



Cruisin' News

June 2005

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Keep on Truckin' or Keep the Faith?

(A message from the editor)

Well, I thought the message in last month's newsletter would be controversial enough to bring some input from our members. And it did bring some input, but nothing that revealed any controversy.

Except for one, everyone had the same input – asking me, what kind of response did you get? Nobody seemed to have an opinion they wanted to share. They just wanted to know what everyone else's opinion is. Well, all I can say is the one letter to the editor I received is likely to be read by a lot of people.

So, if I can't stir up controversy with the question of age limitations in the club, I'll have to try something else. They say you should never talk about women, religion or politics, so I thought I'd try one of them.

Did you know automobiles have an important history in religion? It's true, but most members of the Great Plains Streetrodders probably aren't going to like it. You see, the root of Christianity is in foreign cars, not American cars. Jesus' disciples preferred Japanese cars over American iron. It says in the gospels that Jesus' disciples were all in one Accord. So don't thumb your nose at those Tuners!

It gets worse. You see, if you go back into the Old Testament, you'll find the Jewish heroes liked English sports cars better than American muscle cars. At least David did; you know, the guy who killed Goliath and won all those wars. He drove an English sports car, albeit one with a rusty exhaust, as the Bible tells us, "his Triumph was heard throughout the land." However, he had a lot of Mopar guys in his Army. There's a long list of guys in his army described in the Bible as "Valiant men." However, it seems odd that none of them were Barracuda men or Chrysler 300 men.

Have you heard of Jacob, the father of Israel? He's one of the most important patriarchs in the Bible, but he snubbed American cars. In the first book of the Bible, it tells us he "passed over the Ford."

And as for you Chevrolet fans, I'm afraid God had so little interest in this make that it's never even mentioned in the Bible.

So before you get too proud about how fast or how beautiful your car may be, remember that the people closest to God chose completely different types of cars.

Maybe God knew how proud Americans would be of their cars. So maybe he influenced His leaders to choose other makes to humble us.

Have you ever been mad because some other car received a trophy at a car show rather than yours? Have you ever been jealous over the attention being placed on a car obviously not as nice as yours? If so, maybe you better have a little chat with God. If you can't convince Him how great your Chevy is, maybe He'll help you learn that an Accord or a Triumph can be a rather interesting vehicle. Surely God is more interested in people enjoying a diverse hobby than in people becoming too obsessed with their own car.

I'm afraid I don't have any information on what types of cars are preferred in the Koran or any other holy books. But what the heck, I'll confess that while I have little bias towards different makes of cars (I like Triumphs and Fords), I am very biased in favor of the Bible over any other holy books.

So, how about it? Dare any of you send a letter to the editor explaining why God should have more interest in your preferred make of automobile?

It's a Coupe for Cruising

When Gary Ebright built his 1937 Plymouth coupe, he was thinking about cruising around in style. And 15 years later, Gary and his wife Judy are still cruising around in it, and quite stylishly, too.

The Ebrights bought their Plymouth, one of four old cars they own, in 1989. Gary saw it parked on 12th Street in Sioux Falls with a for sale sign, and when he called the number, it turned out to belong to a neighbor just down the street from him. The deal was struck, but Gary didn't drive it home. It needed a lot of work.

Gary totally rebuilt the car. He bought a 1969 Nova as a donor car for a drive-chain. Now, for those Chevy fans, the 1969 Nova that he parted out was not a good candidate for restoration. "That Nova, there was nothing left of it," Gary said. "It was a rust bucket."

But what it did provide was an updated front suspension and steering, a 307 c.i. power-plant, automatic transmission and a rear end. He rebuilt the engine, leaving it basically stock except for adding an Eddlebrock intake and carburetor. He welded the Nova front subframe onto the Plymouth chassis for the improved steering and handling, besides giving a place to rest the V-8 motor.

"It runs pretty much like a '69 Chevy," Gary said.

The body was mostly complete and straight, except one rear fender was crunched and the rear corner rusted out where the body had been damaged. He replaced the fender, and didn't have too much difficulty finding the replacement from a local garage that has since closed.

"That's where the farmers were always backing into the granary with them," Gary chuckled in explaining the damage.

He completed the car in about a year, but that doesn't reflect the amount of work that

went into it. During that year, he spent every spare minute in

the garage working on it, estimating that it amounted to about working a second job of 40 hours each week.

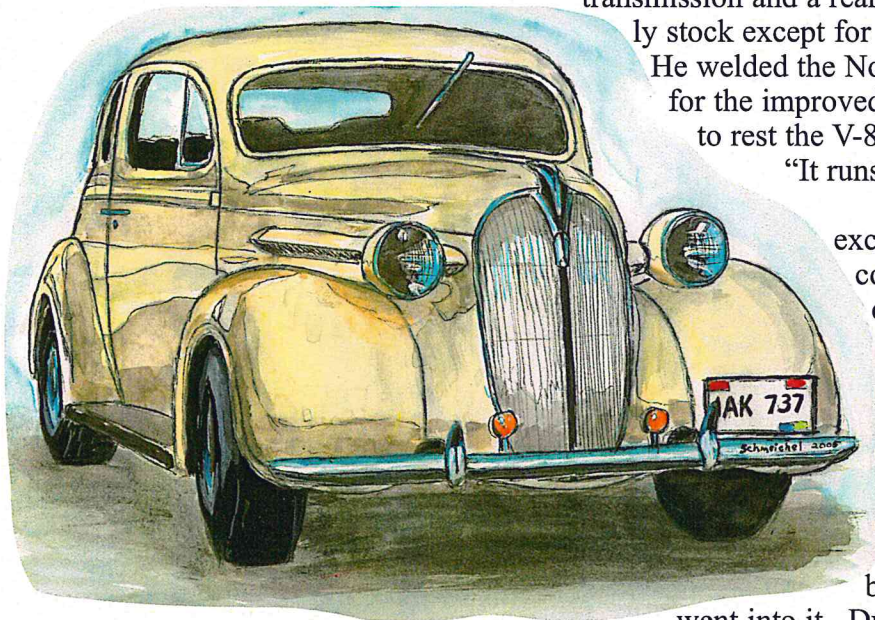
"It's the only way they get done, is just stay at them," he explained.

Although all stock on the outside, with the updated drive-train, it might be called a resto-rod. But with a stock small-block, would it be called a hot rod? Gary doesn't care. He likes the way it looks and he likes driving it.

"It's been a good runner," he said. "I didn't build it to race. I just built it to drive and have fun."

In addition to the Plymouth, Gary and Judy also have a 1956 Dodge, a 1946 Nash and a 1954 Chevy Belair that he just completed restoring. He also helped his son build a 1946 Plymouth coupe that is often seen at the cruises. It's too soon after finishing the Belair to know what the next project will be.

In the meantime, if you pull up to the traffic light next to Gary and Judy in their '37 Plymouth, don't rev your engine in a challenging manner. They'll just smile and go on their merry way, very content with being in front or behind you.



What a Woman!

Three men were discussing what kind of woman they married.

The first man had married a woman from Alabama and bragged that he had told his wife she was going to do all the dishes and house cleaning. He said it took a couple of days, but on the third day he came home to a clean house and dishes.

The second man had married a woman from Florida. He bragged that he had given his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes and the cooking. On that the first day he didn't see any results, but the next day it was better. By the third day, his house was clean, the dishes were done and he had a huge dinner on the table.

The third man married a girl from South Dakota. He boasted that he told her that her duties were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry done and hot meals on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything, and on the second day he didn't see anything. But by the third day most of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye; enough to fix himself a bite to eat, load the dishwasher and telephone a landscaper.

To the editor:

You asked for some input as to the age of cars to be qualified to belong to the club. It is my thinking there should be no age limit on either the cars or the members.

Ron Roe

Upcoming Events

June 25 Spirit Lake cruise in at Spirit Lake, IA
June 25 Pipestone Water Festival at Pipestone, MN
June 26 Dell Rapids car show at Dell Rapids, SD
July 1-3 Goodguys Heartland National at Des Moines, IA
July 4 Lennox car show
July 8-10 The 37th Black Hills Rod Run at Hill City, SD
July 10 Norm Fey cruise-in
July 15-17 Milwaukee National at West Allis, WI
July 16-17 Special Olympics car show and cruise
July 23-25 The 25th Annual Canton Car Show in Canton, SD
Aug. 4-7 36th Street Rod National at Louisville, KY
Aug. 12-14 Old Iron Co. Rod Run at Spencer, IA
Aug. 12-14 Dam Run at Pierre, SD
Aug. 13-14 Pontiac car show and cruise
Aug. 14 Madison Car Show
Aug. 19-20 Rally To The Valley at Rock Valley, IA
Aug. 26-28 Kool Deadwood Night
Sept. 2-4 Labor Day Rod run at Sioux Falls
Sept. 9-11 Vintiques Rod run at Watertown, SD
Sept. 16-18 Street Rod National North at Kalamazoo, MI
Sept. 17 Wheel for Charity at Sioux Falls
Sept. 18 Mopar Car Show at Sioux Falls
Sept. 23-25 Mid-Western National at Kansas City, KS
Sept. 23-25 OutKasts Car Show at Mitchell, SD
Sept. 24 Renner Car Show at Renner, SD

Submissions For The Newsletter

If you have anything to submit for the Great Plains Streetrodders newsletter, the deadline is the second Wednesday of each month. Anything will be considered for addition to the newsletter.

To submit something, contact Brian Lee at 605-362-1047, email bg4given@gmail.com or look for him around his 1961 Ford Thunderbird or 1951 Chevy sedan delivery.

