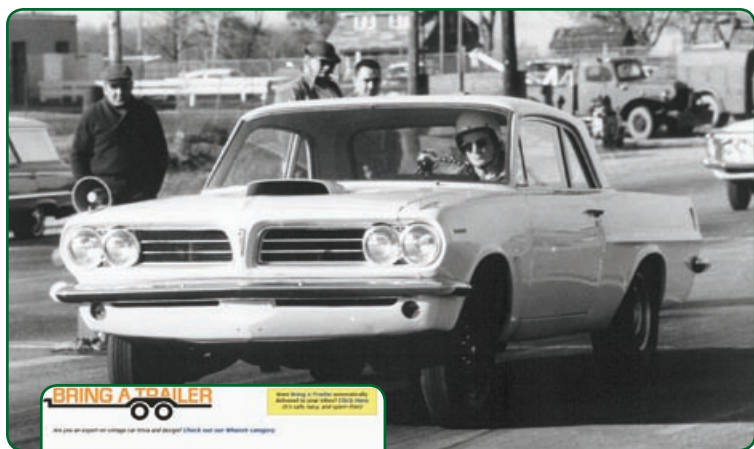


BY RICHARD TRUESDELL

## BRING A TRAILER FOR A TEMPEST SUPER DUTY



**BY NOW, MANY OF YOU HAVE LIKELY HEARD SOMETHING OF THE LONG LOST 1963 PONTIAC TEMPEST LEMANS SUPER DUTY DRAG CAR THAT SOLD FOR A STAGGERING \$226,521.63 ON EBAY ON NOVEMBER 9, 2008.**

I mention it here, hoping not to step on the toes of fellow columnist and Pontiac expert Paul Zazarine, to bring to your attention something else, a very compelling website called Bring a Trailer (BaT).

The aforementioned Super Duty went on eBay on October 30, 2008, with a starting price of \$500. It seemed that initially the seller thought he was selling the remains of some old race car. Apparently someone on the BaT website knew exactly what

he was selling, a Tempest Super Duty, and mentioned it on the BaT website. That's when things went viral.

It was when the bidding reached \$81,000 on November 7 – about the same time as the initial post on BaT – that things started to get interesting. A bidder asked the seller if he would end the auction to sell the car at \$160,000, which was turned down. By now the seller was well aware of what he had and there appeared to be several legitimate bidders in the hunt.

The next indication that this was getting serious came later on the 7th when the seller received this question, "I am thinking I would like to consider paying \$500,000 would this end the auction?" To this the seller replied, "If you place a bid that high you should own it, but thanks for the offer."

In the aftermath of the auction I spoke briefly with the seller — who refused permission to use one of his photos of the car for this story — and Pete McCarthy, author of the Pontiac Musclegar Performance Manual, (available at [www.petemccarthy.com](http://www.petemccarthy.com)) which was cited by the seller in his ad. Pete, who lives close by, agreed to meet for breakfast to discuss the car.

As it turned out, it was one of the six Tempest Le Mans Super Duty coupes. (There were an additional six wagons and all benefited by the near 50/50 weight distribution provided by the stock Tempest with its rear transaxle. But this particular car had a heavy-duty 3-speed transmission and a 1957 Pontiac rear axle.) Stan Antlocer picked up the car the first week of February, 1963, at the Pontiac Engineering facility in Pontiac, Michigan. Stan, who currently resides

north of Los Angeles, was the driver and recorded a time slip of 11.93 at 123.95 mph, making this the fastest of the 12 Super Duty Tempests in 1963. (All of this was verified in a December 1, 2008 conversation with Stan Antlocer.)

Pete and I shared a most enjoyable breakfast, during which the conversation covered many different car-related topics beyond the ex-Antlocer car. It shows the power of these wonderful cars to bring enthusiasts together, even if few of us have the means to participate in the bidding for these highly significant and historic relics. ■



### ONLINE SLEUTHS

If you're interested in a unique approach to finding interesting cars on the Internet, then you must bookmark Bring a Trailer ([www.bringatrailer.com](http://www.bringatrailer.com)). Here's what the site's founders have to say about their mission.

"Barn finds, rally cars, and needles in the haystack..."

We put together [bringatrailer.com](http://bringatrailer.com) because finding great vintage cars online has become too much of a hassle. There is no need to keep sifting through hundreds of hopeless projects or overpriced dealer inventories to find that one car you've been looking for. We pick the winners and save you the trouble... the best bargains, the best dream cars, and the best rarities."

They seem to favor regularly driven real-world classics, and cars with well chosen period-correct modifications. While the focus currently seems to be on odd-ball Euro cars, it is certain that BaT played an important role in the run-up in the price on the ex-Antlocer Super Duty so don't be afraid to submit a barn find muscle car you've unearthed (but can't afford) to the editors at [mail@bringatrailer.com](mailto:mail@bringatrailer.com).

