

Much Was Picked Up for This Pickup

When Owen McKittrick purchased his 1949 Chevy pickup truck out of Doon, IA, he found himself picking up a lot more for it to bring it to its current good-looking state. In fact, he had to purchase another '49 Chevy pickup near Tea to get enough parts to make one good truck.

“Out of the two pickups, neither had a box that was useable,” he added. “I had to buy a new (reproduction) box.”

He describes it as “a bucket of bolts” when he bought it 14 years ago. But you’d never know it to look at it today. He said he had a lot of help building it from his friend, Kevin Van Kompberg.

“I tried to keep the body as stock-looking as possible,” Owen said.

But it definitely isn’t stock. He purchased a crate Chevy 350 and installed it with a 350 turbo automatic transmission. The rack-and-pinion front suspension combined with a rear-end from a Camaro give it a lower stance. He also installed seats from a 1998 Buick Park Avenue for added comfort. The gauges were updated, but retain the original appearance.

“Of course, I’ve got to have all the creature comforts: power seats, power steering, power windows, power locks,” Owen added.

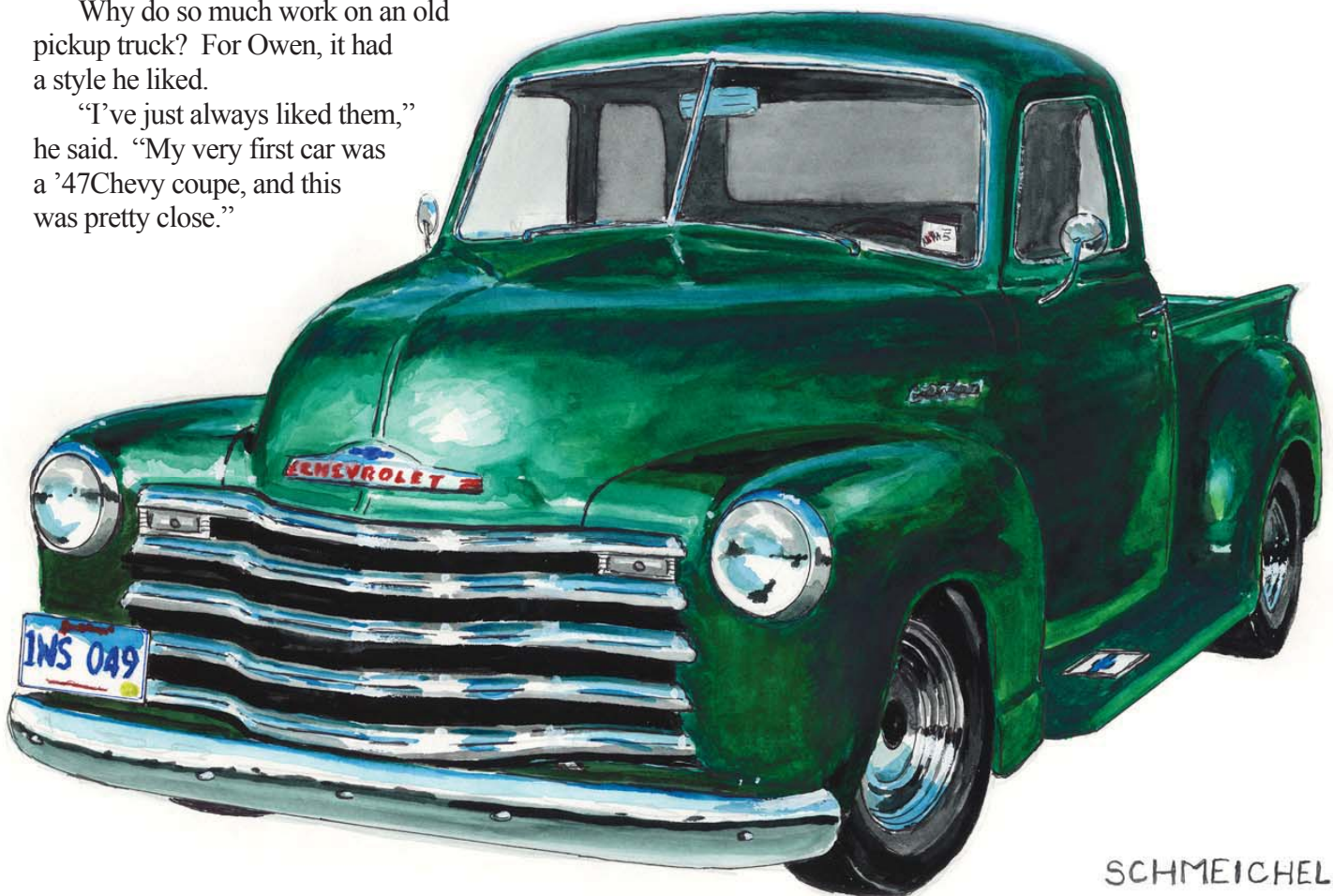
For audio enjoyment, he found a stereo from a Cadillac Eldorado fit perfectly where the original speaker was once located. “It looks like it came with the truck,” he said.

The truck was finished in a shade of green that was used on 1998 Dodge Caravans. But it looks a lot better on this old Chevy truck. And Owen did the woodwork on the oak floor in the bed himself.

He finished it two years ago and is now enjoying the fruits of his labor.

Why do so much work on an old pickup truck? For Owen, it had a style he liked.

“I’ve just always liked them,” he said. “My very first car was a '47 Chevy coupe, and this was pretty close.”



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