

Malcomb Had a Better Deal

For Roger Malcomb, his 1946 Ford coupe is like one he had as a teenager, only better -- much better. He had a 1941 Ford coupe in high school. The 1946 has a similar design, but he said he likes the style of the front of the 1946 better. So, when he wanted an old car, he decided he wanted a car with the memories of his high school hotrod, but this time it would be the style he preferred.

Roger was specifically looking for a '46 Ford coupe and found this one "east of Del Rapids in the fall of '86 in a grove of trees."

And it came with a bonus. "It had 22 pairs of engineer boots in the trunk," he said. He has no idea how the car attracted such a collection of old boots.

The body was solid, but the engine and interior were in bad shape, he said.

"I took it home, put it in the garage and tore it all apart," he said.

He bought a mid 1970s Ford Mustang II for the front end and got the rear end out of a 1969 Mustang someone was parting out. A friend helped him install these parts on the coupe. He had a 24-gallon gas tank custom built for the car. He got a 350 c.i. motor from a 1972 Chevy half-ton truck and had it bored .03 over to 355 c.i., then got heads for that motor from another truck. He installed dual four-barrel carburetors, headers and an electronic ignition on the motor and mated it to a TH 350 automatic transmission.

He had Ron's Body Shop do the body work and paint it Toyota red with ghost flames and clear coat.

"I took it home (from the body shop) piece by piece and put it together," Roger said.

He left the bumpers off, because at the time he built it, running without bumpers was "the new look," he said. "I hated the bumper in the back because you were always breaking your leg on it trying to get in the trunk."

One of the car's eye-catching features is a unique Red Ice window tinting that sparkles in different colors depending on the angle of the sun.

"It was pretty rare because it was made in Canada, they didn't make it down here," Roger said. "They (Canada) outlawed it, so you can't get it in Canada anymore."

The car also features tuck-and-roll interior on the original seats, Frenched headlights, power steering and brakes, air conditioning, power windows, cruise control, car locator, theft alarm, a stereo CD player and tilt column with red leather LeCarra steering wheel.

His original '41 Ford didn't have any of that.

He finished the car in 1989, and he and Jan have been cruising in it ever since. Now he can cruise in his high school hotrod the way he wanted it to be. And the passenger he has in the '46 Ford obviously makes it more of a joy as well, since she wasn't around when he had the '41 Ford.

