

CarStory

with *Bill Sherk*
The Old Car Detective



Bob James remembers his 1957 Ford Convertible

Now in his early 70s, Bob James still remembers a car he owned in Quebec over 45 years ago:

"I was working for Goodyear Tire at Port-Cartier near Sept-Iles. A lot of the Euclid earth movers and other heavy equipment from the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway went up there. Goodyear needed a man up there to look after these big tires, like I had done on the Seaway.

"I arrived in the fall of 1959. The following spring, I went to the shop one day and saw a smashed-up '57 Ford convertible in the

yard. It was for sale 'as is' for \$500 so I bought it.

"A fellow who worked in our shop was a body man from Rimouski and he helped me find a bumper and a used grille and a used right front fender. Then I hired a fellow to take the whole front end off and we put the new stuff on.

"The car was black with red and white inside, but I knew at the time not to paint a fixed-up car black. If there was a wave, it would show, and I never liked black. Black is for funeral cars. The only other choice was white.

"With the new paint job, I drove it all around with the top down and it was one of the nicest cars down there.

"In those days, if you had a clock in the dash, it always ran too fast or too slow. But the clock in my car never lost a second. It was the best clock I ever had. The shock of the accident might have given it the right adjustment.

"By the fall of 1960, I'm in Montreal and working for B.F. Goodrich. I still had the '57 convertible and it was my everyday car. But it was getting old (four



Bob James and his '57 Ford Convertible.

years old!) and I traded it for a '59 Ford station wagon in 1961. On my way to pick up the station wagon, I hit a pot hole. One heck of a bang. A week later, I brought the station wagon in for servicing and the salesman said to me: 'Are you ever lucky!' And I said: 'What do you mean?' And he said when the yard man went to move the convertible, a front wheel fell off. I must have cracked the front

suspension when I hit that pot hole.

"But I enjoyed that convertible while I had it. And I'll tell you this: I wish I had that car now."

In the sales race between Ford and Chevrolet in the 1950s, both makes could claim to be the winner in 1957. Ford beat Chevy in model-year production by 170,000 units. But Chevy beat Ford in calendar-year production by a slim 130

units.
Do you have any old car stories to share with our readers?

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