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54Chevy



"Vintage Truck and
Homebuilt Aircraft
Enthusiast"



Posted
Sun
September
24 2006
12:20 PM

To get the start of this story about how I got this clunker, go to this link here on the message board:

<http://oldgmctrucks.infopop.cc/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/294006236/m/2581046662>

I am still amazed that I was able to find this truck, which has the automatic transmission and drive train I want for my very nice 54 Chevy, all with the great help of Tim Lederman.

Anyway, I got the beast home yesterday and quickly promised a neighbor who was looking that I'd cover it with a truck cover and have it out of the driveway in the spring, it truly looks like a piece of junk. Another neighbor, my good friend Dick MacNeill, saw it and smiled. Dick, is a great mechanic and really knows his stuff (unlike myself). He looked it all over and said "I'll get this running for you tomorrow if you want." I just looked at him and thought he was nuts. But not wanting to kill his enthusiasm I said... well I don't know, it's been in the woods for several years and as you can see...it's in very rough shape. But he wanted to try so I said what the hell. This morning I was barely done w/my coffee when I saw Dick hefting a 12 volt marine battery across the street. We hooked that up with some jumpers to the dead 6 volt. He added 2 quarts of oil. He tested for juice at the starter solenoid, the coil, the points and then pulled a plug and checked for spark. He rigged up a hand pump to a gas container and connected it in front of the filter. We pumped it up and the glass bowl filled and some gas started leaking from the carb. He was able to move the engine by leaning heavily on the fan blade. The fact that it moved shocked me. Hit that button, he said...so I did. We got a very slow whirring although the engine was turning. Damn, he said, these jumpers just aren't heavy enough. And indeed they were very hot. Ok, here's where I had a brilliant idea. Hey Dick, I say, Bill Miles just got me these real heavy duty battery cables to put on my truck in Carolina and they're sitting on my kitchen table. Well come-on brain child he says...go get em. He took one look at those monsters and said "one problem we won't have, with these bad boys is enough juice!!" He hooked up the positive to the starter and the negative to a bolt on what I think is the water pump. Hit that button again. This time the engine spun like a son of a gun and to my further amazement actually coughed a bit. Dick went back over all the electrical connections and widened the gap in the points just a bit. Try it again he says. I hit the button...the engine was spinning like hell...Dick was pumping the carb manually and hand choking it...I'll be damned if it doesn't start ...and it sounds like a freight train because there's no exhaust. I was immediately on pleasure overload. All I really wanted this truck for was its transmission. I never thought in a million years that the engine would run!! Now for the big test, I wanted to see if the hydramatic worked. I jacked up the rear end so both wheels were off the ground. We started it up and put it in gear...no grinding...no clunking...no bad sounds at all!! Both rear wheels were spinning. I was on pleasure overload and had to call Tim Lederman and let him listen to that sweet sound. WOW!! What a day!!! The amazing thing is...my birthday is this weekend!!! WOW!!! Don....