

## *An Opportunity Taken*

Art and Julie Slumskie have had their 1974 Cadillac Eldorado for about 10 years. It wasn't something they went looking for, but when Art found it, he knew he had to have it.

Art was in San Diego, CA, attending a convention when he picked up one of those free magazines advertising cars for sale. In it he found a big red convertible that probably could've been used to hold one of his convention meetings.

"The minute I looked at it I was in trouble because I wanted a big red Eldorado," he said.

He decided this would be better transportation back home. It just made sense – the luxury of a cushy Cadillac seat in which he could stretch out versus one of those narrow airline chairs that have your knees to prevent the tray in front of you from collapsing.

But he hadn't driven far when the clamp locking the convertible top on the passenger side broke, leaving the top flopping in the wind on that side. That wasn't catastrophic, though, as Art found a generic C-clamp purchased at Lowes held it just fine until he got home to make the proper repair.

Although he had been told the motor had been recently rebuilt, he discovered it was burning oil at a rate of about a quart every 200 miles. But as he passed through Kansas, the motor quit burning oil. "I figure they rebuilt it and it just wasn't broken in," Art said.

Even though the Eldorado features Cadillac's 500 c.i. engine, one of the biggest production engines ever built, Art says he still gets up to 15 miles per gallon on the highway. And it will propel the large mass of shiny steel quite nicely.

"It really goes down the road; 60, 70 MPH, it just floats," Art said.

Since he got his luxu-barge home, Art has had to do some work on it to get it in its present nice condition. He says he put in new rubber seals, carpet and windshield and rebuilt the front end. But while doing this work, he has been able to frequently take it out and enjoy it.

"What I like is you can have six people in it and cruise around and have fun," Art said.



SCHMEICHEL 2010