Front Matter
When John Briggs ’52 arrived at Colby in 1948, the College was beginning its move from downtown Waterville to Mayflower Hill. Those who lived or had classes on the old campus had the challenge of catching the Blue Beetle, a shuttle bus between the two campuses.

During his sophomore year, John learned of a 1923 Dort touring sedan that was for sale. His love of classic cars, and desire for freedom from the Blue Beetle, got the better of him and, with a loan from a friend and some creative financing, he bought the Dort and arranged with a local car dealer to make necessary repairs to the car. When he went to pick up the car he found that the dealer had exceeded the agreed repairs and cost—and John’s budget. Distraught, John turned to his trusted friend and mentor, Professor of English Alfred “Chappie” Chapman ’25. Upon hearing the tale, Chappie gave John a harsh reprimand and left the room. Moments later Chappie returned with a check made out to the dealer for the full amount. Chappie warned that if John were to breathe a word about the incident, he would be out of the College. Upon recounting the tale some 30 years later, John was amazed to find that many others had similar “Chappie stories.”

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