

Claremont Ford fancier's skill puts new life in vintage cars

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Percy Bourne has a long-standing love affair with Fords; to the extent the phone number of his Claremont-based business office is 649-FORD.

The casual visitor will likely find him working on a pair of inside door trim pieces from a 1950 Ford convertible he's restoring.

"It's just a hobby," says the proprietor of Calcimatic Canada Ltd., a small company that engineers and designs lime kilns.

Hobby or not, the apple of Percy's eye is surely the fleet of eight antique autos, most of them Fords, that make up Claremont Collector Cars. Having run out of space in his garage at home, he decided to set up shop at Claremont, selling ancient Fords and locating hard-to-find original parts for other car buffs.

Why the fixation with Fords? "I started with Fords when I first became interested in restoring old cars," explained the Henry "as in Ford" Street resident. "I discovered original Ford parts are plentiful compared to others."

The first car he bought for restoration back in 1980 was a 1950 Ford two-door sedan.

"I completely restored it," Percy says. "I installed a new interior, rebuilt the motor, and did the body work. I still have it."

Although the showroom is not that impressive, Percy's quick to point out his main interest is having a building with a shop and room to tinker. He might only sell three or four cars a year; but some have been beauties.

"I just sold a '57 T-Bird two

weeks ago," he says. "I had it eight years, and received \$25,000 for it. It won me a lot of trophies."

The pride of his current lineup is a mint condition 1955 Crown Victoria or 'Crown Vicky' as he calls it. The two-door hardtop is immaculate in its original paint of tropical rose and snowshoe white.

'Vicky' has been driven only 16,000 miles and has never been restored. In '55, 'Vicky' would have cost about \$3,000. Now, it's value is close to \$25,000.

Percy's repertoire also includes a 1964 Ford Galaxie XL convertible, completely restored; a '46 Ford convertible; a '52 Ford

convertible and a '51 Ford Woody Wagon.

He maintains car restoration is a very friendly hobby despite competitions that pit owner against owner.

"I've never met anyone with whom I couldn't get along. And as a rule, collectors are not wealthy people. They'll have, on average,

two of three cars. They really enjoy what they do," Percy says.

As a member of the Historical Automobile Society of Canada and a judge last June in the Society's annual meet in Milton, Percy describes the show as the largest judging event of its kind in Canada. There were up to 300 cars from all over Ontario.

His own entries, the 1946 Ford convertible and the '55 Crown Victoria, placed first and second in their classes.

"There's no money in winning," he says, "just a lot of prestige."

Percy makes a point of attending the various automobile flea markets across Canada and the United States, buying and selling both cars and parts. The largest of these is the one held every Fall in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

"The whole idea has grown enormously in the past ten years," he says of the hobby that has given him so much pleasure. "From a business point of view, I guess it's possible to break even, but you'd have to be lucky."

When it comes to the types of vehicles to which most collectors are attracted, Percy says people often choose a car with which they were once familiar. "It might be the car they took on their honeymoon, or the same model they had as a teenager."

Collectors enjoy the camaraderie that goes with attending the same meets around the province.

"They have so much to talk about. We all share the same joys — and the same problems," he concludes.



Percy Bourne of Claremont refurbishes old cars, putting 'new life' into vintage automobiles. This particular model, a 1955 Ford Crown Victoria, he didn't

have to touch. It's original inside and out. The purchase price 33 years ago was \$3,000. Its value today exceeds \$25,000.

Outraged by court ruling

Dear Editor:
I am outraged. Our judicial and legal systems have sunk below the barbaric level of the barbarians in a display of raw political power equalling that of the most ruthless of fascist judges. The Supreme Court has since been declared an open season on the unborn children of our land. Anyone medical doctor or nurse can now abort a full term baby as long as the mother wishes it. There is simply no abortion law at all!

In a country where human life has always been considered sacred, this is unbelievable. Our nation has violated that God-given mandate which clearly states, "You shall not shed innocent blood." Human life can now be taken casually in a manner which certainly causes extraordinary pain to the innocent child.

Women, as well, will be the victims of profit hungry abortuary franchises where greed rather than women's health will set the ultimate guidelines. Few, if any, will be warned of the serious physical, emotional and mental risks of abortions which already plague millions of women across our continent.

Killing the innocent is never the solution for a personal or social crisis. Like suicide, abortion is an insane choice, a choice which will lead society down the well worn Machiavellian path where "might is right." Unless this anarchy is stopped, infanticide and euthanasia will certainly follow.

God have mercy on this country!

Sincerely,
Mel Middleton
Gormley

Olympic Spirit?

Dear Editor:
I could not believe my eyes when I read the headline in a copy of The Toronto Star, that the Canadian Government plans to set up a 24 hour hotline in Calgary for anyone who wants to defect during the Winter Olympics.

This article goes on explaining the method it intends to use for this purpose. To me, this kind of thing is, to say the least, disgusting.

How can any self-respecting Government lend itself to such outright duplicity; on the one hand everyone wants to lessen tension between the East and West and on the other hand the Government brazenly advertises the fact that it encourages people to defect from other countries. This is against all for which the Olympic Charter and Spirit stands.

Why antagonize the Governments of other countries even before they get here.

The scheme is obviously directed at athletes from the Eastern Block countries because 90% of the contestants come from the northern hemisphere and not such countries as Sri Lanka, Punjab or Central America because they are not suited or equipped to take part in Winter Games.

I did not think any country would stoop so low as to promote such a scheme, especially on the site of the Olympic Games.

It is a deliberate provocation and no wonder the Eastern Block countries have protested in the strongest of terms.

In my opinion they have every right to do so.

I wonder if South Korea, at the Summer Olympics, now that a precedent has been set, will be inviting North Korea, Vietnam and other left wing countries to defect to South Korea?

World opinion is allegedly against mixing politics with sport and this is the very thing we are proposing to do in the crudest manner possible.

Sincerely,
Adam Johnstone,
R.R.1, Stouffville

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