

Book Reviews for Porschephiles

by Bruce Herrington, Orange Coast Region

Route 66 Barn Find Road Trip: Lost collector cars along the Mother Road

by Tom Cotter, photography by Michael Alan Ross

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It is easy to think of Route 66 as a California highway because of the great open stretches that still exist in Southern California, but it really was a national highway running 2278 miles from Chicago to Malibu. This book is a travel diary appropriately dealing with the food along the way as well as the road itself and, of course, *barn find* cars. Lead car and conversation starter for the trip was a 1939 Woody.

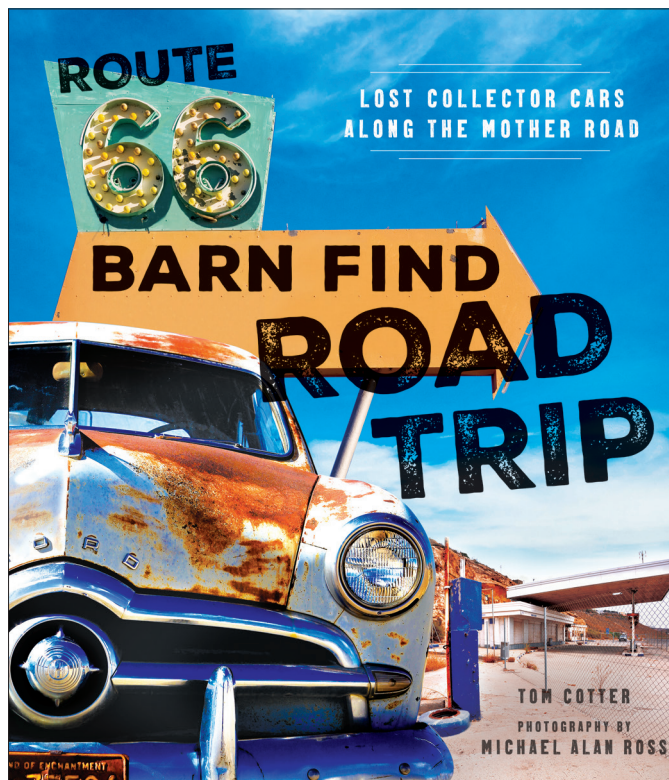
Be advised that the title - *Route 66 Barn Find* - is somewhat misleading in that most of the old cars described were found in driveways, car ports, back yards, open fields, or otherwise exposed. Some were found as *projects-in-work*, but few, if any, were the hidden away, long abandoned vehicle which comes to mind as a *barn find*. Indeed, many of the *barns* in which the described *finds* were located, were actually salvage yards.

There is no Porsche content in *Route 66*, but the trip does begin from the home of a 1963 356 Coupe owner in Highland Park, Illinois, and the book does adhere to the PCA mantra *It's not the cars; it's the people* that make this book such a great read.

Almost half of the text is about the owners of the cars spotted from the Route 66 pavement

Route 66 Barn Find is divided into eight sections, one for each of the states through which Route 66 passed (though only 13 miles were in Kansas). Fast-paced and engrossing, the sections have a separate named chapter for each collection (collections as distinct from museums or even displays). For example, in Moriarty, New Mexico the author found some 700 cars out in a field, some with trees growing through them – none for sale!

The chapter headings and various parts of the book have interesting Route 66 oriented artwork, like the graphics of the book's cover. Within each collection/chapter one or more cars and their restoration needs are described in detail. Some *finds* were vehicles that had been extensively hotrodged but not driven in decades.



The emphasis of this book is clearly on Detroit iron, no doubt reflecting the focus of the collectors rather than that of the author, but Datsuns, MGs and SAABs are reported on. While most of the collectors are not interested in selling cars from their collections, a few do sort of run businesses in old parts, but do so without showrooms, advertising or websites. It seems that their marketing techniques are as old as their cars!

Route 66 Barn Find is hardbound, with 192 heavyweight glossy 9-1/4 x 10-3/4 pages. The text and 402 color photos are sharp and clear. There is a comprehensive, two-page, three-column index, and a one page listing of the *best of*: food, places, people, and cars encountered on the trip.

By the time you read this it should be available for \$35.00 from your favorite bookseller (ask for it), or from <https://www.quartoknows.com>.

