

## NOSTALGIC MOTOR CARS UNLOCKS THE HISTORY & MYSTERIES OF THE 1963-1985 AVANTIS

By Dan Booth  
Nostalgic Motor Cars

### SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL

This article is very unique, interesting and just a bit bizarre. It also serves as a heads up, as most Avanti owners don't know what they may find in that enclosed area of the console, until they look !

I wrote an article for the *Avanti Magazine*, issue 194 Spring/Summer 2021. That article was about a very rare 1963 Studebaker Avanti 63R-4301 R-2, 4 speed that was ordered as a Radio Delete. If you missed that article, or didn't have access to it, it can also be found on our website: [www.NostalgicMotorCars.net](http://www.NostalgicMotorCars.net). See the tech articles tab.



This Radio Delete car was the only one that I have ever been able to document, from the original "Nostalgic Born Reports" as a factory order Radio Delete car. Besides the mystery of the no part number ever published by Studebaker for that factory delete plate "dummy" #1350717 there is a second mystery about this Avanti that AOAI member Jim Zimmerman discovered a couple years after he purchased it from the original owner on March 4, 1973.

This is a letter and photograph, Jim sent me so I could write an article for your enlightenment/entertainment.

*(See related later in this issue, page 8. — Editor)*

I would like to thank Jim & Shirley Zimmerman, for their time, letter and photo that made this bizarre article possible, for your reading pleasure.

Also amongst the stuff I sent you, is a photo of the gun I found in my car. I think it was in the middle 70's ( I bought the car in 1973), I was cleaning out the car and noticed that the two screws that hold in the vertical metal panel AC panel, center console were missing.

I removed the panel (tips forward very easily) and behind there I found lots of dust, gum wrappers and a gun! It was a .32 caliber LOADED gun. The model is a U.S. brand, commonly called a "Saturday Night Special" I very carefully removed the bullets and buried them somewhere on our 20 acre property.

What the gun is doing there is anybody's guess, but from looking at the photo I sent you of The Lady and her Son, with his "pork pie" hat on makes me wonder. The gun now hangs on a wall in our small museum in our 1911 house.

*Dan Booth has over 45 years of exclusive, hands on Avanti sales, service, collision and parts, not Studebaker cars or trucks, just 1963-1985 Avantis.*