

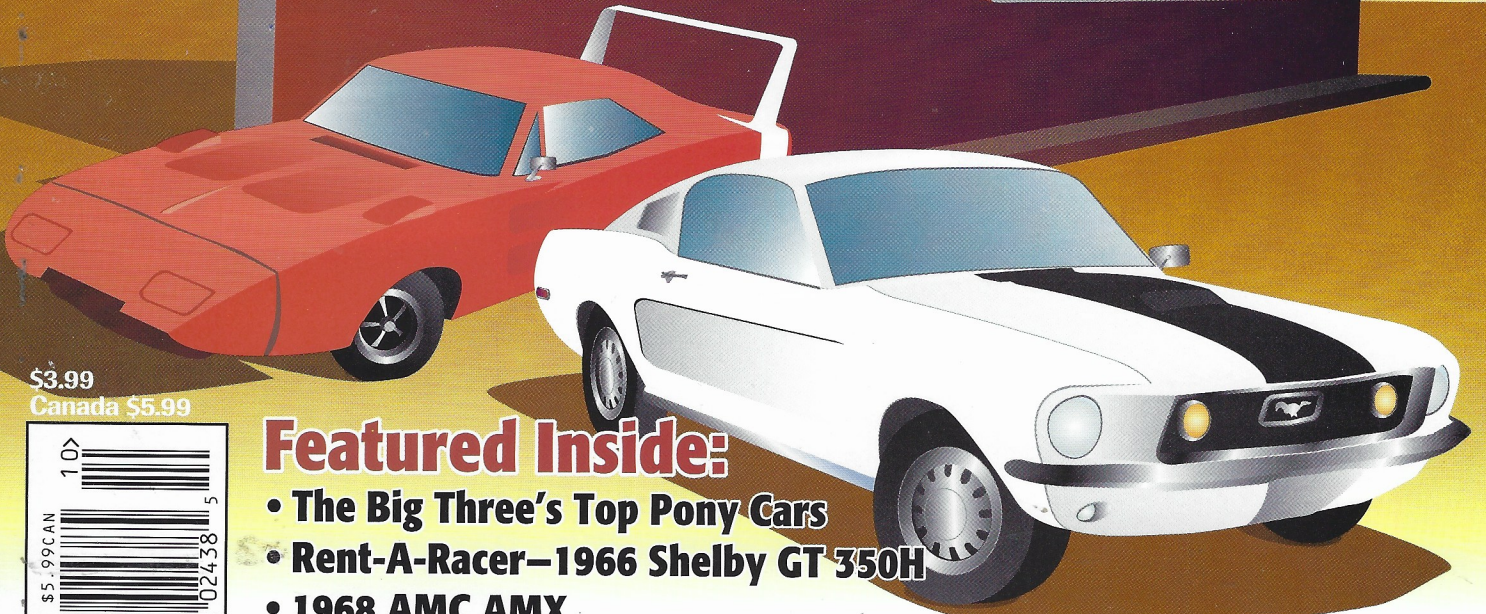
October 2002

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# CAR COLLECTOR

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OCTOBER 2002

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## 2002 Sloan Summer Auto Fair

### *Museum On The Campus*

There's an excellent auto museum on the lovely campus of the Cultural Center of Flint, Michigan, the city in which General Motors was founded. For 30 years, the Sloan Museum (named for legendary GM chairman Alfred P. Sloan), with help from local clubs, has been putting on a diverse and excellent show of historic cars called the Sloan Summer Auto Fair.

This year's June 21-23 celebration began with the popular Friday cruise from the A&W Drive-In in nearby Flushing through Flint to the Cultural Center, which this year attracted some 300 cars. The Saturday and Sunday show featured a total of about 650 vehicles and with clear, sunny weather throughout the weekend (no rain, for a change) roughly 8,000 spectators at \$5 each, helped make it one of the best ever as a fund-raiser for the museum.

One special Sloan 2002 feature was the debut of the 50th Anniversary Corvette Historic Motorama, a traveling road show of one privately-owned Corvette from each production year 1953 through 2002, plus a Chevy-supplied Wine Red 50th anniversary 2003 model. Organized by the National Corvette Museum, this impressive Corvette caravan began in Flint (where the first few Corvettes were built), stopped at GM's Warren, Michigan, Technical Center on the following Monday, then headed south to the current plant and the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky, stopping briefly in St. Louis, Missouri, home of Corvette production from 1953 to 1981.

The Sloan show has prospered for 30 years partly because of the hard work and hospitality of its organizers



One of the featured attractions at this year's show was the 50th Anniversary Corvette Historic Motorama. The display includes one privately-owned Corvette from each production year (1953-2002), plus a 50th Anniversary 2003 model.



At the 2002 Sloan Summer Auto Fair you could find a wide variety of cars displayed in one area. Shown here is a 1911 Buick and a BMW Mini.



Part of the event's charm is its eclectic mix of cars.



Vintage cars, such as these three gems, could be found throughout the grounds.

and largely due to its lovely, tree-shaded location and its wonderfully eclectic mix of vehicles. Open to any vehicle, with no classes or age restrictions, it typically offers the fairly new next to the very old, the fairly common with the very rare, and a few fascinating things you may have never seen before. There are also

kids' activities, music, museum tours and planetarium shows, plus a swap meet and a cars-for-sale lot.

Your author attended Sunday's show in three different roles—reporter for *Car Collector* magazine, owner of a '67 Corvette roadster entered for show, and recruiter of interesting hardware for the

upcoming August 11 Cars on Campus Charity Concours at Michigan State University in East Lansing. I was graciously hosted by the Flint Corvette Club, who allowed me to park my car among theirs, making it feel very much at home. A lot of clubs park together to make it a weekend social outing, proba-




Close to 8,000 spectators and 650 vehicles gathered for this year's Summer Auto Fair—making it one of the best-ever fund-raisers for the museum.

bly the largest of which is (of course, since it's in Flint) the local Buick Club. Otherwise, the cars are scattered about with little rhyme or reason. Some (myself included) would prefer group-

ings by class, but the random mix simply adds to the event's charm for most.

Awards at Sloan are tabulated by entrant votes and this year's Best of Show was a beautifully restored 1932 Chevrolet

roadster owned by Stan Bitel of Treverse City, Michigan. A casual car show in a great locale, the Sloan Summer Auto Fair is a great way to spend a three-day weekend among cars and friends. 

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