



Chapter of VTCI Publication of the LONG ISLAND THUNDERBIRD CLUB Silver Award 202
FEBUARY 2026

Elliott Wiener's 1976 Cream & Gold Special Edition (Big Bird) Thunderbird



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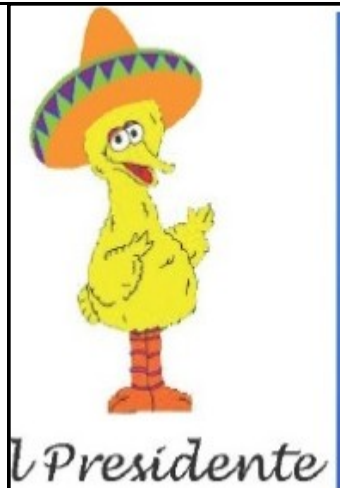
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Welcome 2026

February 14th – Valentine Day

Next Meeting Wednesday February 4th

Dues Are Now Due \$30.00

Shalom

Hope all are well and safe. Looking forward to 2026 and the events we have planned. First is our Breakfast with the Boss's on Saturday March 7th at the Hauppauge Palace Diner. Also, trying to get creative with May 17th Thunderbird Appreciation Day. Our first outdoor meeting is at BK or Wendy's in Farmingdale in April and then Pizza Night in June at Gino's in KP which will be a RSVP Event. So, stay tuned.

Dues Reminder

A Just A Reminder That Your Dues Of \$30.00 For This Year Is Due Now. Please make your checks payable to Long Island Thunderbird Club and mail to me at the address below.

Elliott Weiner 87 Ruth Street Smithtown, N.Y. 11787

Front Cover 1 Big Bird Happy Birthday

Front Cover: Since my days are numbered as El Presidente, I wanted to post a tribute to my Thunderbird which I have owned for over twenty years. Its Birthday is coming up on February 26th and was built in San Diego California and was sold at Pearson Ford also in San Diego, bought as a demo for a little old lady from Pasadena. I bought it in 2001 from Duffy's Collectables in Cedar Rapids Iowa. Sight unseen, just by pictures, emails and conversations paid close to \$10,000 and a thousand to ship it. Who would have thought I would be driving a car that is fifty years old. When I bought it, the odometer read 35,500 and now it's a little over 1,500 miles. Yes, it turned over and I missed it because I wanted to take a picture of it, maybe next time. I created a book sometime ago which now is almost too heavy to hold with all the data that's inside it. It was in American Gangster for a few seconds and that was its claim to fame. One major repair in 2016 when we rebuilt the transmission. Thanks to Paul Rosina and Jay McHugh for keeping it alive and well. It needs just a little TLC which I will try and do in 2026 with their help and guidance.

My Personal Game Plan

My Game Plan: My game plan for the remainder of 2026 is simple. My June President's Message will be my last message as President. I will still remain Co-President until the end of 2026 and then done after twenty-some-odd years. I will remain the membership, charity and merchandise guy if John is fine with that. If not, I will move to Montana and buy the cattle ranch I always wanted and whatever.

Show Update

Show Update: The date of the 15th of November may change it all depends on the Mustang Club on their date which is the first Sunday in November. It's way too soon to address it but it could be a heads up for all that are concerned.

Facebook X Mass Story

Christmas Day 2025: On this day of joy, I was trolling Facebook on my phone at my Stepsons HQ and found a few pictures of a 1976 Cream & Gold like mine but living in Canada but missing the aluminum road wheels. I reached out to the owner and his name is Pierre Bourdeau and now the rest of the story. It seems in this hobby that we are in my Bird is well known across the border. In texts back and forth with him he places a picture of my car and me on Facebook. I was taken back by the whole process. We text back and forth, I e-mailed him our January newsletter, and we are still keeping in touch and maybe I will renew my passport and head north.

Garage Stop

Garage Stop: It may be too early but I want to give you a heads up for July of 2026. For years July and August have been iffy months trying to do events for our club. So, I have reached out to Legendary Motion in Bellmore with the help of LITC member Ed Mirabella for a garage stop on a Saturday in July with a rain date if it gets washed out. The dates are Saturday July 18th with a rain date of the 25th which will be the following Saturday. His name is Jonathan DeSantis he is the owner and from what Ed tells me he is a very talented guy. The club will buy lunch and this will be a RSVP event and yes you will have to bring your Thunderbird. As we get closer, I will have more info.

Ford Nationals 2026 Carlisle Pa

Ford Nationals June 4-7 Carlisle Pa: Things could change for this year but as of today December 19th I will be staying home for this event, but as I always say "Things could change". I know the Rosina's will be there and maybe "The Count" but way too soon to address it.

President Message Continued on Page 8

A message from John Bianco, Co-President

First and foremost, do not forget to complete the Club's online survey sent to you from Survey Monkey. So please don't monkey around, just go ape and do it! Here's the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVQVYB9> just copy 'n paste to your web browser.

Our November *All Thunderbird Show* at the Vanderbilt Museum seems a great distance away on the calendar as we have yet to brave the full chills of Winter, the thaw of Spring, and the beach sands of Summer; however, it may be of interest to know a bit of Vanderbilt influence on Long Island history every now and then. Just after the Great Depression, Roosevelt Raceway was initially developed by George Washington Vanderbilt III, a yachtsman and explorer; George Preston Marshall who founded the NFL's Washington Redskins football team; and Eddie Rickenbacker, a World War I fighter pilot ace and race car driver. Located in Westbury, the track was developed to host the 1936 Vanderbilt Cup.

George Robertson, winner of the 1908 Vanderbilt Cup, was hired to manage and oversee development of the track. The tract of land under development was formerly part of the Roosevelt Field Airport and was where Charles Lindbergh took off in his Spirit of St. Louis to make his historic flight to Paris. Oui!

Many of the drivers did not like how the track was constructed for the 1936 Cup since the track was quite bumpy and had tight corners. Modifications to the track were made for the 1937 Cup which incorporated fewer corners and longer straights. The Raceway was also the site of the 1939 Midget National Championship, that's an automobile race.

After the lease expired at the end of 1939, the new lessees began harness racing in September of 1940. During the 1970s rock concerts were held at the Raceway. The track closed in 1988 and was completely demolished by 2002. Shopping centers, an AMC movie theater, and luxury condos were subsequently built on the Raceway's former parking lots and stables. Oh, Long Island! How I miss thee!

1936 Vanderbilt Cup



1937 Vanderbilt Cup



Today



Ciao!

John

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Cruise Listings

MONDAY

Autofest Cruise night 5:30-9pm Syosset VFW Hall 20 Queens St

Stop & Shop West Islip Union Blvd east of Higbe Lane

Main St East Rockaway @Villa Marcia Restaurant 6pm

Bald Hill Farmingville

Town of Oyster Bay - Main Street

TUESDAY

Patchogue - Mt Carmel Church 495 N Ocean Ave

WEDNESDAY

Village of Westbury Madison St parking field #4 5pm to 9pm

Shirley KFC - William Floyd Parkway

Sea Cliff Fire Dept Cruise Night Sea Cliff Ave & Main St starts June 13th
5:30 to 8:00pm \$5.00 car fee

King Kullen parking lot Jericho TPK Garden City evenings

THURSDAY

Milleridge Inn Restaurant Jericho Starts 3pm

Downtown Mineola Classic Motor Night Main St 6-9pm 7/7 thu 9/29

Village of Lynbrook - Street Show (Atlantic Ave.)

Kings Park Plaza, Kings Park Indian Head Rd (Key Food) Sponsored by
Kings Park Chamber of Commerce Room for several hundred cars

Riverhead on the water front behind Main St weather permitting including
DJ & Refreshments

Glen Cove School St & Glen St Sponsored by Glen Cove Fire Dept \$5 Donation
info Bob Citko 516-676-0366

Yaphank Fire Dept Yaphank Thursday

Town of Oyster Bay - Main Street

West Islip Villa Monaco Restaurant 778 Montauk Hwy 6pm Room for 150
cars food & facilities on site Long Island Road Gents-Ray Rendina 516-523-
7130 or 631-661-3838

Friday

Bellmore train Station Lot Sunrise Hwy & Bellmore Ave Sponsored by
Town of Oyster Bay

Valley Stream Rockaway Ave Cruise Night 5/31 to 8,30 6-9pm

SATURDAY

Islip Town Hall 655 Main St Islip 5-9pm

McDonalds Sunrise Hwy West Islip

Event Schedule 2026

Breakfast with "The Boss"

Saturday March 7th Hauppauge Palace diner

Easter Parade- Garden City—April 5th

Car's and Guitar's @ Miller Ale House Commack
Sunday April 26th

National Thunderbird Appreciation Day

Sunday, May 17th Keyfood Shopping Center Kings Park

Ford Nationals Carlisle, Pa. June 4– 6th

North Jersey Thunderbird Club Show June 20th Saturday

Cross Road Church 649 Franklin Ave Franklin Lakes New Jersey

ST Anthony Car Show Dix Hills Centurion Cruisers

Sunday June 14th 275 Wolf Hill Rd S Huntington

Wednesday July 15th St Elizabeth in Dix Hills

Sunday June 21th All Ford Show Pt Jefferson

Collector Car Appreciation Day Friday, July 10th

Garage Stop Legendary Motion Bellmore July 18th

Smithtown Rehab Center Wednesday August 10th 2-4pm

391 N Country Rd Smithtown Hours 2-4 pm

Mustang –Shelby Club –Bank of America paking lot East Islip

Pre Register Event

Sunday September Sat 6th—Rain Date Sun 13th

Must pre register

Sayville Ford All Ford Show

September 13th Sunday

October 11th Sunday

Mustang-Shelby Club at the Vanderbilt Museum

November 1st Sunday **Must pre register**

Food &Toy Drive Brookhaven Town Hall

Sunday, November TBA

Sunday November 1st All Ford Show Vanderbilt Museum

Operation Enduring Caring Sunday November 8th

Walt Whitman HS

Buy & Sell

Parts for Sale: 1964-44 Ford Thunderbird, New Drivers Side quarter repair panel, motor, transmissions, fenders ,trunk lids, glass, interior, parts bought & sold. **Frank Del Rossi (704) 483-9554** 1965 Ford Thunderbird Special Edition Landau NOS Deluxe Spinner wheel covers (TWO) with Ford Boxes. \$400.00 Firm. Plus shipping.
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Saddle Up Partner We Are Heading West

VTCI Convention in September 9 – 13 in Flagstaff Arizona: It's a wee bit early but I want to give all of you a heads up on what's going for those few days so stay tuned for more info. Just to let you all know I will not be going. The cost for gas for going and coming, I would have to take out a small business loan.

Mustang Shelby Club of Long Island 2026

Mustang Shelby Club of Long Island/2026: Another early heads up with their show calendar for 2026 and dates are subject to change

April 20th Mustang Day in Stony Brook

June 21st Port Jeff Ford

September 6th Bank of America West Islip – Pre Reg

October 11 Sayville Ford

November 1 Vanderbilt Museum – Pre Reg

January 7th Club Meeting

January 7th Our Monthly Meeting @ The Diner: A mild night considering it was January. No guest speaker today because David Gomes had a conflict but said he may be available in February. Topics of conversation were about our show in November, and the possibility of a garage stop this coming July on a Saturday. In the House was Jim and Tom DiNunzio, John Candela, Frank DiCuzzi, Matt Gullo, Mr. & Mrs. Rosina, Hank Parkinson, and yours truly, a lot of conversations about the current auto industry with a few yuks thrown in for good measure.

LICCC Meeting

President's Council Meeting Sunday January 11th: So, what kind of day did I have? The American legion Hall where the meeting was held is in Williston Park. And for me it only took me about (35) minutes to go about (30) miles. Interesting morning with shaken hands and kissing babies. All kidding aside it was nice to see some friendly faces and talk about our hobby. There will be a few date changes on page 6 because of venue changes. As we get closer to those shows I will embellish on them and locations.

Overall, I really don't think we need to join this program every year but to keep piece I guess we should join for the thirty bucks it costs. No stale rolls today and we did have fresh bagels, cream cheese (no lox) some Danish and cookies. For me it was worth the trip.

Some Events to Look Forward To

Sunday March 7th:- Breakfast with the Boss at the Hauppauge Palace Diner: It's our annual March event and more info in next month's newsletter.

March 11th Meeting Reminder: Will be our annual detail night. This will be my night to talk about ceramic coating and let's throw in some judging tech help.

Sunday May 17 Thunderbird Appreciation Day: With both thunderbird clubs participating and holding hands.

Sunday June 14th St. Anthony Car Show

Saturday June 20th North Jersey Thunderbird Show

Sunday June 21st – Mustang/Ford Show at the Pt Jeff Ford: This is a pre- registered event and will have more info as we get closer. Maximum of (125) vehicles, and done.

...Buckle Up... be warm and safe... and 'you're welcome'.



**First Annual
All Thunderbird Car Show
Sunday November 15, 2026
9 :00 AM – 3:00 PM**



Vanderbilt Museum

180 Little Neck Road Centerport New York

(No Rain Date)

This is a Pre-Registered Event

Cost is \$30.00

Checks Payable to Long Island Thunderbird Club

87 Ruth Street Smithtown New York 11787



Top 25 Awards



Food and restrooms on site

Music by ?



Fire Extinguishers

Highly Recommended

Vehicles must be on show field by
10 AM in order to be judged



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LITC Scheduled Outdoor Meetings 2026

(Rain dates one week later)

Wednesday April 14th-Burger King Farmingdale

Sunday May 17th Thunderbird Appreciation Day

Pizza Night

Gino's Restaurant Kings Park

Wednesday June 18th 6:pm RSVP

July & August TBA

Scheduled Indoor Meeting 2026 Thru March

LITC meets Wednesdays starting at 7 PM

Hauppauge Palace Diner

525 Smithtown By Pass See Ad Page 7

Wednesday January 7th

Wednesday February 4th

Wednesday March 11th

Wednesday September 16th

Wednesday October 14th

Wednesday November 11th

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Nancy Rajkowski



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L.I. THUNDERBIRD CLUB NEXT INDOOR MEETING

DATE : March 11th Wednesday

PLACE Hauppauge Palace Diner

TIME : 7:00pm

Directions : See Ad Page 5



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**Long Island Thunderbird Club
87 Ruth Street
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516 445 2630
Phone**

December 1, 2025

Dear LITC Member,

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

2026 DUES OF \$30.00 ARE DUE

LITC Offers:

- Bird Talk Our Monthly Club Newsletter
- Five Outdoor Meetings at various location on the Island
- Six Indoor Meetings
- Annual Elections – Suspended For 2025
- Tech Articles, and Advise All Year Long
- Parts Through Our Advertisers & Classifieds
- Special Bonding of Hobbyists with Common Goals
- All Thunderbird Show at the Vanderbilt Museum in 2026

Please take a moment now, to write your check made payable to Long Island Thunderbird Club to continue receiving the benefits of membership in the Club, and mail to me at the above address, and thank you for continuing with us.

Don't forget if you wish to donate additional monies for Building Homes for Heroes just add that amount to your check and we thank you

Essitt

Happy Birthday to Big Bird 50 Years Old





Long Island Thunderbirds
Membership/Renewal Application

Indoor meetings are held on the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Renewal _____ New Member _____

Dues: \$30.00 (Jan 1st-Dec 31st)

****Voluntary Contribution to Club's Charity Fund: \$10__ \$15__ \$20__ Other \$__**

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone () _____ E-Mail _____

Fax Number/Other Phone () _____

Birthday Month _____ First Name of Significant Other: _____

How did you hear about LITC _____?

What is your reason for joining _____?

Would you be willing to serve on any committees _____?

Car Info

Year _____ Model _____ Color _____

Year _____ Model _____ Color _____

Please enclose a color photo of your car (optional)

**Mail completed application
and check payable to:**

Long Island T-Bird Club to:

Elliott Weiner

87 Ruth St

Smithtown, NY 11787

516-445-2630

Email: Bigbird1900@aol.com

VTCT Membership Application Form

NAME: _____

SPOUSES NAME: _____

MAIL ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE / PROVINCE _____ ZIP: _____

COUNTRY: _____ PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

LIST NAME IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

LIST E-MAIL ADDRESS IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

LIST TELEPHONE IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

PLEASE LIST THUNDERBIRD YOU OWN: _____

YEAR: _____ MODEL: _____

*Annual dues: \$40.00 United States and Canada, \$60.00 all other countries. Due the 31st of January each year. Canadian and overseas payment must be in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank

For NEW members only Send initial dues according to the month you join. You will then receive a renewal notice mailed with the November/December Scoop.

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September / October	\$55.00
November / December	\$50.00

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Countries

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\$45.00
\$40.00
\$90.00 includes next year
\$80.00 includes next year



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*Annual dues include a subscription to "Thunderbird Scoop" magazine.

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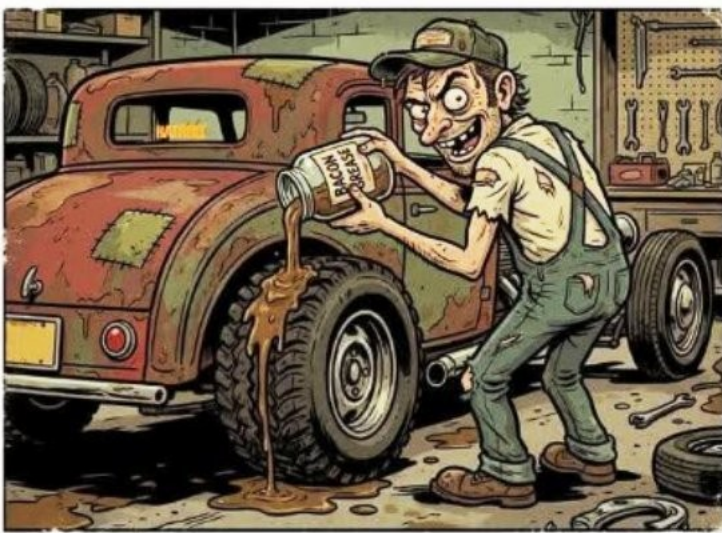
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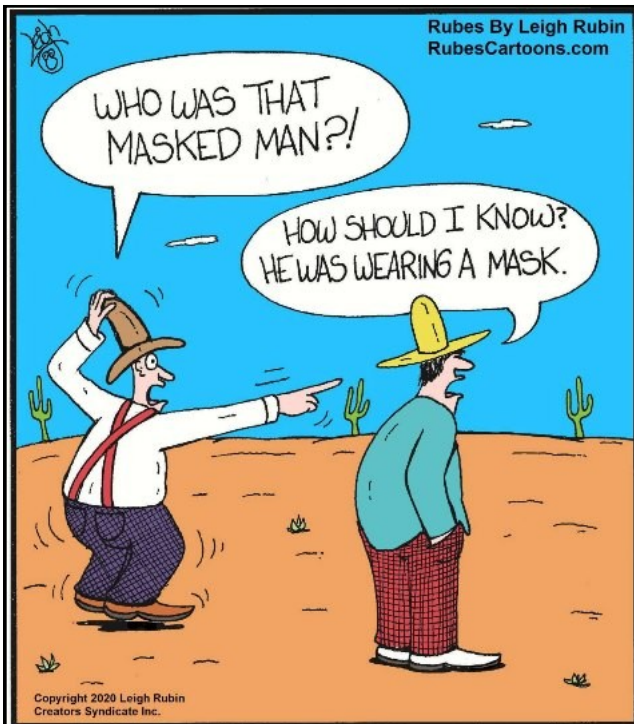
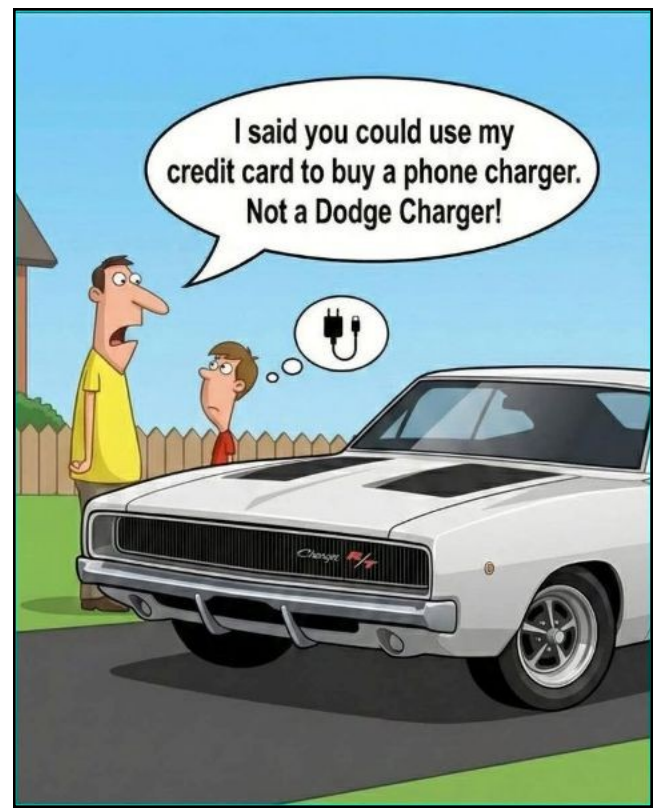
See our ad in the Early Bird September-October 2025 - page 52

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Jimmy was bound and determined to win the next burnout contest



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WIFE ASKED HER HUSBAND A QUESTION IN A VERY SEDUCTIVE WAY.

With a seductive smile, a wife asked her husband, "Have you ever seen \$20 all crumpled up?"

"No," he replied.

She unbuttoned the top of her blouse, reached into her cleavage, and pulled out a crumpled twenty-dollar bill. He smiled and took it.

Then she asked, "Have you ever seen \$50 all crumpled up?"

Excitedly, he shook his head.

She lifted her skirt, reached into her lingerie, and pulled out a crumpled fifty-dollar bill. He took it, breathing faster.

Finally, she asked, "Have you ever seen \$50,000 all crumpled up?"

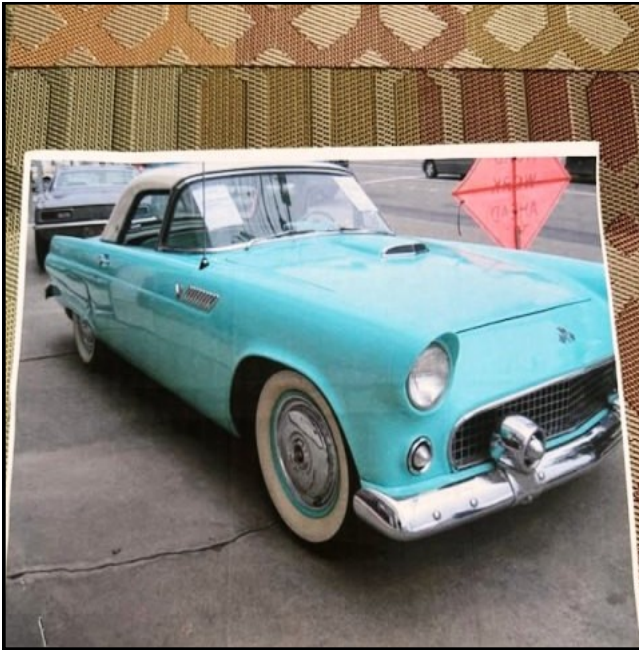
"No way!" he exclaimed.

She smirked and said, "Good. Go look in the garage."

Mary Skelly 1968 Thunderbirds



For Sale 1955 Thunderbird Contact owner Pat Capuro 631 275 4797 Asking 24K



Chrome coil Tach drive

HEI distributor

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New antenna

Pertronix Flame Thrower ignition coil

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