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## The top 10 Hemmings Daily posts of 2013

Daniel Strohl Dec 31st, 2013 at 8am | 39 comments

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1957 Plymouth Savoy. Photo courtesy RKM Collector Car Auctions.

Every year we read all the cynical backlash against the end-of-year proliferation of lists of most popular stories, and yet [every year](#) we compile another one. We do so both because it's natural to get a little nostalgic for the year that was and because you, the reader, made these stories popular by choosing to read them, so we want to celebrate (and learn from) your input. So thank you. While we're reviewing 2013, we can't overlook the personnel changes around these parts. *Hemmings Daily* contributors David Traver Adolphus and Kate Sullivan might have left us to pursue other opportunities, but we've added the bylines of regular *Hemmings Daily* writer

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Kurt Ernst and home office editorial staff contributors Tom DeMauro and Dan Beaudry to the mix. So, enjoy this review of the hits of 2013, and we'll see you next year with more great stories from around the collector car world.

#10 - [Why did GM buy another auto company's historic factory?](#) Old auto factories - from [Willow Run](#), to [Detroit's Packard plant](#), to a [long-forgotten piece of Chrysler history in New Jersey](#) - figured heavily into the news this year, but no such story ranked higher than the one from May exploring the reasons behind GM's purchase of the old Durant-Dort Carriage Company factory in Flint, Michigan. Short answer - it and the nearby office building are considered to be where GM's inception took place.

#9 - [Garage-find Jaguar E-type sells for \\$168,000](#). Collectors may very well remember 2013 as the year that Jaguar's E-type became a big-money car. RM set an auction record last month by [selling one for \\$467,500](#), but back in the spring another one, not nearly as clean and showing the scars of a life of neglect, had the world talking when it sold for \$168,000 at a Bonhams auction.

#8 - [Famous Detroit-area junkyard Warhoops sold](#). Warhoops in Sterling Heights, Michigan, had been open since 1956, but most of the collector car world didn't really hear of it until Joe Bortz bought four GM Motorama concept cars out of the junkyard in the late 1980s. The junkyard remains open under its new ownership, but to many in the area, the sale marks the end of an era that stretches back to Harley Earl's days at GM.

#7 - ["Found in crate" Willys MB Jeep to cross the block](#). We've all heard the tantalizing urban legend of entire World War II-era Jeeps (and other drool-worthy military equipment) found crated up in warehouses, unused in the war effort - an offshoot on the barn-find meme. And despite a number of debunkings, the urban legend appears to remain alive and well into the 21st century, as we saw from a 1944 Willys MB Jeep offered at a Bonhams auction in June.

#6 - [September 11 memorial Chevrolet Nova for sale for \\$30 million](#). Much of the ensuing discussion focused on the relative position of rear axles in Seventies Novas. That is what makes our readers the best.

#5 - [Three Chevrolets stolen from Monterey auctions](#). We hear of stolen collector cars on a regular basis and try to put alerts out for them whenever possible. But it's rare to see collector cars taken from auctions, particularly from high-profile auctions such as those that take place in and around Monterey during August. We have yet to hear whether any of the three - two 1961 Chevrolet Impala SSs and a 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air - have been recovered.

#4 - [Barn-find 1929 Packard emerges after 50 years, wins best of show its first time out](#). Barn-find stories will never cease to be popular, and major concours events have indeed begun to recognize the art of the unrestored car, as we saw at this year's [Elegance at Hershey](#). But it was another show-winning barn find - a 1929 Packard Model 633 that emerged from a 50-year slumber in the Adirondacks this past summer - that caught readers' attentions.

#3 - [Squirreled-away 1957 Plymouth Savoy with 31 miles to cross the block](#). It might not have won any best-of-show awards, but the 1957 Plymouth Savoy that RKM Collector Car Auctions offered in October still proved noteworthy for its ultra-low mileage and the story of the Mopar dealer who inexplicably kept the two-door club sedan looking factory fresh in a Texas barn for a couple decades.



1947 Willys Utility Wagon Station Wagon



1957 Willys CJ3B



1942 Willys Jeep



1954 Willys

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#2 – [Sports Car One: The first Nash–Healey restored, heads to auction](#). Also out of Texas came the story of the first Nash–Healey, beautifully restored and auctioned off earlier this year. What drove the conversation about this car, however, was the claim that it represents the first purpose–built American sports car.

#1 – The collection of Lambrecht Chevrolet auction stories. In June, we were the first to bring you the [story of the Lambrecht Chevrolet dealership collection](#) headed to auction, but we were by no means the only news outlet to cover the [build-up](#) to the VanDerBrink–run auction [this past September](#) or the auction itself. The hype almost became its own story and caused tens of thousands of people – bidders and spectators alike – to descend on the town of Pierce, Nebraska, and when all was said and done, the top sale – a [1958 Chevrolet Cameo pickup with 1.3 miles that sold for \\$140,000](#) – generated even more headlines. Special thanks to correspondent Rocky Rotella for covering the auction that weekend while the rest of the Hemmings editorial staff was occupied with the Hemmings Motor News Concours d’Elegance.

Honorable Mention #1 – Pageviews and visitors are one way of gauging interest in a story we post on the *Hemmings Daily*, another is the number of comments a story generates. So while a couple of stories didn’t make the top 10 list above, they still generated as many or more comments than any of the above stories. The first of which was Jim Donnelly’s January story about [Fox’s conversion of Speed TV to Fox Sports 1](#), an all–sports cable channel. Judging from the volume and the tone of the responses to that story, plenty of readers ditched their cable subscriptions this past year.

Honorable Mention #2 – Though not a typical news story, the Open Diff post from August inviting everybody to [vent their automotive pet peeves](#) still drew more comments than any other story this year and provided an interesting insight into the collective psyche of the *Hemmings Daily* reader.

Thanks to all of you for making *Hemmings Daily* a regular read, and we promise to deliver even more excitement and up–to–the–minute collector car news for 2014. And make sure you don’t miss a thing by subscribing to our (free) [newsletter](#) if you haven’t done so already.

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Written by [Daniel Strohl](#)

Dec 31st, 2013 at 8am

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### 39 Responses to “The top 10 Hemmings Daily posts of 2013”

M38A1



1933 Willys 77 coupe



1949 Willys Jeepster



1950 Willys Jeepster Convertible



1951 Willys Jeep



1949 Willys CJ2



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