

A Journey Back to Youth

A lot of car enthusiasts choose a special car they want based on what they had in their first years of driving. But Ken and Vickie Levene decided to take it a step further.

“What I was looking for, was when I was a youth the first car my parents ever let me drive was a 1959 Ford Custom 300 two-door sedan,” Ken explained.

Finding a 1958 Ford two-door shouldn't be too hard. Ford made a lot of them; over 228,000.

“I was looking online,” Ken continued, “and I thought that if that was cool, a Ranchero would be even cooler.”

Now he was narrowing his search to a less widely available model. But that was why he thought a Ranchero would be “cooler.” It's the rarity of the model that sparked his interest.

He finally found the one he purchased in August 2008 on Ebay, but the price was higher than he was willing to pay for the condition it was in. However, everyone else apparently thought so also, as it did not sell. So Ken contacted the owner and started a round of negotiations that proved to be interesting, to say the least. But in the end, Ken prevailed, and an agreeable price was met.

The car ran, and the original 352 c.i. V-8 had been bored, balanced, ported, polished and blue-printed. But a lot of other areas needed attention. It was in good condition, but needed a lot of TLC.

After having it shipped to Denver and then trailering it home from there, Ken replaced the radiator and fixed a lot of engine leaks. None of the gauges worked, so he replaced them. He also replaced a lot of missing or damaged trim and did some body and paint repair to get it in the desirable condition seen today.

As Ken understood the history of the car, it apparently was purchased new in Tennessee, possibly for bootlegging. Ken noted the Rancheros were popular for rum-running because they had a false floor shared with station wagons but without the rear seat and spare tire underneath, providing a lot of hidden space.

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By the time Ken purchased it, it was in Los Angeles. The owner had purchased it from someone who started to restore it but ran out of money, and then he also ran out of money for the work needed. Ken said it looked like the last owner lived in it. But you wouldn't know that looking at it today. Now it looks like someone has loved it.

"It has a lot of residual, sentimental value," Ken said. "It's like being in high school again."

Membership Renewals

Membership renewals officially begin in January, but we have many members already paying 2010 dues to treasurer, Jayne DeBoer, and/or new secretary, Amanda Mullinix.

The 2010 dues are still \$20 per couple or \$10 for a single and your children under 18 are always included.

You may send renewals to Jayne DeBoer, 1717 Annway Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57103 or give them to any officer on Wednesday nights.

Newest Member

Congratulations to Derrick and Sarah Stokes! It's a girl!

Paige Marie Stokes was born Dec. 10 at 9:07. She weighed in at 8 lbs. and 6ozs. and was 20 3/4" long.

If you'd like to send a card, Derrick and Sarah's address is 7208 W. 66th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57106.

Derrick is the Great Plains Street Rodders' webmaster.

Don't Be Late

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran, she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again!

As she ran, she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"

December Birthdays

Ron Hammerschmidt	2
Bill Miller	3
Gary Ebright	11
Cathy Walker	13
Dorothy Holmbeck	13
Barb Schriever	17
Terri Reilly	19
Julie Hansen	20
LeAnne Phillips	20
Helen Jensen	21
Roger Corkill	24
Ellen Van Noort	30
Chris Johnson	31

December Anniversaries

Morris & Beth Fick	1
Glenn & Cathy Walker	19
Eric & Patt Anderson	20
Bill & Lana Kullander	20
Jeff & Jeanne Matthews	26
Owen & Carlotta McKittrick	28
Fred & Nancy Snyder	31

January Birthdays

Matt Butler	2
Larry Gannon	3
Shanda Schlechter	3
Ike Wiese	5
Grace Bradshaw	5
Glenna Burns	7
Fred Lambert	10
Jean Tlustos	10
Beth Fick	12
Michelle Lee	14
John Lynch	15
Randy Ludwig	16
Carlotta McKittrick	20
Doreen Wiese	21
LaDell Mertens	21
Marilyn Haper	24
Butch Yesda	29
Nancy Jellis	31

January Anniversaries

Ike & Doreen Wiese	12
Allen & Shirley Alby	20

