

MEMBER CAR OF THE MONTH

1947 Mercury Sedan Coupe
Mickey Smith, Kingsport, TN



"MISS HAZEL"

Mickey, thank you for your interest in my Mercury Club Coupe; it is a very 'late' '47. According to Mercury Ed of the V-8 Club before he passed, the engine was produced October 1947.

Hazel Pickens Childress bought the car new. According to her friends and relatives, Hazel was always perfectly dressed and always kept her car clean and garaged. It has the original paint, glass, weather stripping, etc.

In 2001, Hazel willed the Mercury to her niece. I found out about the car and tried to buy it but couldn't—the husband of the niece was going to get it running. It had been parked since August of 1977. According to the oil sticker in the door jam, it had 170 miles put on it since the last oil change. It has 95,000 miles on it now.

Fast forward to August 2021...I received a call from the niece's son-in-law in Colorado, wanting to know if I was still interested in the car. Of course I said yes.

The car was still parked in the same spot in the garage where I first saw it. It was never started or moved, and there were no keys.

I bought the car and had it hauled to my garage. I had a hard time getting a locksmith to make a key. So while the car was just sitting there, I decided I could at least clean her up.

After I washed her off, I hand rubbed the paint with a light 3M compound. I did a small section at a time—that took over three weeks. Then I started on the bright work.

Still no key.

After 10 months of trying to get someone to get the car running, Mr. Lee Cooper of Kingsport agreed

to give it a shot. He has 3 flathead engines on display in his living room—I figured I had the right man.

He started on the car the last of June, 2022. He replaced the fuel tank and worked his way up. In November 2022, Mr. Cooper drove the Mercury back to my shop, almost 16 miles, with 50 year old bias ply tires.

I am a small car dealer in Kingsport...not a very good one but I am a dealer. I made a showroom out of an old Pizza Hut building. I have other old cars inside. If any of you are in the Kingsport, TN, area, I would be pleased to have you stop and visit - 807 Lynn Garden Drive.

Please call before you come since I work by myself and put a note on the door when I leave. I don't want to miss you!
Office-423-230-0100
Cell -423-677-5736

Sincerely, I think,

Mickey Smith

PS. I have never named a car—I always thought that was silly. But after cleaning every square inch of the car inside and out, I realized what good care Hazel Pickens Childress took of that '47 Mercury. I fell in love with that little lady and her car, so I have affectionally named this car 'Miss Hazel.'

