

It's Not Your Ordinary Cobra

It started out as a kit car, but then Gerry Phillips got to building it.

The red 1966 Cobra with ghost checkers on the hood and ghost flames on the sides belonging to Gerry and LeAnne Phillips began life in 2000, and Gerry took two years building it the way he wanted it.

“The build went really, really great,” Gerry said. “I made a lot of the components.”

He installed the front suspension so it would have a lower stance than most Cobras. And when it came to putting on the Edlebrock limited edition chrome wheels, he had to narrow the already narrow nine-inch Ford rear end, which he did himself. He also made his own rear suspension and four-bar lengths. He fabricated the gear shift mounting brackets and tower so it could be recessed into the floor.

Gerry also made his own aluminum dash panel so he could have the gauges placed where he wanted them. “When I looked at it, I knew the order I wanted them to be,” he said.

Those gauges gather information from a Ford 5.0 - HO engine with 360 factory horsepower. Gerry bored and balanced the motor, and installed a Ford racing cam and GT

40 aluminum heads. It also has a 20 GPH fuel injector, and he modified the throttle body to 79 mm. But it isn't set up for burning those fat meats on the rear. It has a higher midrange torque.

“It's probably a quicker car for passing. From 45 to 100 MPH it gets right with it,” Gerry said. “It's a cruiser.”

While building it, he had a nice ride down the highway in mind, not the race track.

SCHMEICHEL 2008

continued on page 3



continued from page 2

"It actually rides nice," he said. "I've got the suspension set up for a comfortable ride."

But the suspension is adjustable, should he ever get the urge to take his Cobra to Road America.

Four-wheel disc brakes stop the little racer, and there's an extra roll bar for the missus, just in case.

When he and LeAnne cruise down the highway, they sit in buckskin-colored leather seats that have ostrich skin panels. The seats are placed for a comfortable ride, too, he said. Should the weather get chilly, they have a canvass top and side curtains they can install, although that wouldn't help much in winter weather, he said.

"When it's cool, it's fine, but in cold weather, it doesn't work," Gerry said. "I've got a heater in it for the wife," he added.

"We used to have a stereo in there, but we took it out," he said. "We couldn't hear it anyway (because of the noise from the wind and side-pipes)."

"It's been a fun car for us," he continued, "probably one of the most fun cars I've ever had."

Sympathy Offered

The Great Plains Street Rodders would like to express sympathy to Mary and Bob Thoen. Mary's mother, Bertha Chalus, passed away on Monday, January 7, 2008.

A memorial will be sent from the GPSR. The complete obituary can be found in the Jan. 9 edition of the Argus Leader or at www.millerfh.com. Please keep Mary and Bob in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Thanks Offered

Thanks so much for the card for mom. She will be missed dearly. However, she is in a better place. It is great to have friends and family who care. God bless you all. -- Connie Fiferlick

Stew About Winter Here

Are you wondering when winter will be over and you can get your street rod out to cruise again? An event has been scheduled for you to stew about this!

The Siouxland Car Council (comprised of representatives from many area car clubs) is hosting a Hobo Stew Party at the Shrine Mosque (14th & Phillips – in Sioux Falls), starting at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 27th, and wants members of the Great Plains Streetrodders to participate.

All area car enthusiasts, spouses and families are invited to come - you don't need to be a member of a specific club to attend - just someone who likes cars of any kind - Fords, Mopar, Pontiac, streetrods, Corvettes, etc. You can talk about last year's car shows or upcoming car cruises while enjoying a nice warm bowl of beef stew.

The only thing you need to bring is a can (or jar) of something to add to the stew – tomatoes, carrots, corn, peas, beans, okra - anything you might find in a stew - use your imagination. Everything else will be provided. The Car Council supplies the beef for the stew. Members of the Great Plains Streetrodders have done this in the past and say it does turn out quite good!

Please invite any car enthusiasts you know and join us to enjoy a meal and meet new people with similar interests from around the area.

A Family Tradition

All of his life Ole had heard sto-

ries of an amazing family tradition. It seems that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their 21st birthday. On that day, they'd walk across the lake to the boat club for their first legal drink.

So when Ole's 21st birthday came around, he and his pal Corky took a boat out to the middle of the lake. Ole stepped out of the boat and nearly drowned! Corky just managed to pull him to safety.

Furious and confused, Ole went to see his grandmother.

"Grandma, it's my 21st birthday, so why can't I walk across the lake like my father, his father, and his father before him?"

Granny looked into Ole's eyes and said, "Because, you dumb cluck, your father, grandfather and great grandfather were born in January, and you were born in July."

Classified ads

FOR SALE – 1959 Chevy promo model, 1/25 scale, black and white two-tone, plastic, chassis and roof are slightly warped. \$10 or best offer. Call Brian Lee at 498-0178 or email bg4given@gmail.com

FOR SALE – 1984 454 c.i. engine with 400 transmission, engine rebuilt 2,000 miles ago. Can hear it run. \$2,500. Call Red Duerksen at 772-4850.

FOR SALE – 1952 Packard parts, including a grill, trim pieces, windows and more. Call Gary Ebright at 339-4571.

WANTED – Classified ads for the Great Plains Streetrodders newsletter. If you are a member of the club, it'll cost you nothing. But it can help you

continued on page 4