

“The Racer”

Although we now have hot rods of our own today, the story really starts in 1952 when our Dad Kenneth E. Pylant hand built "The Racer" for me, Donny, and my two brothers, Ronny & Kenny. He wanted it to look like a midget racer and built it from old car body parts. '48 Chevy fender extensions provided the rear, a '39 Buick headlight bucket the headrest, '48 Olds fender extensions the front, and a '48 Buick hood the hood ornament. The fake exhaust pipes came from kitchen sink drain pipes and the grill is from a '40 Cadillac LaSalle. All the seams were leaded, no bondo. There weren't any go-kart stores around so he had to fabricate the clutch and brake from pulleys, belts and rods. It had a 2 ½ hp Clinton washing machine motor and would run 30mph and could drift on asphalt

The Racer and the three of us somehow survived 52 years and we restored it in 2004. We honor Dad's memory by showing "The Racer" at local car shows and cruise nights and telling the story. Dad didn't get to see the restoration but we think he's proud. After all, he gave it life, we just restored it. It has created a lot of interest and has been featured in "Cruisin Times", "Journey With Olds", "Hemmings", and Sept '06 "Popular Mechanics", "Wheels and Keels" and "Classy Chassis". See you at a local car show soon.

Ken, Ron & Don Pylant