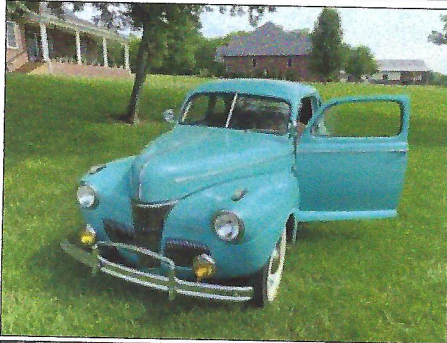


MEMBER CAR OF THE MONTH

Jay Simmons, Mt. Juliet, TN

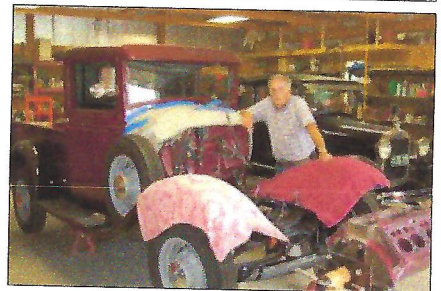
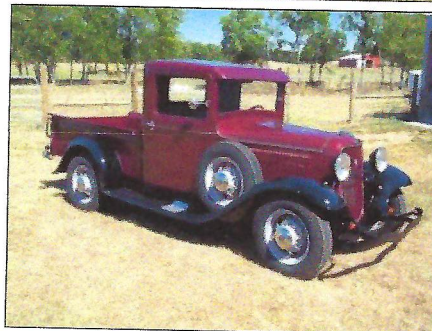
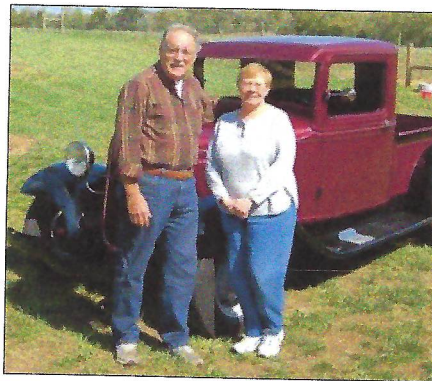
1941 Ford Coupe



When I was a young boy, my dad bought an airplane (Piper Colt) and started restoring it. That was my first introduction to his tinkering soul and what would turn in to a real passion of his. Due to his engineering pedigree, he was always working on something, whether it be building a horse trailer, restoring Norton motorcycles, Model A trucks, or even planes. As rebuilds were finished, he would acquire another machine that had lost its luster and needed some caring hands. This 1941 Ford Coupe is one of those completed projects. Albeit I didn't share as much time with dad in the shop doing the work, we did share in the enjoyment of the result. All his hours rebuilding engines, transmissions, and the like, really resulted in a wonderful ride afterwards.

In April dad unexpectedly passed after having a minor surgical procedure performed. When I walk into his shop and survey the staggering collection of tools he amassed over the years I am reminded of those hours we spent working on that Piper Colt. That project led to me getting my pilots license and sharing in another passion of dads: flight.

Car restoration never really grabbed ahold of me and, admittedly, my knowledge of tools, parts, and the cars they fit, is still developing. But when I sit in this Coupe, run my fingers across its surface, ease it into gear, I can feel the touch of my dad in it as well. Today, I get to drive my daughter in this Coupe on the occasional easy evening. She lights up when we take it out, and I light up talking about dad. Those memories will reside with her forever. Just like mine of my dad, Jim Simmons...Jay



(Above) Jay's parents, Jim and Judy Simmons and Jim's 1932 Ford Pickup