progressive motor freight companies. Yellow Freight (also now out of business!) bought out the remains of Adley in 1973.



A few years ago, our fellow CMACC member, Andy German, turned me onto "CandyLab Models", & I have found them to be rather charming and fascinating collectables ever since! Candy Lab vehicles are made of very heavy quality wood with heavy metal die-cast bases, and are designed in New York City, made in China. I have many in my collection, many of which are made for private advertising promotions, but most sold at retail in many fine toy stores.... and just early January they released their first OIL tanker..,this colorful "Rocket

Fuel" , about 12" long, detachable semi tanker. The quality of CandyLab models is OUTSTANDING, and the paint finish and graphics FIRST CLASS! This new toy tanker will look perfect "refueling" my CandyLab toy wooden "ROCKET FUEL" gas station, issued a year or so ago, which requires very simple fit assembly, but I just haven't figured out yet where to display it! (Shown in next photo!)



Here's the box of my CANDYLab toy "Rocket Fuel" wooden gas station, which maybe during this long weekend of snow being inside, I'll finally get to build and display somewhere! I've built it up when I first got it , but took it apart not having a place of full display yet, as it's just simple wooden block pieces to sit together!



In the recent January Lloyd Ralston toy auction, I won this really nice lot of two models....on the left is a very detailed(as it was a private promotional model for Orenstein & Koppel) O&K shovel, with plow & working outriggers....made in Germany by NZG -Modelle GmbH in 1/50 scale...and on right is also mint-boxed, a Ford D-800 dump truck, made by TEKNO TOYS in DENMARK, manufactured about 1970, and features spring loaded tipping body, tipping cab with opening doors jeweled headlights, and realistic FORD front-of-cab details. This model was later issued in other colors, in Holland, when Tekno moved its factory there, and the Dutch models had less cab details....interesting on the box of my Danish Tekno Ford Dump truck is a price tag from "Games Imported" for \$4.00....as I remember prices like that when the old Schuco Toy Company in New York was the Tekno importers! Yes, I had to pay a LOT more in the recent auction!



At the November 2025, truly wonderful, Allentown (PA.) Antique Toy Show, I found this mint condition, probably made very early 1960's by HAYASHI SEISAKUSHO (Manufacturing in English!) in Japan. The vendor had it at a very low price, as I'm not sure he knew anything about it, so I was delighted to be able to bring this wonderful 12" long tinplate truck home for my collection! It has a little crank on left side that lowers and raises the back gate on the truck, and my guess is the cab represents a Japanese FUSO cab, although with the English lettering, this was seemingly used as an import for USA toy market!?...It has plastic steering wheel, and all lithographed cab interior details, and silvered plated oil tanks along bottom sides, and working friction motor! I thought it was rather amazing to find a toy from Japan that is about 60 years old in this still rather mint condition!



After showing my other "first " HESS truck in a recent OAST, I found in a more recent auction, a very reasonably-priced absolutely mint 1964 & 65 first HESS B-Mack truck issue in its original box, with original

funnel and directions card! Thought you might like to see exactly what the very first HESS toy truck issue looked like COMPLETE!



Just the other day, while walking into a local TARGET store, I noticed just inside the front door, where time-to-time that actually have some neat, odd items for sale...this cool plastic LIGHTED (Battery included!) "SWEETS" van--being a truck nut, I just couldn't pass it by for \$5.00!



In early 2026, ICONIC REPLICAS (Florida -made in Bangladesh), released this impressively detailed 1/87 scale GULF Aviation Refueling Truck....the more I look at it, the more tiny details seem to be seen! ..I've displayed it in front of a plastic promotional BRITISH AIR Boeing 747, that displays on a little stand, and is a VERY special aircraft model(yes, I collect commercial model airplanes too- mostly from planes I have flown on) to me as it was a GIFT to me , many years ago, from our late friend and club member, Jeff Gurski, as it brought it back to me, having bought it onboard a BRITISH 747 when returning from a trip to Europe.



Also, just in early January, ICONIC REPLICAS (Florida- made in Bangladesh) released this very accurate and detailed replica of the buses I see everyday on the streets now here in Baltimore...a 1/87 scale diecast NOVA LFS transit bus...a limited edition of 504 made. I put an old photo from a book about BALTIMORE as a background.



## OAST-Fred Fravel

Police cars? In my OAST? Yes, but the trick is that they are Alfa Romeo Tonale models! As mentioned in my editorial letter, I preordered these models from BBR in Italy a couple of years ago, and they suddenly notified me that I needed to complete my preorder or lose my deposit. The models are very well done, so I am pleased with them, just not the price. The Tonale is a crossover, available in the U.S. initially as a plug-in hybrid, then last year with both internal combustion engines and as a hybrid, and now only as internal combustion as Stellantis has just killed all its plug-in hybrids (I think because of the loss of federal tax credits combined with tariffs making them too expensive). In Italy they are obviously used as police vehicles. Dick can probably provide a better overview of the distinction between the Polizia (local police) and the Carabinieri, which are national. Alfas have long been favored by the Carabinieri, and there is a section of the Alfa Romeo Museum devoted to Carabinieri Alfas. I just think the color scheme is really cool, and I try to get the models when I can.





The other model I received in the box is a silver roadster version of the Zagato, the R.Z. The red coupe I showed last month is the S.Z. These were both limited production cars from 1991-1993, only 278 of the roadster were produced, all with the famous "Busso" V-6, more commonly found in the Alfa 75 sedan and then later in the 164 sports sedan sold briefly here before Alfa exited the U.S. in 1994.



# OAST-Bob Short

Jack's Trading day finds (from 1/11):

1) Matchbox Hudson Sheriff cruiser, a new version which I enhanced by painting the headlights, taillights and emergency equipment.



2) Hotwheels 1/43 2000 Toyota 4 Runner . The first time I have seen this and actually a pretty good model especially for \$15.00. I would prefer they made it stock without all the off-road gear but it's OK.



Forward Look Cuban style: 1955 DeSoto Diplomat built for export essentially a Plymouth with DeSoto trim. Anybody seen a model of this one?



An ebay find--Rather unusual color combination. This is an original 1956 promo . It has some warp but it is nice nonetheless.



Recent ebay finds, retro first generation Corvette promos made by AMT in the 90s I believe . These can be found inexpensively on ebay with due diligence.

The white car is a 1953, the red and black are both 1954 and I am awaiting the Harvest Gold (yellow) 1955 version.

Its arrival has been hampered by our wonderful weather!



## OAST-Dick Williams

- 1) I found this Royal Canadian Mounted Police Pontiac Parisienne (Dinky No. 252) on eBay while looking for current values of Dinky police cars. It was in such good shape I couldn't pass it up for \$60 starting bid. No one else bid and that was the final price. As can be seen in the photos, the paint is in near mint condition. The decals (actually paper stickers) are in very good shape for the age of the car; there's a chip out of one but replacements probably are available online from one of the Dinky repro parts suppliers. There's a single Mountie driving, unlike Dinky's RCMP version of its Ford Fairlane model that has a driver and passenger.



This model (also the other variants of it) had an odd, gimmicky means of raising and lowering the twin radio antennas by levers underneath the rear of the car. One of them works fine but the other doesn't. Not a big

deal to me, but I don't know why Dinky didn't just put fixed plastic antennas on the car (maybe to compete with Corgi in the gimmicks area). These are more to scale but the mechanism is finicky. The taillights are painted red and the red dome light looks good. It also has working suspension. Another oddity is the fact that the box art shows the front doors entirely white (which is correct for the period) but the stickers only go as far as the trim line, they don't cover the whole door.



I've wanted to get this RCMP model for some time as a companion to Dinky's Fairlane, but other examples I've seen that were in as good a shape as this one were over \$100. Dinky also made a generic police version but (like the Corgi Sheriff Oldsmobile) it has an odd color scheme, black roof with an all white body. The Parisienne was made for the Canadian market (it had a Chevy chassis and drivetrain) and it's possible that the RCMP actually used them. This model is the third-generation Parisienne, made from 1965-1970.

Photos include one of the Dinky RCMP Ford Fairlane I photographed at an antique mall (mine is in a box in the storage room).



2) During our trip to California, I bought this very well-made (in China) miniature license plate commemorating the 100th anniversary of Route 66. I put the Dinky car with it for a size comparison.



- 2) This is a recent find on the pegs of a Target store (I hardly ever find decent police models in stores anymore). It's a BMW M5 in the Matchbox Collectors series. The German Polizei (at least in Bavaria) use a lot of BMWs, but I haven't seen an M5 in Polizei markings other than one-off versions and "skins" in games like Grand Theft Auto. The Bavarian Polizei do use this silver, blue and yellow color scheme and the car looks authentic. Even the 5-spoke black wheels are more realistic than the usual Matchbox issue. As usual, Matchbox manages to spoil it for collectors by putting its name somewhere on the car, in this case on the front license plate.





# Happy and Sad

**By Robin Godwin**

It makes every collector happy to find a bargain on eBay (or another source). That's how I felt after recently finding a Politoys "Glass" No. 89 Jaguar GT Spyder (or E-Type Roadster anywhere else in the world) for a Buy it Now price of \$35. Luckily, I saw it early, and snapped it up. The vendor appeared to be an eBay consignment seller and not a collector, based on the undervalued asking price and the fact that it was not auctioned.



*This version was issued in 1966 in the Politoys "Glass" series. The base is diecast, but the body is resin (I don't think there are any fiberglass fibers in the casting – just resin). The compound used must be different from more modern resins as it is remarkably stable, either/or the rigidity of the diecast base has kept the model from deforming over time. You can see a bit of a bad fit on the driver's side door but I don't really want to move it around too much as the paint is fragile.*

It is done to the early Politoys scale of 1:41, features opening hood and doors, and in my opinion was a better effort than contemporary Corgi or Dinky models. The cast wire wheels are well done and the model features suspension and a nice representation of a Jaguar straight six under the hood. I also have Politoys No. 120 "La Zanzara" Jaguar in pink (La Zanzara is literally "mosquito"). The model celebrated the Italian singer/actress, Rita Pavone, who had starred in "Rita la Zanzara", an Italian musical comedy film from the 1966. And yes, she drove a pink E-Type, but a coupe and not a roadster (Politoys was the only Italian manufacturer with an E-Type in the line-up, and I suppose could afford a little artistic license in order to capitalize on the film's popularity. No. 89 was reissued as No. 120 in 1967 but with absolutely no changes except for color). I featured No. 120 in an article about resin models (favorably, in an otherwise unfavorable review of resins in general) in the Journal a few years back.



*I acquired the pink Zanzara Jaguar over 35 years ago at a toy show in France, and had been searching for a reasonably priced red version since... and I found one near/mint just recently – a happy occasion*

So what could possibly be sad about this? Demographers have been telling us about the ongoing generational transfer of wealth acquired by us Boomers. As we well know within the CMACC, this transfer also applies to model car collections. But while money goes straight to the families, in many cases, the “generational transfer” of car collections usually means some form of “disposal.” I probably got a great deal because a (likely) lifetime collection was (likely) disposed of the easy way by calling a consignment seller. A family was thus sadly shortchanged on the real value of the model. I can imagine that a collector of a certain age had had this Jaguar in his collection for many years, perhaps since new in 1966. It was obviously treasured based on the superb condition of a 60-year-old fragile model. I will similarly treasure it and it will be in the same condition when the time comes for my wife or kids to “transfer my assets” (which, as far as I know won’t be anytime soon).

# Our Cross-Country Trek

## By Dick Williams

A few weeks ago, Ruth and I drove a rental SUV loaded with some of the belongings of our son and his family across the country after Christmas to help them move to his new assignment learning French at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA. (I met Ruth while I was a student there in 1986.) We started the day after Christmas, stopped in Tennessee for three nights for a family reunion, and took off again on December 30th. Being at the mercy of Michael's travel schedule to make his reporting date on January 5th meant I didn't have much time for side excursions, but the many references to historic Route 66 along the way certainly whetted our appetite for a long-planned cross-country drive, first inspired by a display on the Lincoln Highway at a car museum in Canton, OH, in 2019. We tried to go to one Route 66 Museum in Oklahoma, but it was closed for New Year's Day.

Even so, we saw a few things en route as we drove through Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, the Texas panhandle, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Afterwards we spent a couple of weeks in the Navy Lodge in Monterey. These photos are some of the car-related highlights of our trip and our stay in California.

Photos:



1) Love's Travel Stops were plentiful all along our route. I saw this Lego-style toy tanker and storefront in one of them that I thought might interest Doug and Todd in particular. There's no mention of these on their website, so I guess you have to find them at one of their stores.



2) This rusty truck was one of three (actually two and a half) constituting a Route 66 display at a Holiday Inn Express in Amarillo, TX.



3) We've all seen those tin or aluminum models that strive for a handmade look and varying degrees of accuracy in gift shops, antique stores, Hobby Lobby, etc., but this collection in a New Mexico gift shop probably was the most varied selection I've seen of this type of model, all around 1:24 scale. Notice the Airstream-type trailer in the background.



4) The one side trip we took was to the Grand Canyon from Williams, AZ, where we stayed overnight. Halfway between Williams and the canyon is the tiny "town" of Valle, which consists mostly of a now-defunct airport and airplane museum and a large gas station/gift shop. The latter had an eclectic collection of 13 vintage vehicles outside the Route 66- and western-themed store, sort of an impromptu museum. No information was provided about any of them except one (a '62 Chevy Impala SS) and what could be gleaned from the license plates. Five of them were hot rods, including a T-bucket. The stock vehicles ranged from a '49 Packard to this '83 Bremen Sebring kit car. The 2026 Arizona license plate read "LIBRACE" and had a Barrett-Jackson frame. Barrett-Jackson's site confirmed that they had sold an '83 Bremen Sebring from Lee Liberace's estate in Las Vegas in 1988, and it was advertised again for sale in 2019, so presumably this is where it's ended up. No more than 1500 of the Sebring and the earlier Sterling were made by Bremen.



5) One of the other cars and light trucks on display was this 1958 Ford Thunderbird.

[What about the Packard behind it?—Ed.]



6) Back in Williams, they play up the Route 66 theme pretty heavily there, as they proudly call themselves the last town on Route 66 to be bypassed by I-40. After going to the police station for photos (I have a patch saying "Williams Police" from a previous visit 25 years ago), I happened on a Route 66 "museum and gift shop" in a former gas station that had a bunch of interesting vehicles scattered outside. One of them was this 1932 Chevy tow truck, but what made it special to me was the battered state logo on the doors that still read "Michigan State Penitentiary" and "For Official Use Only." A small plate on the truck proclaimed its authenticity as a prison vehicle.



7) Here's another of the 10 or so vehicles displayed at the "museum," a Conoco fuel tanker from the 1920s in pristine condition. Like most of the vehicles there, no information was displayed with it. Unfortunately, I didn't have time to go inside the building.



8) At a car wash across the street from the police station, three old cars were sitting in the grass: a 1952 Chevy Styleline, a 1957 Buick Super hardtop, and this 1953 Studebaker Conestoga wagon. I thought that was the rarest of the three so I'm showing it here – all of them were unrestored.



9) The best stop in New Mexico was the State Police district HQ in Albuquerque. This is commercial vehicle enforcement in style!



10) Jumping into California, here's a Rt 66 mural in the town of Needles that I thought Doug might like.



11) A beautiful blue Peterbilt tractor pulling a lowboy carrying these two antique tractors was an unexpected bonus outside a motel in Needles.



12) This homemade-looking water tanker for the Ludlow Fire District was yet another impromptu display of old vehicles outside an abandoned gas station adjacent to more Rt 66 history outside a restaurant in the small Mojave Desert town of Newberry Springs. (Ludlow was a nice little town along Rt 66 in the 1950s and '60s, but now is mostly a ghost town.)



13) You never know where in California you're going to find an old car! I saw several around the Monterey area, including a Porsche 911, a VW bus, and this Ford Falcon wagon improbably parked behind someone's quarters on the Presidio, where the Defense Language School is located.



14) We took a trip to San Francisco the first Saturday we were in Monterey. In addition to its famous cable cars, the city has a historic fleet of streetcars and buses (<https://www.streetcar.org/wheels-motion/>), including a 1938 White bus, operating daily. I didn't see any of the buses, but I did see a few streetcars along the waterfront. They're all PCC-built and most date from the late 1940s and are painted in period "tribute" liveries to well-known lines in other major cities. This one, No. 1076, was built in 1946 and pays tribute to D.C. Transit.



15) This 1948 PCC streetcar No. 1058 is in the tribute livery of the Chicago Transit Authority. I urge you to check out the website listed above – it has color drawings of every streetcar, cable car and bus in the historic fleet, as well as the history of public transportation in San Francisco.



16) I unexpectedly found this 1946 Chevrolet truck on Alcatraz Island. A sign said that there was a small number of trucks on the island for moving supplies from the dock to the prison buildings, and when Indian activists occupied the empty federal prison in 1969-1971 they repaired trucks abandoned on the island and used them. This Chevy, however, was brought to the island in 1993 for the making of a movie ("Murder In The First"). All the scenes with it were cut and the truck was left on the island! The only other old truck on "The Rock" is a 1934 Diamond T fire engine. I was ecstatic when I read about it in the map and was headed for the old fire station when some blue-haired Park Service employee pulled a chain across the road right in front of me and said the area was closed. I did find some photos of it online, though.



17) I saw a lot of these Waymo self-driving robot taxis running around downtown San Francisco. I'm sure the locals are used to them by now, but I found them weirdly unnerving. They seemed to work OK, though, and for sure you won't get a brake check or a mechanical middle finger from one of these.



18) The highlight of my time in the Monterey area was seeing this 1970 Mercury Monterey police cruiser at the Seaside Police Department – and more than that, riding in it! Commander Matt Doza graciously offered to take me on a tour of Fort Ord and show me how much it had changed since most of the military units were deactivated. The car was donated to the department by a former chief of police and had just completed an extensive maintenance workover in the city shop. It runs beautifully; we spent about an hour in it (he said he was glad to get out of the office). I've posted it on Sergio Goldvarg's Facebook page in hopes that he'll do a model of it. It's garnered more than 100 likes, so maybe there's a good chance he will. If so, I hope he donates one to the department.



19) One other thing this small (30 officers) police department had was a Tesla patrol car – actually two of them, the result of a federal grant, but only one was marked. Naturally, it was hooked up to a charger.

# **MARKLIN...it's a lot more than model TRAINS!**

**By Doug Campbell**

Yes, I'm also a model train hobbyist , being a member of TCA (Train Collectors of America) and the local TCA chapter, of which I'm also a board member...WB&A (Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis)..and I have some HO scale sets, some O gauge Lionel & MTH cars, and my actual working layout is the tiny Z gauge ! And for the past 10 years or so I have been an active volunteer, helping to put on a large public train layout at the holidays in the Highlandtown neighborhood of Baltimore (Joan was also an active volunteer there until her passing in 2025..)....I grew up with Lionel Trains when young. And now most of my models trains are from Marklin of Germany....who created the first commercial toy train in 1891! .... But back in the 1950's I discovered that MARKLIN also made a wonderful line of die-cast vehicles in Germany, although I don't remember getting to own any while young- everything was Dinky, Corgi and Matchbox! ....but when I went to Philadelphia in 1968, to live for my 5 years of Pharmacy school, the first adventure I took in the city was to ride all the then streetcar lines and discover all the model/hobby shops I could locate, as so many were still in business back then!. And one of my favorite discoveries was the old, original, NICHOLAS SMITH, down at 60 N 11th Street in the heart of Center City Philly.....still operated by its original owner, Mr. Nicholas Smith. I was told by some collectors I quickly met in Philadelphia , that he was old and not very friendly....but when I first entered the rather tiny, very crowded shop, which specialized in MARKLIN trains, had a tiny "balcony", where Mr. Smith did lamp repairs, and had huge shelves behind and above the counter just chock full of old die-casts, many still from the 1950's, Corgi, Matchbox, etc., and all displayed only by the ENDS of their boxes....I thought I had stepped into HEAVEN!!

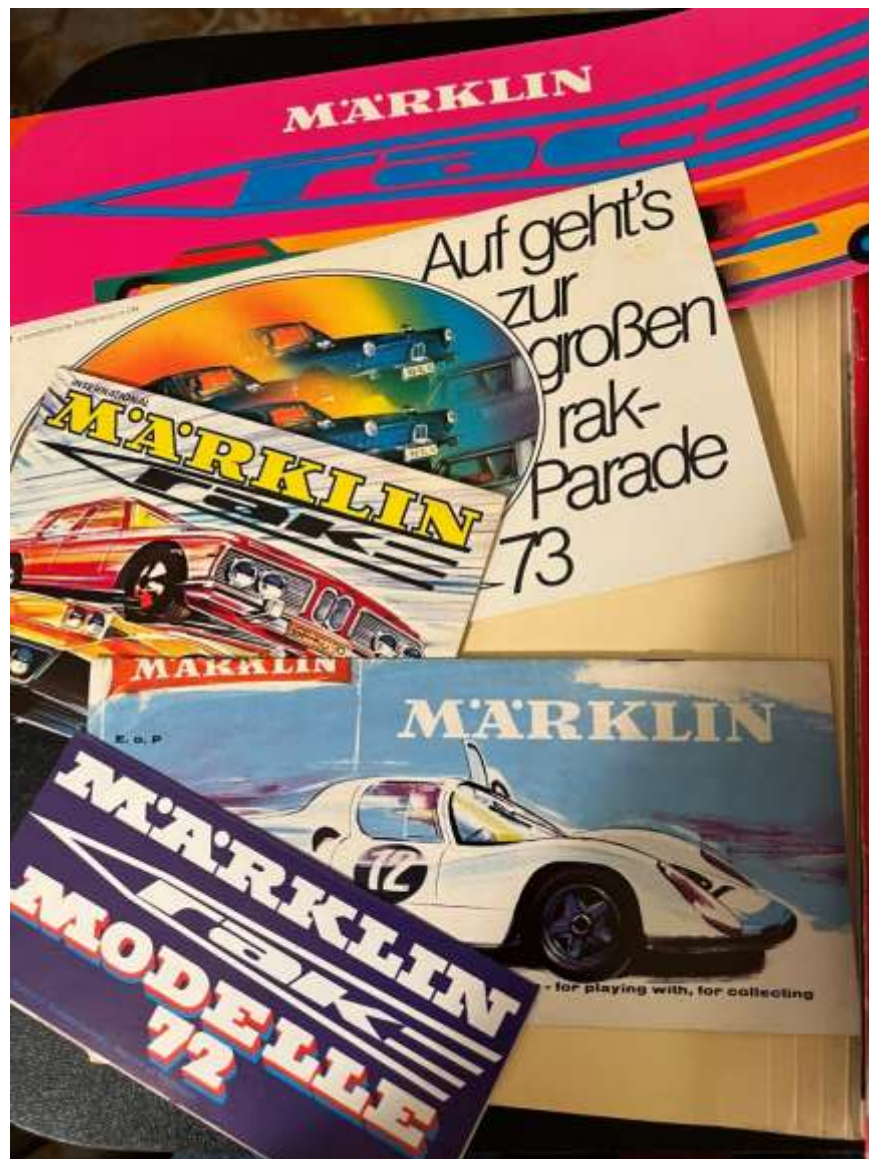
When I first entered the shop, for some reason, old Nicholas Smith really seemed to take a liking to me, and we engaged in friendly conversation at once, and while talking, my eyes looked up to the crowded shelves behind and above him, and I couldn't believe my eyes, as there was one each of most of the old 1950's - 60's series of MARKLIN die-cast vehicles, which I recognized the 8000 number series, as they were shelved in with all the other die-casts, although when first introduced, the models had a 5000 number series. They were all mint-boxed, and all still had the 1950's prices on them! My heart started beating faster as he took them down onto the counter...as he kindly brought all of them off the shelf for me to look at and of course me being just a lowly college student I didn't have very much cash with me , when I told Mr. Smith- "I want all of them"! ....I was a little nervous having heard that maybe he wasn't the friendliest shopkeeper, but again we seemed to have made a friendship so I told him I would take the streetcar out to my room in West Philly and come right back downtown with the cash (most models were \$1-\$3 !) and he kindly put all those Märklin into a box, and said he'd certainly hold them for me! ..So I quickly returned and today enjoy all those old mint-boxed Marklin die-cast as amongst my favorite models... on all those old models- the die-casting was so superb and crisp and paint flawless! (Most of them are shown on the Marklin display in my photo following...)

I frequented the old Nicholas Smith shop often while in college, and can remember one of our former, now deceased CMACC members, Vaughn Holcomb, telling me he was looking for a Corgi Chipperfield's Circus Booking Office truck, and sure enough, as usually only one of each die-cast was up on those old Nicholas

Smith shelves..I saw one of the booking offices in there...then a difficult Corgi model to find actually, still priced for \$1.50, so I bought it and gave it to Vaughn as a gift at a future club meeting....and he was thrilled!

Those old 8000 series 50's-60's Marklin castings were unique and realistic models..and some remaining stock stayed in the catalogs until early 70's, as by late 60's Marklin had introduced their newer Die-cast line- Marklin RAK Models, of which I just have two in my collection now as they had little appeal to me, and they were mounted on green plastic bases with clear plastic covers.had more "speed" type wheels on many of them, and were still made of metal, but lacked the charm of Marklin's older models! All Marklin vehicles were made in Germany at the Goppingen, Germany Marklin factory, and they all were in the range of 1/43 scales I would say. So I'll finish this story in photos to follow.....

Here's a photo of some of the late 60's-early 70's Marklin die-cast vehicle catalogs, in my files, which they published as separate collector catalogs, but usually also showed the line in their complete annual model train catalogs too.



This is a photo of a catalog of Marklin die-casts from 1956- that was stapled in the back of one of Nicholas Smith's old 11th street display windows, and when I inquired to Mr. Smith, he said one day he would get it out of the window and hold it for me, which about a year later he did- its a 3 page fold out with the old 5000 numbers...certainly a pare catalog to find today! ..After Mr. Smith's death, i think it was about 1980 or so, a fellow bought the name and contents(he quickly sold off the old stock it seems!) and closed the shop in Center City and opened the now HUGE Nicholas Smith toy and train store in Broomall, Pa.- just West of Philly- now the largest model train store(2nd floor) East of the Mississippi, and one of the finest TOY (1 st floor) stores you'll ever visit!



I thought you might enjoy seeing this unusual toy train in my collection..it weighs about 5 pounds, and was issued by Marklin as an historic commemorative item in 1999- as its a replica of the world's first model train- it was wind-up and went around a metal track back in 1891- the STORCHENBEIN (Stork's Leg) as it was called. The gauge then was 48mm (1-7/8"). The tender was sold separately in the beginning and is today rarer than the engine itself! This is an EXACT reproduction, made only in 1999 to celebrate Marklin's 140th anniversary (1859-1999). I had a very great local Marklin dealer (now long out-of-business!) back then, who was able to order one for me! This repro model will travel a maximum of 118 inches with a fully wound up mechanism. Back in 1891, this was QUITE a kid's play toy!



This is a view from my Marklin Z gauge layout, and all those tiny Z gauge vehicles are by Marklin, as part of their "Mini Club" line, all made in Germany in metal.



My other Marklin layout, completely made back in the 1980's in Germany by Marklin, is housed in a leather BRIEFCASE- the little Z gauge trains can be stored in the lid at top, and yes all those little vehicles are Marklin Z gauge models too! So they have made model vehicles in MANY scales!!



Marklin used to publish a collector's in-house magazine, mostly in German language, and to commemorate 40 years of publishing, they issued this N gauge plastic semi-truck, complete with tiny driver!



Many, many years ago at a Macungie (PA) toy show, I found this interesting HO scale all PLASTIC "MARKLIN-made in Germany", as cast under the model, Mercedes(?) tour bus...I can not find any information on it but believe it was made in late 50's /early 60's era..as I can not find any information in any Marklin catalogs on this piece, but it's most attractive and I might think a rare issue that was made for their HO trains. The little heavy metal sign, was another gift years ago out of the old Nicholas Smith window, as I had asked for one, as he had a few in the window- I think this is a 1950's era display sign.



Here's an old ad inside the cover of a 1970 Marklin factory catalog, showing location of the original NICHOLAS SMITH shop- that back in the late 60's-early 70's was a TREASURE TROVE of old die-cast vehicles, Corgi, Matchbox, Solido, and many slot cars too!

**NICHOLAS SMITH**  
AUTHORIZED MÄRKLIN SALES & SERVICE STATION  
60 NORTH 11 TH STREET  
**PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19107**

MINIMUM ORDERS \$ 5.<sup>00</sup> PLEASE INCLUDE POSTAGE  
AND INSURANCE ON ALL ORDERS

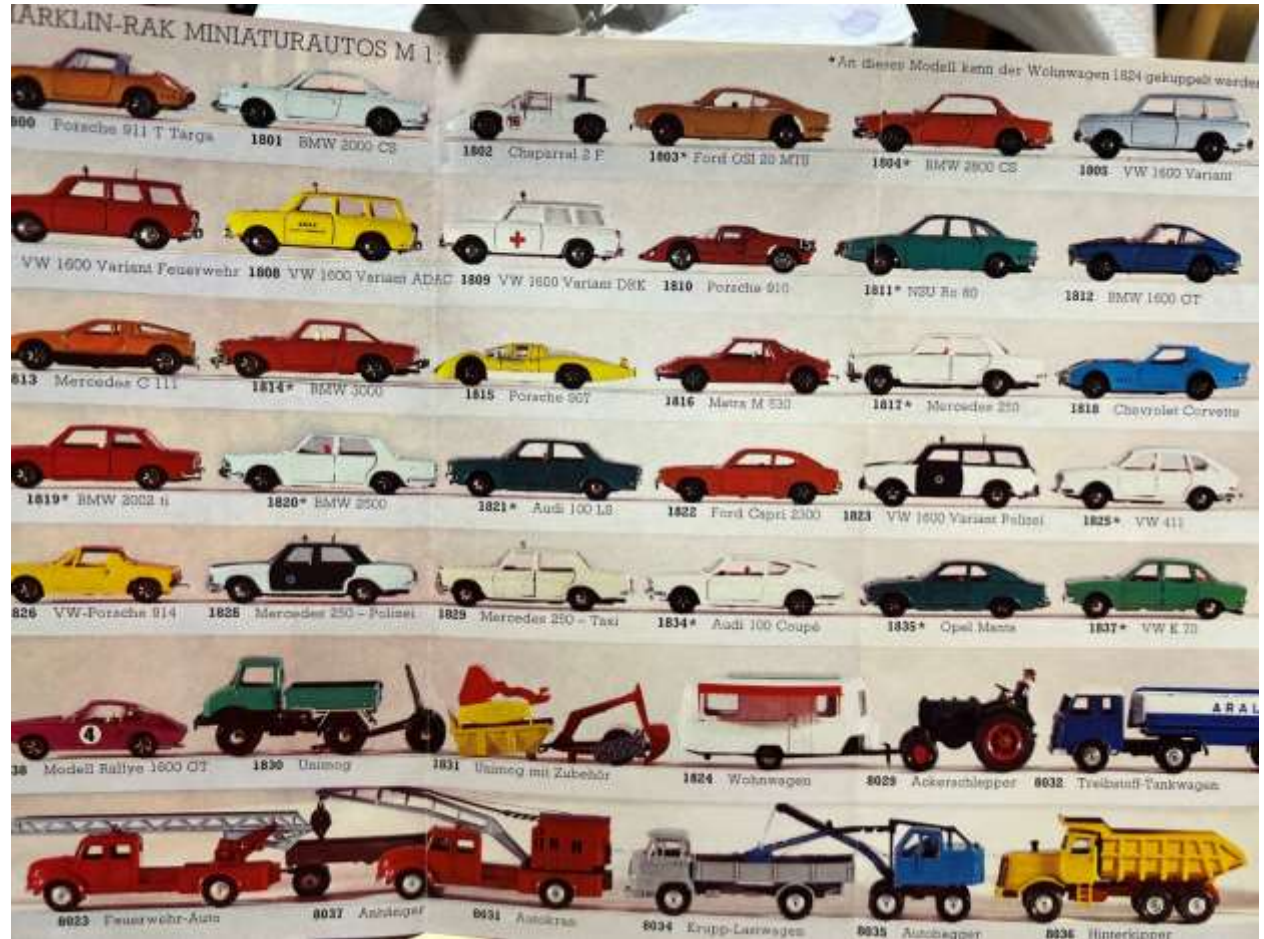
SHOP AT CENTER CITY HOBBY CENTER  
WHERE 11TH ST. CROSSES ARCH. ST.  
ALWAY A COMPLETE LINE OF YOUR RAILROAD NEEDS  
SALES-SERVICE  
**MODEL RACE CAR SETS**  
CARS AND ACCESSORIES · SALES-SERVICE-PARTS  
TEL. WA-5-7669 | TEL. WA-5-0521  
**ALL ORDERS SHIPPED OUT  
SAME DAY AS RECEIVED**  
Penna, residents add 6<sup>0</sup>% sales tax

2

This is one of just two of the late 60's-early 70's MARKLIN "RAK" series of model vehicles, in my collection...and the wheels on this one I notice the shiny silver plating has "mottled" somewhat..it is fully die cast and is number 1808- Volkswagen 1600 Variant ADAC German auto club car. It features red roof light(metal) , opening "hood " (?)with spare tire inside, opening side doors, full interior, jewel headlights, opening rear hatch, and full spring suspension. License plates are waterline decals, and my front one is applied crooked- not the Marklin quality of those old 50's die-casts! Door & hood graphics are tampon printed onto the car.



Here's a photo of a 1972 RAK vehicles Marklin catalog, and at the bottom , a few of those older Marklin models are still shown on bottom 2 rows, although I doubt there was much inventory of those left by then. Interesting on ghe reverse side of this catalog is shown a line of Mercury Models from Italy, listed as a "Marklin Import ", so they must have been the German distributor of those , both 1/43 and the Mercury 1/66 scale Speedy racers are shown. I think this was a short-lived partnership though.



Here's a display of what the boxes looked like that came with my 50's-60's Marklin models— that I found in 1968- all were mint and boxed- and the model in front is Marklin 8034 Krupp open lorry, with windows..and the trailer is a separate Marklin 8037 lorry trailer , which came painted to match 8034. These models I see in the catalog are all considered 1/43 scale.



I won this interesting rare old Marklin wooden display shelf in the recent Lloyd Ralston auction, and have displayed on it (I have a plexiglass cover being made to keep the display dust free) many of the models I bought at Nicholas Smith in Philly back in 1968. The Aral tanker on top shelf at LEFT, I also have in a rare Marklin PLASTIC version(exact same model!), and the model ARAL tanker on bottom RIGHT, I have with an older now a little browned waterline DECAL version- as this one has screened on lettering- so a later issue...and in the center of the top shelf is my RAREST Marklin model- which I found at a low price, as no other bidder for some reason, , in a past Lloyd Ralston auction.. its a 1930's pre-war fully heavy die cast ARAL tanker , made by Marklin in Germany! It's amazing to find it in such near mint condition, as the two little rods on the ends of the front bumper, and the steel rods around top tank seem fragile, but have survived almost 100 years! In 1891 the Marklin brothers Toymakers in the German village of Goepingen , in the Swabian hills of southern Germany , showed a model of a wind-up train at the Leipzig Fair that sped 4 or 5 times around a figure 8 track. In 1900 they introduced steam driven and electric trains and in 1935 introduced the FIRST HO scale trains! And to think many years later us toy VEHICLE collectors would enjoy their products too ! ..... Happy Collecting!





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