

# CarStory

with Bill Sherh  
The Old Car Detective



## Drive away in a Chevrolet for only \$50

Bill Myers of Pickering, Ont. was 17 in 1954 when he and three friends pooled their money to buy a 1936 Chevy two-door sedan for \$50 from the back row of a used car lot in Toronto.

It had a bullet hole in the trunk lid, and the boys thought that was really cool. They climbed in and drove off the lot, filled with pride of ownership. They each owned a piece of this car. At the first stoplight, they hit the brakes and discovered the shocks were shot. The car bounced up and down till the light turned green.

Then the starter motor died. Not a problem when a car has four owners. With one behind the wheel, the other three pushed it down the street in second gear. Pop goes the clutch, the engine roars to life, and as the car speeds away three fellows jump up on the running boards and climb in through the windows.

Next the boys decided to rebuild the engine. The car was running fine, but they had heard that other people

rebuild engines in old cars, so why shouldn't they?

Out came the six cylinder engine and down it went into Bill Myers' parents' basement, where the fellows took it all apart, then discovered they didn't know how to put it back together. They lost interest in the project and all the engine parts lay scattered throughout the Myers' basement.

Finally, Bill Myers' dad pulled the plug with six carefully chosen words: "Get this junk out of here!" The small pieces went out with the regular garbage, but the engine block was too big and heavy to fit into the family's garbage can.

Grunting and sweating, Bill and the other three hauled the cast-iron engine block up the basement stairs and into a big wheelbarrow, then over to the edge of a nearby ravine. They tipped the wheelbarrow and watched the engine block roll down the hill and into the mud at the bottom of the ravine.

Meanwhile, the now-

engineless '36 Chevy was still parked in the Myers' driveway. The boys were told to get rid of it. Not having enough money for a tow truck, they pushed it along Kingston Road in search of a wrecking yard.

A man pulled up behind them and offered to push them to the nearest service station. The boys told him the car had no engine. "That's okay," he said, "I'll push you anyway."

Finally, he turned off and the boys were left once again with a car that had no means of propulsion.

Tired of pushing, they shoved the pitiful remains

of this old Chevy onto a side street, then scattered in all directions. They never saw it again.

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

Email: [bill@carstory.com](mailto:bill@carstory.com)

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