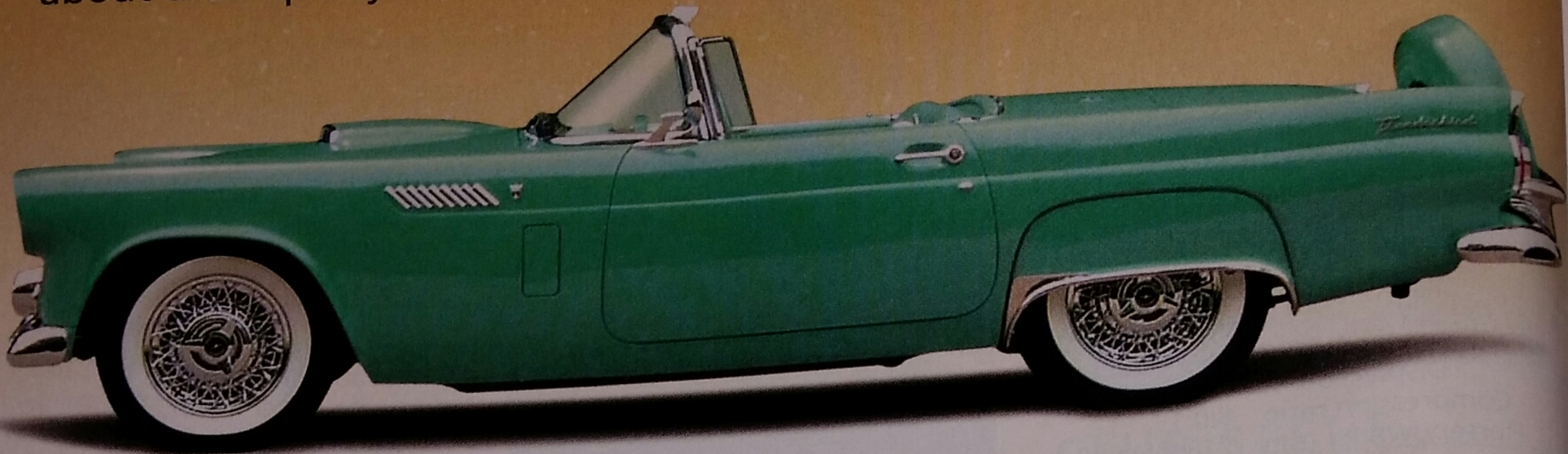


# Flights of Fancy

Loyal and proud, Thunderbird owners are head over heels about their sporty Fords



By Richard Lentinello

**One of the most** significant nameplates in automotive history is Thunderbird. The mere mention of this charismatic word gets the brain racing with vivid images of sleek and sexy cars of sporty distinction. Their appeal is such

that many Thunderbird enthusiasts own more than one example, with several owners being so attached to their cars that they have owned them for more than 20 years; some owners who have written to us ordered the cars when they

were new, and vowed that they would never part with them. All the original owners referred to their cars as "family." So from their families to you, here's what several satisfied owners had to say about their magnificent Thunderbirds.

## James R. Elijah

Lindenhurst, Illinois

1956 and 1966

Proudly owned for nearly 13 years, James' 428-powered Thunderbird has been refinished in its original Tahoe Turquoise exterior, which really sets off the Pearl white vinyl interior. It is fully equipped with A/C, fender skirts, reclining passenger seat, power windows, 8-track and vacuum locks. **James owns two other Thunderbirds, a 2004 Merlot and a Peacock Blue '56, which we've chosen for this month's cover car.** This car features rear fender skirts, power brakes, power window and seats, engine dress-up kit and Town & Country radio.

