

## *The Agreement*

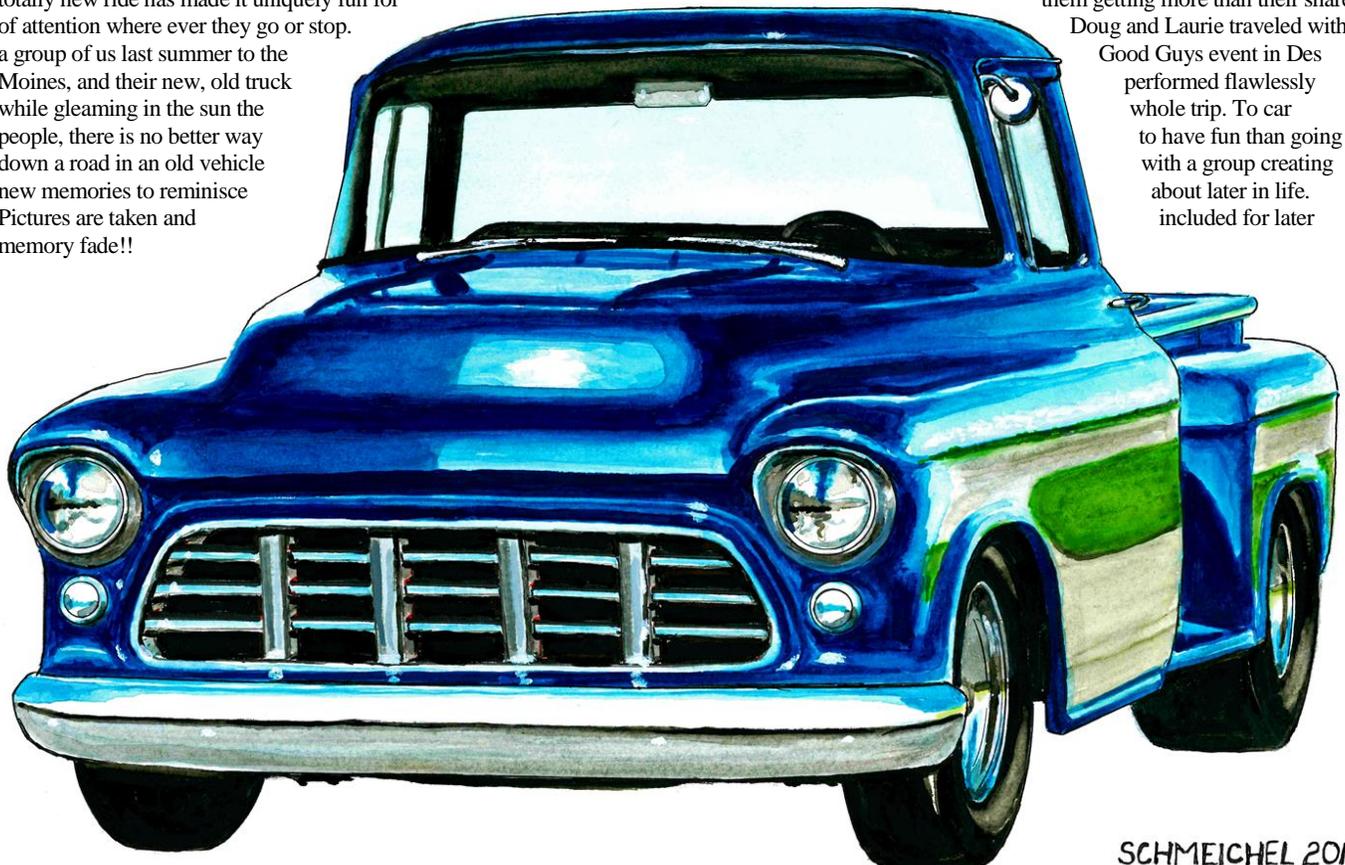
By Bob Schmeichel

When someone back in the early 1900s decided to put a box on the back end on a vehicle, they probably didn't realize how much that would change the world. Over the last 100 years that idea of a pickup has grown in so many directions, that today, it is common place to see equal amounts of pickups as cars in any part of the world. Besides pickups evolving into the modern day work horse, they might have been used to learn to drive with, giving young people the fun experience with a different feel than a car and the independence to drive anywhere. Or, who hasn't ridden in the back of a pickup box when they were younger and experienced the big, open sky above you on a warm summer afternoon. The reasons or attractions have always been there. As the newer pickups are evolving today, manufactures are equipping them with as much horse power for speed as today's muscle cars and the interiors are as fancy as luxury cars with all the same bells and whistles to match. It is no wonder that pickups have become a choice for people to have and use every day for whatever reason or need.

In 2010, Doug and Laurie Van Noort were at a point in their lives where they decided it would be fun to have an older car. It had to be something they could work on and cruise around in. Doug and his brother, Roger, decided to go to St.Paul that same year to an event called "Back to the 50's" to see what was for sale. With an average of 12,000 vehicles participating at this event and many for sale, the probability of finding the right ride for Doug and Laurie was pretty high. After two days of walking around and taking numerous pictures that Doug emailed to Laurie, they found out they couldn't agree on what to buy. Laurie was more into muscle cars and Doug was into earlier 1951 to 1955 Chevy cars. On the third day, brother, Roger, spotted a 1955 Chevy pickup for sale that he pointed out to Doug. They walked over to it only to find a telephone number and a price but not the owner. Doug took some more pictures and sent them to Laurie. Doug then called Laurie and an agreement was finally made that this is what they were looking for as a fun project and priced right for both of them. So with that blessing, Doug later found the owner and made a down payment to hold the truck till he came back the following weekend with a cashier's check in hand to finish the deal.

Driving the truck home, they found out it was a pretty solidly built hot rod truck with a newer 350 Chevy engine and a 350 trans along with a Pontiac rear end. It was painted turquoise with a grey tweed interior and had a Nova sub frame. Doug said he had got the background story from the previous owner saying the truck was used for drag racing with a 502 Chevy in it earlier in life before what it is today. That explained the tilt front end that exposed the entire engine compartment and the fuel cell in the box that the truck came with. Doug, by himself, installed a newer sound system right away once at home, but after about a year, they both decided they wanted to make the truck truly their own with new visual outward appearance changes. So in September of 2011, they took their pickup to Executive Touch for a complete makeover that turned it into one gorgeous ride. The transition took all of nine months starting with stripping the turquoise paint color and changing it to the new Shelby Blue color it is today along with a new, black leather interior. Other refinements included a new radiator, heater and air conditioning, a tilt column, Dakota Digital gauges, a new gas tank, and a new slicked-out wood floor in the box. Although Doug and Laurie have a few little things they want to do to the truck yet, cruising in their totally new ride has made it uniquely fun for them getting more than their share of attention where ever they go or stop.

a group of us last summer to the Moines, and their new, old truck while gleaming in the sun the people, there is no better way down a road in an old vehicle new memories to reminisce Pictures are taken and memory fade!!



Doug and Laurie traveled with them getting more than their share of attention where ever they go or stop. Good Guys event in Des Moines, and their new, old truck while gleaming in the sun the people, there is no better way down a road in an old vehicle new memories to reminisce Pictures are taken and memory fade!!