

CARL & LESLIE BLAZEK



Over the years of owning different cars, our first love was for ragtop vehicles. When I got my first car my father told me no ragtops. After I got married, that was the only vehicle we would buy. Our first was a Thunderbird Blue 1955 T'bird.

This car was restored twice and stayed around the longest. It was totaled on a poker run with the Vintage Tin Picnic. It was given a second restore. Over the years, there were 10 of these little birds. The last was a '57 3-speed with overdrive, a totally different Bird.

The kids were always wanting to come along with us. We would have to bring two Birds to get everybody there. So, we tried a '57 Chevy Nomad, but ended up trading it for a '57 Retractable Ford with a Continental. It was too big of a car. Since I had to put the '55 T'bird back together for the second time, we sold the '57 Ford.

You could buy Camaro Ragtops for next to nothing and I went through about 8 to 10 of them while still playing with the Birds.

I found a '55 Chevy Hardtop, then 2 more came along, but I still wanted my ragtop. I found myself in Westchester, Pa looking at a '55 Ragtop. It was covered with blankets and collecting anything the people walking up the stairs into the house could throw on it, even though it looked like it does now because it was a frame off car. The wiring was totally original and had to be replaced. The rear springs were for a station wagon and the car had Aluminum slotted mags. The 283 engine had to be replaced. It now has a 265.

While the car was being rewired, we put in power windows and a front power seat. It still is waiting for power steering. The car was painted some time in the 80's. I hope we never have to restore it. While in Westchester, PA getting rid of my last T'bird parts, I found a '66 Corvette Roadster, 427, 4-speed with power steering, wooden steering wheel, knock off rims on gold stripe tires, AM/FM stereo, power antenna and only 1475 miles since it received its Bloomington Gold Award of 99.7. But, it was **green**. Most people do not look at green cars. Everybody wants resale Red. Now that was something to replace the T'birds! The '56 Chevy Ragtop came as a surprise to Leslie. It was a birthday present to her. This car has 54,000 or original miles, all original stainless steel, chrome, and engine. We put in a new interior and top, refreshed engine compartment, and new tires. Both Chevrolets were built in the Baltimore plant. The '98 Corvette is our economy car. It gets 28 miles to the gallon! So, you have both worlds, power and economy all in one.