

From Landfill Reject to Pampered Garage Queen

By: Dan Materazzi

Restoration/Salvage of a 1955 Chevy Convertible

If only cars could talk, the stories they would tell... Taking a car which was rejected by the landfill, saved, and moved from place to place for a number of years, and then turning it into a high point show car, which is then pampered and stored under cover on a rug in a garage.

This car has had a checkered past...It was obviously raced and abused over part of its life, but still retained its dignity with solid intact floorpans and floorpan supports, original and unmolested sheetmetal, a pristine frame, and still had most of its original drive train.

With its all original sheet metal and re-leaded joints, it scored a 982 out of 1000 at its first Chevrolet National show, and achieved its first Junior at an AACA National meet.

The car was stored for a number of years outside with little protection after being rejected at the landfill. A lot of its valuable parts actually ended up in the landfill (i.e. front end

parts, top frame, seats, some stainless trim...etc) and had to be replaced from a donor convertible that was purchased with the car. New NOS front fenders came with the car from the owner who was planning on restoring the car some time in the future. It did however have its original engine (with cylinders full of water and rust) and transmission.

After countless hours of work and restoration (nine years later)...the car was put back on the road. Some setbacks and tweaks continued to make this a continuing project.

The car has been totally restored. Every part has been restored, or replaced with new components. It is equipped with a 265 V8 with powerpack option (4 bl carb and dual exhaust), powerglide automatic transmission, wonderbar radio, electric wipers, power top, accessory grille and fender guards, gravel guards and rocker moldings. Since it is a California car it also has one piece front and rear bumpers. It now has a new life. It is currently residing in southern Florida in a climate-controlled trailer. And its new owner has achieved its AACA Senior and hit a 991 at the Chevrolet Nationals in the trailered restored class.



BEFORE



AFTER