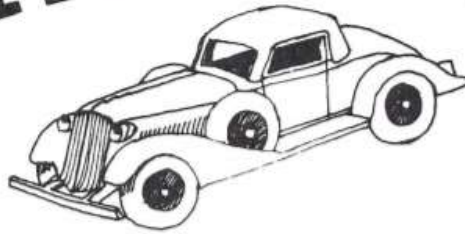


CAPITOL MINIATURE AUTO COLLECTORS CLUB



JUNE 2026: NEXT MEETING-TBD

EVENTS: Let me know if you know:

- **TJ's Diecast Toys, (Jack's show) 1/64 Show, Sunday June 14 Outdoor at Jack's shop.**

Schedule for the rest of 2026: Northern Virginia Diecast Collectors monthly meets:

Outdoor/TJ's Diecast Toys

- **June 14th, July 12th, August 9th, September 13th.**

Indoor/Vienna Firehouse

- **October 11th, November 8th, December 13th.**

Editor's Corner

Shorter issue this month, I hope everyone is able to receive it in one piece. Let me know if you did not receive the May issue, either Part 1 or Part 2 or all of it. I should have saved the May meeting minutes for this month, don't know what I was thinking.

Again, as always, thanks to our contributors. I am always amazed by the variety of interests within our group—from 1956 Plymouths to historic train stations to excavators!

Last month I asked about having a weekday mid-day meeting, and I only heard back from a couple of people. I am not sure if the idea was not popular, or that nobody is reading the newsletter. So let me know what you think. We still haven't scheduled future meetings.

I understand that Maz Wooley, publisher of Model Auto Review is retiring in the wake of the closure of Model Auto Review due to threats of copyright lawsuits. You lawyers out there have a lot to answer for... Again, for the record, this is a Club newsletter with limited circulation to Club members and friends of the Club.

On the tariff front, I did get a FedEx bill last week, so I guess they are catching up with previously charged tariffs, or still collecting something.

See the "From the Files" sections at the end. Harold's OAST from last month was a foundational model for a lot of us—I think I ordered my first one from Sinclair, maybe even in 1968, a first collectable 1/43 (as opposed to the Dinky Toys saved from an earlier period). And some memories in the business cards I found in the bottom of the file folder. As Doug says, Happy Collecting!

Fred

OAST-Once Around Show and Tell

OAST-Doug Campbell

Back in 2001, Mobil stations retailed this nice 1:18 scale fully diecast 1940 Ford tow truck.....with rubber tires, opening front hood showing motor details, officially licensed by Ford, and contains coin bank with key.....a great buy at a recent Randy's Auction (Leola, Pa.) , mint in never opened box at just \$5.00!



Just last year (2025) SNAP-ON tool dealers (exclusively) sold this nicely detailed 1/64 scale fully diecast model of their current tool dealers mobile vans. The model is by Greenlight(China), but unfortunately the rear section does not open, which could have added so much realism perhaps with the van interior detailed out, as the back panel of the box shows a real van's stocked interior!



Back in the 1980's SPEC-CAST issued this handsome stamped steel 1/18 (?) scale ESSO vintage tank wagon, and me being a lifelong fan of anything "ESSO", of course I snapped up this one quickly at a bargain price on eBay. It was seemingly sold by EXXON (or maybe was still ESSO) dealers, as the back of box is labeled as to the very limited states where this toy tanker could be sold, as only states that had actual ESSO retailers were the states sales were permitted. Most ESSO toys came labeled with this restriction. Note the little metal "spout" at rear of tank!



While browsing through a local fascinating antiques shop in Joppa, Maryland, I discovered this almost mint condition, 1950's WYANDOTTE TOYS stamped steel package delivery van, graphics as "WYNDOT Package Delivery)" ...a play on the manufacturer's name.....and lettered on the sides with third old trademark as "look for the DOT on Wyandotte Toys",...Wyandotte Toys were made by All Metal Products Company of Wyandotte, Michigan



How many of you remember stopping along the roadside to purchase delicious pecan rolls at STUCKEY'S Pecan Shoppes many years ago ?...(the brand is still being manufactured I'm told, but no more "shoppes") ...It's fun to display some models with a miniature building...this plastic STUCKEY'S Pecan Shoppe and gas pumps was made just a few years ago by W. Walthers , and I purchased it some years ago when I was working at the old M.B.Klein model railroad store, as we sold a lot of these miniature Walther's STUCKEY'S! The front semi truck is a White 9000 cab with 32' diecast trailer by WINROSS MODELS (New York) , made mid 1960's, and probably sold only in STUCKEY'S stores. The rear model truck is also by WINROSS (New York, USA) and features a White 7000 dual axle cab and 40' trailer , and was a SAMPLE-ONLY Winross model, just a few made in the 1970's.



This truck is just plain WEIRD in colors, and is one of dozens of toy trucks issued only to clients over the years by J.J.Keller & Associates , Inc. , who handles safety and compliance products and programs, mostly for the transportation industry. This most strange 1934 Ford Motor Oil tanker in 1/24 scale was issued by Keller in 2004, and absolutely FULL of tiny details, made by Crown Premiums in China. Keller models were never made available to the public, so I just have found a few that have turned up over the years, this one at a recent Randy's Auction in Leola Pa. How about all these COLORS!



At some recent Randy's Auctions I've collected a few of these interesting Hawthorne Village train/trolley station themed DINER models, in porcelain, made in the early 2000's in a subscription series. This one is a STEAMLINER DINER, features a neat Diesel locomotive shape. In front I've placed three models that are sitting here, on the left a rubber squeeze GK Services delivery van, center a 50's MARX TOYS "Tricky Taxi" in metal wind-up, and on right an ERTL diecast 1/64 scale vintage Kenworth CASTROL open truck delivering barrels of Castrol motor oil.



A colorful porcelain Hawthorne Village TROLLEY DINER, with on the left a rubber squeeze CINTAS uniforms delivery van, and on right an old 1950's paper delivery van full of matchbooks inside, issued for San Diego Exterminating Co. whose slogan on side is "we kill to live"!



A few years ago ICONIC REPLICAS (Florida/China made) issued this truly wonderful diecast 1931 MACK 6-BK-3S Greyhound vintage motorcoach.. and is displayed in front of an Iconic replicas Greyhound terminal.



Whenever I pass a farm equipment /implement dealer I usually stop in to see what TOYS they sell in the parts departments...yea, collecting is definitely a sickness!... so just a few days ago while passing through Intercourse, Pa, I stopped in a long-time farm implement dealer, HOOBER, INC., where I've purchased many neat toys from over the years...and they had this truly detailed very heavy model ERTL/TOMY (made in Vietnam) diecast 1/64 scale Case IH/Steiger Quadtrac 595 tractor with Ashland 2811E scraper on sale in the toy dept. That REAL scraper, that HOOBER's had a real one on the lot out front, sells for well over \$200,000!...not cheap to be a farmer today! That real CASE IH tractor is probably selling for almost half a million dollars!



Sometimes, I just can't figure out WHY a model company issues a truck in such WRONG colors!..about 1990, SOLIDO MODELS OF FRANCE(made in France still back then!), issued this weird MACK Mayflower moving van in its TONER GAM III series...with an agent lettering of Maffucci...now a Bekins agent in New York, but was under Mayflower back then...and I wonder if they just had cabs sprayed burgundy red, blue trailers and olive green bases to use up, as I'm sure Mayflower would not have authorized such an awful looking model! Shown behind are the real Mayflower colors I know...yellow green, and now white! (All these are RALSTOY models (Nebraska, USA).



Back in 1980, my old late friend, Mr. Fred Lee Barber, who created all the early HESS TOYS, until his passing, created this rather unusual, and not easy to find today, toy plastic semi trailer for this old, now out-of-business motor freight company - Associated Truck Lines of Grand Rapids , Michigan...It's smaller than most HESS toys, and has similar battery operated lighted features , colorful heavy box, and directions sheet as he put into all Hess trucks. The cab looked kind of weird to me at the time, but the graphics were exactly like the real ATL trucks on the highway back then... He also made many toy plastic trucks for Mayflower Moving, and a nice DANNON Yogurt step van...all similar in quality and design, and packaging to his many, many HESS trucks!



OAST- Bob Short

A busy month for the delivery guys---

1) 1960 GMC grain truck 1/64 scale by First Gear



2) Two new fire department models from Greenlight in 1/64 scale , 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe Montgomery County, Md Fire and Rescue , 1969 Ford Econoline Ambulance Los Angeles Fire Department . this reminds me very much of the Ambulances used by DCFD when I began my police career 55 years ago. At the time DCFD only ran 10 regular ambulances with 2 reserve pieces.



3) 1/43 1970 Ford F100 pickup truck by Ixo. Greenlight previously used this casting to produce a version with a higher trim level and I also have a part works version in solid white obtained years ago.



4) 1976 Chevrolet K30 crewcab in commemorative graphics for the upcoming 250th anniversary of the USA. The first release of numerous Chevrolet and GMC 1/64 scale "square bodies" coming this summer. So far Ixo 1/64 seems very well detailed with good assembly quality.



5) 1965 Shelby Mustang GT350 in dark metallic blue with white stripes. An improvement the white version with blue stripes issued in a parts works series.



6) 1/24 1988 GMC 1500 pickup ,slammed with an LS V8 .



7) An eBay low bid win. It arrived well packed and Surprise! I already have this color combination ...but the other one has white walls so I guess that counts as "different " doesn't it?



8) 1956 Ford Customline Tudor Fast and Furious. I am not a big collector of movie cars but I have always liked 56 Fords (and Plymouths, Chevys too).



9) 1974 Chevrolet Nova, Spirit of America. This was a trim package available on Nova and Impala. I can't remember for sure but I believe there may have been a mid size Malibu or Laguna as well.



10) 1969 Pontiac GTO Judge in black, the fourth release of this casting by Ixo.



11) 1968 Dodge Dart GTS which was thr high performance Dart model with either a 340 or 383 V8. I have a prior release of this in green that has the small "dog dish" hubcaps. Nicely done for an inexpensive diecast 1/43 model.



12). X-EL reproduction Johan 1956 Oldsmobile 98.



13). 1957 DeSoto Johan original Friction. It has some warp and crazing on the glass but the actual finish is very nice. One of those low bids that succeeded! It also has the original albeit fragile crumbling box.



Today's Walmart finds :

14. 1/43 Hotwheels 2022 Ford Maverick sort of a tuner version.



15. Fast and Furious 1/64 1967 Chevrolet flatbed truck .



OAST—Dick Williams

Some exciting (for me, anyway) model news. Fire Replicas, a company that produces limited edition, extremely well-detailed 1:50 scale models of fire apparatus and vintage semi-tractors, recently announced a replica I've been waiting and hoping for over at least the past 30 years that someone would model, the NYPD's 1990 Mack DM Emergency Service Unit (ESU) truck. This is the most exciting news for police vehicle collectors in many years, in my opinion.

The ESU has been part of the NYPD since the 1920s. Its primary functions are rescue and SWAT operations. ESU was heavily involved at the World Trade Center on 9/11 and 14 of its members were killed there. For many years, ten of the big trucks at a time have served the entire city, divided among the five boroughs. The "Trucks," as they're called in NYPD jargon, contain specialized rescue equipment, tactical gear and weaponry and are called out when needed. Regular patrols are conducted continuously by smaller trucks based on Ford F-350s (in the 1990s) called Radio Emergency Patrols (REPs).

In my opinion, the Mack R trucks with their Saulsbury bodies in the blue and white NYPD color scheme used from 1973 until the late 1990s are the best-looking trucks in ESU's history. Seven of the current ESU E-One/Pierce trucks were modeled earlier by Fire Replicas, but they're boxy, like modern fire apparatus, and are painted white - not nearly as attractive to me as the Macks. Only two ESU trucks were Mack DM models, Truck 4 from the Bronx and Truck 9 from Queens. As with the modern trucks made previously, only 100 of each model will be made. Truck 4 opened for pre-orders (with delivery in mid-August) on May 29th, and it sold out within two days (by the end of the first day only 10 were left). Truck 9 will be open for pre-orders on June 5th. The price is \$350, which is \$50 more than most of Fire Replicas' other models, including the earlier ESU trucks. Each model has hundreds of small detail parts (the earlier series had 500+ on each model), most from stainless steel. Every detail of the body and the graphics is represented on a model only seven inches long. All but one of the previous series of ESU trucks is sold out.

I hope to order one of the models of Truck 9, which responded to the World Trade Center, although it will be the most I've ever spent on a model. Both trucks are identical except the numbers. Here's the page for Truck 9: <https://www.firereplicas.com/new-york-city-police-department-1990-mack-dm-saulsbury-ess-9-queens/>.

The three photos of the model here were taken from Fire Replicas' website. The page for each truck also has a photo of an actual ESU truck for comparison.

Also, I've attached a photo of Bob Short in his Crown Victoria police car on the National Mall on May 14th, participating in the display of vintage police cars that was part of Police Memorial Week in DC.]



Fire Replicas Web Site



A miniature world brings back childhood memories...

By Doug Campbell

Ok, just bear with me this month, because my short article is about a miniature building, rather than a miniature vehicle, but my first photo will feature some miniature vehicles too at least!... I have to write about what comes to mind each month to help fill our journal's pages....but I always try to keep us in our MINIATURE world of collecting & hope you might enjoy a tidbit of history too!

Early in this cool, rainy month of May, one Friday I had lunch at a favorite dining place in Gettysburg, Pa., and planned to attend the Randy's Toy Auction over in Lancaster County, Pa., that evening, about 100 miles East....so I drove across historic Route 30, and as I passed through New Oxford, Pa., I happened to see a lot of cars parked in front of what looked like a rather large antique shop. I'm truly a COLLECTOR at heart..I just like all of you have that particular sickness...so I pulled over, parked, and went into what turned out to be a VERY HUGE "New Oxford Antique Center" ...room after room full of old treasures...I noticed a few toy vehicles, but none in a condition I wanted to purchase, so after "touring" through the many, many vast rooms chock full of great treasures, I had some time, so decided to make just one more pass through this emporium of old treasures....and on the second pass I noticed this old miniature hand-made wooden BUILDING on a shelf....and I was awe-stuck...as it was a darn nice model of one of my favorite old buildings right here in Baltimore- the old Mount Royal Baltimore & Ohio Railroad station, still sitting in all its splendor, down on Mount Royal Avenue in Baltimore City.

The B&O Mount Royal station was built in 1896, as a passenger station, and now is fully designated as an historic landmark- fully preserved in its original glory and now houses classrooms, studios, and galleries for the Maryland Institute College of Art(MICA)- a truly renowned art college.

It was one of two B&O passenger stations in Baltimore for over 70 years, and closed as a rail station in 1961, as competition grew from the nearby Pennsylvania Railroad, and its larger terminal. This B&O station stands at the north end of the city's famed Howard Street Tunnel. And although no longer a passenger station, still today many, many daily freight trains pass by the rear of the station, on their way along the East Coast rail corridor and I notice often, many, many cars full of Tropicana Orange Juice pass over these tracks each day coming from Florida, on their way to a New Jersey processing facility!

In 1896, this was the first rail terminal to host ELECTRIFIED trains, and in my young childhood in the 1950's, my grandparents often took me on the famous B&O "Royal Blue" train out of this terminal over to Washington, DC for the day. It is built in Romanesque & Renaissance architecture and the clock tower stands 150 feet above ground!

Enough history, and back to my model which I quickly purchased in that wonderful antique center, as when I told the clerk what it was, he kind of looked puzzled, as he said he had rarely ever visited Baltimore...and when I found the model, all the doors were off, but thankfully sitting next to model(I had to recreate one that was missing!), and of course there was no "B&O" lettering on the model..which the clerk told me the model was from an estate sale, and was made he was told in the 1930's!

So When I got home, I cleaned off almost 100 years of dust, reattached the doors, carefully added the correct "B&O" letters to the tower balconies, and noticed all of the 4 thin old clock faces were mostly broken out, so I noticed on

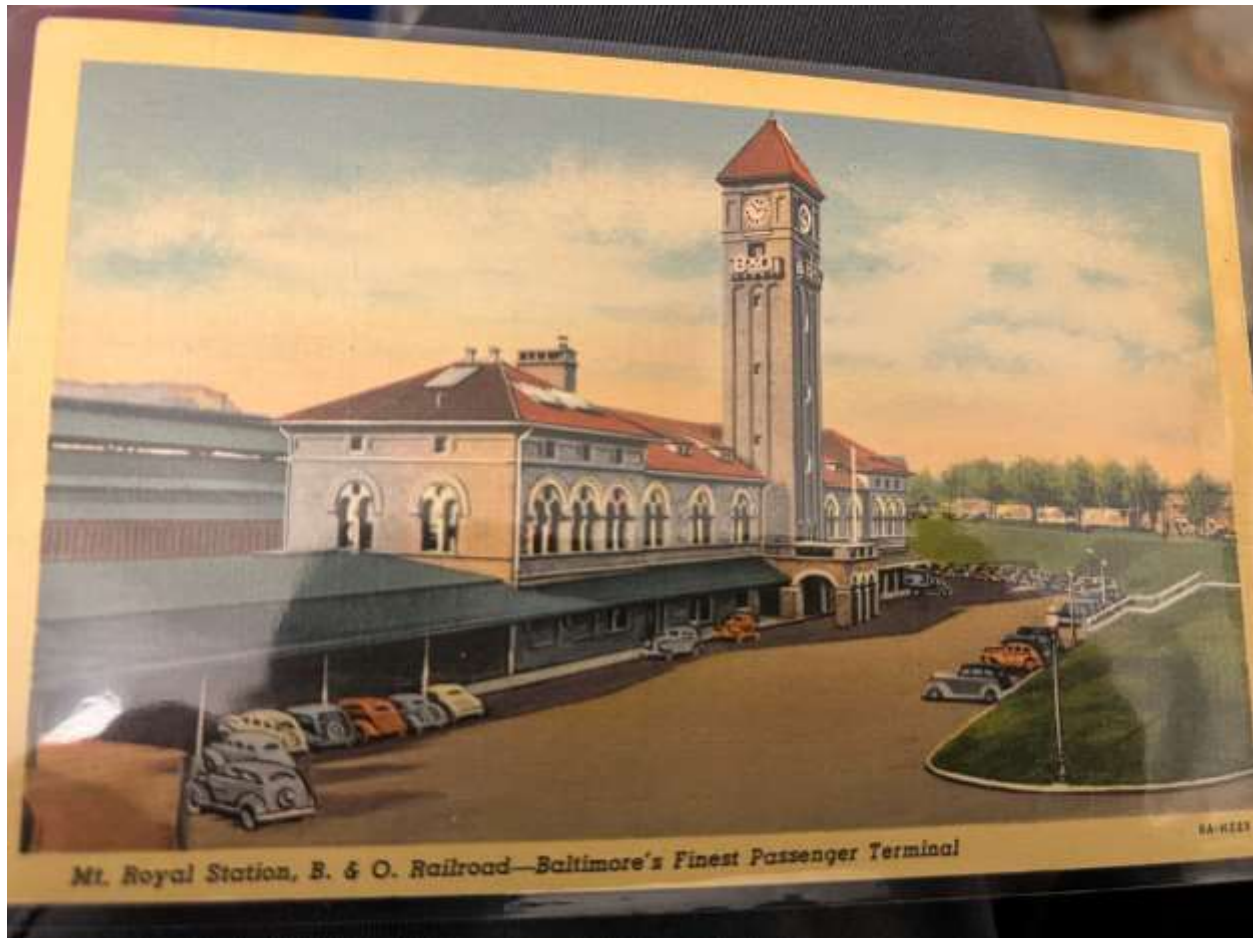
my two toy (one red, and I just found a mint, rather rare GREEN one) 1950's plastic, talking NOMA model railroad stations, that those clocks on the NOMA toy looks like the exact size to replace the broken out clock faces, so I had 4 replacements of those old NOMA clocks ordered quickly on eBay, and they now look perfect on my B&O model station!

It took a lot of time and energy working on this fragile old wooden model to bring it back to life,but just maybe that's why we all live in a miniature world that brings back so many wonderful childhood MEMORIES!...Happy Collecting!

Here's my fully cleaned and "restored" model HO scale B&O Mount Royal Railroad terminal.. 20" long.. tower is about 16" high, all made in fragile wood almost 100 years ago!.. To add some "life" to this photo, I've added some HO scale model taxis, a ceramic delivery van (made by my late collector friend, John Pomeroy, a master model maker!), and a metal bus and some figures from a 1950's Authenticast model set.



From my postcard collection, here's an old 1930's postcard showing what that REAL B&O station looked like in its early heyday as a rail passenger terminal .. note those old cars!



Just for fun , for anyone interested, here's the rear side of the previous postcard photo ... has nice description of the B&O terminal..... back then you could get there by STREET CAR !!...note penny stamp.. 30's postmark blurred but missed stamp so postman "hand-cancelled" the stamp at delivery... and note how simple it was to address a penny postcard almost 100 years ago... no street address, no zip codes... the postmaster in the tiny town of York Village ,Maine (I visit there each summer on vacation) knew all the residents by NAME.....including Mrs. Miller!



To avoid any copyright problems like Model Auto Review has, I ran downtown yesterday and personally took this photo of what the Mount Royal B&O rail station looks like TODAY! Not many changes from what my almost 100 years ago old toy model looks like! It's always been one of my favorite old local buildings! Hope you enjoyed looking back with me at such a magnificent piece of architecture !!... in miniature too!



A Lucky Find

By Robin Godwin

In the fall of 2025, I attended a local(ish) swapmeet/toy show in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. I knew the show leaned towards 1:64 scale, and was heavily attended by Hot Wheels sellers, but there was also a smattering of newer Chinese 1:64 product. The odd seller had some old Matchbox and other interesting stuff. But I was dumbfounded when I came across a Benbros #311 Excavator in near mint condition with a box. This model had been on my “wants list” for over 25 years. It was a bit pricey, but when I had a look at some past UK sales prices, it was an incredible bargain. The vendor indicated that the model was old shop stock and that he had bought the box separately online.



The Benbros Qualitoy Ruston-Bucyrus 10-RB Excavator. Boom and stick are both operated by separate winders (one each side of the cab). The bucket door has no mechanism to keep it shut – it’s hinged, but a free floater. This is the early box illustrating both the earlier Benbros Medium Excavator 311 and the Medium Crane 310, but not this 10-RB version. Issue date is given by Paolo Rampini as 1954 (which may be for the earlier version), but I can’t confirm this elsewhere. Rubber tracks appear to be intact originals! The same model with running gear removed appeared on the back of a Benbros AEC Lorry as a Mobile Excavator. The two pieces seemed out of scale with each other.

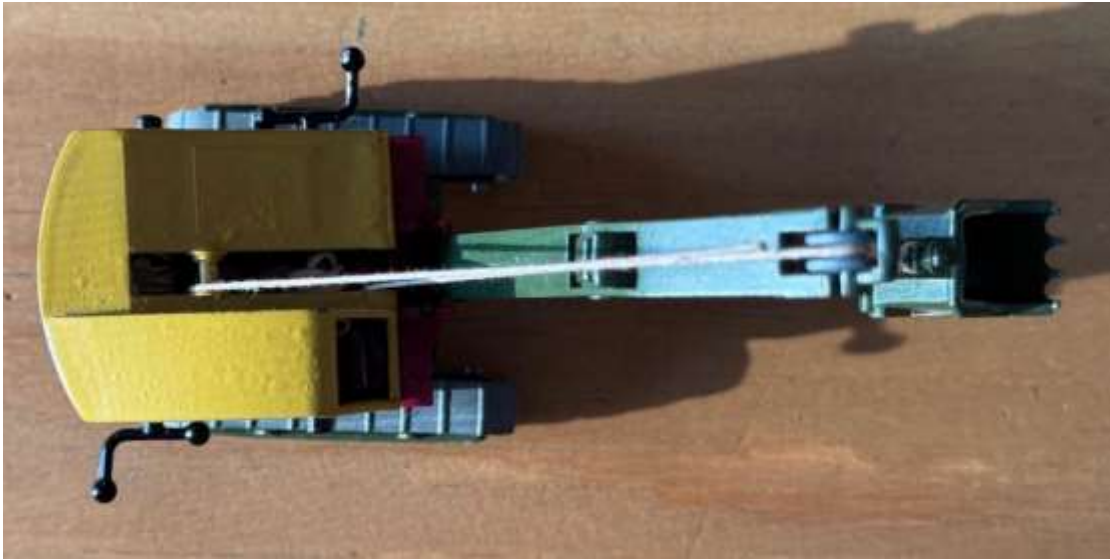


The red lower cab is a one piece casting, and the upper yellow is separate, designed to facilitate assembly with the two winding mechanisms. Side decals have yellowed with age but are intact. The forward mounted winder shaft end (boom control) can be seen protruding. If you look closely, you can see that a section of the round shaft is actually squared off, and secured in the square opening of the cab. This feature is the locked position and makes the whole boom and stick poseable. One simply pulls the handle out from the cab about 1/8" (it hits a "stop") to unlock, allowing winding/playing. I'm not sure if the model originally came with operating instructions, but this locking feature may have resulted in many broken handles if one tried to rotate them when locked

This is the second version of two 10-RBs according to Nicholas Martin's brilliant website here:

<https://www.diecastvintagetoy.co.uk/qualitoys-medium-excavator>

This featured "SLOT-IN" fitting of the boom to the cab, and a similar arrangement for the wheel axles. Rampini gives the scale as 1:45, but that may be because he illustrates the lorry mounted Mobile Excavator and the truck itself may well be 1:45, but the excavator is certainly smaller than that. All-in-all, a superbly engineered little model, with more accurate operating features than the similar but larger Budgie model, also a 10-RB.



Winding handles in locked position with shaft ends visible and...



Handles unlocked, which allows winding and play. This would have required considerable dexterity on the part of small children (and septuagenarian collectors...)



The much simpler Matchbox Major Pack No. 4 Ruston-Bucyrus 22-RB for comparison (a larger and heavier machine) at 1:92 scale (from 1961 Matchbox catalogue). I was unable to find dimensions of the 10-RB online so can't effectively do the math



The real thing at work. Benbros captured the shape nearly perfectly (photo internet). Now defunct, Ruston-Bucyrus was an old British firm that made many excavators

A Route 66 Centennial Road Trip

By Dick Williams

When Ruth and I accompanied Michael and Amanda (and little Claire) on a cross-country trip to California for his assignment at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey in January, we realized that 2026 is the centennial of Route 66, the "Mother Road" (so christened by John Steinbeck in *The Grapes of Wrath*) that runs from Chicago, IL, to Santa Monica, CA. Since Michael had a reporting date to make, we didn't have much time for sight-seeing, but we saw so many interesting sights that we decided to make the trip again in the spring when we could take more – a *lot* more – time to see things. On May 19, we embarked on a cross-country odyssey to see as many things as we could in 3-4 weeks. As I write this, we're at Michael's home in CA and will begin the return trip on Tuesday. We picked up Rt 66 in St. Louis, MO (we saw some of the parts in northern Illinois during the 43rd Scale Show in March) and passed through Missouri, Kansas (Rt 66 only has 13 miles in Kansas), Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

I've taken hundreds of photos so far. This representative sample of 25 is meant to show the types of car- and travel-related sights we've seen along the route, rather than being an exhaustive compendium. Among the categories of sights are, of course, Rt 66-related signs and roadside attractions, including museums, some specifically related to the centennial. Other notables are car museums, vintage buildings (gas stations, motels and restaurants, some abandoned, others restored, some still in operation), quirky advertising such as variations of "Muffler Men," and an amazing quantity of old cars – museum pieces, privately owned restored cars, junkers in and out of junkyards, and cars used as eye-catching advertising for vintage businesses. Driving through some towns was like driving through a car museum (or downtown Havana, Cuba). Sometimes we came, entirely by chance, on some guy proudly driving or displaying his vintage car. Unfortunately the timing of our trip didn't allow us to see any of the centennial car parades (one aimed at a Guinness World Record for most cars – 4000 – in one parade).

Enjoy the sights – there will be more after we get back to Virginia in mid-June!

Photos:

1 – The first museum we visited was the grandly named National Museum of Transportation outside St. Louis. This was one of the first vehicular museums in the nation, founded in 1944 to rescue a St. Louis trolley that was about to be scrapped. Despite the name, most of the exhibits are related to St. Louis, and the collection is weighted toward trains. Only about half the motor vehicles listed in the collection were on display, and some of the most interesting ones were not. The 1965 Corvette in this display is parked outside a remnant of the 1940s "Streamline Moderne"-style Coral Court Motel, saved in 1995 when the rest of the place was torn down. The motel was infamously used by the kidnapers of six-year-old Bobby Greenlease in 1953. Little Bobby was murdered and the kidnapers went to the gas chamber.



2 – This 1965 DIVCO 300E dairy delivery truck also was in the NMoT collection. I included this one specially for Doug!



3 – Gary's Gay Parita Sinclair service station in Gay Parita, MO, is one of the best-known sights on Rt 66. Built in the 1930s, it ceased being an operational gas station after it burned down twice in the 1960s, but it was resurrected as a tourist attraction sometime after 2000. It's an interesting amalgam of old vehicles, vintage odds and ends, a gift shop, and a garrulous owner who's a gruff but friendly source of information. Among the vehicles only two are in restored or good condition, the 1947 Ford pulled up to the pumps and a restored truck inside the barn.



4 – A quirky artist, Lowell Davis, created his own town called Red Oak II outside Carthage, MO. He grew up in the original Red Oak about 20 miles away, but when he returned in the 1970s, it had become a ghost town. Davis collected old buildings from Red Oak and other places in Missouri and built a sparsely populated town with a church, school, two old gas stations, a marshal's office, and several homes, including the old Dalton Brothers (of outlaw fame) homestead. Each building is privately owned; Davis himself died in 2020. He also scattered a number of old cars around the place, but only one (a '37 Chevy flatbed) appears to be running. This '41 Buick town car is one of the most interesting old cars.



5 – Not far from Red Oak II outside the Flyin' J gas station is one of Davis's sculptures, a vintage manure spreader turned into a biplane – complete with pilot – and aptly named the "Crapduster." Some folks call Lowell Davis "the Norman Rockwell of rural art."



6 – In Carthage proper, we stayed overnight at the Boots Court Motel, a fine example of Art Deco styling originally built in 1939, rescued from oblivion by two sisters who partially restored it, then when their funds ran out, it was finished by a non-profit comprising local investors and businesses. It has 13 rooms faithfully recreating the style of the '40s, still with "a radio in every room." Eight of the rooms share a drive-through garage for each two rooms. The office now is in a restored old gas station and includes a gift shop. It was a very comfortable and enjoyable stay. We also felt secure with the 1940 "Jasper County Sheriff" car hiding behind a billboard in true speed trap style. The car also was painted and decorated by the prolific Lowell Davis.



7 – Nearby Joplin, MO, has a fine example of the large murals that adorn many buildings in towns along Rt 66. This one traces the route from Missouri through Kansas to Oklahoma with artistic representations of some of the sights and history. Down in the bottom right is a small drawing of Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, who operated in this area in the 1930s.



8 – In fact, a notorious stop in Joplin is this garage apartment where B&C, along with Clyde's brother Buck and his wife and W. D. Jones, ambushed a group of police officers who came to the apartment looking for bootleggers. Two officers were killed in this 1933 shootout and the gang escaped – but not for long.



9 – Springfield, MO, isn't the only place that calls itself the "birthplace of Route 66." Its claim is based on the fact that a telegram from a group of men involved in the creation of this cross-country route suggested the name; the president of the federal highway naming commission, based in Oklahoma, agreed that "66" sounded better than "62."



10 – Another example of the many murals found on the sides of buildings in towns all along the route is this one from Galena, KS. The Pixar movie *Cars* is prominently featured in this one, because Galena has several old cars with “eyeballs,” including a tow truck called “Tow Tater” that, according to the lore, inspired the movie vehicle “Tow Mater” after being seen by the *Cars* team that traveled Route 66 for inspiration and background visuals for the movies.



11 – Another car museum, the “Heart of Route 66 Auto Museum” in Sapulpa, OK, had this 1953 Lincoln towing a Holiday Rambler trailer, complete with figures of Desi Arnaz and Lucille Ball from the movie *The Long, Long Trailer*. The tag on the toy said it was made by Smith-Miller. The little I could find on the Internet said it was a very sought-after set in 1/16th scale. The car shown in most close-ups in the movie was a Mercury, but a Lincoln was substituted for road scenes requiring more pulling power.



12 – The other Smith-Miller toy (it’s hard to call a miniature vehicle this large, this realistic, and this expensive a “toy”) in this museum was this pristine auto carrier with a load of vintage Thunderbirds.



13 – The Heart of Route 66 Museum actually does have 1:1 scale cars too! One example is this 1957 Ford Skyliner retractable convertible. I believe this is only the second or third one I've seen in a museum in fully-restored condition.



14 – The Western Motel on the outskirts of Vinita, OK, repurposed this fiberglass “Muffler Man” to be “Big Bill,” a giant tourist holding a key to the motel.



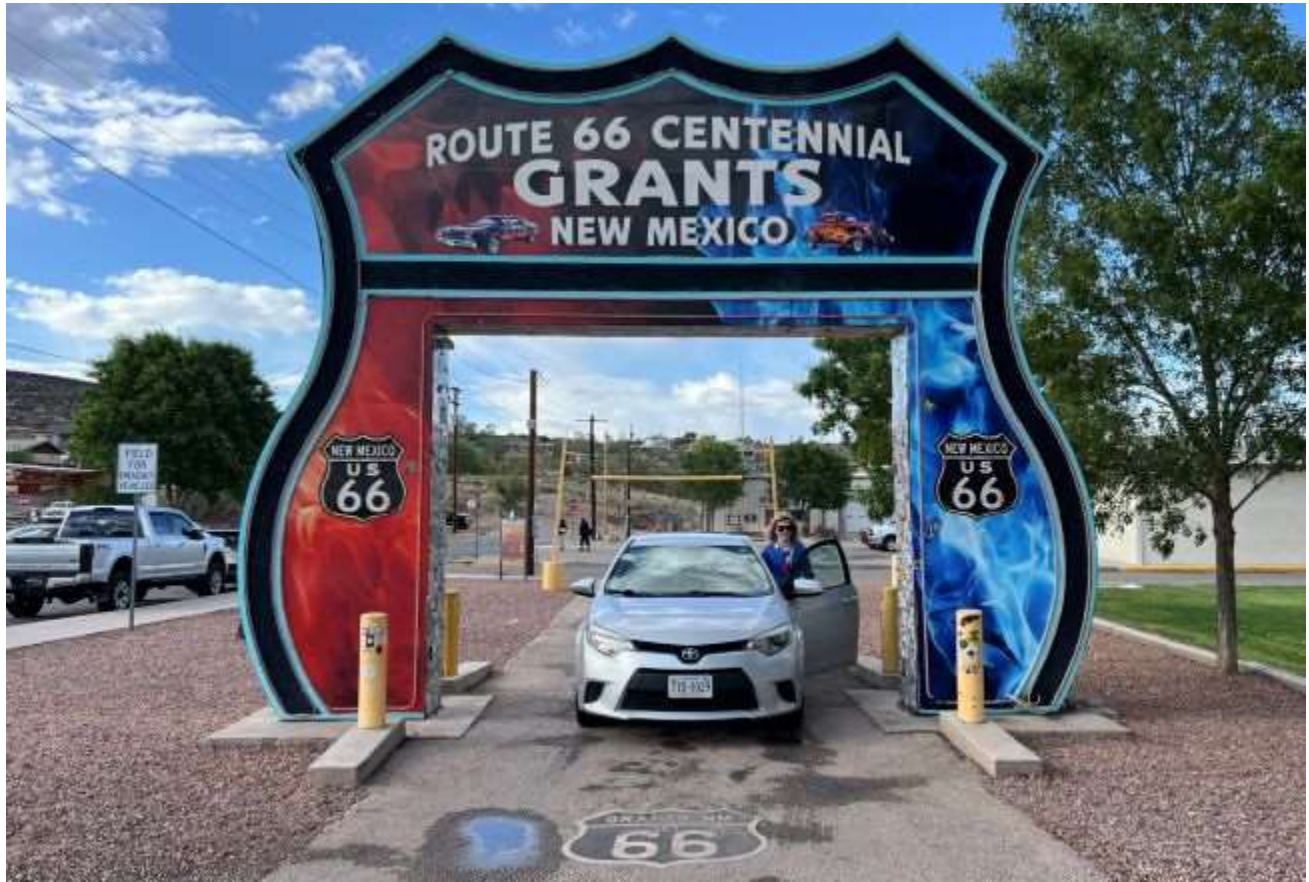
15 – Elk City, OK, has the “National” Route 66 Museum (to distinguish it from the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, I guess) that is part of a compound of old buildings that includes displays of old businesses, a home and a church containing relics of life in the past (mostly pre-dating Route 66). The Route 66 Museum includes this 1928 Ford used in the movie *The Grapes of Wrath*, complete with a mannequin of Henry Fonda on the set.



16 – One of the best examples of vintage gas stations along the way is this restored combination Tower Conoco station and U-Drop Inn Café in Shamrock, TX, that goes back to the 1930s. The Inn was named by a schoolboy in a contest held by the owner. Three vintage trucks are part of the scene.



17 – This drive-through Route 66 shield in Grants, NM, is one of three we've seen so far; others were in Kansas and Arizona.



18 – Tucumcari is a wonderful collection of old motels, gas stations and restaurants dating back to the neon age. Some are still in operation, like the Blue Swallow shown here with its nicely restored old Buick parked in front. Some of the operating businesses have restored cars, but mostly there's a large number of rusting old cars, some for sale, along with murals and other memorabilia.



19 – Here's an example of one of the elderly vehicles in Tucumcari that's NOT restored – an Edsel Villager wagon parked (permanently?) alongside an abandoned garage. We saw three Edsels just in this town.



20 – Santa Rosa, NM, is home to the third car museum we visited, the Route 66 Auto Museum. Parked outside is this “Shovel Ready” modified Edsel marked for FEMA use. It was donated to the museum, whose founder passed away last year, and it used to be fully operational, but the founder’s daughter told me it got too hard for her husband to keep it working since it’s kept outdoors.



21 – This mildly customized '49 Buick is an example of the cars on display indoors. Many of the cars are for sale, but not this one.



22 – The still-working Delta Motel in Winslow, AZ, has this vintage Ford to go with its equally vintage neon sign.



23 – Winslow is, of course, famous for a stanza in the Eagles’ song “Take It Easy,” and they make the most of it. Downtown, where the city has created the famous “street corner” from the song (“Standin’ on the corner in Winslow, Arizona, such a fine sight to see”), including a small park with a mural and two statues of two of the band members, the “flatbed Ford” truck the girl was driving (you can Google it) and this giant Route 66 shield painted on the intersection. (The other details I mentioned are visible in the background if your eyesight is good enough...)



24 -Also in Winslow, this 1953 Chevy sedan delivery is an example of some of the very nice, random restored old vehicles found unexpectedly along the way.



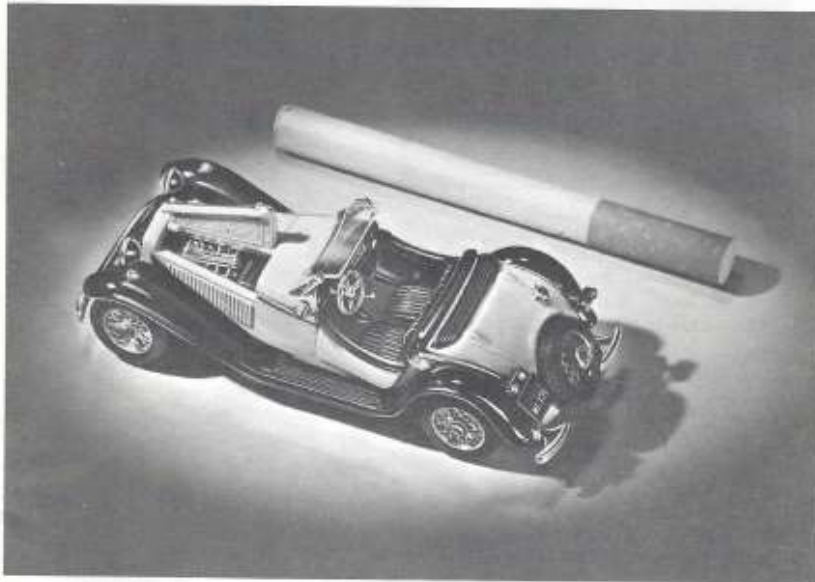
25 – Last but not least is another photo from Winslow. This old Texaco station with its beautifully restored 1938 Ford pickup is actually a realtor's office!



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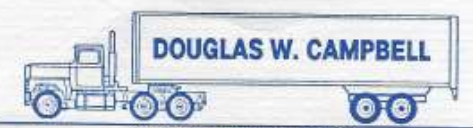
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