

## *It's Not A Mercury, But It's Just As Good*

For Allen Alby, his 1946 Ford convertible has enough styling cues to remind him of the 1947 Mercury convertible he had as a teenager, and that makes this Ford a special car for him.

Allen bought the car in 1999 from Randy DeBoer, but it didn't look anything like what you see today. It was all stoked, had no motor and needed a lot of work.

"It was all in pieces," Allen said.

Now the pieces, some of which have Allen's custom touch, fit together nicely, and the car runs fast with a Chevy 355 crate motor Allen got from a local Chevrolet dealer. The headlights and taillights are Frenched, the bumpers removed and Nerf bars were installed in the back. Under the crate motor is a Mustang II front-end, and a 400 automatic transmission shifts the gears for Allen. The interior features custom-designed seats from Teas of Rochester, MN, and Allen made his own custom door panels of the same fabric. The car also has power steering, power brakes, power windows in the front and a Pioneer stereo system.

"It took me about a year and a half to build this one," Allensaid.

But while he was building his '46 Ford, he was also building two other cars. The 1934 Chevy sedan he was building ended up in the hands of Roger Van Noort, and the '34 Ford three-window coupe was also sold. But the maroon '46 Ford convertible is a keeper. Allen said besides the nostalgia of the Mercury he drove as a teenager, he also likes this car because it has been a dependable vehicle.

"I can drive it anywhere, I don't have to worry about it," Allen said.

