

# Larry Butcher, Fresh Out Of The Navy Jumps Into First Collector Car Rebuild

By Larry Butcher, Chesapeake Region  
--Part One--

Could there be a better place to start than in a Navy Seabee Barracks in Guantanamo Cuba? That's right! It was the end of another work day and while walking through the barracks, heading for my 'rack', (Navy jargon for 'bunk') I noticed we had mail call and the mail was dropped off at each rack. On one of the racks I noticed a small book with pictures of old cars on the cover. The magazine was 'Hemming's Motor News.'

This was The spring of 1965, and Hemming's was still using the booklet format. I asked my fellow Seabee if I could read it when he was finished, "sure help yourself." That was it, I was hooked! I paged through the maga-

zine. Couldn't believe the prices, such as a 1934 Ford Phaeton for \$350, complete. I noticed a full page ad to join the LCOC (Lincoln Continental Owners Club.) I loved these cars since I was a little kid. I mailed in my subscription, but didn't get my first issue of the 'Continental Comments' until I was discharged from the Navy.

Now, fast forward a bit; it is now the fall of 1966 and I have received several issues of 'Comments.' I have to have one these old Continentals!

## Watching the classified ads...

If you've lived in the Baltimore area during the 1950s and 60s, the Baltimore Sun published a large Sunday classified section. I would turn right to the antique auto section as soon as I received the paper. One Sunday as I scanned the ads, there it was! For Sale: 1947 Lincoln Continental Convertible with V12 engine \$650.

I couldn't wait to get home from work to call the number listed. A man answered with a very professional tone to his voice, "Monterey Motors." Well, what do you know, a used car lot! I asked if he still had the '47 Lincoln, and could I look at it tonight. He said "sure", he'll be there at the lot for a while. I must have been desperate because it was about 8 pm and 25 degrees outside. You know how car guys are. When you have your eye on something, go for it! The car lot was on Eastern Avenue, about 10 miles from where I was living.

This was a genuine 1947 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet! I found Monterey Motors with no trouble, right on Eastern Avenue, Baltimore

County among a group of small used car lots. The office was about the size of an average dining room, with a small kerosene stove, a 12 inch black & white television, playing a rerun of 'I Love Lucy.' The reception was poor, because the 'vertical hold' was flipping; didn't



Larry Butcher's first collector car rebuild was the 1942 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet (above) that had been updated to 1946-'48 model. Larry reinstalled the original V12 flathead engine after removing an overhead valve V8. Picture was taken in the spring of 1967.--Larry Butcher photo.

matter I was here to see the Continental! The owner was something else, his name was Tom Buehler. He was a classic 'used car salesman' right out of the movies. He was leaning back on a chair with his feet upon a desk and a cigarette clenched in teeth. After we got through the introductions, I asked to see the car, he replied "I'll go get it." Outside under a string of 100 watt light bulbs, and out of the shadows creeps this belching, popping, smoking sorry looking Mark I Lincoln Continental. It sat there on fast idle, open exhaust and I thought, I came out on a cold, windy night for this? But, it was a Lincoln Continental!

## Crummy weld on hinge...

I opened the door and looked inside, with very little light I noticed cheap cracked seat covers over equally cracked original leather seats. The door panels were also covered in plastic and caught as the door was closed. The dash had been spray painted with a coat of metallic maroon lacquer. The top was worn out white vinyl with an incorrect rear window. I closed the driver's door and noticed it did not close on first try. After a couple of attempts, I noticed why. Sometime in it's abused life, the door must have swung open and cracked the hinge. To repair, instead of replacing the hinge it was lap welded so it would never close properly but constantly dig into the leaded door pillar. Oh well, it is a Lincoln Continental!

Part 2 Continued in June Bulletin...

# How Does Gasoline Compare In Price To Other Products, By The Gallon?

I received an interesting email from Gary Ruby recently. It has to do with the price of a gallon of gasoline and many other products consumers use on a daily basis.

We all know that for the past year or so, gasoline prices have gone down significantly. For decades, the oil companies, oil exporting countries and gas station operators have gouged the driving public with outlandish gasoline prices. Now that the shoe is on the other foot, these same entities are squealing like a 'stuck pig.' They are trying as hard as they can to get oil and fuel prices back up and beyond what they were before they began to fall. This made me think, how does the cost of a gallon of gasoline compare with a gallon of say...MILK? I pay \$2.89 for a gallon of one per cent milk at Target, which is less than most other stores. Currently, \$2.89 is more than the cost of a gallon of regular 87 octane gasoline.

The following examples, they are not meant to imply that gasoline is cheap, they simply illustrate how outrageous some prices are. If you think a gallon of gasoline is expensive, this list compares gasoline to other products' prices per gallon and puts it into perspective. The price of the listed items may not be the most economical size, but they are popular choices.

Lipton Ice Tea, 16 oz, \$1.19 .....	\$ 9.52 per gallon
Coca Cola, 16 oz, \$1.25 .....	\$10.00 per gallon
Gatorade, 20 oz, \$1.59 .....	\$10.17 per gallon
Diet Snapple, 16 oz, \$1.29 .....	\$10.32 per gallon
Starbuck's Reg. Coffee 16 oz, \$2.10.....	\$16.80 per gallon
Evian WATER, 9 oz, \$1.49 .....	\$21.19 per gallon
Liquid Whiteout, 7 oz, \$1.39 .....	\$25.42 per gallon
Brake Fluid, 12 oz, \$3.15 .....	\$33.60 per gallon
Scope, 1.5 oz, \$0.99 .....	\$84.48 per gallon
Pepto Bismol, 4 oz, \$3.85 .....	\$123.20 per gallon
Vick's Nyquil, 6 oz, \$8.35 .....	\$178.13 per gallon

Ever wonder why 'low-end' ink-jet printers are so inexpensive? They are priced to hook consumers into purchasing so printer manufacturers can sell them ink! I don't know how accurate the following figure is, but printer ink has been calculated to cost: \$5,200 per gallon!

I recently had a minor bout with an eye irritation. My ophthalmologist prescribed a FIVE (cc) cubic centimeter bottle of eye drops, the cost was \$30.00. That's about 40 cents a drop! There are 3,785.412 cubic centimeters in one gallon. Extrapolating that into FIVE cc bottles would cost: \$22,712.47...for ONE gallon, big Pharma strikes again! Maybe my discount coupon will lower it to \$22,700.00.

The lesson to be learned here; although gasoline isn't cheap, just be glad your automobile doesn't run on printer ink, or heaven forbid... eye drops!--Bill Wurzell, Editor