

Wheels: An e-mail from Gary says, "I have been given a 1989 Astro Van. I do not know how many miles it has on it, but it has been sitting in a driveway for about 3 years. The story I hear surrounding this van is that it was driven without oil or low oil and started making engine noises. I think it was shut down immediately and then towed to the location it currently resides. It could however have been the object of a young lady who just wanted another car and may have not had this kind of situation actually happen. Anyway, can you tell me what steps to take to try and start it up without causing any further damage or at least keep the engine from seizing up since there hasn't been any oil in the top part of the engine for years? I would like to use this as a second vehicle, but am afraid the engine repair costs could run very high. It might be better to just put in a used engine. Your advice would be most appreciated."

Halderman: I think I would get a fully-charged battery to try to start the van. It might start. You will not do anymore harm to the engine if you try. If it does not turn over, the engine could be locked up and another engine would be needed. If the engine is noisy, you may want to try using top engine cleaner (about \$5.00 from many GM dealers) and follow the instructions on the label. Instead of another engine (I would hate to pull an engine from this style van), you may wish to consider getting another second vehicle and pass on this one. You could also sell the van for parts and purchase another vehicle that runs. I hope some of these suggestions are helpful.

