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Pre War BUICKS

The E-Magazine

BUICK CLUB OF
AUSTRALIA

PRE WAR DIVISION

"You are not alone,"

Editor's Comment

Do you ever have that dream that you come across an untouched pre war Buick that only needs a good bath to get back on the road?

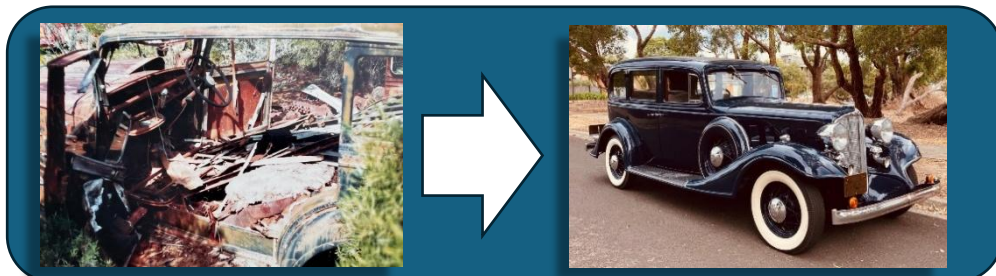
I expect that you are not alone, however, the chances of coming across such a car are probably pretty slim. Nevertheless, that shouldn't stop you from holding onto the dream and to also check in every abandoned shed and garage, just in case.

This Special Edition we go looking at what folks have come across over time by doing just that.

Sure, some of them needed a bit more than a bath, but after a century or so, what can you expect. Just to find a pre war Buick in original condition with all of its bits and pieces in place, what an event!

Check out the two photos. You may be more likely to find one in this condition, especially here in Australia, but don't despair, look how it turned out!

So, while our cover shot shows what you are more likely to find these days, if even that, we will run through a series of cars that the new lucky owners must consider a treasure chest recovered.



As Found 1931 Coupe



This video looks at a barn find 1931 Buick 2-passenger Business Coupe Model 66.

It appears to be rot-free, a solid car that would be an easy restoration to the right person.

Motorless when unloaded, one chap suggests that it would make a great street rod. Turn away now.

The interior is basically still there, including the rumble seat and even the gear box is still in the car.

Don't wince too much while the team give it a clean-up, perhaps they've not seen too many pre war cars?

Anyhow, an interesting video and the car was for sale from Iron City Garage in Pittsburgh PA at the time back in August 2022, so long gone now I would anticipate. Nevertheless, you can still view the video [HERE](#).

1918 E-49 7-Passenger Touring

Let's start with an easy to uncover barn find.

Easy, because it was uncovered many years ago and has been maintained in that condition ever since!

This 1918 Model E49 7-passenger Touring was a barn find back in 1969, and the owner decided to keep it as found.

It became for sale, due to the current owner reaching the grand old age of 90 and only now willing to pass it on, and it appeared on the Classic and Collector Car website a little while back however it is now sold, so you may have to keep looking.

We include the seller's description of the car and history FYI.

This amazingly well reserved example was purchased by the current owner in 1969 and maintained in original condition all these years. Think about that...it's only recently that the hobby has started to appreciate such cars. This owner was a bit of a pioneer really, one of the few that valued the well-worn patina of an original unrestored car. Time was luckily on his side and many people now have come around to his way to thinking.

These cars are now welcomed at concours events and are often the stars nowadays. Trust me, you'll get a lot more attention with this car than you will with just about any other restored car. This car has proved that. It's won awards at the shows in the area -the Dayton and Cincinnati Concours-both very prestigious events-and its driven there and back. The passionate caretaker takes the time to fully demonstrate its interesting external valve train engine and crowds gather. It's a pretty famous car really in the area, and rightfully so.

The car features Artillery Wheels, Dual Rear Spares, Wind Wings, Fat Man Steering Wheel, an Auxiliary Air Compressor, Exhaust Whistle, with a Water Faucet Mascot completing the package. The interior features unusual dealer installed cloth seat covers over the door panels and jump seats, some of which reveal the factory leather. Parts of the Original Seats are present and appropriately nondescription covers have been added over areas of failed upholstery. A new top had to be added when the remnants of a Hurricane hit the area and ripped the original to shreds on the way back from one show, and correct new side curtains have been added as well.

The Owner is now over 90 and ready to pass this car on to a new caretaker who will preserve the car for future generations to enjoy. The car is accompanied by a spare Engine, Gearbox, Radiator, 2 front fenders. 1 rear fender. and an extra set of Headlights.

This is a pretty special car.

"A pretty special car."



1918 Model E-49



Seen, Without Detail Photos

Just to prove that they are out there here's a couple of As Found cars that were recently for sale.



Above: 1912 Model 35 Touring, a survivor, one of just 6,050 made that year. Originally selling for US\$1,000 and weighing in at 2,100 pounds, the Model 35 was powered by a 165 cubic-inch four-cylinder motor that developed 22.5 horsepower and was first seen in the 1908 model year powering the famous Model 10 Buicks.



Above: Model 23-45 6 cylinder 5-passenger Touring owned by Budd Lace, a member of the Fredericksburg Region, Antique Automobile Club of America.

“They are out there . . .”

“Buick’s most popular . . .”

1923 From Barn to Garage

1923 was the year of the one millionth Buick produced.

It was also the year that this barn find Buick came off the production line.

The Model 23-6-45 was Buick’s five passenger Touring Car, one of nine available body styles that year in the six-cylinder range. Wheelbases for these cars were either 118 inch or 124 inch.

The 242 cubic-inch engine was again carried over from previous years and produced 27.3 SAE horsepower.

This was Buick’s most popular model this year with 45,227 examples made from a total production run of 201,572 vehicles. An additional 47 were produced for export.

The following note accompanied the photos we received.

This 1923 Buick that has steered clear of the WWII scrap drives and a 50-year time out in a Chicago garage has now found its new home.

Interesting front bumper

These photos come from the web and depict the car from the barn to its new home ready for necessary work to get back on the road.



In the Barn, it's under there somewhere!



1923 Model 23-
6-45 Touring



Another From 1923

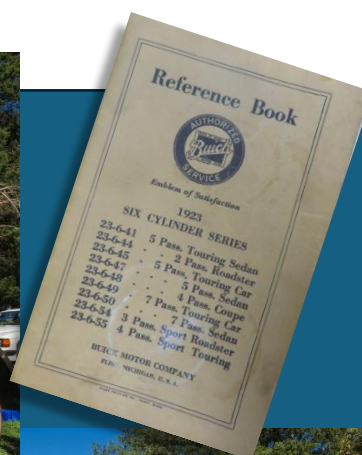
While we're on the subject of 1923 barn finds, or barn escapees perhaps, Flickr had this interesting set of photos depicting a Model 23-6-44 two passenger Roadster.

Seen on display at a car show in the US.

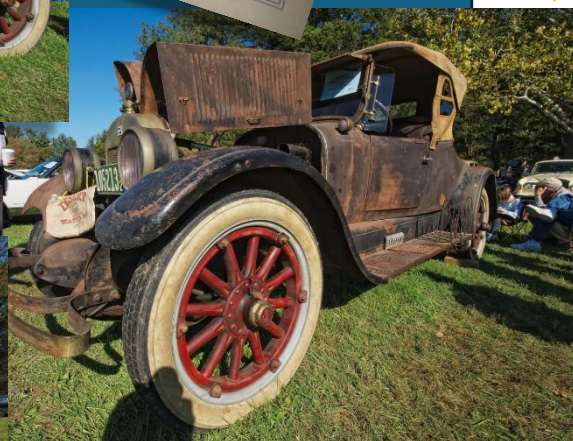
It certainly looks in reasonable condition although the front on photo does suggest there may be some issues with condition!

A great find, one of 6,488 sold that year.

This is the 118-inch wheelbase light Six model that sold for US\$1,175 when new.



Great find, “



1932 Model 56-S Coupe

Here's a find from 2023.

Don lives in Sunset, Texas and joined the Buick Car Club after he uncovered this fantastic find. A member of the Corvette car club at the time, he sought assistance for some of the issues that faced him in getting this remarkably cute Model 56-S back on the road.

Here is part of the information that Don put up on the chat forum at the time.

My name is Don, I am 75 and joined the Club last June. I met Pete Phillips at the Pre-War Chickasha swap meet and learned about BCA from him. Since then, I have had the opportunity to visit Pete's shop and purchased some much-needed parts. I am quite sure I will be buying more in the future. Thanks Pete

Now for the car. She is a 1932 Buick Series 56S, dual side mount tires with the golf club door. A barn find I was told that had sit in a North Texas barn for 30 plus years. That's all the history I know, I wish I knew more.

As you can see from the pictures, there is lots of rust. Every nut, bolt and screw are frozen. Surprisingly the only cancer was a few spots near the bottom of each door. The body is solid, mechanically can't say much, but the engine is not stuck, wood frame not so good. A long-term project with lots of highs and lows for sure. I enjoy a challenge!

Just proves that they are out still there.

The Series 50 engine for 1932 was increased to 230 cubic-inches.



What model is
it really?

The Mexican Connection

From June 2018 and AAACA website.

Gonzalo came across a barn find of dreamlike proportions.

Nine cars in good shape about 100 km north of Mexico City, and all to be sold as a single lot.

He did end up getting the lot and has no doubt moved them on since then.

The car of special interest was a 1927 Master series Touring car. The debate on the forum settled on it being a Model 49, a model that we were unable to identify in the 1927 brochures of the day.

For 1927 we could not identify any seven passenger Touring cars! Indeed, it seemed that the last seven passenger touring was produced back in 1925, the Model 49.

Notwithstanding our confusion, the car is a beautiful example of the Buick marque and certainly one not to be left in a barn.

Enjoy some of the photos and perhaps you can identify it better than the forum followers.

You can go [HERE](#) to rekindle the debate.





1925 - 1927?



The Mt Pleasant Cache

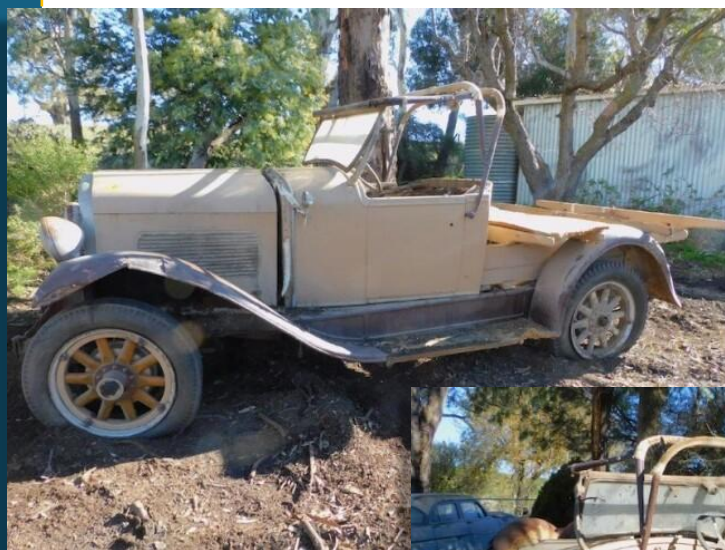
From August last year at a clearance sale held at Mt Pleasant, South Australia.

Seven Buicks in varying stages of disrepair were available on the day.

They are definitely still out there; barn finds that is. Although these are no doubt long gone!

Here are some photos from the catalogue.

Model 24 . . ?



Buick Big
Six buck-
board
approx.
1926



More from the Mt Pleasant, South Australia auction.



Buick Pick-up
truck possibly
Model 41 1929



Buick Master
Six, 1925



And ...

Buick Model
24-45



And finally ...



Four cylinder
Buick



Buick Model
26-25



1912 Model 35 Touring



UK barn find . . .

In May 2017, the UK Telegraph newspaper ran a story about a great cache of barn-find autos for sale.

A total of 11 cars and 34 bikes, all owned by the one owner, were uncovered in Berkshire UK and were offered for sale that June.

Interestingly, the collection was known as the Home Farm Collection, a fitting name for a barn find of this proportion.

Not quite an A-to-Z collection, more like an A to R, for Rover collection.

However, there was one pre war Buick up for grabs, a now quite rare 1912 Model 35 Touring.

In 1912, this was Buick's most popular Model, selling 6,050 units at US\$1,000 apiece. The auctioneer estimated its value in 2017 at between £6,000 and £8,000.

When new the Model 35 came in dark blue body, black mudguards and grey wheels. Our photo shows the Buick to be very much in that same scheme and while we can't confirm if it is the original paint, it may well be!

No other detail about the Buick was included in the newspaper article, but the photo surely would have been enough to attract buyers.



Barn Find . . Designs!

Sometimes you get something entirely different at a barn sale.

This was the case when Josh Quick went to an estate sale in Upstate New York on the hunt for antique tractor parts. What he stumbled across was a binder full of drawings, all of which were secured within plastic protective sleeves.

Obviously not an item you might expect to sell at this type of auto-based auction, the auctioneer gave them to Josh for free!

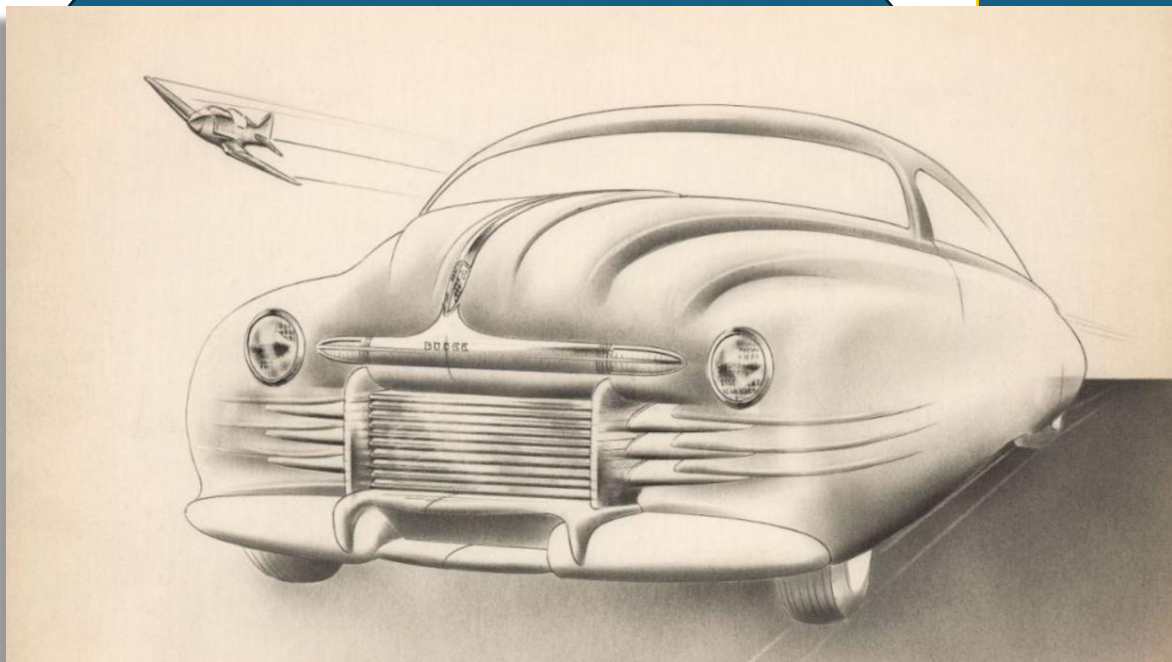
The drawing turned out to be done by students at the Detroit Institute of Automobile Styling and while not yet likely to influence pre war styling the list of names on the drawings will let you know that they soon would be doing just that.

Ned Nickles, creator of what many believe to be America's most beautiful coupe, the Series I Riviera (1963) is named on at least one drawing. Also named are Hoe Oros, Clare MacKinhan, Elwood Engel and Ed Glowacke.

If not for the onset of World War II, these designs may well have been in the running for the 1942 Buick line.

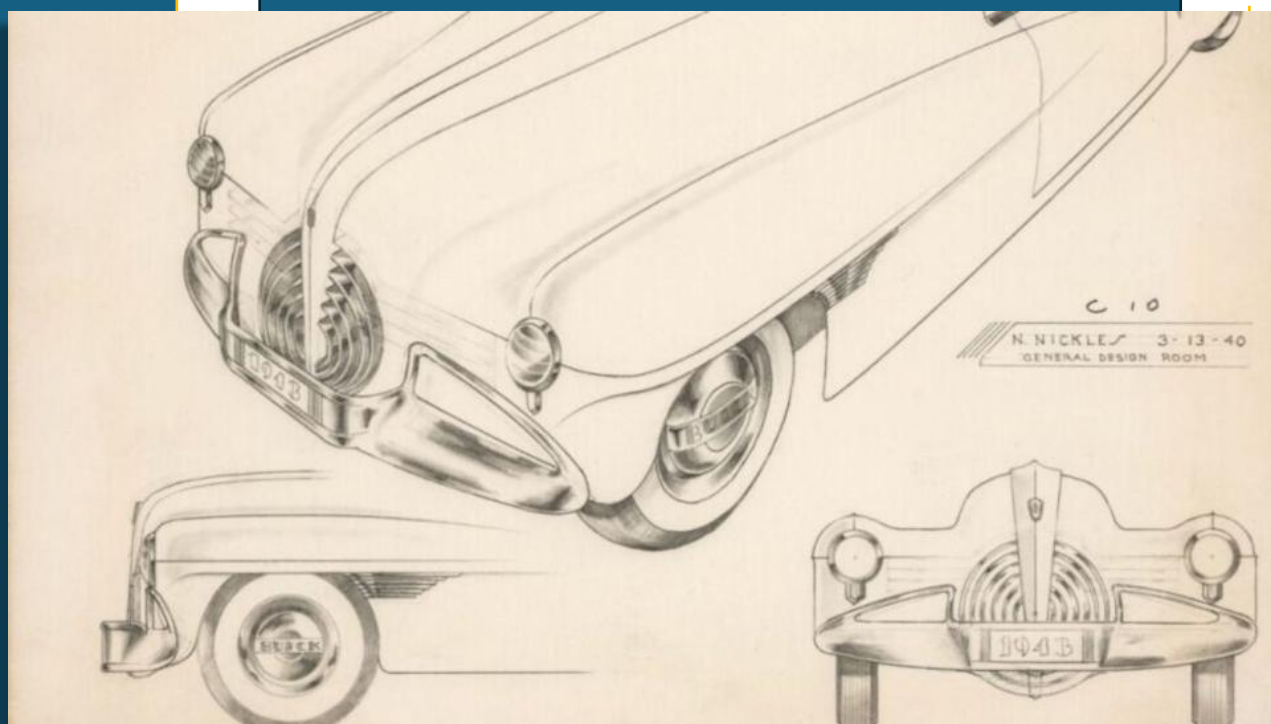
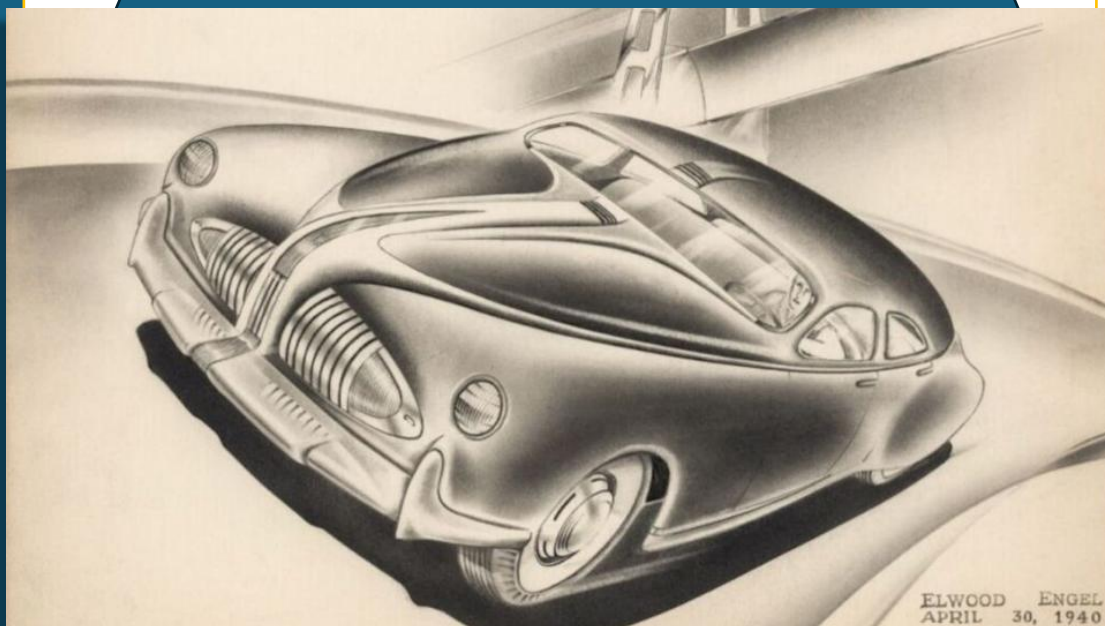
Enjoy some barn finds that are a little different than you might have expected.

All images via
GM



Elwood Engle
drawing at
Right

Ned Nickles
drawing Below



Containered 90 Series 1937

Occasionally finding the barn find is the easy bit, getting it into your garage, if you want it, is another matter altogether.

This owner wasn't selling; the photographer just happened to spot the car when the container door was open by the looks of the story.

This Buick turned up on the Barn Find website with a request to identify it. The guy who took the photo did eventually reveal it to be 1937 McLaughlin Buick complete with driver's compartment divider glass still intact.

Two Buick models had the disappearing glass partition in 1937, the Model 91-F 6-passenger Formal Trunk Sedan and the Model 90-L Limited Limousine.

If you can tell what model it is, let us know here at Pre War BUICKS.

Whatever model it is, I just want one!

"Complete with driver's compartment divider glass . . ."



“drive it as is . . .”

1920 K-45 Ute

Back in 2018 a K-45 Buick came up for sale on eBay some years back and while it had spent considerable time, 71 years unregistered and almost 50 years since last started, it appeared to be in rather good condition.

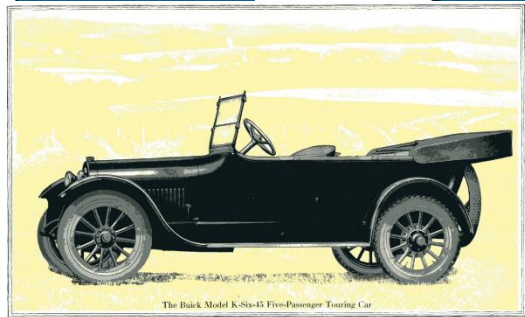
The rear tub was gone to make way for a commercial and thus more usable rear, suggesting that this Minnesota car was no doubt a farm appliance during the war, and possibly pre war.

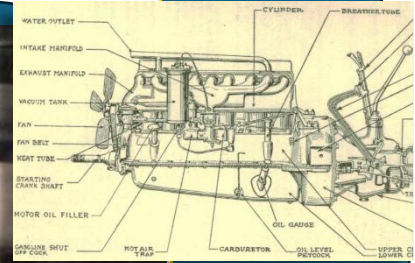
It was reported that the Buick had never left the ownership of the original family that bought it new, at the time of auction.

When new in 1920, a K-45 Touring was Buick's most popular model with 85,245 examples made for domestic use and an additional 7,400 were built for export. Any enormous percentage when you consider that Buick production for the 1920 model year was only 115,176 cars.

It was powered by a 242 cubic inch six that provided 60 brake horsepower. Our diagram from the Buick Maintenance book of 1920 indicates the originality of the engine remains intact.

All in all, this appears to be a very easy restoration or just drive it as is, as would be the case here in Australia in recent years, preserving its history, conversion and all. Perhaps after fitting some new tyres.





“Just drive it . . .”



A Small Barn Find

Of course there are other barn-find Buicks out there that must be considered.

How about this little gem, located at Pallamallawa, NSW and advertised on eBay last year.

A snip at \$6,000.

The photos appear to have a fog over them, but that may be something to do with the area . . ?

As far as restoration goes, it may be somewhat easier to get this little Buick back into working and usable condition than a full sized pre war Buick but we are assured by collectors that the thrill of the end product is no less exhilarating.

“... no less
exhilarating.”



Barn Find Photos

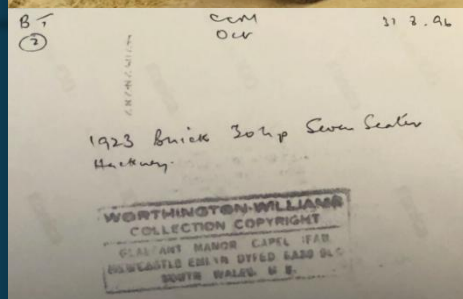
Why go to the trouble of collecting barn find Buicks, they could end up being a lot of work, why not settle for some barn find photos!

Just a thought.

Here's one that came up on eBay with the annotation on the rear of the postcard suggesting that it was a 1923 30 horsepower seven seat touring. You would all be aware that it is not that. The Packard style grille being the obvious give away.

It also indicates that the photo was taken in 1998 and this may well be the case.

So, even if you do go collecting barn find photos, don't necessarily think that you will have no sleuthing to do!



May still require some sleuthing.

What Next in the E-Magazine

We go far, far away from barn finds next Special Edition when we track down some ultra-modern, for the time, race cars.

These are no ordinary race cars they are the Buick Marquette Specials, the Buick Bugs.

The development, what make a bug a Bug, the need for vengeance.

What did they achieve in their extremely short racing career?

The drivers: brave or foolhardy, you decide.

Where did the design come from, we make some suggestions.

Where are they now and what colour were they really?

Plenty of other Bug issues covered in our next Special Edition of Pre War BUICKS, The Buick Bugs!



The Buick Car Club of Australia Qld Inc.

Web: buickcarclubaustralia.com

This e-magazine is produced under the auspices of the Buick Car Club of Australia Qld Inc. to cater for the needs of car enthusiasts with an interest in Pre War Buicks.

It is a medium created for the exchange of stories and ideas. Its aim is to support enthusiasts in the preservation and use of the Buick Automobiles built between 1903 and the end of 1941.

The editors welcome contributions at prewarbuicks@gmail.com

The editors reserve the right to include submitted articles or not at their discretion.

When Better Automobiles Were Built
Buick Will Built Them, Pre War

Previous editions of the eMagazine are available here: [On Line Magazine](#)

And In The End

"98
horsepower,
wow!"

And in the end, you may well come across a pre war Buick like this barn find that was seen on Instagram (whatever that is) and was due to be auctioned.

1930 Model 68
Victoria Coupe with
98 horsepower, wow!

Keep looking, they are still out there!

