

## Going the Distance

By Bob Schmeichel

Wishes or desires are a main driving force each of us has deep inside to help us achieve direction to an end goal in all facets of life. By the time this is published, Jack Boatright and his wife, Dianne, will have fulfilled one of Jack's main bucket list items he has been excited about for quite a few years. The thing I am talking about is a car-people-related event put together by Hot Rod magazine called the "Power Tour." This year it has been slated as the world's largest group road trip starting in Milford, Michigan, with 4,500 registered cars participating. The idea for the group is to travel south 200

to 300 miles a day for seven days ending up in Arlington, Texas. I can't imagine the parade of people, colors, and sounds going down the road every day that someone would see sitting on the side of the road. Each night with a designated stop the group makes along the way, the picture becomes a car show in that city. Not only does this whole event take an unbelievable amount of continual planning every day for and by everyone, but can be grueling on a car if it is not put together well. Jack proved to himself last year that his 1939 Chevy was truly road worthy when he and Dianne drove to Vancouver, British Columbia, and back covering 4,500 miles without missing a beat. I told him when you do that you gain a lot of self confidence in your abilities and what you put together. Smiling, he agreed whole heartily saying the Power Tour is next and running with the group. I kind of compare it to running with the bulls in Europe, only you are in control as you venture out each day going a comfortable pace and enjoying the sights along the way while gaining new friends.

The history of Jack and his car is not exactly short. He bought the body in 2002 and tore it apart. It sat for three years while he contemplated how he wanted it to come together but not without a lot of thought and planning. After deciding what to do, the next five years Jack pushed himself to do **everything** on the car that he could to get it on the road. He mentioned that when he was ready to paint the car, it took him over 20 hours straight just to apply the paint color and clear. For those who don't know that much about

the painting process, the 20-hour time frame is pretty common place when applying color every place on a car body. Painting the frame and suspension first before the body can be just as time consuming. Taking pictures during a build will help you remember the countless hours you may have forgotten about along the way.

Jack and Diane really enjoy the street rod hobby with its many directions and even more the strong camaraderie the club has given to them in their retirement years.

Jack recently bought another car to build to start the story all over again.

