

MEMBER CAR OF THE MONTH

Ron and Dianne Hope

Mt. Pleasant, TN

1949 Ford Tudor DeLuxe Sedan

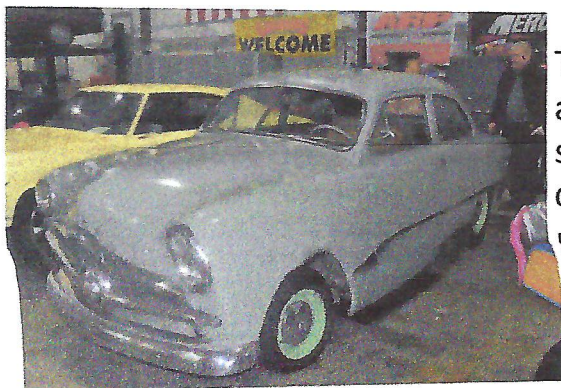
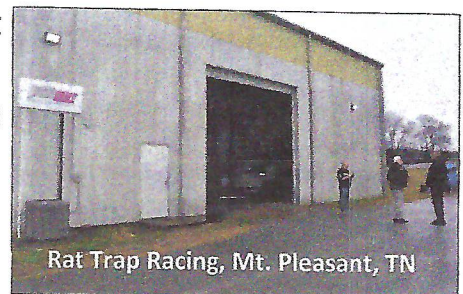
“Car of the Year!”

(Editor’s note) Ron Hope became a member of the Early Ford V8 Club of America and the Volunteer V8 Ford Club in February, 2023, when he and Danny Driskell were having lunch at Bishop’s meat and three (a local eatery in the Cool Springs area of Franklin, TN), and Danny noticed a patch on Ron’s jacket that had “Bonneville 200 MPH” on it. They struck up a conversation and Danny found out that Ron has a 1949 Ford he had acquired in 2017 in California and brought to Tennessee. This information led, of course, to Ron becoming a member of the EFV8CA and the Volunteer V8 Ford Club.

Ron, we learned, has a dragster speed shop in Mt. Pleasant, TN, Rat Trap Racing, and has been active in dragster racing and activities for many years and has established many speed records at Bonneville and other tracks in the United States and other countries. He is, quite literally, a real “big shot” in the dragster world! (check out: <https://fuelcurve.com/rat-trap-50-years-craziness/>)

To make a long story short, Ron invited club members to Rat Trap Racing in early December (see my write-up on pages 10-13 in this newsletter) for their annual Christmas Open House and it was there we first laid eyes on Ron’s 1949 Ford Tudor DeLuxe Sedan. Of course, I asked Ron for a story about his ‘49 for this newsletter and I’m happy to be running it here for you to enjoy, too.

Hello Mickey...This is a brief history of the 1949 Ford Deluxe that you saw on Saturday. I have had the car since 2017, it was given to me by my son and daughter-in-law. I had been searching for a ‘49 for sometime, and the car was found in California by our good friend Toni Thacker. It was sitting under a shed beside a building in Pomona, CA.

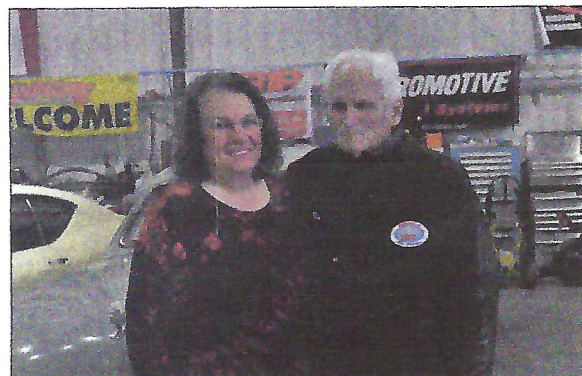
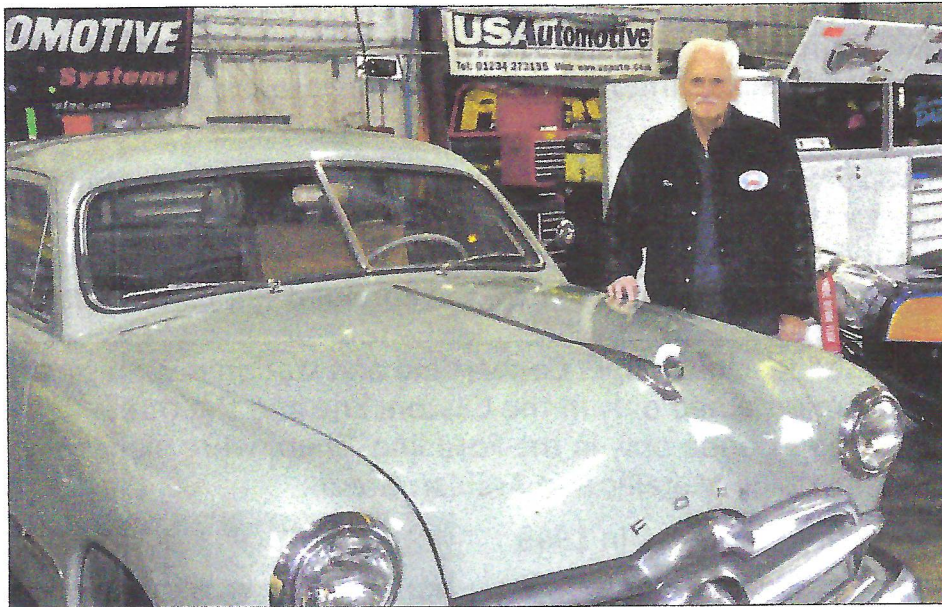
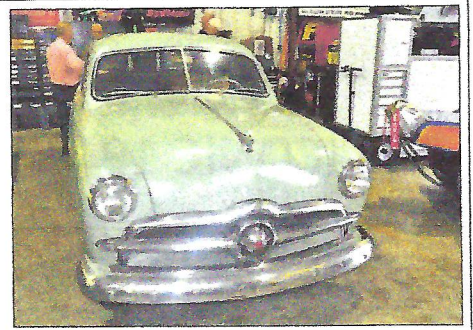


The specifics of the car are as follows; it was found with approximately 54,000 original miles, it is a Ford 2 door sedan deluxe and ordered without radio or heater. The car was last registered in California in 1981 and had sat pretty much since early 1982. When discovered the car had a considerable amount of dirt and grime due to the fact it had been sitting for a lengthy amount of time. It

was equipped with 16 inch tires, which were standard for 1949, and was in absolutely excellent condition. We transported the car to Whittier, California, where we were able to get it running and then transported the car to Tennessee. Since the car has been in Tennessee I have worked hard to preserve it's authenticity. I have re-wired the entire car with wire looms provided by various manufacturers, all exact to original standards. I also converted the vehicle to 12 volt and replaced most of the rubber around parking lights, windows, taillights, etc. I did add 15 inch wheels and dual exhaust.

I found the vehicle to be like a time capsule as I explored the glove box and ashtray I discovered various service records dated in the 1950's. I find this car to be truly a treasure, as my parents had a car the same color, also a 2 door sedan they bought new in 1949. I look forward to its completion so that I may be able to more actively participate in vintage Ford events.

Sincerely, Ron



Above: Ron Hope with his 1949 Ford Tudor DeLuxe Sedan;
Left: Ron and Dianne Hope

Five views of Ron Hope's 1949 Tudor DeLuxe Sedan