

CLASSIC CORNER

A work of art

Seldom do you meet a guy who's "got it all", but I just have, and his name is Roger Lusty.

Consider. He's got a gorgeous old 1957 Chevy step-side shortbox pickup truck that he's owned since 1971, and is presently restoring; but more than that, has a wife, Christine, who is urging him to get the truck finished because she can't wait to go cruising in it!

ANY classic car nut, male or female, with a supportive spouse, has pretty much found Heaven here on Earth.

Beyond that, this is one of those people capable of doing all the restoration, bodywork, repairing of his truck personally, thereby saving a ton of cash, while still resulting in a product he can truly be proud of.

There's more. Then, when his '57 Chevy is finished and gleaming in his driveway, he can commission a portrait of his masterpiece, hiring himself to do it, because that's how he makes his living!

Hence, the name of his recent and rapidly growing business, "Roger's Auto Art Works."

After a lengthy career in the print industry, working for various studios, design firms and print houses over a 20 year period, Roger started his biz' a couple of years ago.

"When the industry made the change to computer graphics, I decided it was time for a change.

"Over the next few years I worked in various jobs which included assembly line work and also autobody repair and painting, until I decided to combine my love of cars and art to focus on automotive portraits.

"Working in watercolour, acrylic, and pencil I personally create every painting by hand without the aid of a computer. My main area of interest includes classic cars, hot rods, motorcycles and all

forms of auto racing."

With demand for his portraits increasing weekly, he is now at the point where he is booking well into 2009, so if you want something done, corporate, private, special occasion, call asap.

For a close-up and personal look at what Roger can bring to a canvas near you, visit

www.rogers-auto-art.ca

You'll be amazed.

Now back to his beloved '57. Roger bought this truck, his first vehicle, in 1971 from a dealership in Saskatoon.

"It was all original, all matching numbers, a straight six, and a rather rare factory four on the floor, and that's exactly the way I'm going to keep it," he tells me over coffee this past Thursday.

"It was a trade-in from a local farm family, and I bought it for \$400. I made it my daily driver, drove it everywhere, including to Victoria and back, even though the heavy-duty suspension made for a bit of a rough ride. You get used to it."

Still high on the fumes from the aircraft product he used to strip the truck to bare metal, Roger will now be prepping the body for paint (replacing some metal, making sure everything is straight), before getting it sprayed it's original sea foam mist, "Sort of a turquoise."

The restoration will also include a couple of minor modifications to make the ride a little more pleasant, like lowering the suspension a bit, switching to mono leaf springs up front and opting for disc brakes, "but nothing that can't easily be undone to return it to stock if the need arises."

Perfect. Future plans may include wide whitewall radials, but not immediately because there's a whole lot more to get done before any rubber meets the road on this project.



Laurie Mustard
CLASSIC CORNER



In the meantime, he's got some serious painting to do, and not on his truck: "I hope my art, like the classic cars, hot rods and motorcycles themselves, stir the imagination of the viewer. I am doing what I love and am grateful that so many people enjoy my work."

Told you he has it all.

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