**(**( Dave’s Article to be published ) **)**

**“Monte Carlo Productions Magazine”**

**~ ~ ~ ~ January - February 2018 Edition ~ ~ ~ ~**

**Our Car**

**HISTORY STORY**

**Dave & Ann Robins**

**Yakima, Washington Place Car Photo Here**

**1954 Ford Crestline Victoria**

**2 Door Hardtop**

***Original Purchase :* 1961** **\* *( Original Rescue )*** From under an ***OK USED CAR LOT*** - car port sign at CarWay Broadway Automotive Repair Garage Yakima, WA ( 2 - $ 150.00 Payments –

$ 300.00 Total and took me one month ( Dave - Age 16 …. Drove it home and parked it until able to save enough money to insure it for the road – Dad saying driving is a privilege not a right ! ( Black with Coral pink and white interior … can be seen later in wedding photo )

***First Trade Off :* 1967 \*** For 1956 Chevrolet 2 Door Hardtop Union Gap, WA .., ***Next*** came a Black 1960 Chevrolet Impala Convertible 348ci / Hounds Tooth Checked Interior …. ***Next*** came a Red 1966 Ford Fairlane GT 390ci factory chrome …. Others cars behind those.

Including 1949 Chevrolet Half Ton Pickup ( That I also totally restored complete with my own hand stitched first and only rolled and pleated seat covers / split manifold & chrome stacks / original 6 l engine / added a 4 Speed transmission ) …. Then 1957 Military CJ 5 Jeep – first ever four wheel drive in family … Named it ***“ MOJAC “*** because that was expensive for those times … ( Nick named appropriately meant “ More Money ” to keep it running - WOW a lot of great times and memories made there )

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***One Chance Buy Back :*** **1989 \* ( Rescue No. 1 )** Not the same car --- but exactly like the original found in Yakima at Owen’s Cycle shop – Yakima WA … ( This one was a two tone - Cream White on the bottom with dark green on the top - otherwise identical and needed attention - more than paint … see that Special Hand written Diary for quaint details and fun comments ) A young guy who had inherited it had just driven it up from Southern California ( Coincidence : Where Dave was born ) and traded it for new motorcycle … See the typed note of documentation made above and Diary Log Book entries …. What a Grand Prize purchase for future fun times to recall .

***First Custom Re–Build :* 1993 \* *( Rescue No. 2 )*** Custom makeover of **THEE 54** … now all black just like the car we had when we were married in 1962 … ***THUS :*** Washington State Vanity License Plate was officially “***THEE 54”*** and nick named ***“HONEYMOONER“*** … this was an amazing 2+ year process until it was road / show worthy … it received many awards over the next 11 years ( Most of the memorabilia can be seen in family collection at what is now called ***“ Flashback Studio “*** including a very special award from ***KUSTOM*** ***CARS OF AMERICA 1999*** : - one of only 72 Special Awards given in the Nation for Mild Custom Cars … Included photos with ***George Barris***  – trip to Nashville, TN Headquarters of Kustom Cars of America ( Photos, Etc. ) ***( Also )*** trip to Hollywood, CA to the ***George Barris Showroom Museum*** and about 4 hours with him in his very nostalgic office and studio, surrounded with his “ Famous Special Movie Cars . ( See Internet Goerge Barris Garage Photos )

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***Time For New Paint 2004 :*** Because of an unknown dent crease in the hood of **THEE** **54** … time for new paint job … left Yakima, WA as a great running “ Driver “ car on April 16th, 2004 … It’s quest for a new paint job took huge twists and turns : First to Tacoma, WA … sat in storage for long do nothing time period  ***( Rescue No. 3 )***  … during some pre-paint body preparation work **THEE 54** experienced an unexpected interior fire that would now require replacing all of the interior ( Say What ? ) … So with that, body work completed ***( Rescue No 4 )*** Now back to Tacoma … First paint job goes on complete with Ghost Flames …. ***However*** … real bad finish … actual Valspar Paint products used went very bad … that required over 2 years of corrections negotiations with ValSpar Paint Industries … resulted in complete stripping back to white metal … Next to Portland, OR for 2” inch CHOP JOB “ … Hardtop roof job was started almost finished but high dollar limitations made it not a good idea … pulled it out **( Rescue No. 5 )** now back in Kelso, WA … here, life got in the way and **THEE 54** was caught up it it’s life as well … ( in a just do nothing stage of restoration … I myself being patient while others struggles with major health issues ) in the interim period of time about 2008 and 2009 it was sent to Spokane, WA for some body off the frame metal work and supposedly prep for final prime and final Black paint …. storage and minor / botched / varied work with nothing accomplished … money drain … ***( Rescue No. 6 )* THEE 54** at this point was returned to Kelso, WA … now it was at least all back in one place meaning frame / most all body parts … ( completely dismantled and ready to crush --- myself thinking that I did not want it to become my “ God Idol “ – meaning more important than the real values of life or my walk with my God personally …. I gave THEE 54 over to the Lord and forsook it completely thinking that was it’s fate – and THEE 54 remained totally dismantled and destroyed through this long 8 year period of so – called restoration … Yes … it had become the ugly car story that we had always wanted to avoid .

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***It was now time :*** **2012 :** As for the rest of this car story, it is very well recorded in my all hand written documentation : ***TITLED : THEE 54 – Continuing Car Story*** … Now we come to  ***( Rescue No. 7 )*** Begins with a very special rescue plan ( after convincing Dave that it was still worthy and possible to re-build it again – perhaps even better that before ) 3 real rare but good friends executed / organized this rescue mission to go down to Kelso, WA location - find and bring all of what could be found of **THEE 54** and returned it to Yelm, WA ( See all documented photos laid out on shop floor ) then we began to plan for it’s re-assembly with renewed hope that it would live again …. Inventory of parts retrieved still looked like an almost impossible task - more time passes … January 11th, 2013 and a full **“Hallelujah Day “** emerges as we now move forward with a determination and full commitment to actually accomplish this long and seemingly impossible task … ( ***Darrel Ross*** – Now Called : **THEE 54’s “ Official Guardian “** seeks and receives the highly qualified promise for restoration help from his lifelong / well qualified car buddy friend in home town Tacoma, WA - **Bob Salstrom** now called : **THEE 54’s “ God Father “** … Its finally time to get started :

***Finally the Second Custom Rebuild :*** **2013 :** This process is very well documented by hand written diary notes as progress / color photographs each captioned for greater details tell the “CAR STORY” … for me God’s perfect number is the Number 7 ( Meaning – Creation Complete … in this case **Re-Creation** now Completed ) … this is now our record for all that transpired methodically and arduously through the next 28+ months of almost continued / nonstop daily dedication to rebuild **THEE 54** back to its former ROAD WORTHY / CAR SHOW quality once again. Blessed with unwavering friendships above all !  **~ ~ “ To God Be The Glory” ~ ~** .

**THEE 54’s First Inside Car Show Appearance with second restoration now completed :**

**March 10 – 12, 2017 ~~~ YAKIMA CUSTOM CAR & CYCLE SHOW**

**~ ~ ~ ~ First Place Custom ~ ~ ~ ~**

**June 28 – 30, 2017 ~~~ GOODGUYS 30th PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONALS – Puyallup, WA**

**~ ~ ~ ~ Car of Excellence ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

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**Doc. File : THEE 54’s Car History – 1961 through 2017 - *DR***