

## Time Capsule

By Bob Schmeichel

Getting closer to retirement, Grant Geister thought it would be fun to have a car to tinker on as he enjoyed doing in his high school days. He had a couple of '55 Chevys with 327s and a '58 Chevy with a 409, all of which left lasting impressions of fun he had in his younger years. What he was looking for now was a newer car that he might have dreamed of having in his 1967 graduation year in high school. Grant's desire wasn't brand or model specific since there were many really neat cars that came out in 1967 that he thought about. He searched and watched the for sale ads for quite a while until September of 2005. He found a 1967 Dodge two-door hardtop for sale in Brookings. That next day he went to Brookings not expecting much, as most Chrysler products of those years are usually rust buckets. But to his surprise, he found the car to be survivor of the time. The car was a relatively good-running, complete car from Texas with only 69,000 miles and totally rust-free. It needed some cosmetics, so Grant had some leverage when negotiating price. A price was agreed on and the owner delivered the car to Grant's home the same day. Once home, Grant put the car in an old shed at his acreage where it sat for the next five years. He knew this wasn't going to be a fast project as far as getting it done because anyone who has a family knows priorities change all the time. During the five years' time the car sat, Grant searched and gathered the parts he needed from the internet as he could afford them. He said some parts were off-the-wall expensive, even for used parts! Also, while laughing, he mentioned occasionally having to chase invading raccoons out of the building the car was stored in. They always seemed to find or make a way into a building with a dirt floor. That's another story and the car no longer resides there anymore. Looking back it was a long process to which Grant never thought he would see the end with all the different directions family life takes all of us.

Then a little over a year ago, Grant decided to get the car out and finish it. He worked on it pretty intently by installing a new grill, front fender, a new white interior, as well as many other little things that added to the finished picture. Over the winter, a farmer buddy of Grant's said he would paint the car, but it would get done on his own time when he had it. Grant had no problem with that and was happy to hear how amazed his farmer buddy was when he actually got into working on the car with how straight and rust-free it was. Grant had him paint the top of the car black to help set it off, with the bottom painted the original gold color. Finally, after getting the car home, some new tires and wheels were added to finish off the outside appearance. Since the exhaust manifolds were cracked along with single exhaust ready to fall off, Grant added some new headers and dual exhaust to the original 318 cubic inch engine that allowed it to have quite a bit more power than the way it had always been the last 44 years. He said it came alive! Linda and Grant drove the Dodge for the first time this summer to the Pontiac Club-sponsored Wednesday cruise night. They both enjoy driving around in a car that gets a lot of attention where ever they go, along with all the new-found friends in the car club. Grant is going to continue working on the Dodge to make it as safe and dependable as possible and hopes of someday installing a new crate engine to add to the already cool image of the car.



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