

Imperial 1964

A Convertible with a Comeback Story

You know the saying: times are tough—we're stuck with moldy cheese, aged wine... and cars with no roofs. Well, this Imperial does have a roof—we just folded it down so you can enjoy its full open-air grandeur.

Just like today, when a new car model came out in the '60s, the Estate, Coupé, and of course, Convertible versions quickly followed. This one? A fine example of luxury with a breeze.

What's wild is that this car comes from the same town as the limousine parked next to it. Even more incredible? The original owners—longtime neighbors—knew each other, but didn't realize they both owned the same model.

Unlike the limo, this convertible had been declared non-functional. The sweet elderly lady who owned it lovingly maintained the paint and interior, but not much else—aside from regular oil changes. One day, it just stopped running.

The local mechanic suspected a major engine failure, so it was put up for sale. But we had a hunch... and we were right.

Turns out, Imperials of this era had a flaw: the internal baffles of the mufflers would rust from the inside if the car sat too long. When you'd finally start it, heat and vibration would dislodge the rust, clogging the exhaust—and you weren't going anywhere.

We told the owner we wanted to buy and ship the car to Europe. She thought we were joking. "You want to ship a 2.3-ton non-runner overseas?" We said, "Yes—we're that kind of crazy." She laughed and replied, "Time is money." Deal.

In Los Angeles, we had a custom exhaust system installed—and just like that, this majestic cabriolet roared back to life.