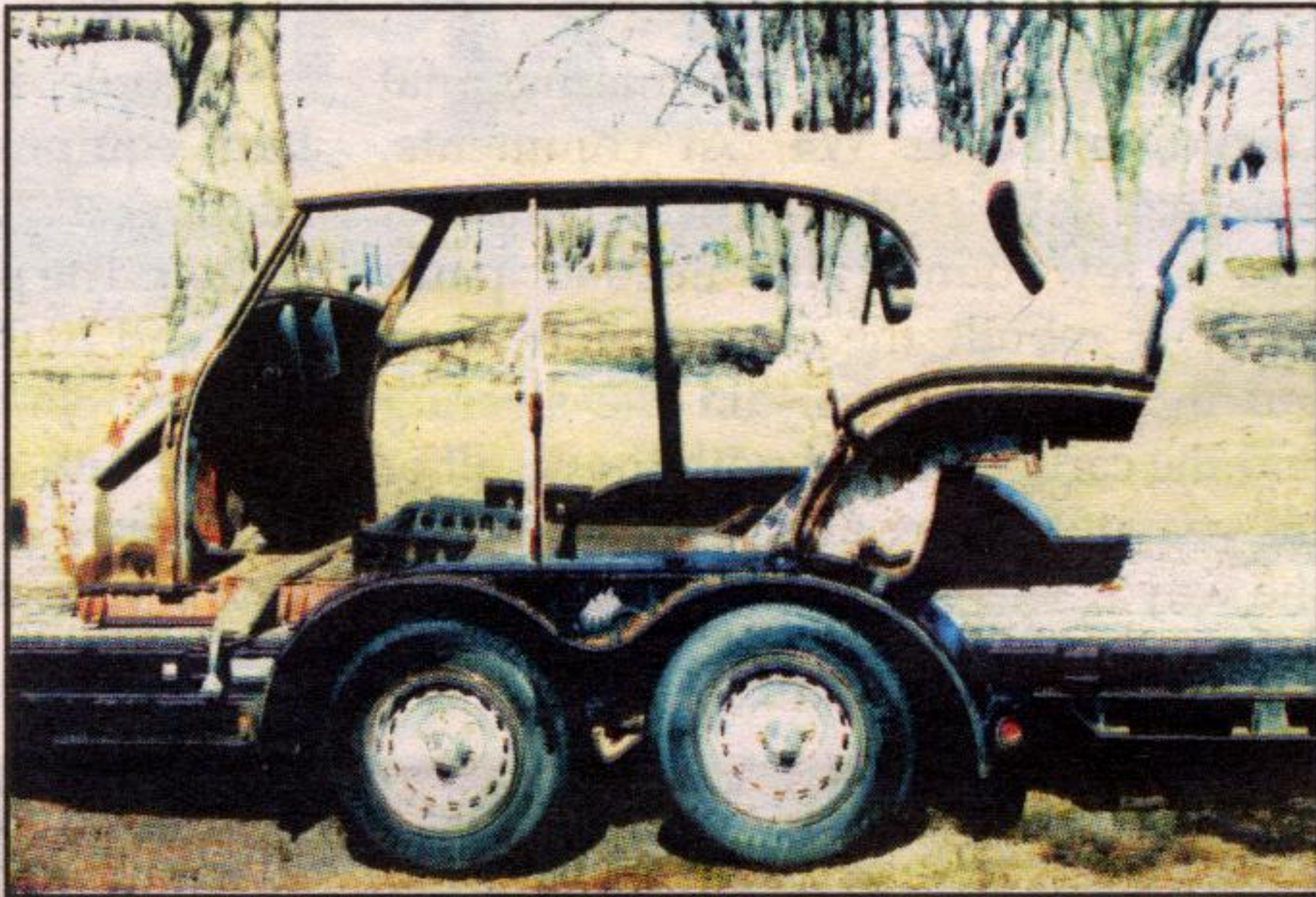


Ride in time: the legacy of JFK

By LAURA COOK

Nearly everyone old enough to remember can recall where they were when they heard the news of the Kennedy assassination in 1963. Born in 1917 in Brookline, Massachusetts, John F. Kennedy was the youngest president of the United States to be elected. As a senator in the 1950s, Kennedy nearly gained Vice Presidency in 1956, only to be elected as president four years later.



THE BODY BEFORE RESTORATION

His political career offered many social privileges that still interest people today. But to Dominique Houle and his

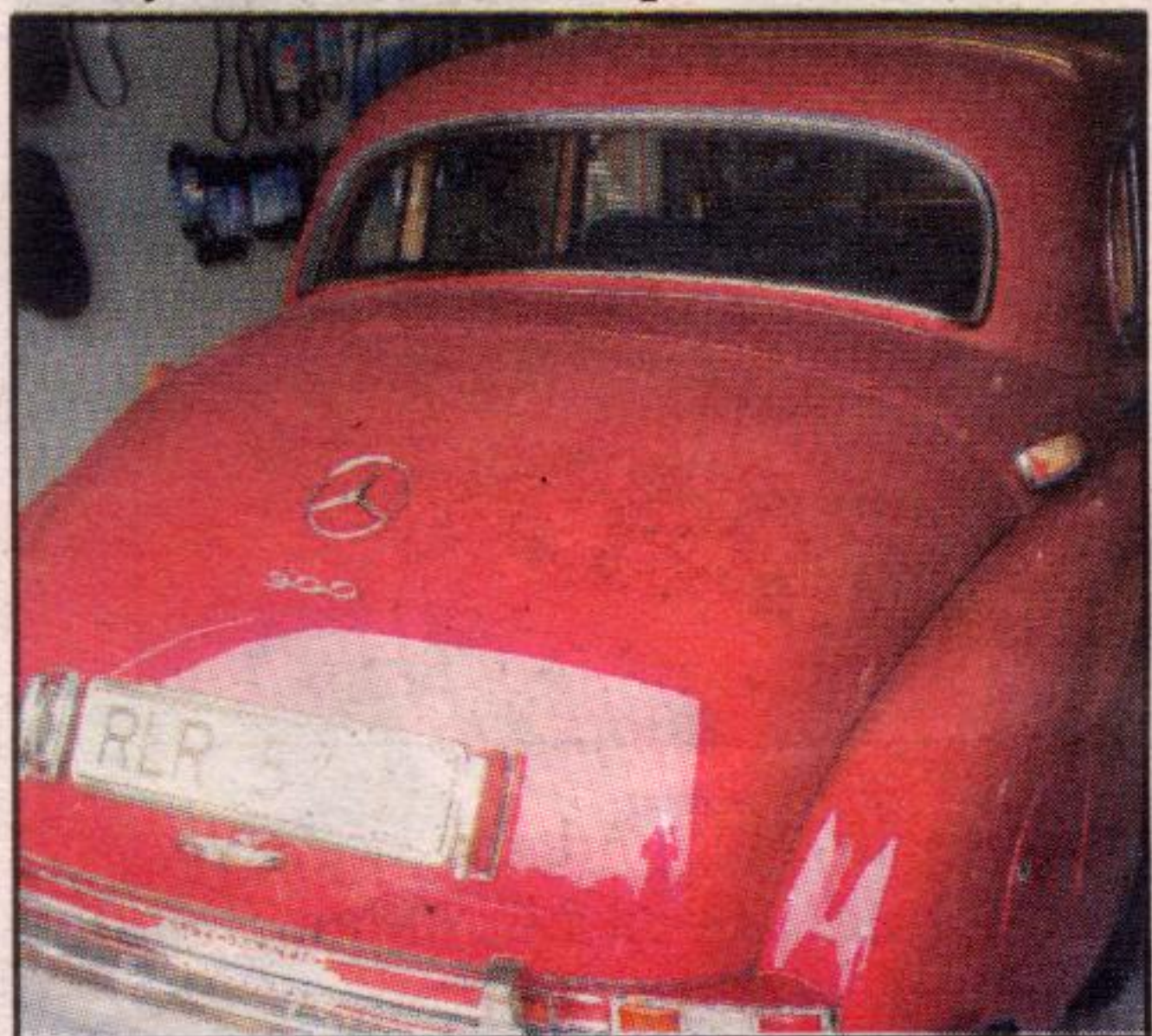


PHOTO BY LOUISE COOK

partner, Lucyna Janusz, Kennedy's '57 Mercedes Benz is the closest they'll ever get to interacting with the legend.

As a part of Mister Benz Ltd., Dominique's expertise at restoring older vehicles came in handy when his girl-

friend decided to buy John F. Kennedy's old 300 Mercedes Benz, known as the Adenauer model. With three previous owners including JFK, the car had been dismantled with intentions of restoring it to its original condition. Dragged up from Indiana to a farm in Alberta, Janusz bought the vehicle in 1999 and the restoration began. The frame sat exposed to the outside elements on a farm for over 20 years. Although the remainder of the car was kept indoors in a climate-controlled environment, Dominique says, "the real work was on the body of the car." Thirty-six hundred hours of sanding, welding and painting later, Dominique transformed the rusty old frame and parts into a shiny red, fully restored and working piece of history.

Originally bought in 1956, John F. Kennedy purchased the Mercedes when he was a Senator. Breezing through the two-year wait that usually accompanied such an impressive vehicle, Kennedy's

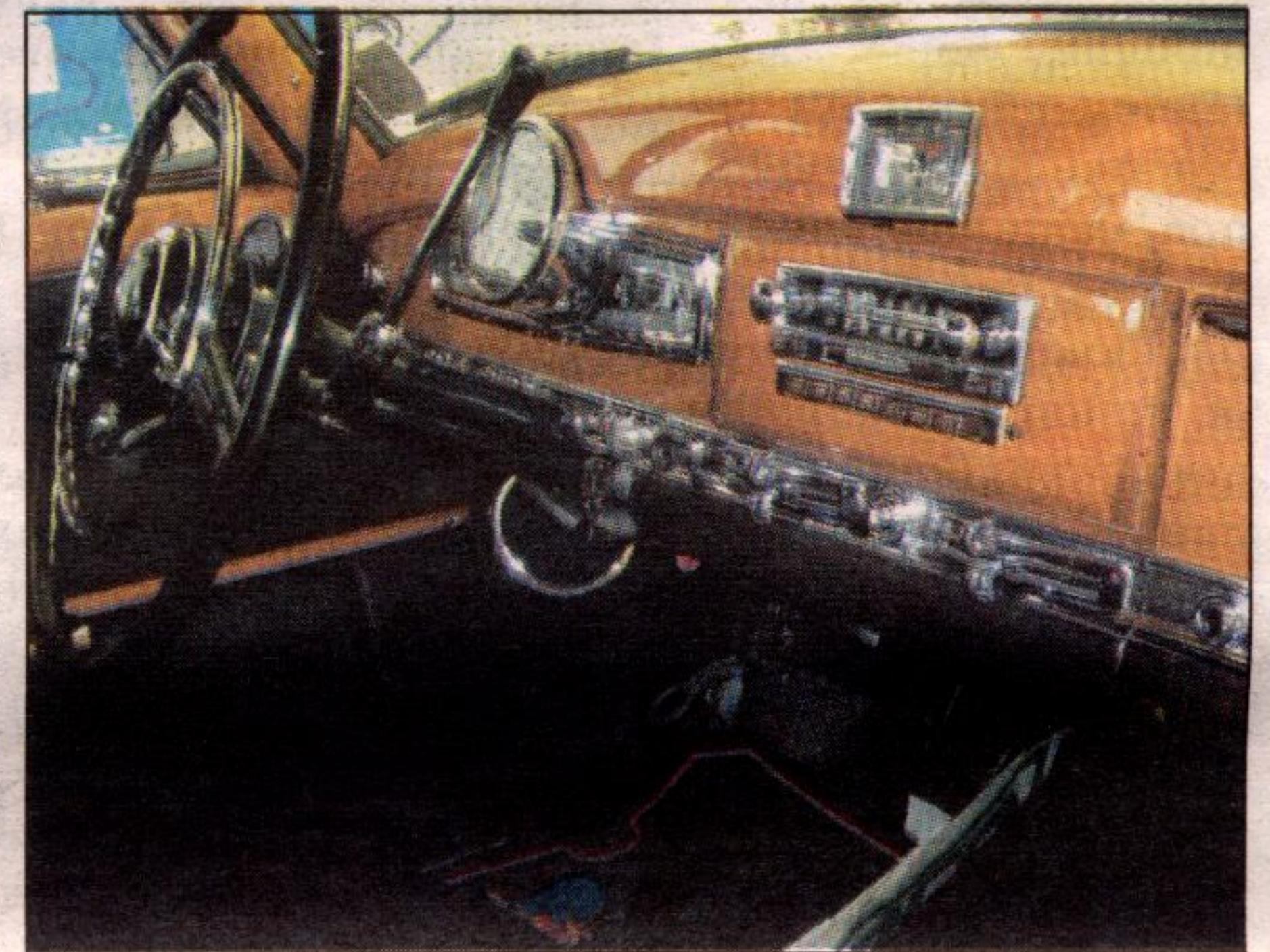
diplomatic papers earned him the right to buy it directly from Monaco within six months. Painted 'diplomatic blue,' Kennedy had an automatic transmission installed specially by Mercedes Benz and the vehicle was converted to meet U.S. standards. In 1957 the Adenauer model Mercedes Benz was shipped to the United States and registered under Kennedy's name for his use. After gaining his presidency in 1960, John F. Kennedy decided that his customized Mercedes Benz too closely resembled Hitler's car during the war. This provoked him to sell it and he bought a Cadillac and 25 T-Birds to distribute among his friends.

Now affectionately named "Mr. Benz," the meticulously restored Mercedes previously owned by JFK made its grand appearance at Milton's Showcase 2004 with a subsequent showing at Milton Hospital's local Strawberry Festival in June. While the vehicle has inspired much with the owners, of significant importance is Dominique's newest business venture Mister Benz Ltd. Along with the owner Borge Hjelm, the



CLEANED AND PREPPED

pair named the business after Lucyna and Dominique's precious car. The Milton shop specially caters to servicing and repairing Mercedes Benz and BMW brand vehicles.



THE DASH SPARKLES AFTER RESTORATION



PHOTO BY LAURA COOK

At Mister Benz Ltd., Dominique Houle's expertise at restoring older vehicles came in handy when his partner, Lucyna Janusz, decided to buy John F. Kennedy's 1957 300 Mercedes Benz, Adenauer model. After three previous owners, including JFK, the car had been dismantled with intentions of restoring it to its original condition, and Mr. Houle completed that work to create a showpiece.

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