

THE BARN FINDS OF MCACN 2022

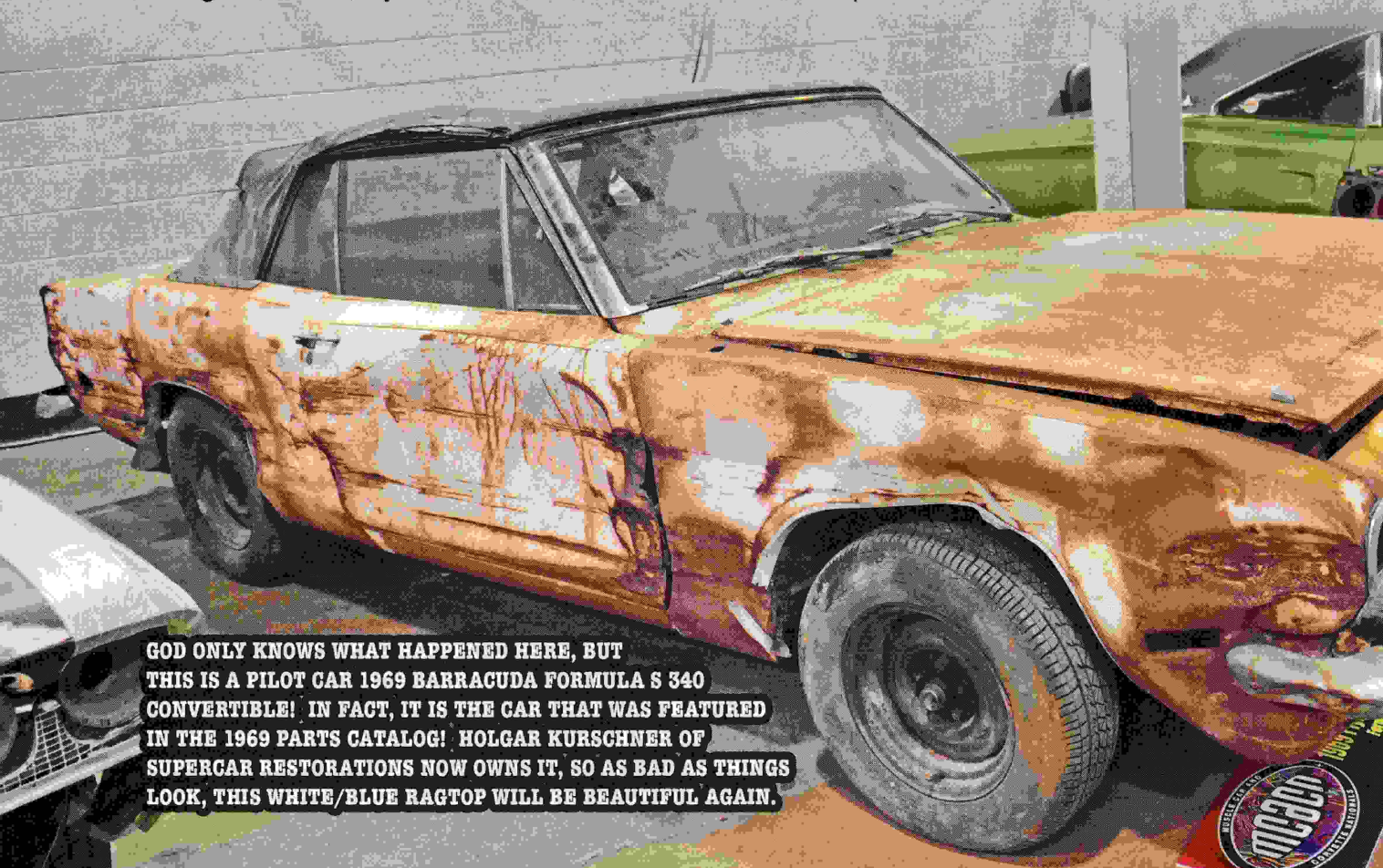
Once again, one of the most popular features with spectators at the MCACN event in Chicago was the "Barn Finds" section, where master promoter and all-around nice guy Bob Ashton invites those lucky enough to have found diamonds in the rough to display their vehicles "as found" before having them restored or worked on. Ryan Brutt, Mr. "Auto Archeology" himself, and author of two books on long-lost muscle cars, works hand-in-hand with Bob to put the display together each year, and it's something of Ryan's little show within the show; most of these vehicles he's known since they were discovered, and more often than not, he's the guy who introduced their existence to Bob, and once again for 2022, Ryan and

Bob put together a myriad of unrestored cars that knocked everybody's socks off. Yes, there were a large number of Brand X vehicles in this section as well, some of which were extremely notable, but of course, we're just going to showcase the Mopar-oriented machines and give you a little taste of what you missed.

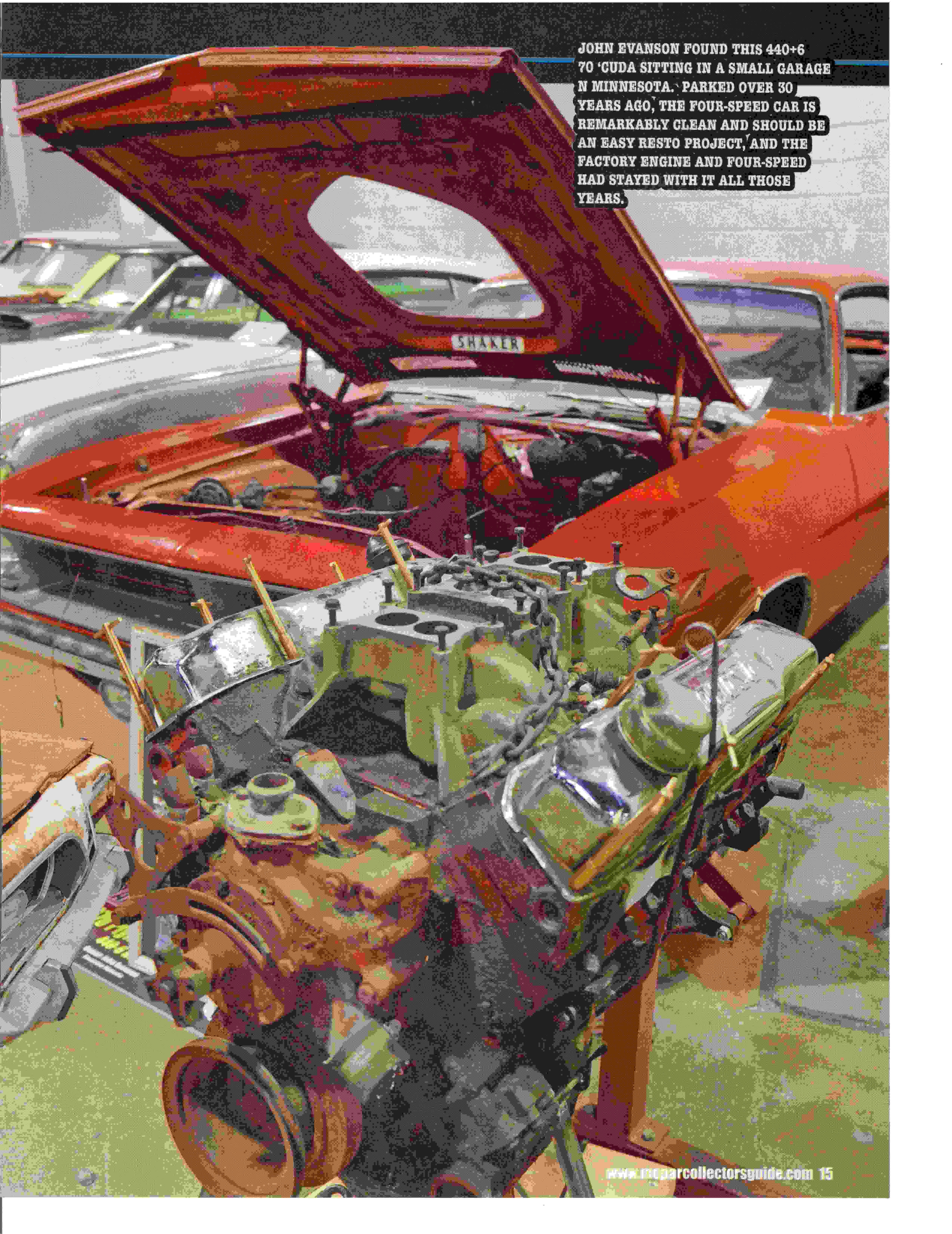
Starting at the front of the display, there was an astonishing triple black '70 Hemicuda hardtop Ryan featured on his Automotive Archeology YouTube channel last year. The 'Cuda was owned by a Mopar fanatic we'll simply identify as "Danny," who still has a number of noteworthy Mopars tucked away in several buildings in Arkansas. He bought the car from a friend way back in 1978, won the lottery in Memphis years ago, and moved to Arkansas with his Mopars

in 2011, which was when this machine was tucked away in one of his storage buildings. This is a factory triple black car that originally had a black vinyl top, power disc brakes, power steering, a black Shaker bubble, the front rubber bumper is factory, and it had a six-way driver's seat, an AM/FM stereo 8-track with three speaker dash, and it's a factory four-speed car with a 4.10 Dana 60! The car was finally hauled out of the shed by its new owner, Billy Harmon, in February 2022, and Billy, in turn, sold it to its current owner, Tom Rosemann of Pacific, Missouri. Once this one is restored, it's going to be a heart-breaker, as this is definitely one of the most heavily optioned '70 Hemicudas out there.

Another E-body featured on

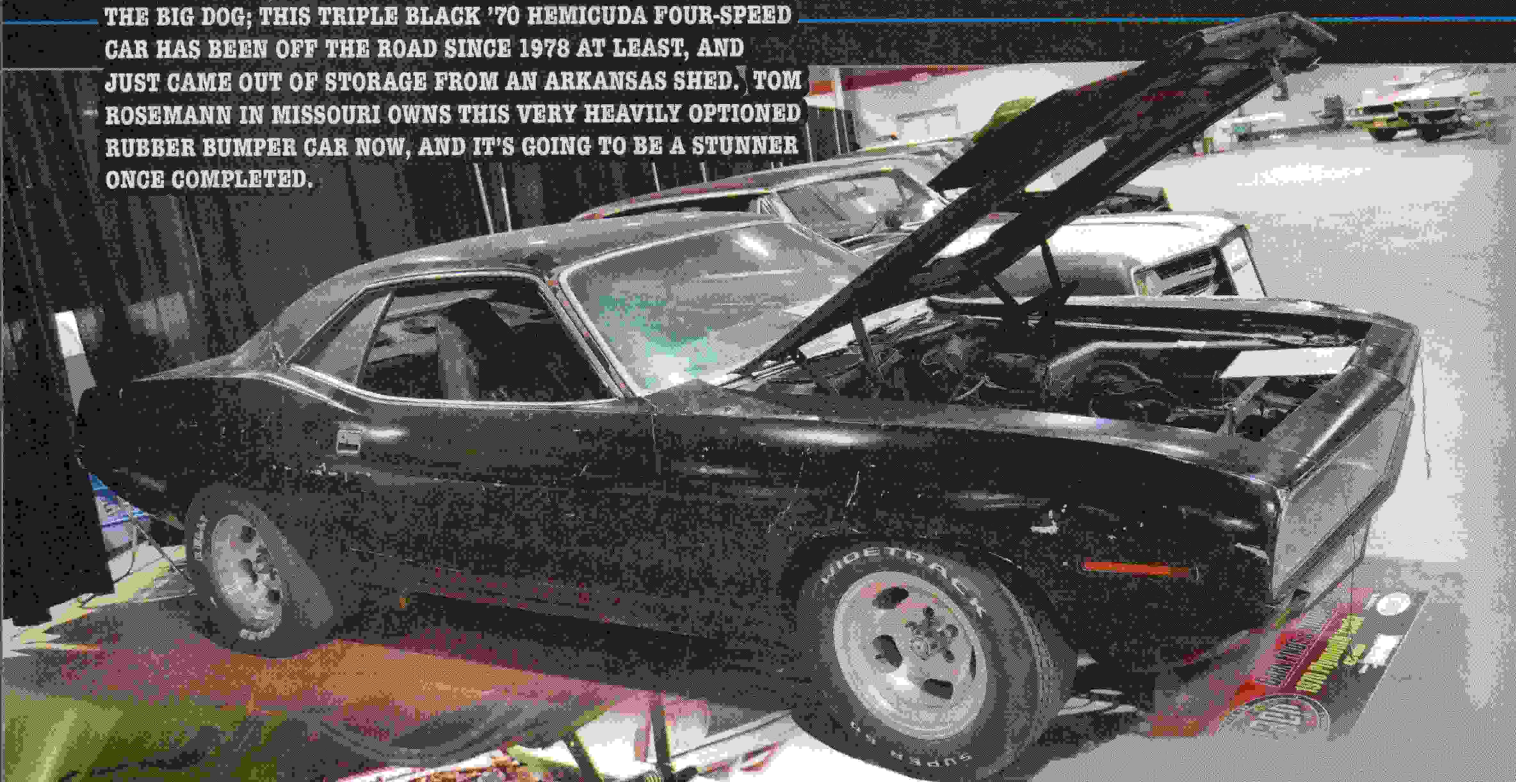


GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED HERE, BUT THIS IS A PILOT CAR 1969 BARRACUDA FORMULA S 340 CONVERTIBLE! IN FACT, IT IS THE CAR THAT WAS FEATURED IN THE 1969 PARTS CATALOG! HOLGAR KURSCHNER OF SUPERCAR RESTORATIONS NOW OWNS IT, SO AS BAD AS THINGS LOOK, THIS WHITE/BLUE RAGTOP WILL BE BEAUTIFUL AGAIN.

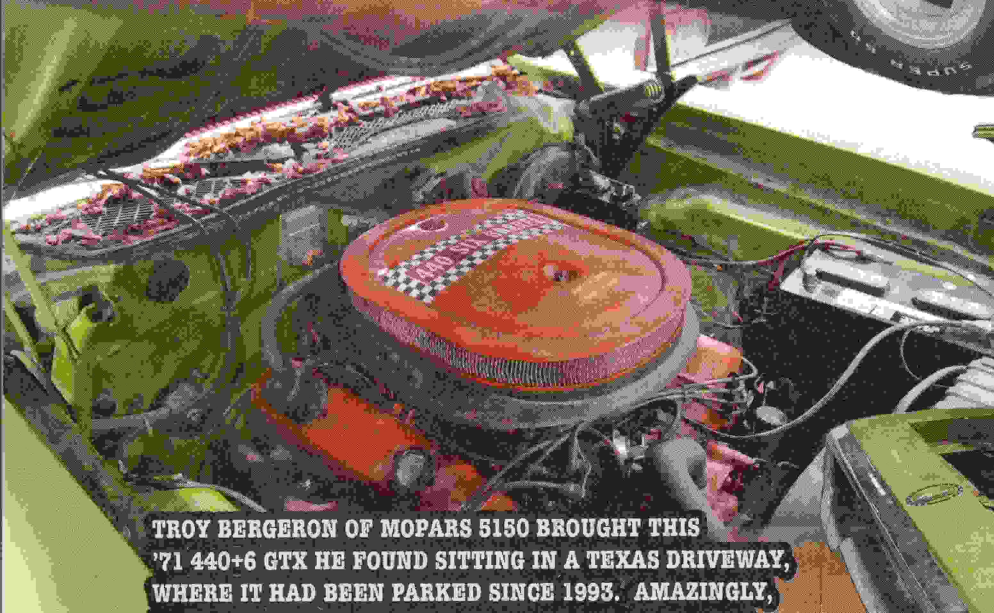


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THE BIG DOG; THIS TRIPLE BLACK '70 HEMICUDA FOUR-SPEED CAR HAS BEEN OFF THE ROAD SINCE 1978 AT LEAST, AND JUST CAME OUT OF STORAGE FROM AN ARKANSAS SHED. TOM ROSEMANN IN MISSOURI OWNS THIS VERY HEAVILY OPTIONED RUBBER BUMPER CAR NOW, AND IT'S GOING TO BE A STUNNER ONCE COMPLETED.



TROY BERGERON OF MOPARS 5150 BROUGHT THIS '71 440+6 GTX HE FOUND SITTING IN A TEXAS DRIVEWAY, WHERE IT HAD BEEN PARKED SINCE 1993. AMAZINGLY, TROY HAD THE ORIGINAL 440 RUNNING GOOD BEFORE THE EVENT!



THIS ORIGINAL MR. NORM'S '69 SUPER BEE WAS SAVED BY A MISSOURI SALVAGE YARD, OF ALL PEOPLE, WHO REALIZED WHAT IT WAS AND THEN SOLD TO COLLECTOR KENNETH FLEMMING, WHO'S ALREADY REBUILT THE 383 AND HAD THE CAR RUNNING AND DRIVING.



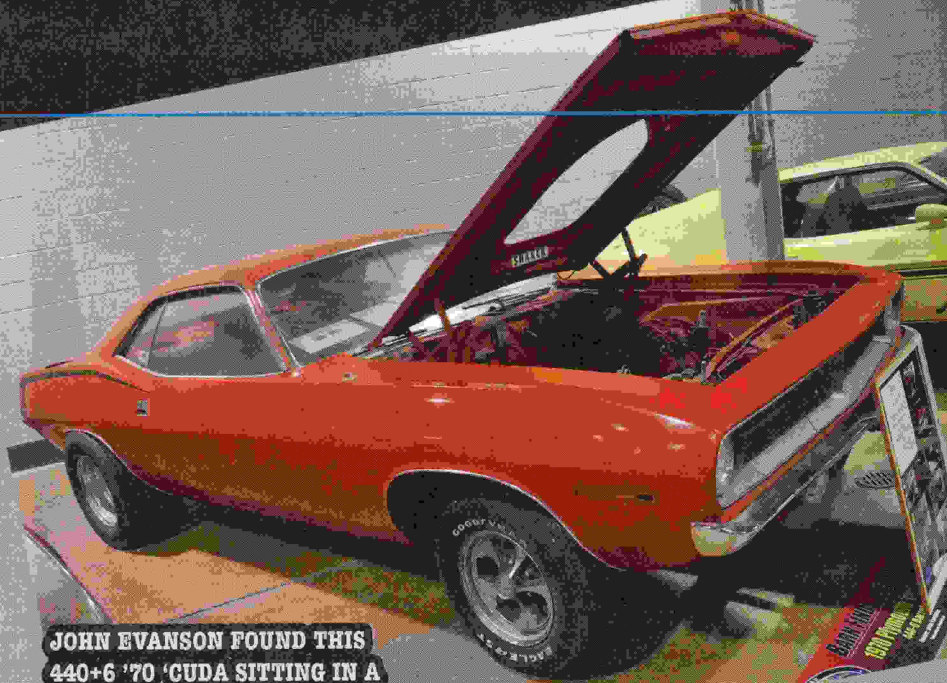
Ryan's YouTube channel was the multi-colored '71 Challenger R/T 340 car, now owned by Keith Noel of Noel Automotive in West Branch, Iowa. This is an original Citron Yella (Curious Yellow) car that had long been sitting in a barn in Iowa and had raccoons living in it at one time! Keith managed to buy the 340 car earlier this year and used a side loader to get it out of the building, and amazingly, got the original 340 running in relatively short order. She's a rare one and unusual for not having power steering or power brakes. The TorqueFlite on the floor still lives, and she now runs, drives, and will get a full-bore restoration starting in 2023.

Still, another car featured on Ryan's YouTube channel, a dark green metallic '69 Super Bee received a lot of attention as it was a completely original Mr. Norm's Grand Spaulding car time capsule. With the basic 383 hooked to a column-shift TorqueFlite, other than the Ramcharger hood, the car was relatively vanilla, but Clay & Sons Salvage Yard in Missouri found it and kept the somewhat rusty green car from being junked, selling it to enthusiast Kenneth Flemming in South



Carolina, who rebuilt the factory original 383 and a warranty replacement 727 that had been installed in the early seventies, but he left the car otherwise just as it was found – complete with a giant metal mechanic's tool chest that had been in the trunk for ages!

Troy Bergeron, of Mopars



JOHN EVANSON FOUND THIS 440+6 '70 'CUDA SITTING IN A SMALL GARAGE IN MINNESOTA. PARKED OVER 30 YEARS AGO, THE FOUR-SPEED CAR IS REMARKABLY CLEAN AND SHOULD BE AN EASY RESTO PROJECT, AND THE FACTORY ENGINE AND FOUR-SPEED HAD STAYED WITH IT ALL THOSE YEARS.

5150 out in California, brought one of his latest toys to the show; a 1971 Sassy Grass 440+6 GTX that he discovered sitting in a driveway in Texas. The car was supposedly sold new in Waco and spent most of its life in Austin, where it was parked in a driveway in 1993. Troy got the four-speed car up and running (with one allegedly terrifying backfire involved) and the pole holding the Air Grabber hood up was a nice touch for showgoers!

Jeff and Brent Kultgen had one of the most forlorn-looking Superbirds we've seen in a while, which was pulled out of a garage about two months before MCACN. The Lemon Twist yellow car is missing its beak and its original 440, but what's left of the car is surprisingly solid, so this one should be a relatively easy resto.

The second car present out of the "Danny" collection formerly stashed away in an Arkansas shed

was an uber-rare 1970 Challenger R/T in Hemi Orange with a factory tan bucket seat interior. This car had been in Augusta, Georgia before being put away in Arkansas in 2011. Missing its original engine, Bill "Maverick" Golden built a new Hemi for it, but the resto project never got underway. Heavily loaded, Jesse Heberling ended up being the lucky new owner of this one, and it should be a showstopper once completed.

The most daunting-looking Mopar there was a '69 Barracuda Formula S convertible that was a pilot car, having serial # 100026. Holgar Kurshner bought the car from his cousins in Indiana back in 2016, but it's never been shown publicly. Being the owner/operator of Supercar Restorations in Wellsville, New York, the convert has been on the back burner since he got it, but it is running with a replacement 340, while the original 340 with a bizarre serial number pad is still with the car. This is the car that's shown in the 1969 Plymouth parts manual, and was originally Alpine White with a blue interior and a lot of options! It spent most of its life in Washington State and was last titled in 1978, and obvi-

THIS CAR WAS RESCUED FROM THE SAME ARKANSAS SHED AS THE BLACK HEMICUDA PICTURED ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE. THIS HEMI ORANGE '70 CHALLENGER R/T WITH A RARE TAN INTERIOR. ANOTHER HEAVILY OPTIONED CAR, IT HAD BEEN PUT AWAY IN 2011 AFTER SPENDING MANY YEARS OFF THE ROAD IN GEORGIA. JESSE HEBERLING OWNS IT NOW, AND BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, THE RESTORATION WILL BE UNDERWAY.





ously, this poor girl had a very rough life!

The cleanest "barn find" was John Evanson's 1971 440+6 'Cuda that was found in a small garage in Inner Grove Heights, Minnesota. The Hemi Orange 'Cuda had been put away thirty years ago, but the numbers matching engine and four-speed are still with it, along with most of the original parts, so this one should be another relatively easy restoration and it's another very heavily optioned car that had been driven hard and put away early.

There was also a super rusty 1969 Charger 500 in the display, along with a green A12 Super Bee that's made several events this sum-

mer, also a blue Charger Daytona that was a bit of a late entry, and some pretty significant Ford products, but we'll leave those for some other magazine.

Congrats to Bob Ashton and Ryan Brutt for pulling off this sensational gathering of dusty iron yet again. These guys never fail to find very entertaining machines and coax their owners into making the haul to

Chicago. If you haven't been to MCACN, you need to make it a priority, Bob's made this into the "big dance" of muscle car events, and you'll see cars here that you'll not see anywhere else. It might be in Chicago in the winter, and sometimes the weather can be brutal, but it's well worth the effort, so mark your calendars for 2023 and buy some warm socks! ✱



THIS '71 CHALLENGER R/T 340 STARTED LIFE IN CITRON YELLA'. KEITH NOEL OF NOEL AUTOMOTIVE IN IOWA RESCUED IT FROM AN IOWA BARN EARLIER IN 2022, AND AT ONE TIME, THE DODGE HAD BEEN A HOME FOR RACCOONS!