

A Benefit From Impatience

Richard Munce and Lenette Gregersen have been working on converting a 1931 Ford Model A five-window coupe into a hotrod. They've had it for seven years, and that's a long time to wait for a fun old machine.

Last year they decided they couldn't wait any longer. They bought a 1964 Chevrolet Malibu convertible to enjoy during the interim period. And now that Model A is going to have a high standard to meet when it's finished to be as much fun as the Chevy.

They bought the Chevy last August, north of Minneapolis, MN. Unlike their Model A, it was in great shape and ready to enjoy from day one.

"We drive it and enjoy it," Richard said. "It's definitely easier to buy something than to build it."

But it all started back in the year 2000, when they bought the Model A out of Portland, ND. They previous owner had it for 30 years with intentions of restoring it, but never got it done. Still, they were able to drive it for two years in its stock configuration with the four-cylinder motor, but it still needed some attention.

Then Richard started tearing it apart to make the hotrod he was dreaming of. He bought a new chassis that would work with the modifications he had in mind and removed the body from its original chassis. From there, time constraints made the build go slow, so he took it to a shop to have more of the work done and it just ended up sitting there. Finally, he took it to Westergard Hotrods, where it is beginning to be transformed into his dream car.

But in the meantime that left him without an old car to cruise in. So, he found an old sedan body, cut it into a tub and mounted it on the original chassis with the four cylinder motor.

"That was a good parade car, good for poker runs, that tub car," he said.

While he said it was a lot of fun, it was still just a four-cylinder Model A.

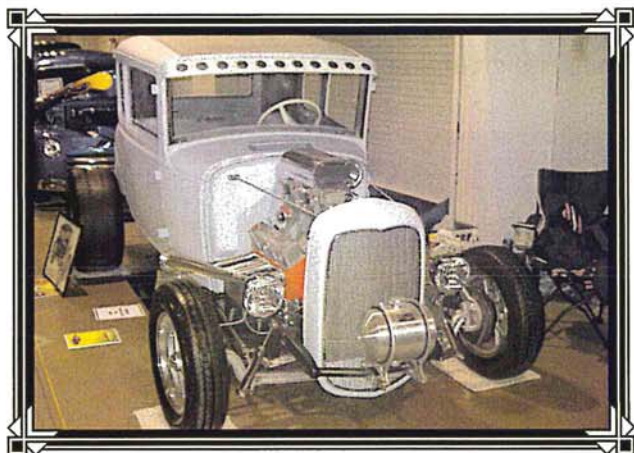
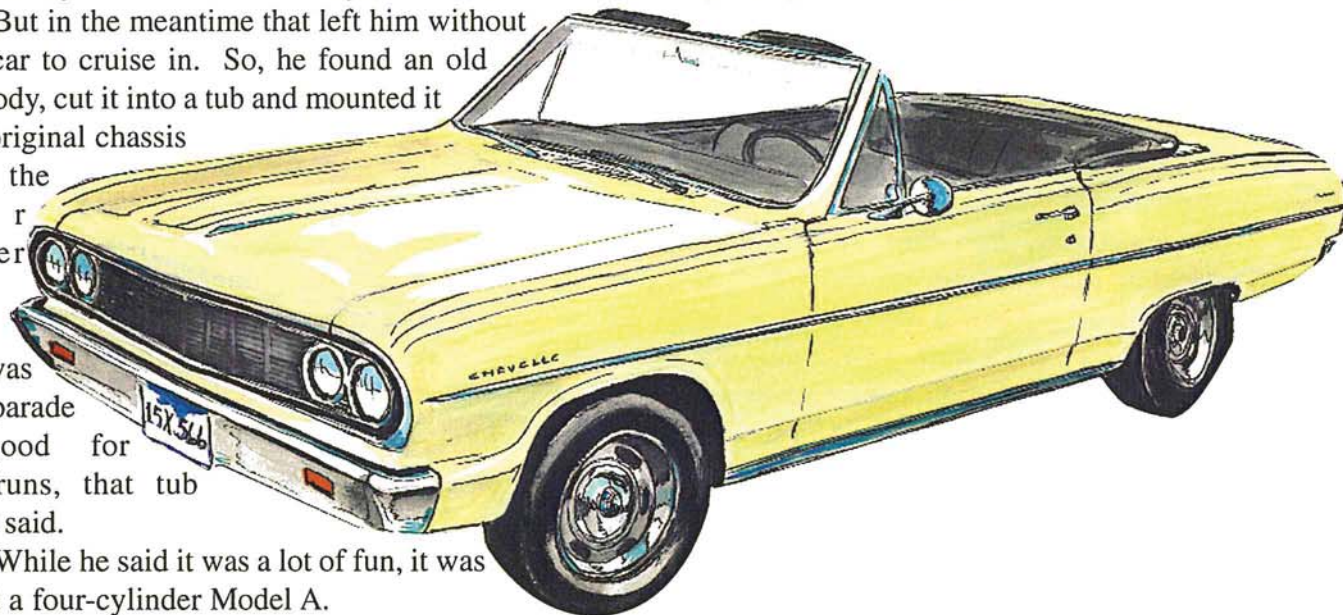
Last summer they sold it and stepped up to a Chevy.

They chose the Malibu in part because it was still old enough to get into Back to the 50s, the large, annual car show in St. Paul. But also because they're partial to the Chevelles.

"I just always liked them. I've had Chevelles before," Richard said.

But the clincher was the color. When they saw it in an advertisement and saw it was yellow with a white top,

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Classified ads

Lanette remarked about how the colors matched the yellow and white colors of the new house they had recently moved into, almost perfectly.

"When it's sitting in the driveway, it really looks good," Richard said.

But it also has the punch that was lacking in the four-banger they had been using the past few years.

"It'll get 30 feet of rubber out of first gear in a heart beat," Richard grinned.

The Malibu is completely stock, with a 283 c.i. power-plant and manual four-speed transmission.

But the real power will come out when the Model A coupe is done. It will have a Chevy 350 with a steel crank, four-bolt main, 202 heads, pumped-up cam, two four-barrel carburetors and a tunnel ram. In addition, it has a Borg Warner Rock Crusher four-speed transmission and a nine-inch Ford rear end with 355 gears.

"It's built to jam gears," Richard said with a smile.

And he added, "It's channeled and bobbed, but not chopped." In having it channeled, it was done in a way so he could keep the rumble seat.

It's still got a ways to go. It needs wiring, windows, paint and an interior.

But while that's being done, he and Lanette will be enjoying their '64 Chevelle. And even when the Model A is completed, the Malibu will be around to give them a choice to go in a coupe or top down, and whether they want to lay 30-foot patches or 30-mile patches.

FOR SALE – 1961 Corvair Rampside pickup truck, flat opposed 6 cylinder rear engine, needs restoration, \$1,000.00 OBO. Call Terry Peterson at 361-2357 or cell359-5386.

FOR SALE – 1967 GMC pickup truck, 34,000 miles, good shape. \$5,000.00. Call Allen Alby at 605-334-3472.

FOR SALE – Two new Coker white-wall tires P235/75R15 for \$300. Call Allen Alby at 605-334-3472.

FOR SALE -- 1955 Schwinn 26 inch "CORVETTE" bicycle, 97 % complete. Sturmey/Archer English 3-speed. Green & White (only color combination available in 1955). Full Chrome Fenders. White grips with white tassels. Manufactured in Chicago, IL. Delivered to: Judson Chevrolet/Cushman/Schwinn Company, Los Angeles, CA. Still has 1965 Los Angeles, CA bicycle license sticker attached to frame. Appraised value in Schwinn Book of \$650.00. (If at 100% value is \$1,400.00) Sell for \$395.00. Call Bill at 371-3535 or 366-1158

WANTED -- The Siouxland Car Council is looking for a small enclosed trailer, similar to moving, motorcycle or snowmobile trailer. Contact Kevin Kappenman or Don Jones.

FOR SALE -- Streetrod wheels with tires, mounted & balanced. Wheels are chrome directionals with Goodyear Decathlon Tires (4000 miles on tires). Sizes are: front - Mirage 14" x 7 41/2", 5 hole, rear - Mirage 15" x 7 41/2", 5 hole, all with lug nuts & center caps with chrome valve stems. Tire sizes are:
Front - 195 75R 14", rear - 235 75R 15", all for \$300.00 OBO. Call 361-8494 or 351-1166.

FOR SALE – 1971 "402" Chevy big block, apart for inspection in boxes, 427 steel crank machine work done on crank, TRW 11 to 1 427 pistons, new chrome valve covers and air cleaner, other miscellaneous parts. Contact Bob at 361-1932.

FOR SALE – 1963 Corvette rear end. Make a reasonable offer. Call Fred Snyder at 605-359-0423 or 605-275-0460.

FOR SALE – 1946 Chevy 1 Ton Truck, all chrome is very nice, was ex-city truck, runs but clutch won't disengage. \$700.00. Call Ric Anderson at 712-336-4498, Spirit Lake, IA.

FOR SALE – 1952 Packard parts, including a grill, trim pieces, windows and more. Call Gary Ebright at 339-4571.

WANTED – Classified ads for the Great Plains Streetrodders newsletter. If you are a member of the club, it'll cost you nothing. But it can help you sell something, or find something. The very first time that classified ads were included in the newsletter, they worked. Brian Lee sold a Johnny Lightning diecast car. To place your ad, call Brian at 498-0178 or email him at bg4given@gmail.com

