

PAC MEMBER CAR STORY

DAVID SCHMITZ - 1956 CHEVROLET 3100 PICKUP



This 56 Chevy pickup was owned by my grandpa from new until he passed away in 1984. As a youngster I would ride to and from the field with grandpa, and occasionally I would get to set on my knees, start the pickup in 1st gear and follow grandpa while we moved equipment from one field to another. When I was an eighth grader, I was driving my younger sister and myself to grade school with the 56 pickup and got stopped by a cop. He asked me for my driver's license, and I said you know I don't have one. He stated that I didn't stop for the stop sign, and I said there aren't any stop signs in Menoken. The officer replied there should be because I could have run

into him. I said ya, but you were sitting here waiting for me. The officer told me to turn the pickup around, go home, and tell my dad I wasn't supposed to be driving to grade school without a license. When we got home I told mom that we were going to need a ride to school for the rest of the year.

After grandpa passed away the pickup sat in a shed for several years because it had developed a crack in the block and Dad wasn't going to spend money to fix it. Dad told me I could have the pickup if I wanted to fix it up for a beat around pickup. I licensed it again in the late 80's and my son and I would load up a couple gallons of water and drive around hunting gophers at the farm. In 2005 my son joined the Navy and once again the pickup became a fixture in the backyard. It wasn't until 2017 during a conversation with our son, that the idea of fixing it came to light.

In April of 2017 my wife and I decided that we should fix up the pickup and started looking at different options. I stopped in at Dale's Auto Restoration for a quote and to discuss options. Dale asked what I was looking to have done, and my first words were, "I wanted a really good looking gopher hunting pickup." It only took about two minutes to move beyond that when Dale asked me if I wanted to drive down the road at 55 mph like a truck or 75 mph like a car. The next thing I knew we were looking at a complete frame off restoration with a new engine, transmission, front end, rear end etc.

The restoration seemed to take longer than I anticipated but was well worth the wait. In the spring of 2019 Linda and I were able to give my Dad a ride in the newly restored 56 pickup, and he had lots of questions about the restoration. Dad passed away in November of 2019 and the smile on his face when he was riding in the 56 that spring is something we will always remember.

Since then Linda and I have enjoyed many outings with our 56 Chevy Pickup.

Note: We would LOVE to hear your 'car story' ... please submit your story to Don Roloff at rolnon@bis.midco.net and we will publish it in the newsletter as soon as we are able!