

Agent Orange

RPM rides again!

When your initials are RPM it only stands for reason that you would grow up to be a car guy. This is definitely the case with my friend Ron (Peter) Maurer.



Willy's Garage

► Paul Williamson

Over the years I have witnessed Maurer rolling in a variety of revered rides ranging from muscular Beaumonts, Chevilles and an assortment of killer Camaros.

Ron's cars are always neat as a pin and sport his longstanding RPM licence plates. When he sells a car there is usually a lineup waiting outside his garage. His latest acquisition, a stunning 1930 Ford "Model A" Coupe is, however, my hands down favourite.

Ron has spent a fair bit of time turning wrenches, but this time around he took the advice of his esteemed street rodder pals Griff Gill and Blake Piper. Rather than go through the arduous and costly process of building a car, Ron ventured to locate a street rod that would only require a turn of the key to drive.

The search for just the right street rod was not without its trials and tribulations. Last year Ron and his wife Linda ventured west to British Columbia to check out a '32 Ford that was almost near completion.

The "almost" part played a bigger roll than the "completed" part. The pair returned home disappointed but undaunted. The second trip west in August of '04 was the charm. With help from legendary street rod specialist Jim McLardy from the Old Car Centre in Langley, B.C., Ron was directed to this little cutie located for sale in the Delta area.

One look at the car and the couple could barely contain their excitement. The deal was struck that day and the car was driven straight home. A flat tire slowed them down for a few hours in the Minnedosa area, but the car ran beautifully and got more smiles per gallon than anything Maurer has ever driven.

The body, specifically the cab, is all steel, 75 years old and looking better than ever with a two-in. chopped top and a GM Omaha Orange paint job that just screams hot rod. The roofline was reinvented via a Chevrolet Vega station wagons Kammback roof insert. Other mods include '29 Ford fiberglass fenders and a classic '32 Ford cowl, vent and grille.

The interior features beautiful upholstery complemented by matching Fiero bucket seats. The custom '32 Ford dash houses an assortment of VDO gauges mounted in a stainless steel insert and an Alpine AM/FM/CD stereo.

One of the coolest features of the dash is the autograph of the late great Ed "Big Daddy" Roth, one of the pioneers of hot rodding. An eight-inch Sony subwoofer and a Kenwood five-channel amplifier were tucked into the tiny upholstered trunk and pump out 1,200 watts of power.



Rest assured the stereo isn't the only thing pumping out power in this sleek coupe. The engine is a crystal clean 1973 Chevrolet 350-cu.-in. small block stuffed full of go-fast goodies. The car has a steep power to weight ratio compliments of high-end speed parts like a Lunati camshaft and an Edelbrock carburetor sitting atop a Holley aluminum intake manifold and Holley 202 aluminum cylinder heads. Lightning is struck via an MSD Pro Billet Distributor and ignition system. The thunderous exhaust note exits via Hooker block hugger headers hooked up to a custom dual exhaust system.

The transmission is a GM Turbo 350 with a B&M Holeshot converter with a shift kit and a Gennie shifter.

The car also features a full custom chassis with a 102-in. wheelbase and a Magnum

four-in. dropped front axle. A nine-in. Ford rear end with a 3.89 Auburn limited slip differential gets the meaty 15-in. rear tires burning and, for some serious stopping power, disc brakes are tucked behind the skinny front tires.

The car won best of show honours at this year's Manitoba Street Rod Associations annual Rodarama.

The first-place trophy also came with a special prize — a custom painting of the car by renowned local car artist Roger Lusty. The painting was recently presented to Ron and the detail in Lusty's artwork is truly breathtaking, perfectly illustrating the timeless feel this car encapsulates.



E-mail willy@willysgarage.com if you have a question, comment or would like to see your prized ride featured in Willy's Garage.



Ron (Peter) Maurer