

Fealt Like It Was Meant to Be

By Bob Schmeichel

Jayne DeBoer came away from a totally unforeseen divorce with a house and two old cars. The cars were a 19 56 Chevy and a 1957 Ford, both 4 doors. She liked the cars a lot, but they were a handful to drive when it came to turning or stopping with either one since everything about both cars was manual without power assistance of any sorts. As nice as both cars were as she drove each periodically, it became evident that they were going to take a little more attention sooner than later to keep driving them comfortably. As much as she hated to do it, she put the two cars up for sale in order to buy something that was easier for her to handle. After about three months, they were sold to good friends that Jayne has known for a while. This made Jayne feel good knowing and seeing that the cars are being taken care of as they deserve. After that, the search was on. People were always quizzing her after that. What kind of car are you looking for? Did you find anything yet, with her response always being, "I really don't know yet, but I'll know when I see it!!" As it turned out, as she was watching the paper for a car that might grab her attention, the summer was coming to an end and nothing really seemed to jump out at her. Then one night while doing her nightly exercise ritual of walking around the area where she lives, she came across a car with a for sale sign on it. It was a 1986 Ford Thunderbird Elan 5.0L V8. Although it wasn't a really old car, it wasn't a new car either, but it was in new condition and very much to her liking. As she was looking at the car, the owner rolled up on a wheelchair and they started talking about the car. The owner had bought the car new and had it equipped with handicap controls so he could drive it. He really loved the car, driving it only in fair weather, but because it was getting harder for him to get in and out of it, he forced himself to put it in storage the last two years to keep it nice. With the near-perfect shape and this model car maxed out with all the available options as well as only 37,000 miles on the odometer, the car grew on Jayne right on the spot. This was it!!! As the owner reluctantly told Jayne what he wanted for his car, she told him she felt it was a fair price but wanted to have one of the fellow car club members look at the car first. Her thoughts and feelings about the car were confirmed by Ken Levene, along with speaking to Don Jones over the phone, which led to her buying the car. This owner too was happy knowing his car was going to someone who appreciated it for what it was. He told Jayne to give him a few days to remove the handicap controls and to make sure everything was tip-top shape before she took it. After a couple weeks later, he called Jayne back telling her the car was ready to go. Jane had got a call earlier in the day that her brother had passed away. She asked the owner hold the car for a few days while she dealt with her brother's funeral and would come to get the car later.

Time went by and with her brother's funeral behind her; she decided to get the car the next day. After getting the car, she had insurance put in place and drove it to the court house to get all the paper work done in regards to the title. With that done and her emotions still running kind of high, she decided to drive the car to show Don Jones out at his business location. He was very impressed and pleasantly surprised by the overall shape of her new ride and very happy for her. Feeling good about his reaction, Jayne decided to drive to some other car friends and show them as well. Getting the same reaction from them made the day a bit happier for the moment. Then going east on 26th Street through the city to go home things changed. It was mid-day, with heavy traffic going both ways on Minnesota Avenue as she crossed on a green light and was hit in the front by a fast-rolling female rookie police officer going south responding to a murder at a Cost Cutters. Towards the end of the accident scene with her car on a tow service carrier, Jayne called Don Jones telling him her car was coming his way for repair. He was beside himself not really believing it as he had seen her car only two hours earlier. As it turns out, Don did the repair work to Jayne's car, bringing it back to its former shape. Jayne said because of the model of her car and the rarity, it took a while for Don to find the correct pieces to bring it all back together again. Jayne finally drove her car last summer enjoying every moment of the attention the car brings

her while getting 25 to 27mpg on a couple trips. I am not sure if

Jayne realizes or not,

but the year and

Thunderbird

body

style

she

is

driv-

ing

right

now is

the same

body style

used in

NASCAR for quite a few

years. Now if I can only talk her into

putting some big numbers on the doors on

each side and load the car with decals, she could

appear to be driving a retired race car. How cool would

that be??? Maybe not for a woman, but you never know!!

