

What Goes Around Comes Around

By Bob Schmeichel

Anyone who has been around the car hobby for 35 years or longer knows Ken Jump as a good friend. Ken is a humble sort of guy who lets the quality of his work or cars speak for him. He has always done all of his own work, whether it be mechanical, body work or paint at his own body shop in Harrisburg. These days, however, after being sort of retired, the body shop has become a build or storage location for Ken's own personal projects.

Eleven years ago, a friend asked Ken if he could find a 1961 Chevy bubble top car for him like one he had in high school. With that request, Ken enlisted a buddy he has in Rapid City to help with the search. A couple weeks later a car was found in Mitchell and brought to Sioux Falls by his buddy from Rapid City. Bringing the interested party together with the '61 Chevy, the sale was immediate. Ken was also having a hard time not drooling over the car, too. With only 45,000 original miles, the soft-yellow exterior, six-cylinder and three-speed, it was a very desirable car. Before the car went away, Ken mentioned to his friend that if he ever wanted to sell the car to let him know. Then in August of 2011, ten years had gone by with the owners of the '61 Chevy losing interest, and Ken was called. It didn't take long, and Ken had the 1961 Chevy he had looked at 10 years earlier in his shop in Harrisburg. He was surprised to see that it had been driven only 200 miles during the time they had it. Ken put the car in a corner of his shop 'til February 2012 while he thought about what he would do with it.

Once he had his ideas, the six-cylinder stick combination came out and a 350 with a five-speed went in. After installing power steering and brakes, he got heavy into detailing the body with wet sanding the entire 20-year-old repaint job with 2,000-grit sand paper and rubbing it out. New outside trim and Torque Thrust wheels were added finishing the picture bringing the car right back into the 60s again really making a statement when seen today. Now there are other people drooling around the car instead of Ken who is usually standing back smiling. Out of all the cars Ken has built and sold over the years, this one is his wife Susan's favorite because of its total original inside and outside appearance. If I know Susan, I doubt this '61 Chevy will ever be sold!



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