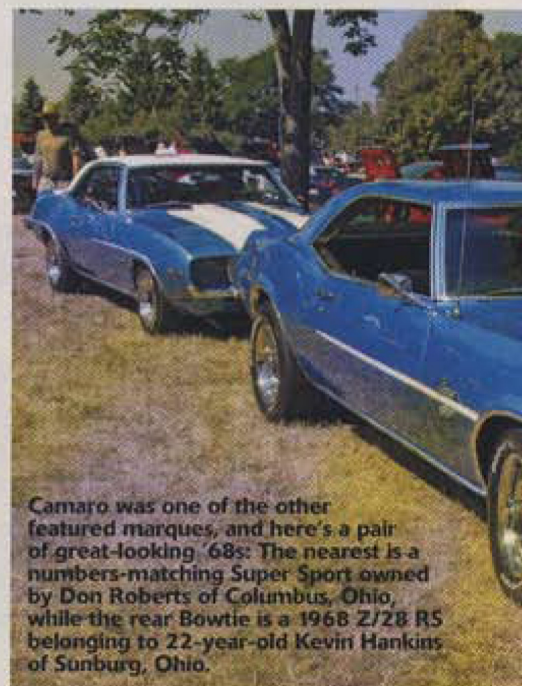
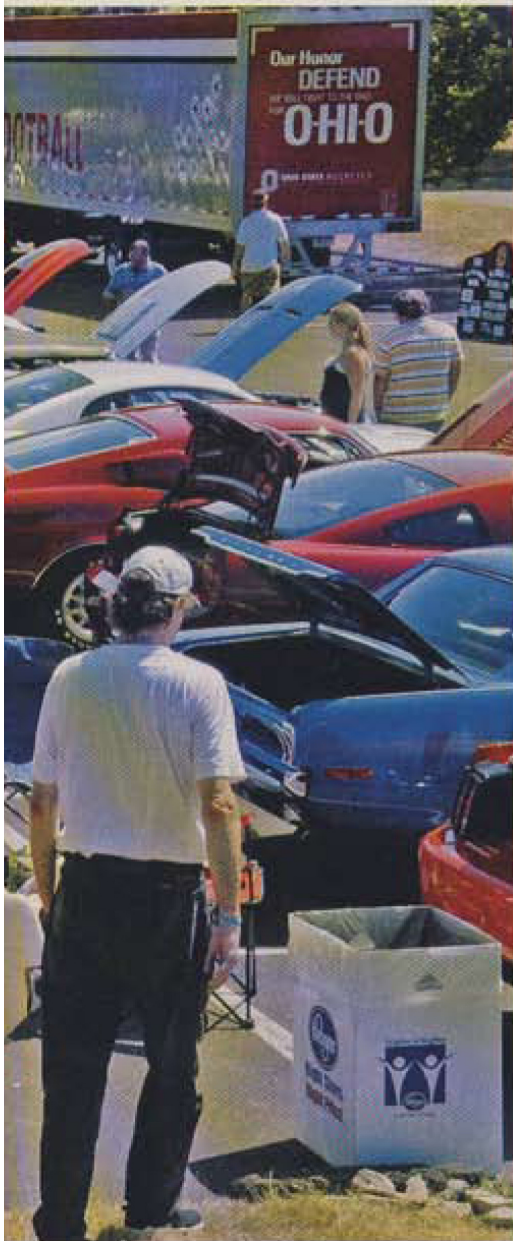




As Mercury was one of the honored marques, there were a bunch of them on site. Here are three of the best, from front to rear: a '69 428 Cougar, a '68 302 Cougar and a '70 351 Cougar.



Camaro was one of the other featured marques, and here's a pair of great-looking '68s: The nearest is a numbers-matching Super Sport owned by Don Roberts of Columbus, Ohio, while the rear Bowtie is a 1968 Z/28 RS belonging to 22-year-old Kevin Hankins of Sunburg, Ohio.



# FOR A GOOD CAUSE

## The 25th Arthritis Foundation Classic Auto Show and Cruise-In

By Bill Holder

Photos by Phil Kunz

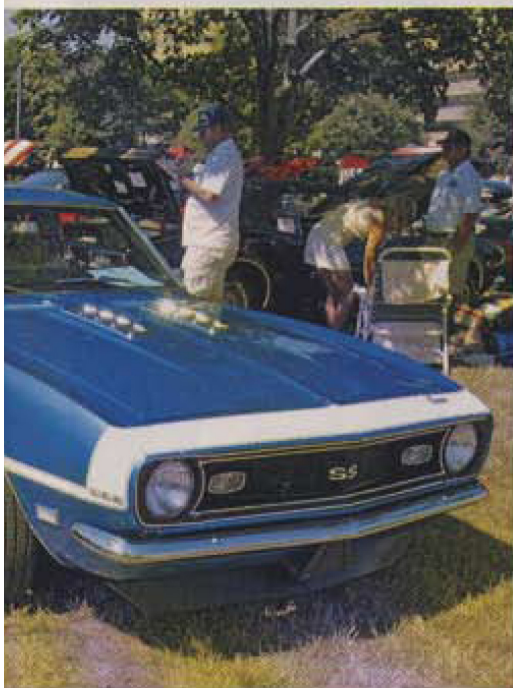
**I**t all started a quarter-century ago in central Ohio, when Bob Lincoln, president of the Central Ohio Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, and Buick dealer Leonard Immke had a vision of how to raise money for this serious medical condition.

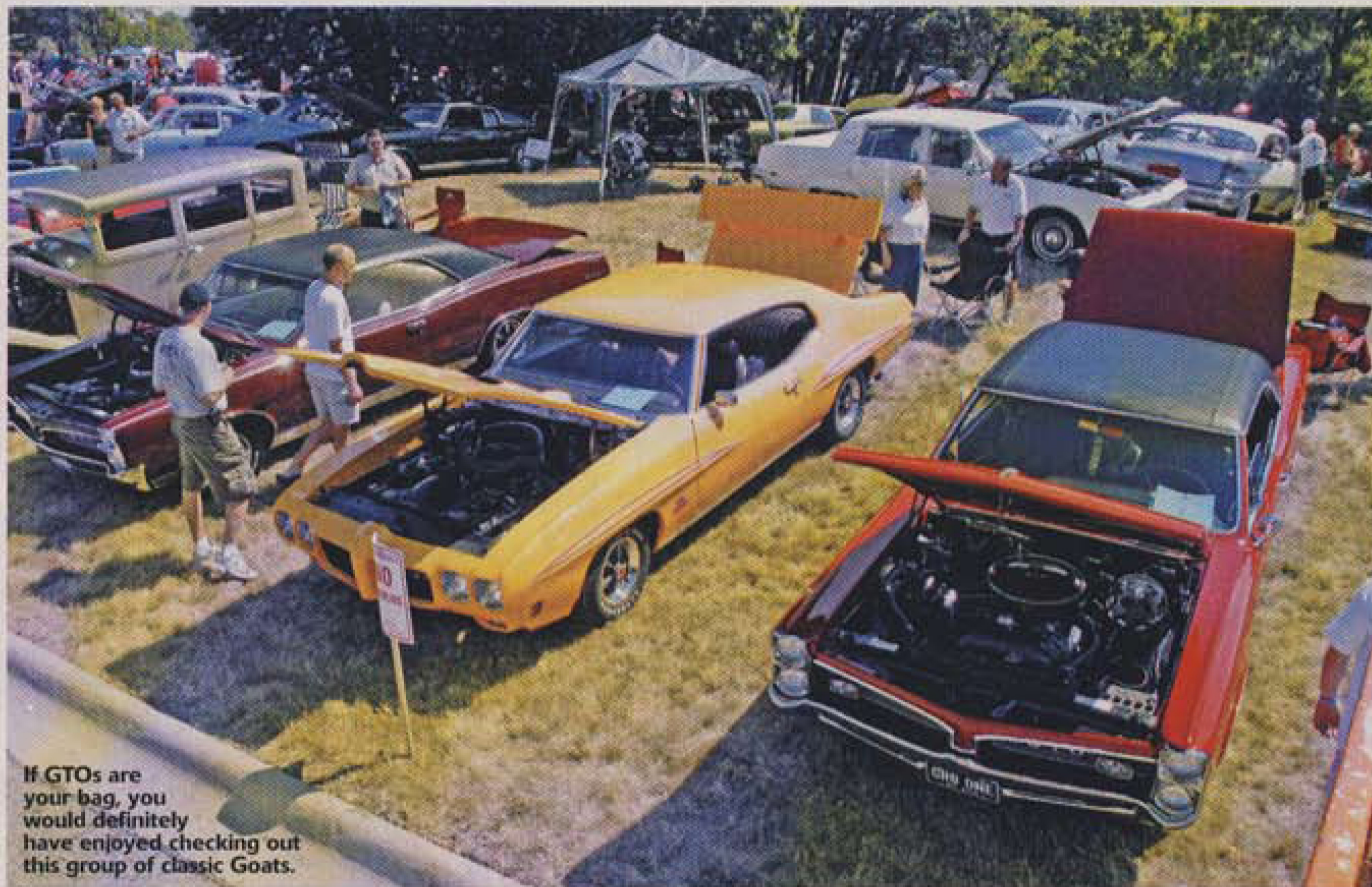
They created a classic car show. The first event, held in 1982, featured just a few cars and raised \$50,000. From that humble beginning, this Dublin, Ohio, event has become a recognized national show. This year, some 1,500 cars showed up, and the event raised an amazing \$250,000.

The Dublin Metro Center (near Columbus) is a magical place for such a show: a business park that offers a great background and area for all car types. This year's event had heavy musclecar representation with huge, 6-foot trophies awarded to the winners. The featured marques for the show were the Camaro, Firebird and Mercury.

The Camaro area was packed with just about everything from the '60s and '70s musclecar era: COPOs, 396 cars, Super Sports, Rally Sports, Indy pace cars and resto-mods—you name it. Meanwhile, in the Mercury area, there was a significant gathering of late-'60s 351 and 428 Cougars, which was certainly appropriate, seeing that 2007 is the 40th anniversary of the first Cougar model (and of course of the Camaro, too).

Much of the credit for the success of this event goes to Lindsay Smith of the Arthritis Foundation, Central Ohio Chapter, who oversaw the many details. Also, thanks must be directed to crane operator Jay Poloni, who gave us an aerial view of the show that displayed the immensity of the gathering.





If GTOs are your bag, you would definitely have enjoyed checking out this group of classic Goats.



There were a number of Buick musclecars at the show, including Stage 1s, GSXs and many others. Just check out that dynamite '70 Buick GS455 GSX—the best of all worlds.



The first two Mercurys from the left are Springfield, Ohio, native Mike Besecker's yellow '70 Eliminator and Mike Stickney's killer '69 428 Cougar.



These days, many large car shows have a version of the famous Batmobile. This one was no different. *MCR*