

History of Harold and Gayle Smith's 57 Chevy

The classic 57 Chevrolet was originally purchased in November, 1957 from Safety Chevrolet in Mooresville, North Carolina. The original owner drove and maintained it until he passed away, leaving the car to his oldest son who kept the car for about 4 years. Harold's brother, Ashford, purchased the car from him in 1978. He never tagged the vehicle and kept it in his garage. On Feb. 2, 1981, Ashford passed away and left it to his son, Junior, who was only 12 years old at the time. Ashford had instructed him not to remove the car from the garage until he was 16 years old and possessed a license and insurance.

During this time, Ashford's son painted the vehicle solid black and rebuilt the engine. His work and efforts were outstanding! His father instructed him that if he ever decided to sell it, that he had to give Harold first opportunity to buy it. Two weeks after he started driving the car he called Harold and asked him if he wanted to buy it. Harold assured him that he still wanted the car, but wondered why he had decided to sell it. He said he was afraid he may have an accident and wreck it. If that was to happen, he knew that Harold would not be responsible for what he might do to him. Harold purchased the classic in August, 1986 and finally titled the vehicle in February 1987.

Harold only took the car out occasionally and would drive it around, but he promised himself that one day he would restore it to its original condition. He began to gather various parts and trim that he needed during the early 1990's and began restoration in late 1998. It was returned to the original red and white color scheme, the interior was redone (new seat covers, door panels and carpet), bumpers rechromed, new tires installed, and it was finally finished in 2001. The Belaire 2 door hardtop has never had any dents or dings, no rust and the actual mileage was 98,318 miles when he purchase it. It is powered by a stock factory power pac 283 cubic inch eight cylinder engine. Harold had fulfilled his personal commitment to keep it original.

In summary, Harold and Gayle are the 5th owners of the beautiful classic 57 Chevy. It has always been maintained well, always garaged and never has been in an auto body repair shop. The speedometer failed recently and had to be replaced at 98,502 miles and now the new one reads 49.9 miles. Even though they enjoy cruising around in their car and participating in club events, he said he would strongly consider selling it. He has another vehicle he wants to begin restoring, a 1948 Plymouth Club Coupe.

Thanks to Harold and Gayle for sharing this interesting information with us. Keep it rolling Harold!