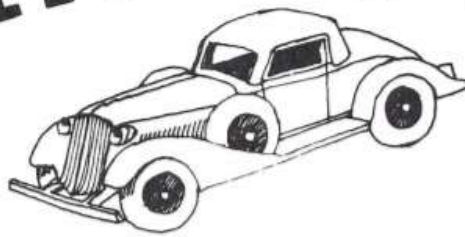


CAPITOL MINIATURE AUTO COLLECTORS CLUB



**SEPTEMBER 2026: NEXT MEETING-
TBD-Look for Update!**

EVENTS: Let me know if you know:

TJ's Diecast Toys, (Jack's show) 1/64 Show, Sunday September 13th Outdoor at Jack's shop. Schedule for the rest of 2026: Northern Virginia Diecast Collectors monthly meets:

Indoor/Vienna Firehouse

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

Lloyd Ralston Toys, Collector Car/Vehicle Toy Auction! Rare Rides, Ready to Roll! Saturday, September 26, 2026 at 10:00 AM EDT

<https://lloydralstontoy.com/auction/249-collector-car-vehicle/>

Plastic car models and toys, AMT's and other promos, some Banthrico metal, worth a scroll!

Canadian Events:

From Robin Godwin

Canadian Diecast Expo 18 (trade day), 19 and 20 September. This seems to be more media focussed than collector focused, and will definitely be 1:64 heavy. Along with a lot of Hot Wheels influence. I would expect to see little to no 1:43 activity. See website: <https://www.canadiandiecastexpo.ca/>

Canadian Toy Collectors' Society 53rd Annual Toy Show 18 October. Like many modern shows, this has shrunk in size and diversified into toys-other-than-diecast over the years (and also has lots of Hot Wheels). In an effort to increase seller participation, organizers have reduced the price of vendor tables from \$90 (CDN) to \$60, so I'll be there with two tables (as opposed to one for a few years running), in order to thin out my traders. Maybe see some of you there! <https://www.ctcs.org/show.htm>

Both events are in Toronto, on the north shore of beautiful Lake America!

Editor's Corner

This month we have Minutes, because we had a meeting in August! Thanks to Bob and Linda for putting that on the calendar and organizing it. A small group, but good to get together! Harold is still speculating about hosting in September, he is out of town early in the month, needs to do some schedule checking, so look for a later announcement.

Contributions this month again illustrate the wide variety of interests in the Club. And the best article you will find about Route 66 continues with Part 4 of Dick Williams' travel adventure. Thanks again to all those who contributed—and yes Jim, still looking for your article.

Another big 500 lot auction at Lloyd Ralston—a massive collection of plastic and metal toys and models, including a lot of promos and Banthrico. See link above, September 26 at 10:00 a.m. In a quick scan I only saw only one 1956 Plymouth, maybe Bob has cornered the market.

While the tariff issue has subsided for a while, a new issue surprised me this month—AI!. I am trying to focus my collecting on a few areas, and one of them is 1/43 models of Alfa Romeo vehicles from the 1930's, '40's and '50's. So I search Ebay, and was looking for the handmade models by Carlo Brianza/ABC. I spotted a very unique looking model, labelled as a Brianza model of the 1950 Alfa Romeo Race Car transporter. I had never seen it before, though I have a Brianza model of an earlier Alfa Romeo race team truck. The Ebay listing said \$300, but local pickup only—in some town in Portugal. So after it was there for a while, I sent a message, asked if he would ship to the U.S. Right away, yes, I would. So an exchange of messages about how much it would cost, etc.

In the end I made an offer that was \$300 including the shipping, he accepted, Paypal did the money. A day or so later he sends photos of the model in its case, then wrapped, and with shipping documents. Good communication. But the model in those photos was the one I already have, not the one in his listing. So I messaged immediately, I want the one in the listing! I sent the photos from the listing to show they were different. Ah, then the story gets more interesting. He says I don't have that model, it doesn't exist. He says he had ChatGPT improve the photos of the model he was about to ship, and the listing photos were ChatGPT. The ChatGPT photos looked absolutely real, it was an updated style, more streamlined, Alfa red with the Alfa Romeo script on the side in white, and the correct label on the base. He apologized, said no intention to mislead, he cancelled the order and pulled the shipment back.

So a new thing to watch for, models created by AI! Who imagined that!

Fred

Minutes of the CMACC Meeting of August 22, 2026

By Fred Fravel

Thanks to Bob and Linda Short, the CMACC had a summer meeting at Rucci's Italian restaurant in White Plains, Maryland! It has been hard to find time and a good date, but Bob took the bull by the horns and just called a meeting. Obviously Bob and Linda were there, but also Harold and Carol Blevins, Jim Brostrom, Doug Campbell, yours truly, and Fred Harris. During the course of the meeting Todd Blevins dialed in from Texas, where he has been working. When he called he was at Hot Wheels show—he said he was there for five minutes, in and out—not a great show.



Photo provided by Bob Short

Harold updated us on the situation with Jeff Gurski's collection. His nearest relation lives in Washington state, and she has now been designated as having charge of the estate, including the house and collection. She has asked Lloyd Ralston to provide an estimate of the value of the remaining collection, but there is no further sale at this time.

Harold is hoping to host a CMACC meeting in late September. After that we can have meetings at the Vienna firehouse in conjunction with Jack's 1/64 show. Our fall show at Dunn Loring has been paid for, and the insurance is due.

Bob Short reported on the Macungie toy show, which "is not what it used to be..."

Once Around, Show and Tell (OAST) and the Program (Plastic and Tin Toys from the 1950's)

Doug Campbell started OAST with several trucks from the 1950's. He had a Swift meat delivery truck made by Marx, circa 1955. Other treasures included a cement mixer truck made by Ideal, and Process Plastics International Harvester panel van. The IH van was made for several years and used as an IH promo and as a promo item for many businesses—this one dates from 1950. Hubley made the "Tiny Toys" LeTourneau Westinghouse tractor.





Doug also had a gift set of plastic milk trucks lettered for Rutter's Dairy, a Pennsylvania area company. Two of the models are banks. The set was made by Anthony Roberts Co. of Pennsylvania, who made these as promotional items for dairies.



Fred Harris brought a couple of tin toys. One was a Craftsman Tools tin box, maybe from the late 1940's or 1950's—a generic car that looked vaguely like a Ford from that era. He also had a large box van that was a cookie tin.





Harold brought a plastic race car from Jeff's collection—a Reliable Toys windup toy from Canada, made in the late 1940's or early 1950's.



Bob brought an assortment of items to illustrate the theme. These included the plastic Hubley Packard taxi, rarely seen in such good shape. He had an AMT plastic 1950 Plymouth in nice condition with minimal warp and a working windup motor. Also in plastic, a small Renwal plastic car—the toy that got Bob into the collecting hobby. And in the back, a 1961 Ford C-Cab dump truck from Process Plastics.



He also had two mint and boxed plastic trucks, remote control toys from Andy Gard.



In his OAST presentation Bob brought the 1968 Chevrolet Caprice Wagon from Automodello, seen in the journal previously. A beautiful model of a iconic 1960's car. In 1/43 scale he had the IXO Dodge Coronet models, and in 1/64 scale from IXO he had the 1957 Chevrolet and a 1977 Z-28 Camaro. Finally he had a 1/43 New York City bus by Iconics, a new model of the newest electric NYC bus.

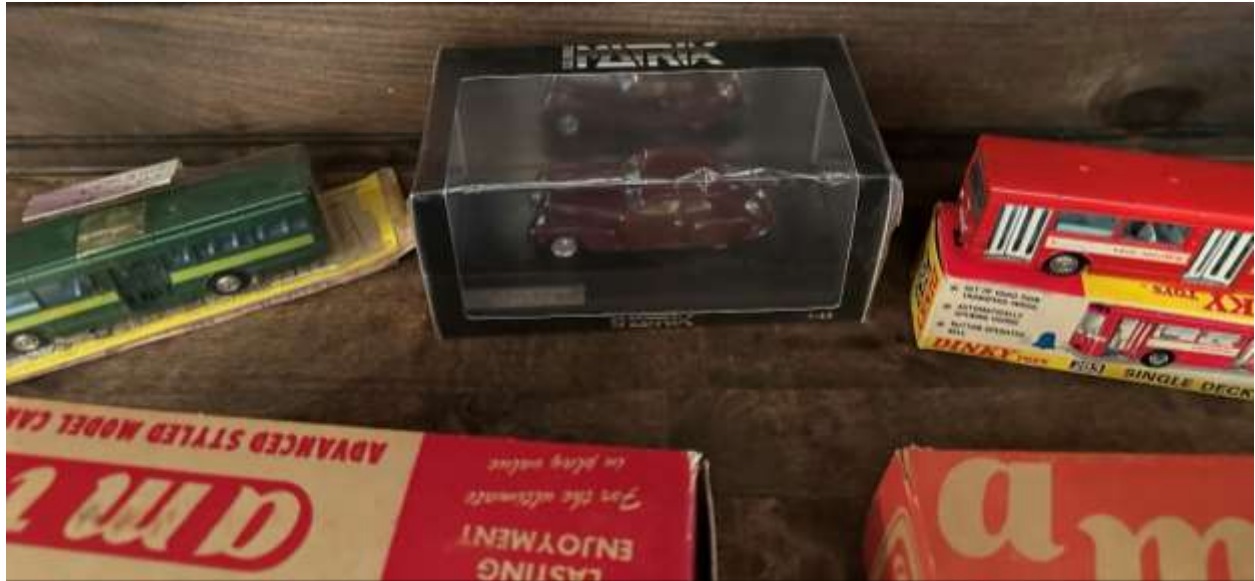




Jim Brostrom brought some OAST models. A Tesla Cybertruck pull back model was a find on a recent trip. But stepping back in time he had two 1/43 Western Models 1948 Lincolns, a coupe and a sedan (Not the Continental!). Another recent acquisition was a 1952 Pontiac by Record, a very professionally built kit. From Motor City's American Models series another 1/43 model, this one a 1953 Chevrolet Bel Air convertible, very rare according to Jim. He also had two GLM/Stamp Cadillac Hearses, a Black and a White, both versions.



I brought some OAST—two English Dinky Toys that I won at the latest Lloyd Ralston Auction. This was an interesting bus for the time, a single-decker used for a special priority service called the Red Arrow. I got a mint model with the box, and the even rarer Green Line version. Green Line was the network of rural buses run by London Transport in the outer suburbs and countryside around London. I also had a new model by Matrix of a 1940 Alfa Romeo coupe by Touring, a very nice model.



For the program, I brought some early 1950's AMT models—a 1950 (we decided) Pontiac, a 1953 Pontiac, a 1952 Ford, and a 1958 Pontiac. The detail is great, but the plastic of that era was never intended to last 75 years—whoa, did I just say 75? I remember seeing these in the hobby shops...



And so a good meeting came to an end, thanks Bob!



OAST-Once Around Show and Tell

OAST – Doug Campbell

Here are the two items I had winning bids from the August 8 online Lloyd Ralston Auction (CT.)...the first a model I have wanted for a long, long time, and never saw one for sale in a shop during my over 10 trips to France...the #898 BERLIET Transformer transporter...made 1961-1965 at the French Dinky factory at BOBIGNY, near Paris...except for Glenn Ralston taking it out of the box for his photos, I don't think the truck was ever out of its box since it left the Dinky factory! The little instruction sheet was mint too as were the parts that needed to be assembled onto the transformer unit still sealed in their original plastic bag!(It took me about 1/2 hour to complete the assembly of the miniature transformer load)..I still like the French Dinky models just a little more than the British models!...just an opinion!...And that little heavy cast metal DINKY TOYS dealer sign is probably rarer than any models won in the auction..lettering cast into two sides with 4 tiny little rubber tipped feet under the sign, I still can remember seeing one of these little Dinky signs in the front inside of the big glass showcase in the old 1950's Kiddie Land Toys in Waverly, Baltimore, where my grandfather bought me many of my early Dinky Toys!



Each year, my good friend, Everett Marshall, who owns the largest MATCHBOX TOYS museum in US-Matchbox Road Museum- in New Jersey..., who by a tragic accident years ago at his business has made him a paraplegic, has Mattel/Matchbox make him a very limited run of a very special detailed emergency model as a fundraiser for players in his annual 2 golf tournaments in NJ and Florida, (just one model made this year!)..and of the very small run of just 250 models, whatever is left over after the golf tournaments .by giving a \$50 donation to his charities, the remaining models are sold to collectors. This year's Pierce Volterra EV Fire pumper is once again EXTRAORDINARY in tiny details and paint finish! And Mattel mounts each model in these wonderful custom plastic cases!



When I was growing up, in the 1950's, one of these huge SMITH-MILLER(California) MOBIL tankers was a FAVORITE play toy , which alas disappeared after childhood...and so what a thrill it was to see one from an estate sale, in near-mint condition on EBay recently, that no one seemed to notice or bid on, for just \$200, as most I've seen on EBay are in the \$500 range, and I just never seem to want to pay quite that much....the tanker is lettered "MobilOIL" on the left side, the two heavy rubber, brass metal tipped hoses spring loaded easily still come out of the hose unit at bottom of right side, and the decals are all nearly perfect! Childhood memories return again!! I'm a truly delighted owner once again!



As I'm a "Global Van Lines" collector, this was an interesting recent find on EBay,,,a "relabelled" Matchbox Models of Yesteryear, with a label on sides for "GLOBAL REMOVALS", mounted on a wood base with a silver metal sign mounted on base bottom with Global emblem, and lettered as "Global Forwarding", and address in Middlesex, ENGLAND!.. Global is no longer in business(name owned now by Allied & North American, but I don't see any Global vans anymore!)..but an interesting old advertising model nonetheless!



For years, GLOBAL VAN LINES was a leading USA moving company, headquartered in a huge modern building in Anaheim, California, just across the street from DISNEYLAND! Years ago, Joan and I stopped in there as they offered a nice free guidebook to Disneyland, and as Joan mentioned I collect toy trucks, they gave me as another gift, the plastic antique Model T Ford Global van shown in rear of photo...which the REAL GLOBAL antique van (Global back then was "the official Disneyland Movers"), was on display on Main Street in Disneyland for years, as we often saw it parked there in our many trips to Disneyland...and interesting fact about that old Global antique van...as Walt Disney himself as most of you know was a train buff, and also an antique vehicle buff, and many mornings before the park itself opened, Walt would come in before employees arrived, as he was only one, besides Global corporate, who had the KEYS to that old Global van, and WALT DISNEY himself, would start up and drive that old van around the park, early in the mornings before the park opened !...The 1/14 miniature Global moving van shown in photo is one of only 3 WINROSS samples made as a DROPBED van, as Global only bought STRAIGHT freight van models over the years from WINROSS, for some reason, and all their dropped models were from Ralstoy!



Another recent "cheap" EBAY find...a common Ralstoy Ford flatbed semi, but included was this old 1960's Rambler station wagon about 1/64 scale, made in England by LONE STAR MODELS. All mint condition, and although seller thought they were repainted, they are NOT, and all original paint!



This is one of the Corgi Model Club's reproduction models, made in China, of old Corgi Toys, which I often feel are BETTER than the originals in quality, although EXACT reproductions! This was always one of my favorite CORGI automobiles..the Jaguar E Type, with so many added features, as shown on the yellow side wings of the package. The repro model is even nicer as the new Corgi Club has nicely redesigned the back of the box so you can easily remove or put back in the model without damaging the package, which was the case with the original!



The new "repro" Corgi Jaguar E Type out of package showing all the opening parts!..There is even a copper exhaust system molded under the model!



Kind of a strange , and seemingly rare, (as I had not seen another since I discovered Ralstoy in 1969!) RALSTOY(Nebraska, USA) semi to find on EBay recently, as this was made for the old MODEL PRODUCTS CORPORATION of Mt. Clements, Michigan who was a leading manufacturer of plastic model promo cars,model kits , etc., competing with Jo-Han, AMT, amongst other firms at the time..was in business 1925 to 2011...was bought by Tomy and now I believe its part of the Lionel Group, although no MPC products being made at present! I would have thought they would have made their OWN model truck from plastic as a promo, but in the late 70's or early 80's they bought these from Ralstoy, maybe to use at a corporate trade show of some kind. Lettering on all 4 sides of Ralstoy's #14 FREIGHT trailer casting, is fully silk-screened onto the model.



The other week I had a tea luncheon at what has always been Joan's and my favorite restaurant, Hickory Bridge Farm, just outside Gettysburg, Pa., and had to leave there after lunch and drive over to Randy's Auction in Lancaster County to pick up the models I had won online..and as I was on Route 30 passing through New Oxford, Pa. (Halfway between Gettysburg & York), I stopped in a favorite antique center, and found this truly WONDERFUL 22" long , 12" high heavy WOODEN horse transporter with a price tag of just \$15!I just couldn't pass up this marvelous mint condition toy horse van...the cashier said if she had seen it first, she would have bought it!..It has no makers ID marking anywhere on it, but looks like a production wooden toy, of which I can't find anything like it on EBay!... So I went on BREYER HORSES website and figured out their 1/12 scale wonderful horse models would fit this van, and I have thus added the two BREYER horses which I epoxy mounted into the rear stalls...which came promptly from BREYER (still owned by Reeves International, who USED to be also the USA CORGI TOYS distributor when I was growing up!), as they really add a nice "realism" to this super big toy truck, with opening doors, rolling wood wheels, fold down wood ramp in rear, and heavy wood roof is "magnetic" attached to truck so can easily get into the FULLY FURNISHED interior!



Here's a view inside my heavy wooden horse transporter...interior is fully furnished, front plastic windshield and complete driver's cabin, and the storage area above driver is green felt lined, and all details are seen in rear of stalls and storage!. All doors are spring opened! What a "classy" model truck!



Here's a left rear view of the unknown maker wooden horse transporter. The doors are all spring opened .rear wooden ramp comes down lettered "Caution Horses"...what a buy at \$15 ! (That's just a light reflection in my photo over rear opening!)



Back in the 1990's, I guess with Reeves International still being the Corgi, and still the Breyer distributors, Corgi issued this nice "B" MACK Breyer truck model, with unusual old vintage Breyer graphics on right side of van and right cab door! Corgi issued this van with many other numerous graphics, and there is even a tiny plastic cast Mack "Bulldog" on front radiator top!



This nice "O" gauge "Little Tavern" (how we miss those "buy'em by the bag burgers!!) model was made about 10 years ago by the Old "Railroad Crossing" model buildings firm of Pa., and in front I have displayed a paper "Schmidt's Bread " truck from Baltimore from April.1992, when it was included as a free gift to cut out and assemble and was packed along with Schmidt bread loaves at the time! ..I've shown these as they are amongst the many items I have just brought home of my own collection that for many years now were displayed on loan in the now closed "Highlandtown Train Garden" that Joan and I volunteered with for past 10 years...the fire house is under going remodeling, and we had to take the garden out and although I had suggested a local professional mover who would have safely stored garden, our director hired a "cheap" mover and ruined any thoughts of ever displaying it again by moving it rather unsuccessfully with damage into a local storage unit. I'm glad I was able to get all of my personal models and accessories out of the garden before the move! I will miss that holiday tradition!



OAST – Bob Short

My brother and I visited the North Carolina Transportation museum today. This is toy-like but I had to have a souvenir. It has flashing lights and a siren. One button activates the lights and siren as well as dropping the ramp and allowing the robot cannon to roll out .



Ertl 1946 Chevrolet panel truck with Las Vegas Coca Cola graphics, inexpensive ebay find .



A good week on ebay!

1. Original Johan 1956 Plymouth promo.

Very nice in Rose and Black except for the left tail fin has a broken tip. This is about the straightest original one I have.

I can't complain for \$15.00.



2. Johan X-EI 56 Plymouth repro promo.

I had never seen this color combination before, a cream and maroon combination so a "must have "



3. My brother found this Cragston Japanese tin antique car while looking in a local antique shop in Greensboro NC.



I am not sure what it actually depicts or if it is generic but a good score in good shape for \$20.

4. 1962 Ford Galaxie Sunliner friction.

Ok condition with a broken sun visor but another inexpensive ebay find.



1/43 Culligan Ford Econoline van made Crown Premiums--likely made by Tins Toys .



Ertl 1/43 1950 Chevrolet Tractor Trailer. A-Treat, apparently an Allentown, Pennsylvania beverage concern .



OAST-Dick Williams

Ruth and I went to Ohio in mid-August to visit our daughter Kristen for a weekend. On the way back, we stopped in Cumberland, MD. An antique store we visited there didn't have a lot of diecast, but nevertheless there were some unexpected finds.

One seller had a group of about 25 '60s-vintage black wheel Matchbox vehicles (and one gray wheel cement mixer). I bought these four items - the Greyhound bus, Saladin armored car, Ford Galaxie fire chief's car and airport crash truck - for \$30 (\$10 each for two and \$5 each for two). I have the fire vehicles from my youth, but the barrel of the foam cannon on my crash truck broke off ages ago. This model is missing the plastic ladder and hose from the roof (very common as these items were removable) but the plastic lettering is fully intact on both sides. Also available were two examples of the "Denver" American LaFrance fire engine, the Land Rover fire truck, and the old Dennis fire engine, but I have all of those in good shape. Most of the MB vehicles were \$5, with several marked at \$10.



The other find was far more rare. It's a commemorative made in 1993 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Dunlop Tires (or "Tyres") in Australia. It consists of a solid, deeply etched wooden base with a Lledo truck attached by a screw. A sticker on the bottom of the base provides evidence of its authenticity as a "made in Australia" collectible. The base and the model are in great shape. It's certainly not in my usual collecting line, but when one comes across a unique item like this - possibly one of its kind in this country - you have to seize the moment, especially when the price is only \$15!



Even an old collector like me....has to call these “HOT”!

By Doug Campbell

Any toy show, any store, just about anywhere you visit...there are “HOT WHEELS” for sale, and selling FASTER then any other toy vehicle anywhere! ...I’m an old “seasoned” collector, but I have to admit that “HOT WHEELS” seem to have taken over our hobby now, and I must admit too that, yes, I have added a few to my collection over the years, starting with one or two of those old original “red lines”, when introduced to the toy market back in 1968!...

HOT WHEELS were the creations of Mattel’s founders..Elliot & Ruth Handler...in 1966 Elliot realized that there was still room in the marketplace for yet another die-cast car line, besides the leaders at the time...Matchbox, Corgi, Dinky, TootsieToy, amongst many others, and his wife Ruth and his entire marketing team and Mattel still seemed to disagree, as they saw the world market literally “flooded” with MATCHBOX product at the time....still Elliot moved along with his ideas, and knew he had to make a REALLY DIFFERENT design and type of die-cast car in order for Mattel to be able to enter and compete in the world marketplace. ..so he hired away from General Motors Cadillac Division, design team.. Harry Bradley, who worked with Elliot and his toy team at Mattel to come up with the concepts of a “California style” design for his models, and some type of free wheeling wheels, as Elliot had noticed his son was playing with a Matchbox model one evening that just “hardly moved” when shoved along the countertop!

Some of Mattel’s designers were using a thin “mandolin string ” in some toy musical instruments, and the Mattel team thought this might be used to as low friction axles for a model car...and it worked!.. some revisions were made to this string, and finally Mattel had a little car that would roll faster then any model on the market! They put some red stripes around the black wheels for added attractiveness...thus the “red lines” which made their initial models so popular!

Hot Wheels were soon born to the marketplace, yet Ruth Handler tried to convince Elliot not to make his proposed 15 million cars in the first year, but rather tone down production to a mere 5 million, to see how they sell...but Elliot persisted, and the models first went on sale in Great Britain, in 1968 against the ever popular MATCHBOX line, and they literally “took off down the track”!

When first shown in the 1969 American toy Fair to the chief buyer at K-MART, he immediately told Elliot he “wanted 50 million models” for his first order!!!

Hot Wheels were the first toy models to be sold in the “blister pack” as Elliot always thought Matchbox, in their little boxes, were not readily appealing to children seeing them in a toy shop, whereas Hot Wheels cars were so easily SEEN in the package! ...soon Matchbox of course introduced their “SPEEDWHEELS” models to compete, but Mattel far kept hold of the marketplace LEAD!

The revolutionizing new “SPECTRAFLAME” paints on Hot Wheels immediately captured the public’s liking..it was so different then ANY other model car’s appearance!Elliot knew immediately he had to actually “kid-

test” his models with actual children, and that too helped his initial success!...Red lines, Treasure Hunts...and Mattel just kept “wowing” the toy and collecting public with new innovative ideas.

Little Debbie Snack Cakes for a number of years has sold on-product coupon mail-in offers for nice Little Debbie Hot Wheels sets, and they offered a much larger scale transporter truck too also under the Hot Wheels brand! The Hot Wheels name is no longer limited to just the little 1/64 blister pack models... scales are quite varied now, and Mattel has licensed thousands of promotional related Hot Wheels products too such as hats, t-shirts, model carrying cases, etc.

58 years later, we all see HOT WHEELS everywhere!...If I remember, our friend, and greatest of all Hot Wheels collector, Bruce Pascal, whose wonderful museum we visited a few months ago, told me the Mattel factories in the Orient are currently producing about 12 MILLION Hot Wheels each WEEK, to keep up world demand!

Some of the Hot Wheels models even have great appeal to an old collector like me....being a more traditional model collector...but our hobby keeps evolving ...and we must too! What do YOU think about How Wheels?!!...maybe you'll send some opinions into Fred for a future club newsletter!...the humidity is certainly HOT here in Baltimore as I write tonight...and so too are these little gems from Mattel...certainly HOT! ...Happy “HOT” Collecting!

This “hot” paint on this really stunning (and VERY HEAVY CAST!) Hot Wheels Phillips 66 “Blown Delivery” truck really caught my attention months ago when I bought it on EBay.



Back in 2001, when Joan and I still owned and drove Saturns, we were often given many nice Saturn gifts from the dealer, including this rather realistic model of the 2001 SATURN LIGHTSHIP..an actual real blimp used nationally in Saturn's advertising programs...the REAL Saturn Lightship was 165 feet long, weighed 6,300 pounds empty, held 9 passengers, and cruised along in the skies at 46 miles per hour.



Hot Wheels celebrated Disney's 100th anniversary (?) in 2025 with this delightful Mickey Citroen H van in very heavy die-cast metal.



Many business firms used Hot Wheels in their own advertising programs, including many retail store chains, such as SHOP-RITE grocery stores who sold this twin pack with their Shop-Rite Highway Hauler and a sleek Hot Wheels sports car (no actual car designation is cast under car) to add to the appeal of the retail customer! Model released in 1996...and I might add correction that the "Mickey" van in last photo was a 2022 release, not 2025.



To celebrate 80 years of Mattel Toys, Hot Wheels released in 2025 this certainly charming little VW "Kool Kombi"! Again a very heavy metal casting!



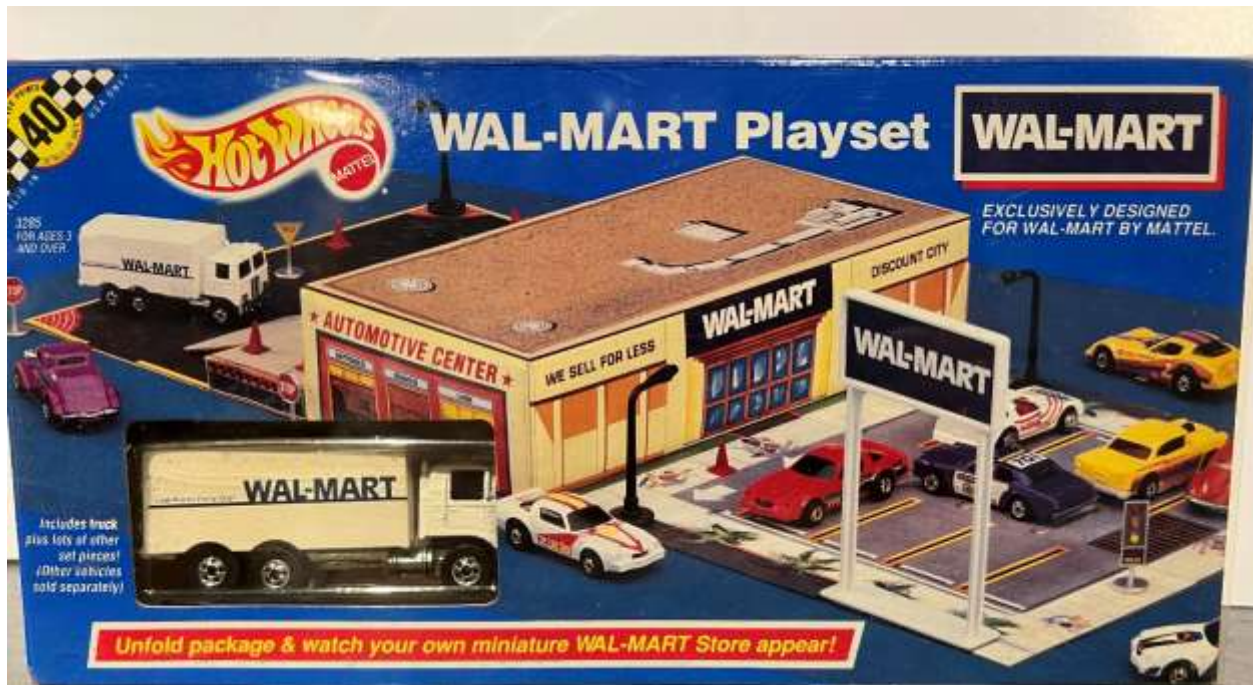
For a few years, HARD ROCK CAFE's nationwide retail very exclusive, limited, and I might add "PRICY" Hot Wheels celebrated Models in their gift shops...and while in the Hard Rock in Philly in 2001, I could not resist adding two to my collection, including this colorful BIZARRO car!



In 2001, while in the Hard Rock Cafe Philly n gift bishop on Market Street, this '63 Cadillac Coupe de Ville, by Hot Wheels ,just had to join my collection!



Back in 1991, while in a local WAL-MART I found this delightful HOT WHEELS playset, including a realistic Hot Wheels WAL-MART Highway Hauler truck, and a neat fold-out miniature WAL-MART store building! Retail was \$8.93 . Mattel is always known for CREATIVE play value!



Just this year, Hot Wheels released a model I must call "FANTASTIC" !..It's a Fiat "Beast of Turin" vintage race car with details and quality that far exceeded the less than \$2.00 price I paid in a local Walgreens toy dept. I wish all Hot Wheels equaled this quality and design!



Our Route 66 Centennial Trip, Part 4

By Dick Williams

Here's another installment of photos of notable automotive-related sights from our road trip along Route 66. I'm trying to cover some of the interesting, smaller car and Route 66 museums we saw with a few select photos in these articles, as I'll never have time to do separate articles on all of them. If this compendium of photos is getting boring, please let me know – I'm sure Fred wouldn't mind having fewer of them to put in [not so—send them on—Fred]. But if you enjoy seeing these odds and ends of "car stuff," I'm glad to be able to share them.

Here's this month's selection:

- 1) This is one of seven 1947 rail motorbuses that were operated by the Missouri Pacific Railroad in the Houston, TX, area from the late 1940s through the early 1960s. They were built by the Fageol Twin Coach Company. This one was donated by the railroad to the National Museum of Transportation in 1962 in poor condition and restored by the Museum staff and volunteers.



- 2) Another one for the rail enthusiasts, this is the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific RR's 1955 Aerotrain, also part of the NMoT collection. It was built by GM's Electro-Motive Division as a lighter-weight train that would be more economical to build and operate. (Despite the GM division's name, the engine is diesel powered.) Its futuristic design was intended to attract riders at a time when travel by car was replacing rail travel. GM's two demonstrator trains were tested by several railroads, but no more were built. The trains "rode poorly at high speeds" and the passenger cars, "which were little more than widened bus bodies, were uncomfortable and cramped." The CRI&P RR bought the demonstrators in 1958 but they were retired after ten years' service.



- 3) The Route 66 Motel in Barstow, CA, is another one that has a number of old cars adorning its parking lot. It doesn't have nearly as many as the Wigwam Motel (the parking lot is much smaller) and most of them are in pretty bad shape, but it's an interesting little collection of 8 vehicles, including the LaSalle and Cadillac in this photo.



- 4) This Chevy Apache panel van advertising Motel Safari in Tucumcari, NM, appears to be operational because of where it's placed in the parking lot.



- 5) Also in Tucumcari, this is one of a number of well-done auto- and Route 66-related murals throughout the town.



- 6) Spotted at the big car show in Williams, AZ, this customized Chevy COE truck is powered by a 502 c.i. Ram Jet engine. It's the perfect carrier for the T-bucket hot rod on the bed.



- 7) Here's one of the historic bridges we saw along Route 66. Located at Devil's Elbow, MO, this bridge predates Route 66 by three years, being built over the Big Piney River in 1923 as an improvement to Missouri Rt 14, later incorporated into Rt 66, now bypassed by I-40. Devil's Elbow is a tiny town on one side of the bridge, named for a sharp bend in the river that impeded the movement of rafts of railroad ties that loggers would float downstream at the turn of the 20th century.



- 8) I came across this 1941 Chevy fire truck in the front yard of a business outside Cuba, MO, along with a dump truck of similar vintage. It was a Sunday so no one was available to talk to about the vehicles.



- 9) The neon sign park in St. Roberts, MO, (mentioned in a previous newsletter) attracts a lot of locals as well as tourists on weekend nights. This drastically customized pickup truck was one of the attractions.



10) Besides murals, we saw a few very creative road signs too, like this one in Mohave County, AZ.



- 11) This ancient truck sits outside an antique shop in Oatman, AZ. The road in Mohave County mentioned above passes through Oatman, an old West-style town ruled by burros who wander the streets freely, hoping tourists will feed them the special burro feed sold in several of the shops. That's the only thing anyone is allowed to feed them. The burros are descendants of pack animals brought to the area by gold miners in the 1800s. Like cows in India, they have the run of any place they desire to go, in or outside of the small town. A small herd of them crossed the road a mile or so outside of Oatman. An active gold mine still operates in the area, but the town itself seems totally given over to tourism. This road is called the "Arizona Sidewinder" because of its many switchbacks as it crosses the mountains.



- 12) I mentioned the famous Cadillac Ranch when I showed a photo of Cadillacs on display at the nearby Cadillac RV Park (home of the "Second Amendment Cowboy"). I said then that I hated to see those ten buried vintage (1949-63) Cadillacs covered with spray paint as an ongoing, interactive "public art installation" (or, depending on your point of view, legal vandalism). I still do (originally it was an artwork on its own – the public spray painting came later), but it's so famous I figured I should include a photo of it. It was created in a wheat field in 1974 and moved to its present location in 1997 to get it farther away from the expanding city limits of Amarillo, TX. It was financed by an eccentric millionaire who also owned both plots of land where it was located. Even though it's on private land, visitors are allowed free of charge, and cans of spray paint are provided for their indulgence.



- 13) This odd-looking 3-wheeler is a Corbin Sparrow electric car in the EV Museum on the ground floor of a former power plant in Kingman, AZ. The upper floor houses a nice but small Route 66 museum. There are about 20 EVs in the museum. The Sparrow was made by Corbin Motors in California from 1999 to 2003 until the company went bankrupt (with less than 300 cars made). Myers Motors (now Myers EV) in Ohio obtained the rights to the Sparrow in 2004 and made it as a special order until 2013. It has a range of 20-40 miles on a charge and a top speed of 70 mph. In 2009 Myers started using lithium batteries that it claimed gave it a range of 60 miles. The cost on the Myers website as of 2008 was \$30,000. A 2000 model sold for \$17,502 at a Bring A Trailer auction in June 2022.



- 14) One of the small museums we visited was the D. W. Correll Museum in Catoosa, OK. It displays the lifetime collections of a local businessman, including rocks, minerals, some very nice large sailing ship models, diecast vehicles and antique toys, and 13 vintage cars. This one is a 1927 Stutz Eight.



- 15) This very nice bus model was part of the collection of diecast models. Maybe Fred or Doug can identify it? The collection also included a number of the large-scale Jim Beam decanter vehicles.



- 16) Also part of Correll's collection was this Ford COE Coke delivery truck diecast. I really like this type of Ford truck but I couldn't recall seeing the diecast, which was about 1:24 scale, before. After a few Internet searches, I found a photo of it on Pinterest that identified it as a 1:25 scale ERTL model. I then was able to locate one for sale on eBay for \$70. The seller identified it as a Ford C-800. One of you guys probably has it in your collection (do you, Doug?).



- 17) One of the other old cars in the Correll collection, which was given to the City of Catoosa after Mr. Correll died, is this 1917 Packard. The building housing the car collection is very well lighted (almost too well, as the photos on my phone are kind of washed out). The building had a few carriages, a small collection of diecast tractors, and a huge model of an Italian cruise ship handmade (complete with figures of people) by one of its former crewmen.



- 18) Another old car in Tucumcari, NM, this 1950s Plymouth coupe was in far better condition than most of the old cars that are all over the town. It was in the parking lot of yet another motel, but it wasn't clear if it belonged to a traveler, a local visitor, or the motel itself.



- 19) The rest of the photos for this article were taken at another small museum that's also one man's lifetime collection of old cars, gasoline memorabilia, and diecast models. This is Mike Fuller's Auto & Gas Museum in Inola, OK, just a short distance from the Correll Museum. Admission is by appointment. I left a message with Mike that morning, but didn't get a response by the afternoon. I stopped there anyway, and his sign on the door (which proclaims him to be the "Owner/Curator/Janitor,") encouraged visitors to call him. ("Lately I've Been Here ALOT, Except When I'm Someplace Else, But I should Be Here Then, Too. PLEASE CALL IF I'M NOT HERE.") I did call, and he graciously drove in from his home and opened it up for me. This photo shows the inside of his museum in what was once a small high school gymnasium. He has about 19 cars inside from 1917 to 1953, including several he's working on, and a huge collection of glass globes from old gas pumps.



- 20) This view of Mike's museum shows the many gas globes, all of which light up at the flick of a single light switch. Unfortunately, a heavy rainstorm earlier this year caused severe leaks in the section of roof over the room where he keeps diecast cars and memorabilia of his dad's WW2 military service. That room now has sagging strips of ceiling and evidence of black mold in several places. None of the collection seems to be damaged, though. Mike has many more old cars at his house. He's 79 and has a lifetime of knowledge about old cars. He's understandably kind of despondent about the state of his building. When I suggested that the town or the county might want to help repair the damage (it's the only tourist attraction in the small town as far as I could see), he said the city council had never shown any interest in his place. (However, it's listed on the county's tourism website.)



- 21) This 1925 Dodge Brothers touring car is one of Mike's vehicles. He has a particular interest in Dodge cars. More of the gas globes can be seen in the background.



- 22) Another one of Mike Fuller's cars is this 1950 Chrysler Windsor.



- 23) This large collection of 1:24 scale diecast models was given to him for free by a woman who was divorced and wanted to get rid of her ex-husband's diecast collection. I believe he said they got back together again, but it was too late for his collection! Even though the cars were free, Mike said he spent \$800 to build the display shelves.



- 24) Here's Mike's huge collection of Hot Wheels cars, all still in the packages. This is the room that had the extensive water damage (evident in the ceiling in this photo). Ruth took one look inside at all the black stuff on the roof materials and the wall, the damp floor, and the strips of roofing hanging down from the ceiling and declared she wasn't going near that room. I had to see the diecast, though – haven't had any subsequent health issues!



- 25) Another view of the car room in Mike Fuller's place, showing his early 1950s Studebakers and a '36 Ford Humpback Sedan as well as more of his gas station memorabilia. He's a very nice guy, but he wouldn't go into the place himself other than to turn on the lights and point out to me where various things were. The whole time I was inside he sat in a chair outside the garage door. I would say he's bereaved about the damage to his building and not sure what to do about it at his age. However, not only did he not charge me any admission, he wouldn't even accept a donation.



From the Archives:

Back Cover Ad from the July 1976 issue of Miniature Truck News (published by Doug Campbell, Ferdinand H. Zegel, and Roger Bartelt)



Happy Birthday America!

announcing a very special series of Winross tractor/trailer models
commemorating the American Revolution Bicentennial.

Here's an exciting series of thirteen models privately produced and created by John Hambrook, professional industrial designer. They are offered on reservation basis and available for a limited time only.

You may have heard about the presidential election set of Winross trucks that were offered a few years ago, are almost impossible to find today and have appreciated in value many times their original price. Many collectors regret that they didn't get those at the time and we predict these thirteen will be as eagerly sought after within a year or so.

This set will be outstanding deluxe models with many features not found on the stock Winross line. They will have painted grilles, different graphics on each side, graphics on the rear and bright silver wheels. The color schemes will be in various combinations of RED, WHITE & BLUE and of course will be silk-screened NOT decals. One side of each truck will have the state name, nickname, state seal, state motto and the dates 1776-1976. The opposite side will have the state name, order in which it joined the Union and an illustration of an historic event relating to the birth of our nation, such as Washington crossing the Delaware, etc.

Of course, like all Winross models, they will be of metal with rubber tires to an exact scale of 1/64, overall length 9" and perfect for "S" gauge railroad layouts. All will feature three types of WHITE MOTOR CO. tractors and three types of trailers.

These models will be released in sets of two between approximately February 14, 1976 and July 1, 1976. All sets are scheduled to be completed by June 10, 1976 and no reissue production is planned. As the number to be produced depends on the number of orders received it is important that you place your order promptly. You may order single states, sets of two (1 & 2), (3 & 4) etc. or the complete set of 13. Single models are \$15.95 ea. ppd; Sets of two are \$29.95 ea. ppd. The complete set is only \$165.00 ppd. (a saving of \$42.35) Sets of two models can not be mixed but must be ordered as specified.

GUARANTEE - If you order the complete set you have the option after receiving the first set (#1 & #2) of cancelling the balance of your order in writing within ten days and receiving a refund of \$135.05 without quibble.

For complete details and descriptions of all 13 commemorative trucks as well as Special Reservation Order Form send stamped self-addressed envelope to "Dept. 1776" at SINCLAIR'S AUTO MINIATURES



3831 West 12th St.

Erie, Pa. 16505

NOT available from
the Winross Company.



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