

Incredible Luck Got Them Their Custom Ford

Dean and Joyce have had their customized 1940 Ford since 1993 and are often seen running around town in it when the weather is good. But to get the car of Dean's dreams, they had to be in the right place at the right time.

Dean says ever since he was a kid he has always liked the customized hotrods. He had a 1941 Chevy to which he added Cadillac wheel covers and painted white walls, but still envied the ones he saw that had been chopped, Frenched and decked.

Fast forward a few decades. Dean and Joyce were on a trip down into Missouri when they saw a customized 1940 Ford 2-door sedan going down the road.

"I had seen it going down the black-top and I said 'there it is, that's the car I want,'" Dean related. But as quickly as he had said that, it was gone, heading for its own destination.

Later, upon attending a car show in Springfield, Mo., he saw the very same car, sitting off by itself with a "for sale" sign attached. When he returned home, he was the one going down the black-top in it while Joyce drove their other car.

This custom two-door sedan is nosed, decked and louvered, with the headlights Frenched and 1959 Cadillac taillights Frenched into the rear. A few years later, Dean eliminated the solid front axle by putting in a front subframe from a 1979 Chevy Monte Carlo to accommodate a new 350 crate motor plus a 350 automatic transmission.

"She fit right in there," he said of the Chevy frame. "We didn't have to shorten it up or anything."

The car also features air conditioning and heater plus remote electric doors. Last summer he and his son put in a new sound system, finally replacing the old 8-track stereo.

The car was mostly done when he purchased it, having been originally customized in the later 1960s in New York. It was that custom work that

attracted him to the car.

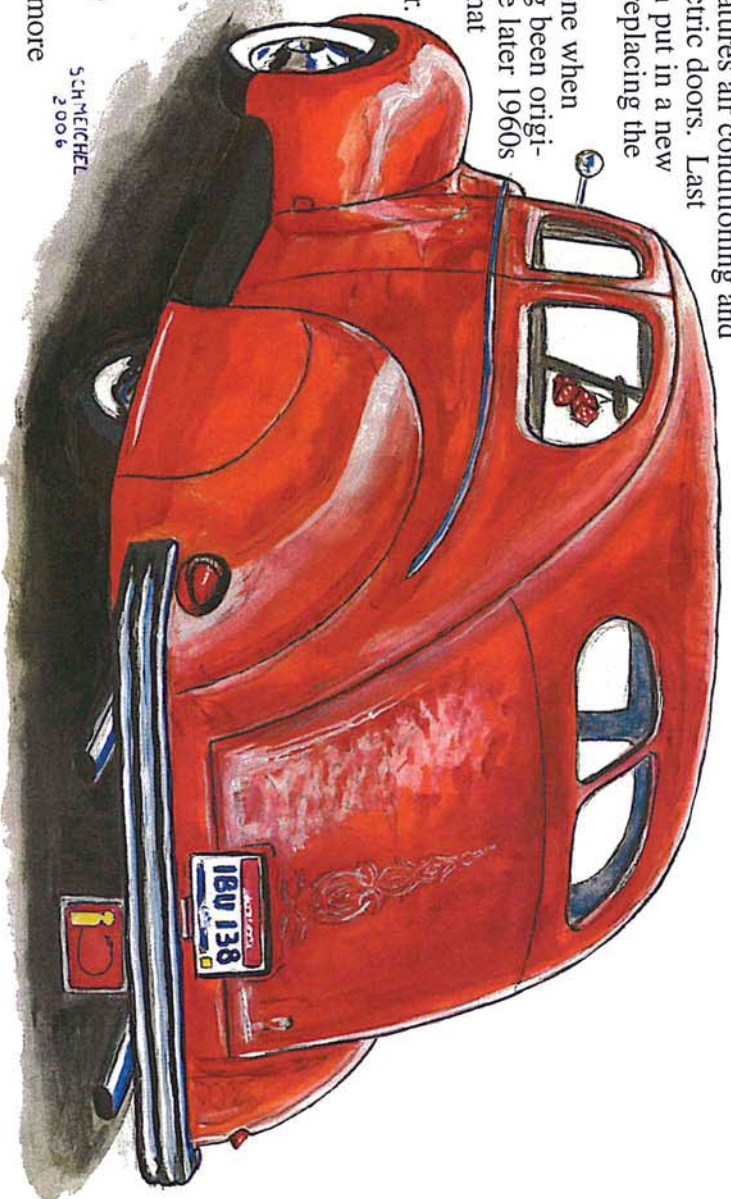
He says he's had it about 12 years and probably has \$30,000 tied up into it. But it has more than paid for itself in the joy he gets from it.

"When I first got it, I must've got around 10 trophies," Dean said.

But he spends more time driving it

than he does at car shows these days. That's what this '40 Ford is all about for Dean.

"It's just a cruiser, not for show or anything," he said. "Just as long as it looks good and gets thumbs-up off the street, that's trophy enough for me."



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