

MEMBER CAR OF THE MONTH

Jim McGuire, Nashville, Tn

1947 Ford Woodie

When I first spotted this car around town in the 70s, I probably left 10 to 15 notes asking to please call me if they ever wanted to sell it. So a couple of years later it happened. Like many of these projects, I had no idea what I was in for until I began digging. The first clue was that all the flat wood panels were rotted and covered with wood grain contact shelf paper...the kind used to line kitchen cabinets. That was the beginning of a 3-year restoration.



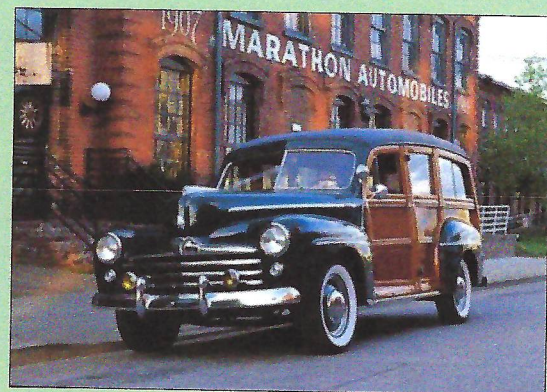
Luckily, I had the help of R.B. Miller who was not only a real mechanic but a first class woodworker who was a pal from high school days in the 50s. I did all the grunt work of fitting, sanding and staining and he laid on the finish. Every two years since, we sand it out with 220 paper and brush on a coat of spar varnish. After 46 years it has 23 coats of varnish that looks better every year. My only goal was to build a car that I could put as many miles on as possible.



Although the car may look stock, many upgrades were made to make it as road-worthy as possible. First, a 1951 Mercury 59ab engine with the distributor on top. Then, 12 volts for better starting and lights and electric fuel pump and fuel pressure regulator. Replaced generator with an alternator and electronic ignition replacing the points. New aluminum radiator with electric fan for the hot days, front disc brakes for better stopping and steel belted radials for better handling.



A few years ago I drove through upstate New York and toured New England for three months...3300 miles in all without a hitch. In fact, I put 5 to 10 miles a day on this car unless it is raining, snowing or freezing.



Can't wait to see where the road leads next!