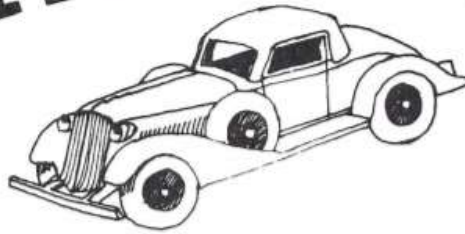


CAPITOL MINIATURE AUTO COLLECTORS CLUB



JULY 2026: NEXT MEETING-TBD

EVENTS: Let me know if you know:

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

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

Outdoor/TJ's Diecast Toys

- July 12th, August 9th, September 13th.

Indoor/Vienna Firehouse

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

Editor's Corner

This month we have another illustration of the wide variety of model interests in our community! And a new contributor, Jay Kolb. Jay is a fellow Alfa Romeo owner, a regular at the monthly Friday breakfast club meetings at the Nautilus Diner in Timonium. I found out that Jay is also a model car collector, and I prevailed upon him to send in some photos of his collection, and they are a feature in this month's newsletter. It should be noted that I am sending Jan the newsletter monthly, and also sending it to Frank Salemi who is also part of the Alfa group. You may know Frank as he is a regular table-holder at our spring and fall shows—also a model collector!

Also in this month's OAST is a kind of farewell from Josh Pinho, moving to Pennsylvania, but he says we will still see him around! Hope so—thought of him when I got my copy of the Hagerty magazine Drivers Club, the summer issue has a feature on the Cadillac Allante.

In the last page "From the Files...", a magazine I should have had in May! I was in a used bookstore in Gaithersburg last month and was finding nothing of interest, and then I saw the front of the Cunningham cover. The magazine was in a clear envelope, tacked to the wall! The article in the magazine has a cutaway illustration of the Cunningham C2R as part of the article about this new American race car. A great find for \$8.00!

Finally, maybe some good news on the tariff front, just got a notice from DHL that they are refunding a substantial amount of the tariffs they collected from me earlier this year—enough for a nice model from Italy!

Fred

OAST-Once Around Show and Tell

OAST-Doug Campbell

Since seeing this very early WINROSS TOYS (1/64 scale- made in Rochester,NY) model truck in a 1970 issue of the old British journal MODEL CARS, I have always wanted one, and as I have found out it is just a very rare probably 1 of 2 or 3 SAMPLES that Winross made, and Molson decided NOT to order, I guess it's why they told me when I wrote MOLSON BREWERIES in Canada back in 1970, they had no toy truck to offer me! I just won this in a recent online Randy's Auction... it's a White 3000 cab hauling a 32' heavy cast trailer, made by Winross as a sample back in late 1960's!



This handsome private promotional PPG Chemicals Peterbilt tanker, was issued by Die-Cast Promotions back in 2008, and seems to be bringing very hefty prices on EBay, but I won this in a recent online Randy's Auction (Leola, PA), where it too still bid up to a fairly high price, but much better then EBay! There is sooo many tiny details on this model to savor as a collector!



From time-to-time I like to go up to Nottingham, Pa to take a personally guided tour of the huge HERR's FOODS factory, where they tour you through pretzel, tortilla chips, and potato chip (you get to taste yummy warm chips right off the line!), and of course a stop in Herr's HUGE gift shop, as always, sends me home with lots of new toy Herr's TRUCKS! The big cardboard truck in rear is a special Christmas version,



On the left a neat little punch out wooden diorama you just snap together featuring a Herr's truck, and the little diecast van they have sold for past few years...has sweat and steering wheel inside...about 1/64 scale...



I'm just a "sucker" for toy trucks, so of course couldn't leave the huge HERR'S FOODS gift shop with out taking along one of their brand new 11"long PLUSH toy vans!



Just recently LIONEL TRAINS was aquired by ROUND 2 (RC2) company and the new firm is called LIONEL BRANDS GROUP, and my toy Lionel boxcar was one of the 1st 50 ordered so it is personally signed underneath by the 2 new CEO's of Lionel! As model vehicle collectors, note that Lionel Trains are now part of Johnny Lightning, Auto World, AMT, Racing Champions, Mini Metals, etc.as our hobby world keeps changing!



I found this unusual Ralstoy recently on EBay, as I had never seen this BEAVER (freight lines?)model from 1970's, with the YELLOW stripe at bottom..and when I received , it is is marked inside as a "one-of-a-kind Ralstoy" ..must have been a sample, as the yellow stripe really sets this model off over the plain regular model!



Sometimes as I walk through a WalMart or Target I breeze past the HOT WHEELS section, and just noticed this little model which I think is far beyond normal "Hot Wheels" quality and realism! It contains a VERY heavy cast Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR race car and a Mercedes-Benz German Renntransporter...with two tiny spare tires mounted underneath! It is really a nice looking model!!



Ok, yes, this is just a kid's playtoy, but nonetheless a collectible model truck...made of wood by the now gone HOLGATE TOY CO. of Kane, Pa., who was owned at its end, when this toy was made, by Zippo Mfg. Co. (lighters!) of Bradford, Pa., and this looks to me to be a private promotional issue for this old freight company also was based in Pa., - PTL Intermodal, Inc. ..a nice "heavy" EBay find! I have collected a few HOLGATE wood toys over the years as I find them "charming"!



Sometimes, at a live Randy's Auction, in Leola, Pa., I just can't pass up bidding on a model that goes so crazy low in bidding...as was with this metal mint-boxed 1/18 scale SCHUCO (Germany) Mercedes 170V Limousine...has wind up motor and old toy shop sticker from Germany on box is marked 280 DM...(about \$130 US?) and when this hit just \$14.00 at the auction, I was the lucky bidder! It's a splendid model, with such realism!



I enjoy collecting old logical Baltimore toy trucks, and a nice find on EBAY , quite cheaply!,,,was this early 1950's almost mint condition cast aluminum open truck by SLIK TOYS of Lansing, Iowa. It has such an interesting decal on its sides from an old Baltimore plumbing, air conditioning, heating, roofing and sheet metal firm- Lloyd E. Mitchell Inc. ...7" long.



Came across this really nice new 2026 Hot Wheels issue, while waiting for a photo print to be developed at a Walgreens, as to kill some time waiting I breezed through their small die-cast selection and noticed this really splendid HOT WHEELS Fiat "Beast of Turin:" race car...truly a die-cast piece of ART from Hot Wheels! Made land speed record in 1911 in Italy , as it thundered past 130 MPH!



I enjoy building LEGO (well these are all Lego "types", made in China!) kits, and when visiting two huge potato chip factory gift shops near here...Herr's and UTZ they are each selling neat little models to build of "bricks" of their step vans..Herr's is only 145 pieces , and the UTZ van is 630 pieces! I must get busy, as I just received too a model brick kit from WAFFLE HOUSE online gift center- a model of their restaurants at 637 pieces! ... summer FUN...maybe I'll take one along on my annual vacation to Maine for 10 days in July!



While stopping in my local Hallmark store recently to pick up (yes it's out already!!) their annual catalog of Hallmark holiday ORNAMENTS..I noticed they were closing out all "Harry Potter" items at 75% OFF, and noticed this one left of a 7"long, 8" high plush 3 DECKER Harry Potter BUS (figure included in roof!), marked down from \$29.95 to just \$7.50, so me being a "bus nut" HAD to take this one home! Such a COOL "big" model BUS!



OAST- Bob Short

This is Automodello 1/24 resin .

Wonderful model ,highly detailed but curbside only. No opening or working features. I thought about this one on Chicago as he was set up next to us but I passed partly because I had already busted my budget and was concerned about it getting damaged on the way home.

Then Diecast Direct offered a reduced closeout price on this one ,the last one in stock and I was hooked. This is one of 99 in this color.





An ebay find. I saw this and was immediately attracted to it because a previous owner had done all the trim in bare metal foil and had done a fantastic job.





Second City 1959 Ford Wagon



(from Facebook via Bob Short)

Ebay find, 1/24 scale 2007 or earlier Ford E-350 cargo van. Opening front doors and steerable front wheels. On the bottom it says Lane Collectibles.



Four 1/87 scale models: 1953 Kaiser Manhatta, 1960 Ford Falcon Ranchero, 1959 Cadillac Miller-Meteor Ambulance and 1965 Pontiac GTO.



2) 1/43 Excelsior NYC transit bus by Iconic Replicas, plastic bank but the graphics appear accurate.



3) 1/64 Kinsmart Western Star concrete mixer trucks ,4 colors available. Not bad for an inexpensive model



1/64 Ixo 1979 Chevrolet K-20 crew cab pickup truck. Nice detail and not too expensive.



1/64 1946 Dodge Power Wagon in USA 250th graphics .



1/64 1955 Chevrolet 210 Townsman station wagon "Just Married" from the movie " Vanishing Point"



OAST-Dick Williams

Hi Fred, I forgot to send photos of my only diecast acquisition in the past month. I mentioned buying this Matchbox black wheels Bedford army radio truck at the Monterey Antique Mall in California.



The other photo is of a new release by Iconic Replicas that just came out last week. It's a Corvette C-8 used by the Florida Highway Patrol. This replicates an actual FHP car marked and put into service after being acquired in a drug-related seizure, but it's one of a kind. Cost is \$50, both from Awesome Diecast (owner of Iconic Replicas) and even from Diecast Direct with Bob's dealer price. I don't have one yet so the photo is from AD's website.



Source: Awesome Diecast website

My Collection

By Jay Kolb

I started collecting diecast many years ago because I didn't think that I would ever have a full-size collector car. But I was hooked, so when I finally did get a collector car, I continued to collect diecast. I have many different scale cars but mostly 1/43 and 1/18.

British cars:



Italian:



German 1/18:



American:







French (mostly!):



Ferrari engine:



Smallest!











And then my latest collectible, full-size—a 1996 Alfa Romeo 916 coupe!



Corgi Mechanicals

By Robin Godwin

Right from the get-go in 1956, Corgi introduced friction flywheel-power motorized cars alongside regular non-powered, free-rolling issues, using the same upper body castings. The bases were different of course – tinplate (like Dinky) on the regular issues, and diecast on the motorized versions. Later on, all Corgis would have diecast bases, a discriminator I used as a kid in stating my preference over Dinky Toys. Mettoy, the Corgi parent company, had released several clockwork vehicles before entering full production diecast (i.e. Corgi), so perhaps there was a perceived “motorized market” in the diecast world. Alas, it didn’t pan out, and 1959 saw the last introduction of a mechanical model (#216M Austin A.40) with phase out following shortly thereafter.

My first exposure to Corgi mechanicals didn’t come as a kid in the 50s. I started with Matchbox Toys and later switched to Corgi, but I don’t recall ever seeing a mechanical version. My childhood Corgis date from about 1960 onwards, after the mechanicals had been phased out. My first exposure came on a working trip to Bermuda in 1977, when I found a #206M Hillman Husky mechanical powered car in a Hamilton antique store. This was like a bolt of lightning to me, having just resumed collecting as an adult.



Four mechanicals in my collection, L to R: 404M Bedford Dormobile, acquired in trade from an Italian collector who was willing to trade mint 50s Corgis for new issue 1:87 German plastic Police vehicles (I was living in Germany at the time); 202M Morris Cowley, a UK eBay purchase; 416M Austin A.40 Saloon, another UK eBay purchase; and, 206M Hillman Husky, my first mechanical described above

I would love to show a picture from the Great Book of Corgi that shows the mechanical motor components, but with the recent copyright issues with MAR Online still fresh, I better not. Doug Campbell most likely has the book. Sales were disappointing, even though Marcel Van Cleemput claims the car was good to run for 35 to 40 feet with only a two-foot windup push (these were *push flywheel friction* motors, and not *pull back and release windup* motors). Sounds a bit like real car company fuel mileage claims. Any survivors today would have to have the motors “blueprinted” for performance like that. I suspect that in the hands of children, these underperformed on hard surface floors and/or banged into a lot of walls, and were close to useless on carpets (not to mention the possibility of leaving an oil stain on Mom’s new rug). Kids do like to race their cars, but they also like to rev them backwards and forwards (the mechanism will work in reverse) but the abrupt direction change would have been difficult to execute with little hands. The mechanicals also sold at a higher price.



In the same order as above. The small hole behind the rear axle is for lubricating oil. "OIL" is cast into the axle. As far as I can tell, no model showed an actual Patent Number, with just "Patent Pending" cast into the base (hard to see on the Bedford, but it's there at the back of the chassis). Presumably the patent application was cancelled when Corgi ceased production of the mechanical models, or possibly was eventually approved after cessation of production



The mechanicals pre-dated the early vac-formed interiors, so the flywheel motor is visible through the windows of the models



The free running Morris Cowley in the back, obtained from the same Italian collector mentioned above, with the mechanical version in green. Other than color, they are identical from this angle,



Free running Cowley, top, with tin base, and mechanical with diecast base. Rivets are in the same location. I'm not sure if the free-running base was changed to diecast after phase out of the mechanical range. The free runner did appear with the later "spun hubs" (rather than these "domed hubs")

Prix valables à partir du 1er Janvier, 1958. Prijslijst 1958.

100 Remorque "Drop Side"	Frs. 29.00	453 Camion frigorifique Commer "Walls" ..	Frs. 49.00
101 Remorque Plateau	Frs. 29.00	454 Camion plateau Commer 5 T. ..	Frs. 42.00
102 Remorque Transport de chevaux ..	Frs. 42.00	455 Camion Karrier Bantam 2 T. ..	Frs. 36.00
150 Vanwall Grand Prix. Auto de course ..	Frs. 33.00	1450 Pneux (Boîte de 12 pc.) ..	Frs. 10.00
200 Ford Consul, Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 29.00	1450 Gomme banden (Doos van 12 st) ..	Frs. 10.00
201 Austin Cambridge, Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 29.00		
202 Morris Cowley, Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 29.00	CORGI TOYS	
203 Vauxhall Velox, Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 29.00	avec mecanisme a friction-met vliegwiel aandrijving	
204 Rover 90, Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 29.00	200M Ford Consul, Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 39.00
205 Riley Pathfinder, Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 29.00	201M Austin Cambridge, Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 39.00
206 Hillman Stationwagon ..	Frs. 29.00	202M Morris Cowley, Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 39.00
207 Standard Vanguard III, Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 29.00	203M Vauxhall Velox, Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 39.00
208 Jaguar 2.4 L. Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 29.00	204M Rover 90, Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 39.00
210 Citroen DS 19 ..	Frs. 39.00	205M Riley Pathfinder, Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 39.00
211 Studebaker "Golden Hawk", conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 39.00	206M Hillman Stationwagon ..	Frs. 39.00
300 Austin Healey, Voiture Sport ..	Frs. 29.00	207M Standard Vanguard III, Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 39.00
301 Triumph T.R.2, Voiture Sport ..	Frs. 29.00	208M Jaguar 2.4 L., Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 39.00
302 M.G.A., Voiture Sport ..	Frs. 29.00	211M Studebaker "Golden Hawk", Conduite intérieure ..	Frs. 49.00
403 Bedford 500 Kgs. "Daily Express", Camion ..	Frs. 29.00	403M Bedford 500 Kgs. "K.L.G.", Camion ..	Frs. 42.00
404 Camionnette Bedford "Dormobile" ..	Frs. 29.00	404M Camionnette Bedford "Dormobile" ..	Frs. 42.00
405 Pompier avec échelle ..	Frs. 36.00	405M Pompier avec échelle ..	Frs. 49.00
406 Land Rover, Jeep ..	Frs. 36.00	CORGI MAJOR TOYS	
407 Camion Karrier Bantam Epicerie "Smith" ..	Frs. 52.00	1101 Transporteur de voitures ..	Frs. 190.00
408 Camion Bedford service routier AA ..	Frs. 36.00	"Carrimore" Autotransportwagen ..	Frs. 300.00
412 Ambulance Bedford ..	Frs. 31.00	Boite cadeau No. 1 Transporteur de voitures "Carrimore" et quatre voitures Corgi ..	Frs. 300.00
452 Camion lourd Commer 5 T. ..	Frs. 42.00	Cadeau-verpakking Autotransportwagen met 4 Corgi schaalmodellen ..	Frs. 300.00

Chaque mois un nouveau modèle. Let op de nieuwe modellen, die iedere maand uitkomen.

En Vente Chez: Verkrijgbaar bij:

Daniel THIELEMANS
9, Ch. de la Roche - BRUXELLES
Tel. 18 23 94

BELGIUM

"CORGI TOYS" is a registered Trade Mark
20/253/C5/B

Made in Great Britain by Playcraft Toys Ltd., London
Printed in Great Britain

Full list of mechanicals (except for #214M Ford Thunderbird Hard Top and #216M Austin A.40, both introduced in 1959), according to this 1958 Belgian catalog. Total number was 15, but there are some different colors, at least for the cars – mostly bland

For the time, these were relatively low volume productions, and so are hard to find today. The fact that they could easily run themselves into walls might account for the very few mint items that show up on eBay. These are expensive when found, but sometimes you luck in, as I did with my three mint models above. I think this is an interesting chapter of the Corgi history.

Fill up a GLASS...with toy trucks!

By Doug Campbell

Look around and out of all those GLASS windows around you....enjoy your morning orange juice or evening glass of wine in a container made of GLASS....maybe you are sitting down your morning newspaper onto a GLASS-topped coffee table....yes GLASS is a most important part of each of our daily lives, and as with EVERYTHING else we use each day- " if you BOUGHT it, a truck BROUGHT it!... including anything we use made of GLASS!

I can't think of too many little toy trucks with a GLASS theme, but yes there are a few, and probably many I have missed, but it's interesting to see GLASS even being carried to our tiny markets in miniature, & even some models actually made from GLASS!

During the twenty years, Joan & I owned our franchise from Medicine Shoppes, International , unfortunately it became a sad fact of life that time- to -time our Pharmacy was broken into during the night, and we had to rely on the emergency services of a local GLASS company- Caplan Glass- to come out and replace the shattered glass store windows ! So I was always impressed to see their large red trucks safely transporting such huge panels of replacement window glass that they could cut and install on- the -spot most quickly! .. I always had to smile at this great family-run Baltimore glass company, as they were a wonderful Orthodox Jewish family, and seemingly on the Sabbath day, were not allowed to do business under their family names, so on all the places on their big red trucks, where the name "Caplan" was located, the name was on a hinged panel, that on the Sabbath day they dropped down, and underneath was the word if I remember, "City", so they could legally operate 7 days a week, and as "City" Glass only on the Sabbath day! Unfortunately, we did a LOT of business with Caplan Glass through the 20 years!

So I'll show a few photos of some clearly "GLASS related toy models,in my collection, and end with a "clear" finish of a plastic truck!

Some years back, FRENCH Dinky Toys (France), offered this truly charming little RENAULT "Miroitier Estafette" glass delivery van, including two little panels of "glass" as a load.



French Dinky Toys also made this . slightly larger than the Renault, SIMCA Saint Gobain glass transporter with glass and mirror loads included...(This Simca truck cab is one of my favorite French Dinky castings, so I had gotten out from my showcase my Simca BAILEY French Dinky van to enjoy too, and forgot to remove it from the edge of my photo!... my apologies!)



If I remember , it was back in the 90's when Joan and I were in one of the then huge PARIS, FRANCE department stores, just after a wonderful lunch in their dining room of course!.....I got into the then truly HEAVENLY toy department , and as always was OVERWHELMED at all the wonderful toy models for sale there...and being as best I could 'restrained" from buying more then I could carry or afford.. settled on this 1/43 French-made model by Aquavit Models (ARP Sarl Models)....a really wonderful Chenard Watcher glass transporter..and to date it's always remained maybe my very favorite FRENCH toy truck in my collection.....has a miniature glass and mirror panels load of course included! To date I have never come across any other model from this "Aquavit" line of toys! I must someday research just what other models they made back then!

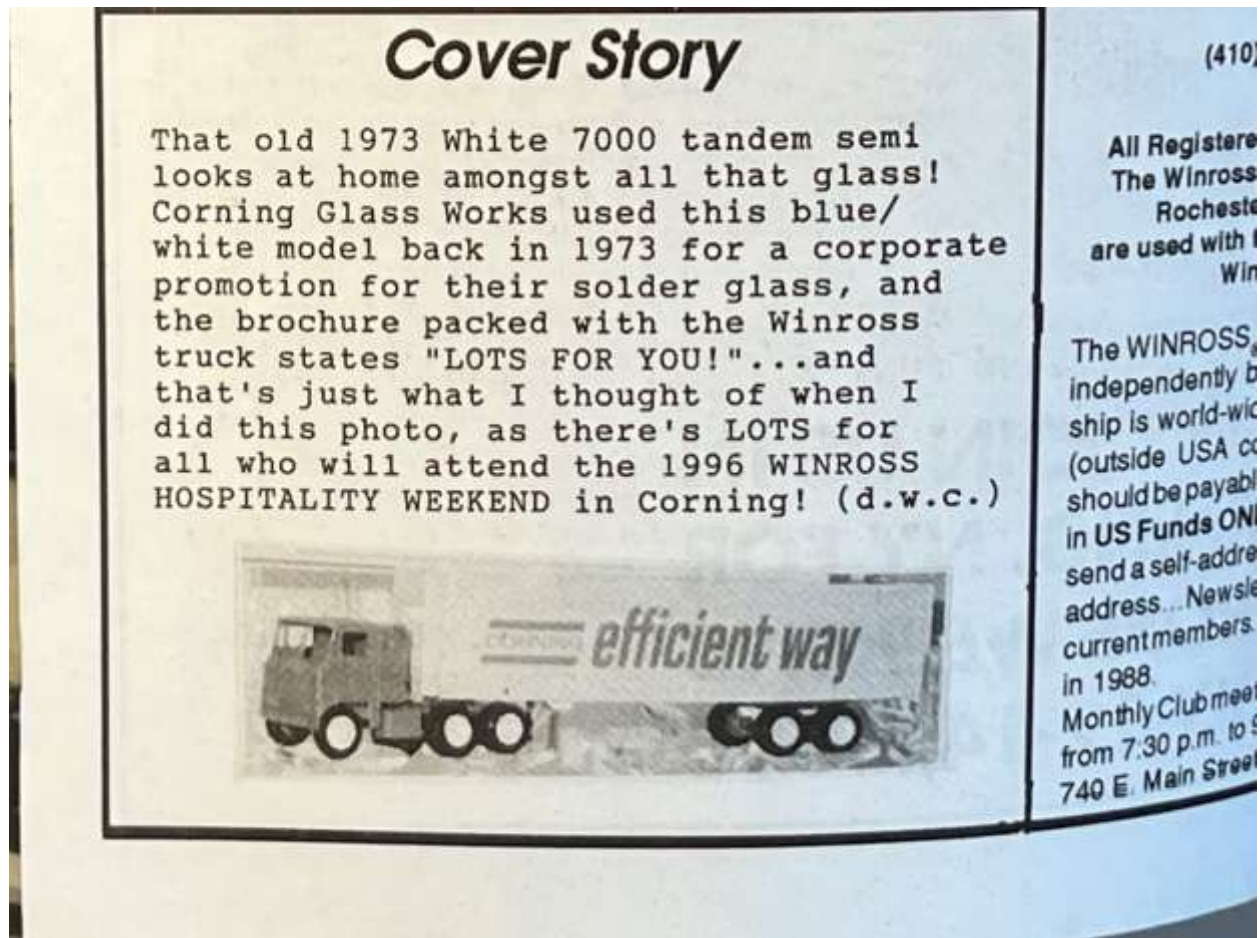


As some of you might know , for many years since its very inception, I was the volunteer Editor (and basically whole PRODUCER!) of the MONTHLY newsletter/journal for the Winross Collectors Club of America, Inc., (based up in Lancaster County, Pa.)which at its heyday had just over 4,000 world-wide members, and I produced over 120 issues of the journal monthly withOUT any computer!...the journal grew for a few years to over 40 pages per issue...so I spent a lot of volunteer hours of my life writing about Winross trucks, and each month I had to create a cover...take a photo and go over to Walgreens to have them developed, and then hand pasted each on each page layout...wow!...if only I had the benefits of a computer back then!..It was all done on a typewriter ...the logos, etc I had to hand paste together...and each month I created some sort of cover photo, and seen here I used a Winross truck from Corning Glass Co. and the paper insert inside

the little truck, and stacked different glasses and bowls from our China cabinet to create this photo for our cover that month! Glass and TOYS!



Here's the description (was inside front cover page) of my "glass" toy truck cover....



My apologies, as it's hard to photograph glass, but this is a tiny GLASS double decker bus model, made in Europe many years ago...if I remember I bought it in Austria.



Just a few months ago I found this wonderful little glass crystal semi truck in a truck stop gift shop up on Route 95... fully mounted on a glass base!



Well it's not made of glass, but PLASTIC, but CLEARLY could look like it's made of glass...this HO scale European straight delivery van, I believe is advertising some German GLASS company of some sorts, and I purchased this tiny "completely clear" model truck in Germany many years ago...and is made by as best as I can read from the German lettering, by Lutgenau hobby- Düsseldorf-Dortmund. I have always felt this little truck is actually a "work-of-art " in miniature!



Our Route 66 Centennial Trip,

Part 2

By Dick Williams

After spending five days with our son and his family in Monterey, CA, we hit the road for the return trip on June 2, hoping to see a lot of what we passed up on the way west. On the return trip, we visited six more car museums. We were hoping to see some of the big car shows and caravans celebrating the Route 66 Centennial, or some of the city celebrations during the weekends, but their schedules only allowed us to connect with one, the annual Route 66 car show in Williams, AZ. This year's centennial show (the 11th show overall) drew about 400 cars that took over the small town's main street for two days in early June. One thing I learned about car culture in the western United States is that prodigious tattoos and facial hair apparently are *de rigeur* regardless of age.

We took in a small part of Rt 66 in southern Illinois (we saw some of the northern section in March during the 43rd scale show, we'll have to go back for the part in between). Finally breaking off to return home, we saw two of the six car museums after leaving Rt. 66. These were the Canton (OH) Classic Car Museum, which we'd seen in 2019, and the Model T Ford Club Museum in Richmond, IN. We finally pulled into home base the night of June 17, after more than three weeks on the road, 21 different motels out of 22 stays, and more than 6000 miles of driving. It was a great trip full of wonderful, weird and wacky sights, great scenery, friendly folks, and a ton of memories and historical knowledge. What a great country we have – it's fitting that the 100th anniversary of Route 66 also is the 250th anniversary of the United States.

As on the westbound trip, the return focused on travel- and car-related things. That would be murals, old cars, old signs, old gas stations, and oddball advertising. (I'm a big fan of Muffler Men.) Many towns along Rt 66 that were bypassed by the Interstate system (the last was Williams, AZ, in 1984) have tried mightily to capitalize on nostalgia for Rt. 66, particularly during the heightened interest of the Centennial. Ironically, some of what draws enthusiasts and curious tourists to these places are the ghosts of abandoned motels and gas stations that also highlight the diminution of once-thriving towns. Other towns and cities with other means of prosperity, like Flagstaff and Tucson, are maintaining their connections to Rt. 66's past.

I hope you enjoy the second installment of our trip along Route 66! I've tried to make this more car-centric, including some of the model vehicles seen in antique shops.

Photos:

1-2) Starting out in Monterey, the local antique mall has a couple of dealers who have a lot of diecast vehicles. This dealer had a nice selection of police cars, including the old Dinky DeSoto black and white and their RCMP Ford Fairlane, the MB King Size Mercury Commuter police wagon, and the Corgi 1:36-ish 1980s Caprice. He also had the Corgi Caprice Classic taxi and the Dinky SR N6 Hovercraft. I had been thinking about that DeSoto since I saw it in January, as it and the Ford were in good shape for a reasonable \$78.

Alas, what I hoped was a triangular dust mark on the roof ahead of the light was a dent. From the front it was quite obvious and even affected the windshield. No sale... This dealer also had a nice selection of other diecast trucks and cars including black wheel Matchbox. I bought a MB British Army radio truck for \$20, a favorite of mine to go with the Bedford water truck I already have from childhood.



3) Our first “scenic” stop was the place near Cholame, CA, where movie idol James Dean met his demise driving his new Porsche 550 Spyder in 1955 on his way to a race in Salinas CA (a car pulled in front of him). I sort of found out about this by accident (no pun intended) and we took a detour to see it on the way to our first overnight stop in Victorville, CA. The actual crash site is hard to find, but we did finally see it along a wire fence next to a construction site for a new road. It’s marked by an eclectic collection of stuff that looks like wind-blown junk caught by the fence. The attraction here is the poignant reminder that some people who will come to the middle of nowhere to add their piece to a memorial to an actor who died tragically more than 70 years ago. A short distance down the road at a restaurant that’s (slowly) being renovated is a more permanent monument to Dean paid for by a Japanese admirer.



4) My favorite attraction in the small Victorville Rt 66 museum was this Teardrop Trailer, originally unveiled as a plan in magazines in 1947, then turned into a booming business, first sold as kits, then as completed trailers. As long as you have good weather, the back of the trailer has a very nice kitchen setup, while inside is a queen-size mattress and storage compartments for two people. The sleeping area is entered through the door on the right side – more like a crawlspace, but cozy.



5) A short drive away is Barstow, CA, and another Rt 66 museum that had just closed when we arrived on our westbound trip. The museum is housed in a restored "Harvey House" hotel, part of a chain that served passengers on the Santa Fe RR from the late 1800s into the mid-20th century. The small museum houses four antique cars, including (usually) an Edsel sedan. Because the sedan was touring car shows, it was temporarily replaced by a "loaner" '59 Edsel Bermuda station wagon that had been used in nine episodes of the Donna Reed Show (playing on a loop near the car).



6) This former gas station and current gift shop is called Cool Springs, AZ, and is near one end of a famous stretch of winding, mountainous road called the "Arizona Sidewinder" by the locals. The place is adorned with three old wrecks and a sign proclaiming it the actual Radiator Springs. (We saw a lot of claims of inspiration for the movie "Cars" along the route.)



7) Old vehicles abound in Holbrook, AZ. One of my favorites is this repurposed ex-military M-52 series 5-ton truck advertising a Mexican restaurant. Most of these trucks were made by Diamond Reo, but this one didn't have any useful data plates in the cab.



8) Perhaps the most famous tourist attraction in Holbrook is the historic Wigwam Motel, where guests can stay in concrete “Indian” tipis (or wigwams), now complete with air conditioning. Unlike some historic motels that have one or two old cars to draw attention, the entire parking lot here is festooned with antique cars, most in various stages of disrepair or deterioration, but still fascinating. These representative examples are an Oldsmobile and a DeSoto. The tops of a line of concrete “wigwams” can be seen in the background.



9) Seligman, AZ, is another town well-known to Rt 66 aficionados for its quirky stores, eateries and motels. This is a repository for another batch of antique cars adorning a number of businesses. We stayed in the Sunset Motel, a charming old, renovated motel next door to this restaurant, the Roadkill Café. Their motto is "you kill it, we grill it" and they play up the theme with colorful names for ordinary diner-type culinary dishes.



10) One of my favorite cars at the aforementioned show in Williams, AZ, was this 1926 Chrysler sedan. Besides the color scheme and the fact that it was one of a relatively few bone stock (uncustomized) cars there, the owner noted that the car shared the same centennial anniversary as Route 66.



11) Going back through Tucumcari, NM, I got a better photo of this '57 Hudson Hornet permanently parked at one of the motels. This was the last year for the Hudson marque before it was totally absorbed with Nash into American Motors. Many of the old cars along the route are surprisingly unusual or rare makes and models.



12) I read that a nuclear museum in Albuquerque, NM, had an M-65 Atomic Cannon, one of the 20 280mm field artillery pieces built in the 1950s to fire the earliest tactical nuclear projectiles, so I went looking for it. This massive gun and its large prime mover trucks, one at each end, has long fascinated me (I have a reissue of the old Renwal model of it). The Museum's name is almost as long as the Cannon – the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History, a Smithsonian affiliate. Only one W9 nuclear shell ever was fired; training shots for all other guns were done with conventional rounds. Seven M-65s survive today; only three have the fore and aft prime movers attached. The museum was closed when we got to Albuquerque, so I had to content myself with photographing the cannon from outside the fence. Other vehicles, aircraft and missiles are scattered around the museum's yard.



13) Amarillo, TX, is famous for the Cadillac Ranch, where vandalism in the form of spray-painted graffiti is encouraged at the public art installation entirely comprising ten vintage Cadillacs buried in the ground. That sort of treatment of vintage vehicles didn't really appeal to me (no, I didn't leave my mark). I much preferred the nearby Cadillac RV Park, which features three vintage Caddies in good condition mounted on inclined platforms, "protected" by the Second Amendment Cowboy and his gigantic six-shooters. The Cowboy, a sub-species of Muffler Men, towers over the cars and the RV park's office.



14) Tiny (pop. 135) Adrian, TX, has a big claim to fame as the exact geo-mathematical midpoint of Route 66. The marker is, of course, in the company of the ubiquitous gift shop and the Midpoint Café (which was closed when we stopped there).



15) Tulsa, OK, businessman Cyrus Avery is called the "father of Route 66." In 1925 he was appointed to "the Joint Board of Interstate Highways, which was to designate the new federal highways." (Wikipedia) Avery was instrumental in the route taken by what became Route 66 (conveniently going through Tulsa) and decided on the number "66" for the LA to Chicago route. A group of businessmen in Springfield, MO, sent him a telegram touting the availability of 66 as an alternative to 62, and Route 66 was born. (For this reason, Springfield calls itself the "Birthplace of Rt 66.") Congress approved the Federal Highway System in 1926 and in 1927 Avery pushed for creation of the U.S. Highway 66 Association to promote the route.



This impressive sculpture, called "Symbolic Route 66 Midpoint," is in Cyrus Avery Plaza in Tulsa. Unveiled in 2012, it depicts Avery and his family in their Model T confronting a team of horses pulling an oilfield wagon, symbolizing the transition from horse-drawn to motorized vehicles. The statues weigh 10 tons NS comprise almost 1,000 pieces of bronze. The plaza cost \$1.2 million and took six years to complete. It's also the location of several other Route 66 icons, including a "singing bridge" that plays "This Land Is Your Land" if a driver drives over a series of metal bars at a constant 35 mph.

16) Many other historic autos, murals and advertising are located in Tulsa. We came across this rare 1954 Fageol moving van at Page Moving and Storage on Rt 66. The family-owned business has been around since 1910 and has a couple of other historic trucks, but this one is the oldest.



17) One of the newest Rt 66 commemoratives (dedicated in April 2026) is this 25-foot sculpture of a map pushpin called "You Are Here" in Wellston, OK, marking the middle of the 400+ -mile stretch of Rt 66 that traverses Oklahoma, the longest state section of Rt 66. The pin has representative images of Oklahoma with a map on the underside.



18) One of the nice things about traveling Route 66 was seeing other travelers making the trip in vintage vehicles. This was one of the most unusual, a vintage Studebaker bus pulling an Airstream, part of a travel trailer group from Michigan. It had just pulled into the parking lot of the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton when we came out of the museum.



19) A permanent outdoor exhibit for this museum was this '49 Dodge Phillips 66 tanker.



20) We were even more surprised a short time later in Chandler, OK, when we came out of the historic Route 66 Bowl bowling alley (with a great collection of gas signs and memorabilia) and found this 1915 Peerless touring car parked in front of our humble Corolla. I included our car in the photo to show the massive size of this machine. The license plate on the 1915 Peerless was from Ontario, Canada!



21) One of the most realistic car-centric murals we found was this one in El Reno, OK, by well-known mural artist Chris Small. It was nearing dusk when we arrived. The artist was working on repainting a corner of the mural where repairs had been made to the wall. A vintage gas station with a couple of antique cars inside stood next to the mural. Chris directed us to a couple of other very realistic works of his on other nearby buildings.



22) A business called Crosstar Flag and Tag in tiny Afton, OK, has several old cars on display, plus a collection of auto front ends and a large variety of bric-a-brac related to Route 66 and vintage stuff in general. I chose this car for Jim, a 1953 Plymouth Cambridge painted as a taxi. A 1:18 scale diecast taxi resides on the front of the hood.



23) The town of St. Robert, MO, outside of Fort Leonard Wood Army post, created this great Neon Park on Rt. 66 to display vintage neon business signs. It's much better to see it at night!



24) Speaking of Ft. Leonard Wood, unfortunately the Military Police Museum was closed (it was a Sunday), but a large outdoor display of military vehicles was available for viewing (glad I had a military ID card). One of the vehicles on display was this Cadillac Gage V-100 armored car used by MPs in Vietnam for convoy escort. Since Ft. Leonard Wood now also houses the Chemical Corps and Combat Engineer training courses, a number of unusual vehicles from the three branches were on display.



25) Marshfield, MO, relocated this vintage 1925 Niangua gas station to Top of the Ozarks Plaza and parked a 1955 Thunderbird next to it.



26) This great-looking mural of a Model TT gas tanker on Rt. 66 is one of three in Boswell Park in Lebanon, MO. The town also has a very nice Rt. 66 museum inside the Laclede County Library that has several vintage vehicles (inside a library!) plus a nice gift shop with a good selection of history books, as befits a gift shop in a library. I bought a book on outlaws and gangsters on Rt. 66.



27) The 1940s-era Shamrock Court motel in Sullivan, MO, was converted to efficiency apartments in the 1970s, but languished after 2000 until a man and his wife bought it in 2021 with the idea of returning it to its historic roots as a motel along Route 66. Restoration began in 2021 and it reopened this year for the Centennial.



28) The O'Brien Tire Shop in Granite City, IL, boasts not only a Muffler Man (Earl the Mechanic), but this giant tire, making it a noteworthy stop in a town full of Route 66 icons.



29) The number of Blues Brothers references on Rt. 66 increases exponentially as one travels into Illinois. This decent Bluesmobile (unsure if it's a replica or one of the movie cars) adorns the front of the wonderfully tacky Pink Elephant Antique Mall in Livingston, IL, along with yet another bogus Rt. 66 patrol car (a Studebaker Lark), several other old vehicles, big statues and other bric-a-brac (including a spaceship complete with visiting aliens), as well as very nice old-fashioned diner.



30) Yet another historic gas station, Soulsby's Service in Mt. Olive, IL, was operated by the same family (father, son and daughter) from 1926, before Rt. 66 was paved in this area, until 1991. The Soulsbys continued to greet visitors to the station until 1997 from their adjacent home. The current owner has restored it as a Rt. 66 historic place. The door was open even though the station was unattended, inviting visitors to go inside and look at the collection of vintage gas station and TV memorabilia (the son also was the local TV repairman). A couple of glass cases contain diecast gas tankers. An old grease and oil rack (a pair of joined U-channels elevated a couple of feet off the ground) is blocked by a large tree, planted many years ago by the father when he got tired of local kids using it at night to work on their hot rods.



[I asked Dick if he just found these sights by chance, or if he had them mapped out—his answer:

Thanks, Fred. I bought a guidebook that everyone online recommended, the "EZ66 Guide For Travelers." It's an exhaustive compendium of all the sights along Rt 66, along with many maps showing the several original routings of it (depending on the era). I also had looked at several websites for info and already knew about some things I wanted to see. Of course, I used my favorite website, the Automotive Museum Guide, to locate car museums along the way. There are many more sights I didn't include and some I didn't see (believe it or not). Many of the old cars were just being in the right place at the right time, or driving past some business that had one or two outside.]

From the Files...

