

## *It's Been a Long Time Coming*

Mel has had his 1964 Ford Galaxie 500 hardtop for 23 years, and now he has decided it is time to start fixing it up.

He purchased the car in 1987 with 86,000 original miles on it. It wasn't a show car, but it was all original and it was reliable.

"I like Fords," he explained. "This lady had an ad and I went and looked at it and bought it. I saw it and liked it.

"I bought it and I drove it to California and back," Mel said. "I drove it around a few years."

But then it was put away in a garage at his mother's house. After that, he would drive it once in a while, but it received little attention for five or six years. When his mother passed on, the property was sold and he had to bring it home. At that point, he decided it was time to quit procrastinating about fixing it up.

He plans on restoring it to its original appearance. The 352 Windsor V-8 runs good and will be left alone for now. Next winter he hopes to have it repainted the original blue and white colors.

"I want to get it done so I can go to different shows, drive it," Mel said.

"I'm trying to get the interior done now," he continued. "I've got the carpet down and now I've got the seats out, getting done."

While he wants his Galaxie to look like it did from the factory, he's not adamant about keeping all cars original.

"If it was a '50 Ford, then I'd be customizing it," Mel said. "I had one of them."

His first car was a '50 Ford, and back then he was more interested in what made a car look cool, than in preserving history. But that wasn't the only car to influence his interest in old Fords. He said most of his family has always had an allegiance to Ford. So, the '64 Galaxie just fits in with his family's history in addition to Ford's history.

