

## *It's A Part of the Family*

When Faye Gallagher first got her 1966 Chevrolet Impala, she didn't even want it. Now, she'll never let it go, because it has become a part of her family.

She was driving a 1959 Chevy at the time, and it was worn out and falling apart when her husband, Delbert "Dub," found the '66 Impala in 1970 and decided to surprise his wife with it. The surprise didn't go over too well.

"I said, 'I wanted to pick out my own car,'" Faye related. "I was a little upset."

But they kept it. And she's still keeping it.

Dub, who maintained the city of Sioux Falls' vehicles until his retirement, took good care of Faye's Impala, just as he took good care of all the vehicles they owned, she said. He would even clean it before it went back in the garage after a winter outing, which Faye attributes for the car's remarkable lack of rust. It has 140,000 miles on it, most of which were acquired in the Sioux Falls area.

Faye ceased using it for her daily transportation in the late 1980s, when she purchased a Chevy Beretta, which she picked out herself. The Impala was "put back into the back of the garage." But the old Impala stayed home. The Beretta is now gone.

"My husband kept saying 'let's sell her,' and I said, 'no, you're not selling my car,'" Faye said.

After a while, they decided the car was getting old enough that they thought maybe it was becoming deserving of a classic status and worth keeping. The car that Faye almost rejected was now a part of the family and growing in sentimental value as well as in collectable value.

"Her name is Henrietta," Faye said. "She was born in 1966 and adopted in 1970."

When Faye moved to Seattle, WA, to be near her daughter about 6 years ago, after her husband died, she took the '66 Impala with her. But she didn't like the wet weather in Seattle and decided 3 years later to move back to Sioux Falls. Henrietta came with her again.



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During all the time that Faye has had the Impala, she has sought to preserve it in its original state. When a chair blew off a deck in a storm and damaged the side of the car, she had it painted in its original color. When it was time to overhaul the 283 engine, everything was done to the original specifications. When the radiator spring a leak, Faye ordered a new one from the company that had built the original one for Chevrolet.

Today that 1966 Chevrolet Impala is as much a part of Faye Gallagher as her own daughter. But she's able to keep it a lot closer.

