

INTEREST IN VINTAGE AUTOMOBILES

Why does one have interest in automobiles of the past? Restoring, collecting, and preserving decades old cars is one of the most expensive and time consuming hobbies available. It is also one of the most satisfying and gratifying hobbies one can have.

Finding the old car of one's dream can be a satisfying event. An old car of one's past may be sentimental, a relative, acquaintance or friend that may have had an automobile that left a lasting impression on one's youth. It may trigger the desire to find a model that left an impression so many years ago. For example, when I was in high school in the early to mid 70's, we pulled up to the high school in a well worn "67" Impala wagon. My friend and his dad pulled up to the entrance in a well kept "69" Lincoln Continental Mark III. My mother said it was a nice car, and asked my father, what made it was. My father beamed, and said it was a Continental Mark III. I still remember the impression that car made. Fortunately, I saved one from oblivion, and it resides in my collection. Today, few if any American cars can make the impression that Mark III made so many years ago. As I sit here on vacation at St. Petersburg Beach, my wife and I did experience a favorable impression of an automobile that we saw driving along the road. The car was a brand new Rolls Royce sedan in a light beige color. My lovely wife is no car fanatic, but wanted to see who was driving this expensive automobile. It was an older gentleman in his 80's with a blonde bombshell no more than 35 by his side. That made for an interesting conversation that evening. I was driving my Lincoln Town car on this vacation. I explained that Lincolns and Cadillacs are nice, but they don't hold that status of a Rolls Royce. Their status is equivalent to a Porsche, Ferrari, Lamborghini, etc.

Many of our television shows of our past featured cars that our club members own today. Seventy Seven Sunset Strip featured new Thunderbirds and Ford products, throughout its six year run from 1958 to 1964. Two other Quinn-Martin productions: The FBI and Cannon featured new Ford products and new Continental Marks throughout their series run.

My old time favorite show, Perry Mason, featured new Thunderbirds throughout its' series run from 1957 to 1966, driven by the late actor, William Hopper. There are many reasons one obtains a collector car. My best guess would be 90% of the collector cars are bought to be flipped for a profit. This is fine, however, true enthusiasts as in our club love cars, and the common interest and fellowship our club offers. I am quite flattered that I was elected to the Board of our club and appointed to write articles for our club web site. I will contribute an article every two months. If any club members want to contribute to the forum, by all means, contact me at 260-486-2397.

Respectfully yours,

Larry L. Sneary