
MEMBER PROFILE

NORM AND PEARL'S 1956 Chevrolet

Club members Norm and Pearl are the long-time proud owners of the very cool 1956 Chevy and matching trailer pictured below. One of Norm's hobbies has been restoring old cars and for many years he dreamed of not only having a nice classic Chevy, but also of having a custom trailer that was different from anyone else's! He had noticed that people with trailers behind their street rods used a variety of designs, even a converted Coca-Cola cooler. In particular, he noted that these trailers were either formed from the back end or the front end of a car. So he thought: "Gee, why don't I take a front end and a back end and put them together?"

Undaunted by those who thought he was crazy (including his wife), he set out to realize his dream. He soon discovered that parts for '56 Chevys were not only hard to find, but that junkyards wanted premium prices for them. Then, at a car show in Hugo, he met a guy who had the parts he needed – on four different cars! For \$50, Norm scored a fender from one car, a hood and fender from a second car, a back end off a third and a trunk lid from a fourth. This brought his dream closer to reality and he started building his project on his patio in Brooklyn Park.

He found the remaining parts he needed at French Lake Auto junkyard and even made some cardboard templates to fabricate some additional parts himself. He hand-built a frame, made his own axle, re-chromed the bumpers and re-drilled some spindles and hubs to emulate the Chevy's pattern. After five months of steady effort, his new custom trailer was complete. It wound up being 63" long and has 4½ feet of usable space. Norm uses it for practical things like hauling his fold-up picnic table, soft drinks, suitcases, and extra fuel.

Now a bit about the car that pulls the trailer. Norm and Pearl's lovely '56 2dr hardtop is an original California car, built in the Los Angeles plant. Under the hood it sports a 327 V8 topped with two 4-barrel carbs and also features a Crane cam and

modified heads. It has a 4-speed transmission, but will soon be switched for an automatic (less wear and tear on the left foot). The car was purchased in December of '78 from a fellow who lived near the Crystal airport. It was a rust-free car and was originally turquoise and white. The previous owner has seen the car and trailer since Norm worked his magic on it and it convinced him that he sold it to the right guy. This is Norm's third '56 Chevy and he has also owned a turquoise and white '55 4dr sedan that he used for a second car.

Norm and Pearl particularly enjoy displaying the car and its unique custom trailer at car shows. At its debut appearance at Back To The Fifties, he recalls that people couldn't believe their eyes! Be sure to check it out when you get a chance.

