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FEATURE ARTICLE from Hemmings Classic Car

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132 COLLECTIBLE CARS FOR UNDER \$10K

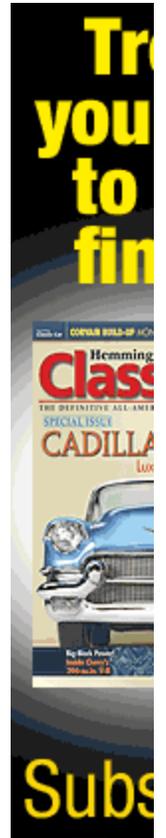
Hemmings Classic Car - MAY 1, 2007 - BY [DANIEL STROHL](#)

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Finding a driver doesn't require a second mortgage

Once was a time when old cars were just that: old cars, to be had for a six-pack of brewskis and a beat-up guitar. They were almost a social stigma to the normal people who drove new econoboxes, but the rest of us didn't care--we wanted a car that we could repair, a car that had soul, and most of all, a car that didn't cost an arm and a leg and require a visit to the bank to beg for money.

Then, somehow, all the cheap American iron went away. Anything with chrome on it seemed to skyrocket in price, and anything with a three-digit price tag came from foreign shores. We



started to suffer under the delusion that we just couldn't afford an old collector car without a second mortgage on our homes and a kid who'll have to pay for college himself.

Not true. While we agree that you're not going to find a trophy-winner or any of the more iconic classic cars on a burger budget, you're not stuck with parts cars either. We picked out 100 collector cars for \$3,500 back in *HCC #18*, and we've decided to push the limit this year to find 132 pre-1980 collector cars, all in running shape, all for less than \$10,000. Face it, 10 large might pay for all the gas in your new SUV for a year, and it sure won't buy you a new car.

To find our candidates, we scoured the pages of *Hemmings Motor News*, but we also scanned the classifieds in several club publications: the AACA's *Antique Automobile*, the Buick Club of America's *The Buick Bugle*, the Studebaker Driving Club's *Turning Wheels*, the International Mercury Owners Association's *Quicksilver*, the Walter P. Chrysler Club's *WPC News*, the Pontiac-Oakland Club International's *Smoke Signals*, the Oldsmobile Club of America's *Journey With Olds* and the Crown Victoria Association's *FOMOCO Times* among them. In the process, we felt the urge to reach for our checkbook and cell phone more times than deemed necessary by our local zoning laws. Cheap American iron has never left us--you just have to know where to look for it.

1920

Ford Model T roadster

(Model T Times, Jan-Feb 2007)

This is a nice older restoration, driven every day on the 2006 Clear Lake Tour. Electric starter. Kevlar bands. New tires (21-inch split rim). Spare tire and rim. Kerosene sidelights. \$8,500 OBO. IL

You'll find a lot of Model Ts and As advertised as older restorations due to the huge boom in T and A restoration in the 1970s and 1980s. While reproduction parts are generally better nowadays, you'll also find fewer modern restorations. Ts have always been the darlings of the 1920s, and their enormous production numbers mean they'll always be affordable.

1925



Ford Model T coupe

(Model T Times, Jan-Feb 2007)

Older restoration. TT brown. A crank engine by Elmer Lane. Many upgrades, including Rocky Mountain brakes. Owned since 1972. \$9,500. NE

1926**Dodge four-door sedan**

(HMN, March 2007)

Always stored inside, known history from new, restored as needed, fresh engine overhaul, never any rust, veteran of many tours including Glidden. \$7,500. IN

A proven tourer is about as good as it comes. Dodges of the 1920s are just as reliable, sturdy and simple as Model Ts, without the need to learn how to drive a planetary transmission. Four doors mean easier access to your luggage in the back seat.

Ford Model T Fordor

(Model T Times, Jan-Feb 2007)

All original. Was used in a made-for-TV movie in 1998. \$9,800. MO

Ford TT truck

(Antique Automobile, Jan-Feb 2007)

Restored 1995. White ash body and cab. Mostly NOS sheetmetal. Original rebuilt engine, Warford transmission, \$9,500. NJ

1927**Buick Model 27-27**

(HMN, March 2007)

Rebuilt carburetor, vacuum tank, tune-up, new tires, resealed gas tank, decent paint, nice body, good old gal that needs a little tinkering. \$7,500 firm, or trade for 1951 Chevy two-door hardtop. WA

Buick for a time was a leading volume producer of cars, which means that Buicks from the 1910s and 1920s remain rather plentiful today. We're all tinkerers at heart, so this one looks

and sounds like a match made in heaven for somebody looking to go touring.

1929

Chevrolet four-door sedan

(HMN, March 2007)

Good glass and new carburetor, disc wheels, runs, new upholstery, fair paint, everything works. \$8,750. IL

1930

Oakland two-door sedan

(Smoke Signals, Jan 2007)

95 percent complete, missing the headlamps and the gauges; \$3,000, or trade for John Deere tractor. MN.

Finding the headlamps and gauges for a 1930 Oakland might be difficult, but considering the source of this classified, the seller may know where to get them. That, or you'll see a classified on the next page advertising those specific parts.

1931

Buick Model 67

(Buick Bugle, Jan 2007)

Good title. Needs restoration. Garaged, very complete car. Car was running when parked. \$8,000. OH

1937

Ford touring

(HMN, March 2007)

California body, good frame, new brakes, new battery, 59A engine, running car, needs paint, interior and glass. \$10,000 OBO. MI

Blame it on the hot-rodders. What used to be the most plentiful brand among old-car bargain hunters now has become so in demand that it's about impossible to find even a solid project Ford from the 1930s for four figures, let alone a driver. Your best bet is to look toward the less popular 1937 or 1938 model years, but even those have become popular alternatives for people who can't afford a Deuce or a 1934 Ford. Still, every now and then, a deal like this will pop up.

1939

Buick Model 48 two-door

(Buick Bugle, Jan 2007)

Rare, 77,000 miles, strong running, solid body, nice original interior. Trippe driving, optional fender lights. Everything works. Literature, spare parts, cover included. \$9,500. FL.

1940

La Salle four-door

(HMN, March 2007)

V-8 engine, three-speed manual transmission on the column, suicide rear doors, runs, all original, unrestored, good upholstery, exterior mostly good. \$6,500. IN

Buy it, tell everybody who won't know any better you bought a Cadillac and let them think you paid way more for it.

1941

Dodge D-19 four-door town sedan

(HMN, March 2007)

Limited production, rare pre-WW2 Luxury Liner, suicide rear doors, factory running boards, flat dual-pane windshield, fog and fender running lights, butterfly dual opening hood, high profile bumper guards, A-1 mechanical service, luxury interior, complete, stock, custom deluxe accessories, factory radio, outside visor, no dents, original gray (oxidized) paint, stainless trim, correct premium tires, new battery, heavy-duty brakes, factory monogrammed Luxury Liner rear bumper, California black plates, solid old school driver, no trailer queen, drive anywhere, consider \$9,850. CA

The reality of setting a budget is that most of the cars you're going to consider--and certainly the best cars that you'll consider--will butt right up against that spending limit. From the description, it sounds as if this Dodge could sell for a lot more if it didn't have those pesky additional doors.

1946

Packard four-door sedan

(HMN, March 2007)

Original, straight-six engine as original as it can be found, garage kept, low mileage, fog and spotlights. \$9,800 firm. VA

This one surprised us, as well, but only because we don't price Packards as often as we should. So even with cars of a certain prestige, the John Q. Public factor still has an effect.

1947

Frazer Manhattan

(HMN, March 2007)

Early model, visor, overdrive, California car, no rust ever, one repaint in factory colors, drives out great. \$7,950. FL

Plymouth P-15 business coupe

(Antique Automobile, Jan-Feb 2007)

65,818 miles. A "summer cottage" car from South Bass Island, Ohio. Options: grille guard, heater, radio, backup lights, new brake lines, new shoes, four new Columbia tires, 6V, Fenton headers, body straight, paint good. \$6,500. OH

1948

Chrysler Windsor four-door

(HMN, March 2007)

All mechanical upgrades, needs cosmetics, drive it home. \$3,950. MO

No, it's not that sexy with its extra two portals. More anonymous. But if it worked for doctors when new, it'll work for you and your clan today.

1949

Buick Super four-door

(Greater New York Region AACA Newsletter, Feb 2007)

Inline Fireball eight-cylinder engine, three-speed transmission, runs good, everything works, needs paint. Asking \$2,000 firm. NY

If you're on a real budget, go local. Regional club publications tend to be a good place to look for cars that won't break the bank, because the top-dollar cars tend to go in national publications.

Dodge Wayfarer two-door sedan

(WPC News, Jan 2007)

Mechanically perfect driver, garaged last 25 years, gray on gray with gray interior. New wiring, water pump, radiator. 1,000 miles on new main bearings. Must sell, death in family. \$9,500. NC

Ford four-door sedan

(HMN, March 2007)

Woody with running four-door sedan parts car. \$5,500. MT

Sell the woody and drive the parts car. You'll likely get all your money back, depending on the woody's condition, and you can then invest in the four-door.

Studebaker 2R5 SB pickup

(Turning Wheels, Jan 2007)

New brakes, K pins, tie rods, fresh Dana 44 4:10 posi, new wheels and radials. 71,000 miles. California plates and title. \$8,995. IL

1950

De Soto Custom club coupe

(HMN, March 2007)

72,000 original miles, intact, complete, straight, runs well, proper but tatty interior, wide white walls, blue dots, decent chrome, rust-free except spot at left front floor. \$3,500. PA

Hudson Commodore 6 sedan

(HMN, March 2007)

Runs well, upholstery nice, good original condition. \$3,995. MS

See, that Disney movie didn't drive the prices of step-down Hudsons up as everybody feared/hoped, leaving Hudsons as one of the best values in the collector-car hobby today.

1951

Crosley station wagon

(HMN, March 2007)

No rust, runs well, needs some interior work. \$6,000. MD

A well-running Crosley is about 90 percent of the battle. Most Crosley folks don't exactly worry about the correctness of their cars--they worry more about becoming grille decoration on a semi. And besides, there's not that much of an interior to work on.

Jeep CJ-3A

(HMN, March 2007)

Runs, drives, four-wheel-drive works, plow, body fair, but all there, very complete. \$3,500 OBO. VT

Just when we were worried Jeeps had left the average Joe price bracket, we spotted this 3A,

and in our home state of Vermont, to boot. Most newcomers to Jeeps prefer the later enclosed versions versus the rough-and-tumble open Jeeps of the 1950s, thus the bargain here. The plow is the big selling point for most folks in these parts, and even if the body is toast, replica bodies are cheap and easy to come by.

1952

Studebaker Starliner two-door

(HMN, March 2007)

Rare, 45,000 miles, runs great, six-cylinder engine, three-speed manual transmission with overdrive, body and paint in very good condition, beautiful. \$9,800 OBO. ON

Is that in Canadian or American dollars? Either way, it appears that this car in this condition could sell for a few thousand more. Make sure to budget a few hundred extra dollars if you're bringing it over the border.

1953

Buick Special coupe

(HMN, March 2007)

44,300 original miles, runs strong, needs cosmetics. \$8,000 OBO. MA

Pontiac Chieftain four-door

(HMN, March 2007)

Original solid car, eight-cylinder engine, Hydra-Matic, runs and drives great, needs paint, interior good, all glass is good, cranks work well, radial tires, new radiator, new seat covers, needs bumpers done. \$4,400. MA

Leave the bumpers. After all, you don't want to drop a grand or two on new chrome just to have a shopping cart nick it, do you?

Pontiac Chieftain

(HMN, March 2007)

Good, original condition with recent paint. \$6,500. CO

1954

Chevrolet Bel Air four-door sedan

(HMN, March 2007)

Black, original 235-cu.in. six-cylinder engine, automatic transmission, Fenton headers, dual exhaust, AC, real good condition, driver. \$5,000. NY

What was once one of the most expensive Chevrolets now can hardly keep up price-wise with the two-doors. Good for us bargain hunters. As an added bonus, some minor modifications make this Bel Air more pleasant on the road.

Ford Courier sedan delivery

(FOMOCO Times, Feb 2007)

Fuel-injected 302-cu.in. V-8, four-speed standard overdrive, CD player, red. \$7,500 or trade toward 1955-1956 Crown Victoria. NY

1955

Chevrolet half-ton stepside pickup

(HMN, March 2007)

Short bed, three-speed manual transmission, six-cylinder engine, runs, good metal, original drivetrain, have title. \$5,750. MO

Typical farm truck, which is what many collectors want. Of course, thanks to Old Navy, finding one of the previous generation of pickups is next to impossible. Since when did the Tri-Five pickups become a sensible alternative to the Advanced Designs?

Chevrolet 210 two-door sedan

(HMN, March 2007)

All original, six-cylinder engine, automatic transmission, barn fresh, complete California car. \$7,000 OBO. CA

Believe it or not, you can still buy a reasonable Tri-Five for less than an arm and a leg. What's even more amazing is that there's a barn in California that hadn't been raided until recently. Must have been the very last one.

Pontiac Chieftain four-door sedan

(HMN, March 2007)

Original green/white paint, 40,000 miles, original V-8 engine, three-speed standard transmission, runs and drives great, brakes weak, straight, solid, no rust, nice car, good original interior, front seat cover replaced, new tires, battery and brake lines. \$5,750 OBO. MO

Studebaker President sedan

(Turning Wheels, Jan 2007)

Wide whites, skirts, 259 V8, auto, white over yellow; velour upholstery, carpet nice, 8V battery and alternator. Runs great, no rust. \$7,500. OR

1956

Ford Fairlane two-door Victoria hardtop

(HMN, March 2007)

Solid, no rust, 289-cu.in. V-8 with C6 automatic transmission, bucket seats, new windshield, brakes, in primer, runs, drives, stops, mild custom, trades considered. \$6,500 OBO. MI

Mid-1950s Fords have climbed in prices in later years - not as rapidly as their Chevrolet counterparts, but still quite noticeably. Which is why this two-door hardtop's price surprises us, but it's likely because of its "mild custom" nature. Mild, though, means it can be put back to stock fairly easily.

Ford Parklane station wagon

(FOMOCO Times, Feb 2007)

P-code 312-cu.in. V-8, runs and drives, all new brakes and cylinders. Body totally done in epoxy primer. Needs paint and interior done, needs exhaust system. \$6,900. WV

Oldsmobile 88 four-door Holiday hardtop

(HMN, March 2007)

V-8 engine, automatic transmission, PS, PB, power mirrors, shiny white over blue two-tone finish with matching nice interior, solid straight body, radial tires on chrome wheels (have original wheels if wanted), mechanically perfect, very strong, fast and responsive, 100 percent roadworthy, drive it home. Asking \$9,500 OBO. IL

Pontiac Chieftain 860 four-door station wagon

(Smoke Signals, Jan 2007)

316-cu.in. V-8, automatic transmission. Runs, needs restoration, three-year-old paint. \$7,000. VA

Immediately above this ad was one for another 1956 Chieftain wagon, selling for \$11,500. We couldn't spot much of a difference from the photos and descriptions, so this one seemed a no-brainer.

1957

Buick Super Riviera coupe

(HMN, March 2007)

Custom project, this was a rust-free 45,000-mile car when the top was chopped about three inches, it has a rebuilt 300hp 364-cu.in. nailhead V-8, automatic transmission, power steering and brakes, needs finishing. \$9,000 or trades accepted. WI

Chopping a top is difficult, more so the newer a car gets. Reverting back to stock height actually takes a lot more work, depending on the quality of the chop. Depending on your point of view, this is either a car to be saved from the evils of hot rodding or a hot rod gem awaiting your personal touch.

Cadillac Coupe de Ville

(HMN, March 2007)

Nice driver, white, blue top, original blue interior, could use restoration. \$7,500. IL

We found not just one, but two 1957 Coupe de Villes, that both met our criteria here. Note also that we didn't find any 1957 Chevrolet drivers under 10 large. So while the rest of the collector car market goes ape over one car, an arguably better car can still be had for a great deal.

Studebaker half-ton pickup

(Turning Wheels, Jan 2007)

Shortbed, V-8, three-speed overdrive. Rebuilt engine, transmission, rear end. New paint. \$9,500. WA

1958

AMC Rambler Super four-door

(Classified American, Dec 2006)

Three-speed manual transmission, heater, low miles--11,000, no rust, small dent right fender and rear bumper, interior excellent, dark gray with light gray top, paint excellent, lower paint faded. Don't have enough time to enjoy the car, and don't want her to sit any longer. Asking \$5,000. WI

Chevrolet two-door sedan

(HMN, March 2007)

All original, straight body, original interior, good seats, stainless trim, new carburetor and exhaust, six-cylinder engine, automatic transmission, runs and drives well. \$6,950. IL

Dodge Coronet

(HMN, March 2007)

Original engine, 43,000 miles, new paint, black headliner and fuel tank, push-button transmission, inspected. \$8,900 OBO. MA

Massachusetts advertisers are always careful to say whether their cars are inspected. If they are, consider it a bonus--many cars don't pass inspection there that would in just about any other state.

Edsel Ranger two-door

(HMN, March 2007)

Salmon, white/gray interior, 361-cu.in. V-8, three-speed manual transmission with overdrive, very nice car, good driver. \$7,500 OBO. CA

Remember when everybody despised Edsels? They weren't even a cult car like the Pacer--they were just beaters for people who didn't know any better. And then, suddenly, everybody wanted one and prices shot straight up. In fact, finding a driver nowadays for less than muscle car prices takes some determination.

Mercury Parklane two-door hardtop

(Quicksilver, Winter 2007)

PS, PB, no rust. Very good condition. 38,200 miles. Asking \$10,000. TX

Buick Invicta four-door

(HMN, March 2007)

Good paint, good original interior, good chrome, good tires, power seats, power steering, runs and drives great. \$9,250. IL

1959

Studebaker Silver Hawk

(Turning Wheels, Jan 2007)

455 Oldsmobile engine and transmission. Runs strong. Good body. \$5,995. WA

When a driver is all you're looking for, does it matter if it's totally correct? After all, an Oldsmobile big-block will provide more power for your highway trips and greater parts availability. Purists will scoff, which is why this Hawk has more of a sparrow price.

1960

Chevrolet El Camino

(HMN, March 2007)

283-cu.in. V-8, three-speed manual transmission, runs, rusty, complete. \$3,000. PA

For a Pennsylvanian to admit rust in a classified should raise warning flags, but early El Caminos have been a hot commodity for the last few years, so this'll probably be the last runner you see at this price in a long time.

Pontiac Ventura four-door hardtop

(Smoke Signals, Jan 2007)

Tri-blue interior, two-barrel automatic. Great daily driver, some rust/bondo. New battery, trunk, interior, carpet. \$2,750. MI

1961

Buick Electra 225 four-door hardtop

(HMN, March 2007)

Rare Riviera six-window edition, loaded, 445 Wildcat engine, rebuilt Dynaflo, only 88,000 original miles, runs great, Jet Black with Powder Blue interior, original car right down to the spinners, needs minor body and upholstery work. \$8,500. FL

Chevrolet Biscayne four-door sedan

(HMN, March 2007)

44,000 original miles, 283-cu.in. V-8 engine, three-speed manual transmission, black, white, runs and drives great, nice body and interior. \$3,900. CA

This is what we're talking about. Basic, not a shred of frill to go along with it. Easy to maintain and fix, and it's a Golden State car, so you'd expect about zero rust issues.

Chevrolet Corvair Lakewood 500

(CORSA Communiqué, Feb 2007)

13x6 Aero wheels, Addco anti-roll bar, gas dampers, original red paint and interior. Clear title, many extra parts and manuals, needs work. \$2,100. CA

The good thing about oddballs like this wagon? Cheap. Bad thing? Hard-to-find parts. Oh, wait, the seller's including extra parts. Problem solved.

Ford Falcon Futura two-door

(HMN, March 2007)

Older restoration, runs excellent, great interior, 200-cu.in. six-cylinder engine with four-speed manual transmission, new windshield, weatherstripping, stainless steel skirts, good tires, CD AM-FM. \$5,000 OBO. CA

Oldsmobile Dynamic 88

(Journey With Olds, Jan 2007)

394-cu.in. V-8, automatic transmission. Has 93,606 miles. All chrome has been redone and is sitting in tissue paper. Body is in primer. It ran seven years ago, and has been sitting since. Needs complete interior redone. Has clear title. \$4,000 OBO. IL

Editor Lentinello wants this one to accompany his Pontiac bubbletop, then he's going to try and procure a Chevrolet and Buick bubbletop to match. This one will probably be the least expensive of his collection.

Cadillac Coupe de Ville

(*HMN*, March 2007)

44,000 original miles, nice original car, runs very well, tires excellent, has had one repaint 4-5 years ago. Has minor accident damage to right front door and right fender. Drives well. Asking \$6,995 as is, or best offer. ME

The joy of driving old cars means showing off war wounds like this. Could it be fixed? Sure. Then you'd have a Cadillac that looks like every other 1960s Cadillac at the next show. Leave it be and you can make up all sorts of stories to explain the damage.

Lincoln Continental four-door

(*HMN*, March 2007)

Suicide doors, black, black interior, very rare car, must sell. \$5,500. SC

You can buy it, dress all your friends in fashionable leather coats and pretend you're the crew from *The Matrix*. As iconic as these early 1960s Continentals are, it doesn't take a lot of money to get into one.

Pontiac Grand Prix

(*Smoke Signals*, Jan 2007)

Automatic transmission, PS, PB, radio, eight-lug wheels, 60,000 miles. Runs and drives good. \$10,000. OH

Studebaker Champ pickup

(*Turning Wheels*, Jan 2007)

Short bed, 289 engine. Runs well. Five-speed overdrive transmission. All glass intact, sliding back window. Some rust and body work needed. \$2,500 OBO. CO

Colorado's definition of rust runs about parallel to California's. We're already on our way...

1963**AMC Rambler American 440 hardtop**

(*Classified American*, Dec 2006) 196-cu.in. OHV six-cylinder engine, automatic transmission, AMO concours 1998 senior gold, red with white top and white side and rear interior. Excellent seats redone with original cloth. Recent work done: Fuel tank cleaned, fuel filter changed, tune-up, float for fuel gauge changed, push rods replaced and guides cleaned. Older

restoration, but in excellent condition. Engine detailed. Always garaged. No rust. Asking \$7,500. WI

Chevrolet Corvair Monza

(CORSA Communiqué, Feb 2007)

PG, near new brakes, shocks, new Viton tube seals, interior very good, new carpet (Clark's), good glass, spare windshield, four years on paint, 87,000 miles, \$4,800 CDN. 1964 700 sedan, 110hp, 21,000 miles, new clutch/throwout bearing/pressure plate, all new seals everywhere (Viton on pushrod tubes), heads deflashed, new Firestone 440 whitewall radial tires, new rear shocks, new gas tank and gauge, new weatherstripping, good glass, interior good but headliner is brittle. One of only 133 Canadian-built with three-speed manual transmission in 1964. Great on the highway and around town. Needs new floorboards and paint. \$4,500 CDN. Or twofer \$9,000 CDN. BC

Corvair people treat their little air-cooled Chevrolets like Lay's potato chips: They can't have just one. Offering two roadworthy Corvairs for less than the price of one full-size Chevrolet of the same year is like selling sunscreen in the Sahara.

Mercury Monterey S-55 two-door hardtop

(Quicksilver, Winter 2007)

Breezeway window, pink frost exterior and interior. No rust ever, no damage. I am the fourth owner and know complete history of the car. Numerous nice (many NOS) parts included, nice upholstery, dash, headliner, 86,000 original miles, automatic, stainless-steel exhaust. No missing trim. Reluctantly must sell. No time to enjoy. \$8,500. PA

1964

Chrysler Imperial Crown four-door hardtop

(HMN, March 2007)

Rebuilt engine, transmission, suspension. All power, seek/scan radio, new lacquer paint, rechromed bumpers, shop manual. \$6,500 OBO. NY

Ford Fairlane sport coupe

(HMN, March 2007)

Straight, solid body, good glass, okay paint, good bucket/console interior, strong rebuilt 302-cu.in. V-8, automatic transmission, converted to floor shifter, have stock parts. \$4,500. CA

Just about everybody looks at these as potential Thunderbolt clones, enough so that we hardly see any decent ones left stock. Even this one has some liberties taken, which might explain why the price is a couple of grand less than similar six-cylinder stock Fairlanes we've seen, but makes for an excellent cruiser for the wealth-impaired.

Ford Falcon Futura four-door

(HMN, March 2007)

One of the best originals, AACA National winner 2005, still original red interior and original chrome, new paint two years ago, never any rust, ready to enjoy. Only \$2,500. FL

Does the combination of four doors and a compact car really offset an AACA award-winning car by that much? Think about it this way: It'll cost more to properly paint this car today.

Mercury Comet four-door

(Quicksilver, Winter 2007)

200-cu.in. six-cylinder engine, color tan, automatic transmission, 61,000 miles. Restored three years ago. Original full-size hubcaps, four new tires. Runs and drives perfectly. Asking \$4,200 or best offer. MS

Studebaker Lark Daytona hardtop

(Turning Wheels, Jan 2007)

259, automatic, AC, new tires, power steering. Good condition, needs door panels and some repair to window regulators. Have all parts to restore, including new rubber. \$4,500 without parts, \$5,900 with. TX

1965

Buick Riviera

(HMN, March 2007)

Good original interior and chrome, factory AC, nice dash, V-8, automatic transmission, PS, PB and PW. Runs, drives well. \$6,750. IL

Buick Skylark Sport Wagon

(HMN, March 2007)

Rare, glass in roof like Vista Cruiser, green outside, tan interior, V-8 engine, automatic transmission, solid Southern car in running condition, needs restoration. \$4,900. VA

Thanks to a certain Fox sitcom, Oldsmobile Vista Cruisers cost about as much as the yachts they resemble. But the Buick versions, less recognized by the masses, haven't followed suit. Pack the kids in and show them what driving was like before insurance companies took all the fun out of it.

Chevrolet Corvair Monza two-door

(*CORSA Communiqué*, Feb 2007)

110/PG, 25,000 miles, rust-free Arizona car, white/off-white interior, all rubber new, new windshield, body excellent. Drive it home. \$3,500. FL

Dodge Dart GT convertible

(*HMN*, March 2007)

273-cu.in. V-8, automatic transmission, buckets and console, floor shift, California car, new black paint, new white top, new red and white upholstery, new chrome, runs well. \$9,900. CA

Ford Mustang coupe

(*HMN*, March 2007)

White in color, white interior, six-cylinder engine, automatic transmission, 80,463 actual miles, runs and drives great. Only \$6,000. MN

Few cars on this list we specifically sought out. This one we did, just to prove that not every Mustang out there sells for Shelby money. And that not every Mustang driver resides in Southern California. Besides the low price, the benefit here is that just about every part you'll need is reproduced or easily available.

Mercury Comet 404

(Greater New York Region AACA Newsletter, Feb 2007)

200-cu.in. six-cylinder engine, three-speed automatic transmission. New paint, interior, brakes. 50,000 original miles. Runs great. Best offer over \$3,000. NY

Oldsmobile Delta coupe

(*Journey With Olds*, Jan 2007)

All moldings, lamps, grilles, bumpers NOS. Excellent sheetmetal. Totally rebuilt TH400. Edelbrock/B&M equipped. Over \$9,000 invested. Stored 20 years. Receipts. \$4,500. MO

Plymouth Barracuda Formula S

(*HMN*, March 2007)

Factory AFB, tachometer, disc brakes, wood wheel, dealer AC, 273-cu.in. hi-po V-8 engine, one-family California car, rebuilt \$1,300 transmission and engine, recent brakes and exhaust,

radiator and more, all receipts since 1971, clean interior, solid pans. \$6,000. FL

1966

Buick Electra 225 four-door

(Buick Bugle, Jan 2007)

HT, PS, PW, 401 V-8 Nailhead, 118,000 miles, supposedly rebuilt. Red, beautiful, garage kept. \$5,500. IL

Chrysler 300 four-door hardtop

(HMN, March 2007)

Solid, no rust, no bondo, new paint, gas tank, brakes, dual exhaust and much more, interior like new, 60,000 miles, 383-cu.in. V-8, classic lines, looks and runs great. \$7,500. OH

Dodge A100 van

(HMN, March 2007)

1963 426-cu.in. wedge V-8 engine, 426hp, no rust, engine's been redone, one four-barrel carburetor, runs well. \$3,200 OBO. WI

A van with a 426? Most guys will gladly pay more than that for just the engine, leading us to believe that the engine won't remain in this van for long. Which is a shame, because these vans can be pretty cool drivers, combining both utility and economy.

Oldsmobile F-85 four-door sedan

(HMN, March 2007)

Original black paint with near perfect blue deluxe interior. Six-cylinder engine with Jetaway, drives like new, only 28,000 miles. \$6,995. GA

If any car comes to mind first when considering this story, it should be this one: four doors, six-cylinder engine, automatic transmission, once-ubiquitous body style that today has little to do with the hottest collector cars. The mainstream car collectors overlook it, which means you can pick it up for pennies on the dollar and not worry about putting miles on it.

Pontiac Tempest Sprint

(Smoke Signals, Jan 2007)

Great running, PHS documented, original California car, \$9,200 OBO. MD

Only in recent years has the Sprint version of the Tempest, with its overhead-camshaft six-cylinder engine, started to gain much respect. Still, the bias against six-cylinders must run deep if a pedigreed, two-door car like this sells for less than \$10,000. Oh well, your gain.

1967

Buick Skylark two-door sport coupe

(Buick Bugle, Jan 2007)

Ivory exterior with black vinyl top and interior. Excellent condition. Original Southern California car with factory A/C and tilt wheel; 340-4 engine. \$7,500. NY

Chrysler New Yorker two-door hardtop

(WPC News, Jan 2007)

89,000 miles. Restored to original, white/black interior, 440 engine, rust-free Georgia car. Excellent condition and runs great. \$4,995. IL

Dodge A100 window camper van

(WPC News, Jan 2007)

Six-cylinder engine, automatic transmission, runs and drives great. Very clean, from Arizona. Delivery possible. Must sell. \$3,800 OBO. MI

1968

AMC Rambler American two-door sedan

(Classified American, Dec 2006)

Six-cylinder engine, automatic transmission. Car has been recently restored with rechromed bumpers, new emblems, new white paint, new front tires, rebuilt carburetor, nice cloth upholstery, looks good, runs good. \$2,600. NV

Chevrolet Corvair Monza convertible

(CORSA Communiqué, Feb 2007)

110, power top, recent paint, new interior, engine resealed, new top, good brakes and tires. \$8,000. FL

Dodge Monaco Custom four-door

(*HMN*, March 2007)

61,000 actual miles, all original, new tires, excellent chrome, drives perfect, looks like new.
\$2,500. FL

1969

Chevrolet C-20 Longhorn Camper Special

(*HMN*, March 2007)

Very rare, 350-cu.in. V-8, automatic transmission, AC, PS, drive anywhere with confidence but does need a cosmetic restoration. \$3,995 OBO. TX

First off, trucks don't need cosmetic restorations. They're supposed to look beat. Especially anything larger than a half-ton. These late 1960s Chevrolet trucks have been popular for a while, but only in the more civilized half-ton versions, leaving the three-quarter-tons and larger ripe for picking by bargain hunters.

Chevrolet Caprice coupe

(*HMN*, March 2007)

COPO 9564, numbers-matching 400-cu.in. small-block V-8 engine, two-barrel carburetor, TH350 automatic transmission, 12-bolt Positraction rear axle with 2.56 gears, Protect-O-Plate, window sticker inspection copy showing over 20 options, including AC, AM-FM, PDB, PS, approximately 6,000 miles on engine rebuild done by professional race engine builder. Body in excellent condition. \$6,500. RI

1970

AMC Javelin

(*Classified American*, Dec 2006)

SST, Mark Donohue replica. Matador Red/red leather, automatic transmission, 401-cu.in. V-8 with Ram Air complete. PS, disc brakes, gauge package, rally wheels, correct spoiler, Ram Air hood, extremely solid throughout, runs very strong. \$8,950. MI

Taken separately, all the parts that the seller assembled here, while incorrect in some instances, would bring a lot more than the asking price. But the inauthenticity of the car doesn't spoil what fun it would be to blast around in, and any authentic first-generation Javelin

in this condition normally sells for much more.

Buick Electra convertible

(Buick Bugle, Jan 2007)

New white top, window and white urethane paint. Professionally rebuilt engine, carburetor, radiator, brakes and exhaust. New carpets. Much rechromed. Vogue tires and wire wheels. \$8,450. IL

Chevrolet Impala four-door

(HMN, March 2007)

Autumn gold, 350-cu.in. V-8 engine, 43,000 original miles, my great grandmother's car, paint good but oxidized, no rust, mint interior except for a few splits on seat, new brake system, original parts, with whitewall radial tires, runs like a champ, needs water pump. \$6,000. NY

Ford Ranchero 500

(Antique Automobile, Jan/Feb 2007)

Excellent condition. Refinished original color--dark green. Purchased new--in same family since. Runs and drives great. P/S, P/B, AC, automatic. Good tires, brakes, new radiator. 351-cu.in. Cleveland V-8, all stock, \$8,250. CA

Oldsmobile 98 two-door hardtop

(Journey With Olds, Jan 2007)

Blue with white top. Unrestored, garage-kept driver. Nice interior, front seat worn. 455-cu.in. V-8 engine, two owner car. Has AC, PB, PW, PL, Pseats, Ptrunk. Asking \$4,500. IL

Oldsmobile Toronado GT

(Journey With Olds, Jan 2007)

Red with black interior. Numbers-matching engine and transmission, 77,000 original miles, needs cosmetic restoration. \$6,500, CA

Pontiac GTO

(Smoke Signals, Jan 2007)

Rusty body, driveline excellent. Strong built 1972 400-cu.in. with a Turbo 400. 3.55 posi gears. Many good parts. Runs and drives excellent. Call for honest description. \$5,000 OBO. WI

Pontiac Le Mans convertible

(HMN, March 2007)

350-cu.in. V-8, automatic transmission, 48,000 original miles, runs great, bucket seats, mint

interior, very solid car, original sheetmetal, solid floor, great car to restore. \$7,500 negotiable.
ON

1971

Chevrolet Bel Air hardtop

(HMN, March 2007)

Numbers-matching, one owner, 55,900 original miles, PS, PDB, original bill of sale, Protect-O-Plate and keys, 350-cu.in. V-8, TH400 automatic transmission, will certify. \$3,995 OBO.
ON

1972

Buick Skylark Custom four-door

(Buick Bugle, Jan 2007)

59K. Excellent, original condition. A-body sedan with sport lines. No center post. Garage kept from new. \$7,800. PA

Cadillac M&M hearse

(Antique Automobile, Jan/Feb 2007)

Normandy Blue rear loader. AACA Senior, 2001; Preservation. \$6,600, negotiable. PA

Chevrolet Nova two-door

(HMN, March 2007)

Fully restored to excellent condition, rebuilt 350-cu.in. V-8 with mild camshaft, TH350 automatic transmission, both have 40,000 miles, new plugs, wires, carburetor, K&N air filter, interior is new original, all redone, pearl white with scallops, very clean, \$9,000, no trades. CA

1973

AMC Gremlin

(Classified American, Dec 2006)

30,000 original miles. 258-cu.in. six-cylinder engine, stick shift. \$3,000. OH

How can we not fill this story with AMCs? Actually, finding an AMC driver for more than \$10,000 is tougher than finding one that fits our criteria. Gremlins, while still considered cult cars of a sort, also still present great deals for the old-car driver, due to their bulletproof drivetrains (shared, aside from the transfer case, with Jeeps) and excellent economy. Just make sure to pick up a couple of parts cars if you need any trim.

Chevrolet Nova Custom

(HMN, March 2007)

Six-cylinder engine, automatic transmission, PS, PB, all original car with 36,000 miles, paint, chrome and interior all in good condition, radial tires with Rallye wheels and high hats, solid body. \$9,950. NY

At that price, we're guessing it's a two-door--the description didn't say what body style. Post-1972 six-cylinder Novas usually occupy a much lower pricing stratosphere, so you can bet that this one looks and performs brand new and will likely do everything your daily-driver Camry can do and more.

Chrysler New Yorker Brougham

(HMN, March 2007)

440-cu.in. V-8, power everything, exterior very good to excellent, green leather interior excellent, electric windows and doors all work, maintained regularly, fine working order except radiator leak, second owner, 111,129 miles. \$2,500 OBO. CA

Chrysler Newport four-door hardtop

(WPC News, Jan 2007)

Excellent interior, very good vinyl top, paint very good except one deep keyed scratch on trunk. New water pump, tires, spark plugs, exhaust, rebuilt carburetor, working AC. 35,000 miles. Selling due to poor health. \$4,395. MI

Mercury Cougar XR-7 convertible

(HMN, March 2007)

351-cu.in. V-8 engine, automatic transmission, console, blue with white top, white upholstery, 85,000 miles. \$3,500 OBO. PA

The year prevents it from being a muscle car. The size prevents it from being a pony car. But the price shouldn't prevent it from being your car.

Pontiac Grand Prix Model J

(Smoke Signals, Jan 2007)

400-cu.in. V-8, automatic transmission, 73,000 miles. Silver/red. \$3,500 OBO. NJ

1974

Buick LeSabre convertible

(HMN, March 2007)

Clean, excellent body, no rust or rot, white with white/maroon interior, good mechanics, tires. \$4,500. NY

Cadillac Eldorado convertible

(HMN, March 2007)

Mechanical restoration, 45,587 miles, current mileage 54,000 original, engine, transmission, brakes, hubs, radiator, fuel pump, water pump, hoses, filters, all rebuilt, top and upholstery excellent, new tires and battery. \$4,500. CA

We've never understood the passion for the so-called "last convertibles," because for the most part, they're not too different from this car. Of course, the cost of fuel makes this rather impractical, but sometimes it's worth it to bomb down an open highway, top down, knowing you paid so little for a Caddy.

Dodge Charger SE

(Greater New York Region AACA Newsletter, Feb 2007)

318-cu.in. V-8, automatic transmission, 40,000 original miles. Blue/white. \$8,000. NY

Ford Gran Torino Elite

(HMN, March 2007)

Great condition, brown with tan top, tan interior, 351-cu.in. V-8 engine, must see. \$4,100. PA

1975

Bricklin SV1

(HMN, March 2007)

Nice with 44,000 miles, Dodge Viper red, 351C engine with 2,000 miles, air doors, Colorado

car. \$8,500 OBO. CO

Buick LeSabre Custom convertible

(HMN, March 2007)

Blue repaint, new white top, white interior, radiator and engine tuned, recent exhaust, good rubber, no rust, runs and drives excellent. \$5,500. OH

Will 1970s cars ever be considered cool again? Will they ever break out of collector-car purgatory and ride up the other side of that bell curve? As thin-walleted old-car enthusiasts, we surely hope not.

Buick Regal two-door hardtop

(HMN, March 2007)

Maroon with red deluxe interior, AC, disc brakes, AM-FM stereo, tilt, speed warning, factory mag wheels, sport mirrors, very low mileage, very well maintained, original paint, runs excellent and very smooth ride. \$2,500. CA

Oldsmobile Delta 88 Royale convertible

(Journey With Olds, Jan 2007)

Red, unrestored survivor, 63,000 certified miles, 350-cu.in. V-8, PB, PS, PW, PL, AC, cruise, AM/FM stereo. Asking \$10,000. IL

Pontiac Grand Ville convertible

(HMN, March 2007)

White on white, all original, new white top, new tires, new AC, working eight-track tape player, same owner since 1976, garage parked in Boca Raton. \$6,500, negotiable. FL

1976

Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham d'Elegance

(HMN, March 2007)

White with light blue vinyl top and interior, immaculate original leather, carpet and mats, fully optioned, plus radar and theft guard, immaculate chrome, excellent paint and Michelin tires. \$5,595. SC

Chevrolet Caprice Classic two-door

(HMN, March 2007)

14,000 miles on 454-cu.in. V-8 engine. \$7,995. GA

Chevrolet Cosworth Vega

(HMN, March 2007)

Black with gold stripes, black interior, 4,000 original miles, truly a museum piece. \$10,000
OBO. NY

For anyone who's never priced a Cosworth Vega, but is familiar with the high-performance, fuel-injected subcompact, it may come as a surprise that even the best examples rarely trade for more than \$10,000. If you can picture yourself in a Vega, it's probably the best performance deal to be had from this era.

Mercury Cougar XR-7 two-door hardtop

(Quicksilver, Winter 2007)

Limited Edition. 88,000 miles, dark brown metallic exterior, mustard interior. All vinyl front buckets, rear bench. 351M-4barrel V-8, automatic transmission, PS, PB, AM/FM cassette, full factory gauge package, all work. New paint, chrome, exhaust and tires in 1994. Only driven 9,000 miles since. Always garaged. One-family owned since new. \$6,500. DE

1977

AMC Pacer station wagon

(HMN, March 2007)

Hatchback, new white paint and new interior, rebuilt engine and drivetrain, looks, runs and drives very well, a very unique piece. \$9,500. NY

Cadillac Seville

(HMN, March 2007)

81,300 miles, absolutely excellent condition throughout, all factory options, sunroof, original spare never used, purchased new in Phoenix, always garaged, window sticker, original owner's manual. \$5,900. AZ

Chrysler Cordoba

(HMN, March 2007)

Beautiful blue, white Corinthian leather, 75,000 pampered miles, 400-cu.in. V-8 and 134 AC, non-smoker, Ziebarted when new, no winters, always inside, runs, drives excellent. I'm second owner, fly into Omaha and drive it home. \$3,500. IA

Dodge Colt two-door

(HMN, March 2007)

73,000 miles, automatic transmission, new tires, brakes, exhaust, AC (inoperable), white, red vinyl roof, recent interior, overall good. \$1,995. NH

When was the last time you saw a Dodge Colt? Despised as Dodge's "captive import," they never sold that well in the first place and rusted on the showroom floor (that, along with the New Hampshire selling location makes us wonder about the body's integrity). But you will stand out and you will save money on fuel.

Ford Granada coupe

(HMN, March 2007)

50,000 mile original, unrestored, rust-free car, 302-cu.in. V-8, automatic transmission, PS, PDB, cold factory air, white with red pinstripe, white half-vinyl top, mint red interior, clean low-mileage first car, drive anywhere. Only \$5,950. GA

Worth it only because it's not painted in the same refried-bean brown that GM, Ford and Chrysler seemingly painted every single other car from the 1970s.

Ford Thunderbird

(Antique Automobile, Jan/Feb 2007)

V-8, all power, 91,000 miles. One owner, four-door, white w/maroon interior/vinyl roof in excellent condition. Garage kept. \$3,000, negotiable. NJ

Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme coupe

(Journey With Olds, Jan 2007)

350-cu.in. V-8, four-barrel carburetor, automatic transmission, 115,000 miles, teal green with white top. Driver, restoration project or parts car. Runs and drives. \$1,000 OBO. NJ

Pontiac Grand Prix

(HMN, March 2007)

301-cu.in. V-8, AC, AM-FM-tape, good driver, now registered, new radiator, gas tank, springs, exhaust, extra parts. \$3,200, negotiable. NH

1978

AMC Matador station wagon

(*Classified American*, Dec 2006)

Last year of the Matador. Bronze, tan interior. 360-cu.in. V-8. PS, PDB, automatic transmission, two-way tailgate, roof rack, third-row seat, AC, 112,000 miles, no rust. Car from AZ, in FL since 2004. Runs and drives great. \$5,700. FL

AMC Matador coupe

(*Classified American*, Dec 2006) Original 360-cu.in. V-8, 727 automatic transmission. Runs and looks excellent. 113,000 miles. No rust. Very good chrome. New dual exhaust. Newer maroon paint. Interior has maroon split reclining bench and is excellent. Dash and headliner are perfect. Rear windows roll down. Brake system all new. AC and cruise work great. New fuel and water pumps. Car from WI until 2004. Very original and beautiful car that would drive anywhere. \$3,600. PA

Strangely, we found this Matador coupe and the above wagon in the same issue of the American Motors Owners Association's club classifieds, but did not expect the wagon to list at more than the coupe. After all, the coupes have shown blips of life in the collector-car scene as of late, but the wagons and four-doors, with their vastly different styling, normally receive much less attention. Whichever you choose (we suggest both--together they're still less than 10 large), you're going to get a comfortable car with ample power.

Lincoln Mark V

(*HMN*, March 2007)

Givenchy Designer Series, dark green, one owner, very low mileage, \$8,000. SC

1979

Oldsmobile Cutlass Calais

(*Journey With Olds*, Jan 2007)

Original paint and interior in almost perfect condition. Needs headliner. Original Rally wheels. Under 20,000 miles. Needs AC compressor and gas gauge. Driven daily. Runs great. \$2,500. NC

1983

Jeep Grand Wagoneer

(HMN, March 2007)

Limited Edition, new tires, 4,000 miles on second motor, very good condition. \$4,000.

We broke the 1980 cutoff for this one because the Grand Wagoneer remained nearly the same from the Wagoneer's introduction in 1963 to Chrysler's deletion of the nameplate in 1991. Collectors seem to clamor for these, but rust issues often mow prices down into burger-budget territory. Even so, a bullet-proof drivetrain and go-anywhere four-wheel drive make these worth having for brief forays off road and for soaking up potholes in the grocery store's parking lot.

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