

CAPP PRESENTATION – OCTOBER 21, 2021

My talk with you today is going to focus on the appreciation side of the car discussion.

Why? Because a car is a truly unique development in human evolution.

Why is that? A car equals mobility, transportation to and from, it offers privacy and freedom.

In my lifetime the car has provided unparalleled opportunity that never existed before. Consider this: prior to WW2 few people other than the wealthy had access to a car. Young people like yourselves definitely did not. That meant that your sphere of experience was limited to where you could walk too, ride a bike or a horse. Maybe 5 to 10 miles at the most in any reasonable period of time. On big occasions you might ride a streetcar and go 20 or 30 miles away from home.

Things changed rapidly in the 50's. My oldest brother, 11 years older than me, never had access to a car until well into college. I had access by the time I was 15 and had my own when I was 17.

Instead of riding my bike around the neighborhood I could travel to other neighborhoods. I could cross whole cities to see friends in those different areas. That was not possible just 5 or 6 years before my time.

But let's back up a minute to a much earlier time to see what caused the car to even come about.

Who can guess what most significant invention in all of human development ended up in a car.

THE WHEEL

Prior to the wheel people dragged everything around and were very limited in what they could move or travel with. **SHOW SLIDE OF INDIAN TRAVERSE**

SHOW WHEEL USE from 3000 YEARS AGO, THEN INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, THEN MODERN LAMBO OR BUGATTI

Now I'll get more personal. I grew up in the very beginning to two life-changing social events.

ROCK AND ROLL MUSIC AND CARS AVAILABLE TO KIDS

Both were all about freedom and getting away from parental control.

Here is what our parents listened to – Perry Como **PLAY A SHORT CLIP**

Here is what we listened to. Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis Presley **PLAY A SHORT CLIP**

Here is what our parents drove. 49 Ford **PICTURE**

Here is what some of us drove – 56 Austin Healey **PICTURE**

The Ford is what you drove to the grocery store and the Healey was what you drove to the racetrack. And on the way you thrilled girls with the ride.

I bought mine at 19 as a sophomore in college. I drove it every day through winters in Minnesota. I drove it hard, raced it, crashed it, fixed it and did things with it and in it that you would find hard to believe. Let your imaginations run and you may get to some of the places.

But, there is something else even more profound about this car in my life.

It opened my eyes to the world- foreign cities, countries, and totally different cultures..

You see cars tell you a great deal about the country and people from where they come.

A phenomenon of the 50's was the development of the sports car for the average person. Most of the industrial counties of the period started to produce sports cars and they describe the culture of the countries where they were made.

Here they are; all from the mid 50's **PICTURES**

England – Jaguar, Austin Healey – 4- and 6-cylinder long stroke, big torque, strong noteworthy styling, a lot of power at low RPM. Hard suspension, innovation-first disc brakes.

Germany – MB 300 SLR- straight 8 – big bore and stroke, torque, brutish and strong, reliable, lot of power at low RPM- good suspension, but heavy

Italy – Ferrari and Alfa Romeo, Lancia, Fiat– Duel overhead cam 6's and V 12's. Small pistons, short stroke, high revving, not much power at low RPM, but look out when the revs went over 4000, stellar suspensions

US – Corvette – Bog bore V-8th Brute power, high torque, moderate RPMS, not very good suspensions. Kick ass on the straight aways, slug through corners and be passed by cars of much lower power.

All of them were relatively hard to drive. They took finesse. Time in the seat resulted in becoming a good driver.

My own Austin Healey for example, 4 speed, no synchro first and minimal synchro in the other gears. - Rev matching, double clutching

Here's the rub that you face. We grew up with these things when they were growing up themselves. They were relatively cheap- today most of them are not. But some are. Find the ones that can give you experience without costing a ton.

VWs, Datsun's, Toyotas Ford Focus. Don't care about their sex appeal, fix them up to run well, drive them for the sake of learning, really learning to drive a stick shift. Then when you can afford it, graduate up to something more appealing.

Then – DRIVE, DRIVE, DRIVE