

Loaded With History

Gary Ballenger and Gloria Crews have had their 1930 Ford Model A hotrod coupe about 22 years now. But it was already a significant part of automotive history when they got it.



Gary had a 1955 Chevy Nomad when he struck a deal to trade it for this Model A. While a Nomad is a significant piece of automotive history in and of itself, Gary saw something more in this Model A. The coupe had been built in California several years before the trade and presented itself as a prime example of how hotrods were built in the 1960s. And how they were built in California, which was considered to be the Mecca of hotrodding in the 1960s.

“It’s a part of California history,” Gary said.

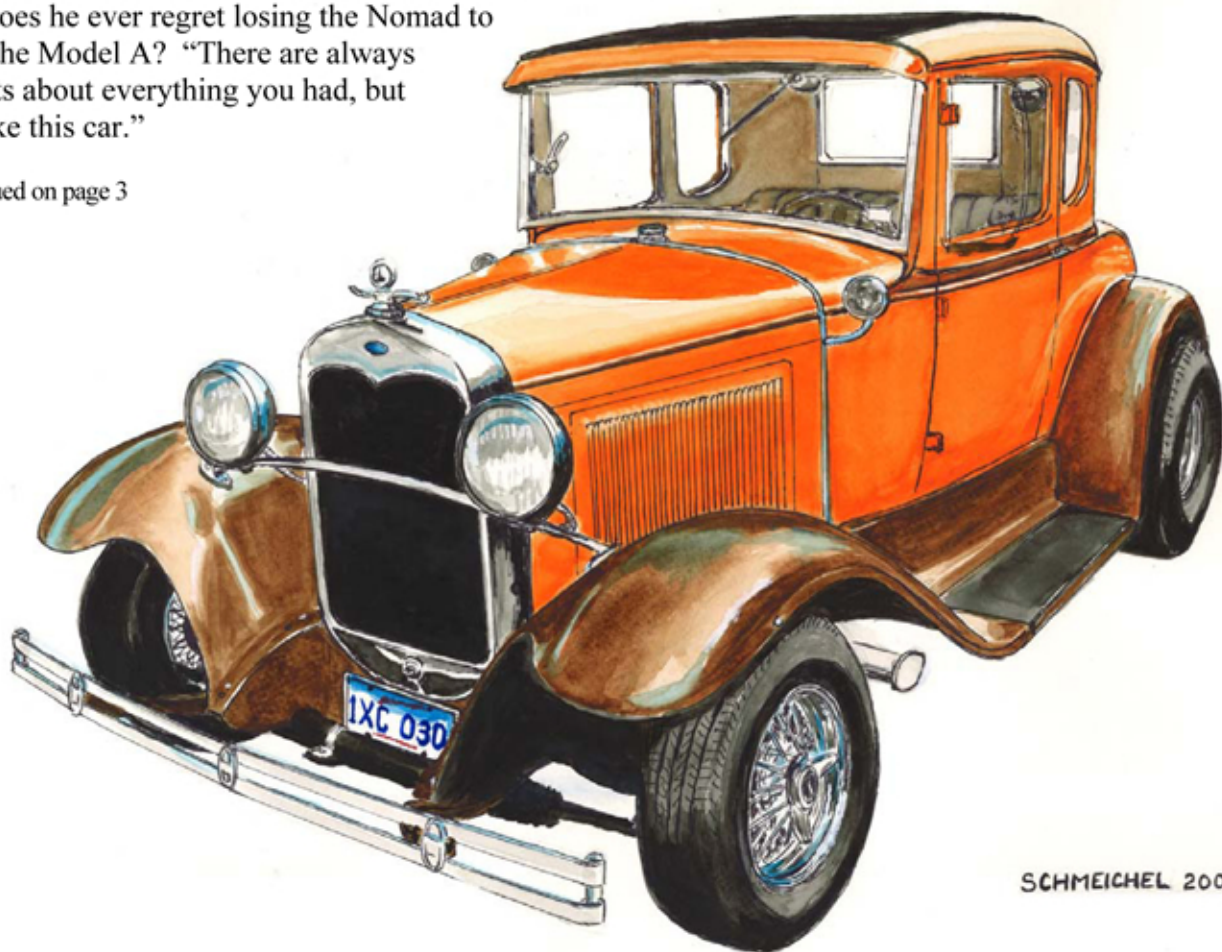
It has a 327 V-8 from a Corvette, mated to a 4-speed transmission, resting on a Corvair front end. Electrical needs come from a generator, as the car was built during the infancy of alternators. But there isn’t a lot of demand for electricity on this car – no air conditioning and music comes from a simple AM/FM radio. No power windows, power seat adjustments or power locks. This car was built for a different kind of comfort – the kind that comes from driving a hotrod. And Gary has driven it a lot, enjoying every moment.

“It’s been all over the United States,” he said. However, he acknowledges that the car really wasn’t built for making long distance trips. But he added, “it was when I was young.”

He’s presently building a 1946 Ford sedan delivery that will be a little more comfortable for the longer trips. It, too, will be powered by a Corvette 327.

Does he ever regret losing the Nomad to gain the Model A? “There are always regrets about everything you had, but we like this car.”

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