

CARS & HOBBIES

by Dennis Wuethrich w'68

I KNOW THAT I AM NOT UNIQUE WITH MY "LOVE" OF AUTOMOBILES AND I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT HAS A HOBBY COLLECTING THINGS. I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUN TO SHARE MY CAR COLLECTION AND MY HOBBY INTEREST IN THE HOPE THAT OTHERS WOULD DO THE SAME, SHARING WITH EACH OTHER JUST TO SEE WHAT EACH OF US HAVE BEEN DOING OVER THE LAST 40 OR SO YEARS.



I HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED CLEANING, TEARING APART, FIXING AND BUILDING ASSORTED VEHICLES OVER THE YEARS. THE MAJORITY OF THESE WERE DURING THE 60'S THROUGH 80'S AND PRIMARILY INVOLVED VOLKSWAGENS. IN 1968 I BUILT FROM A PURCHASED ROLLOVER WRECKED 1968 VW BUG A FIBERGLASS BODIED DUNEBUGGY WHICH I STILL OWN CURRENTLY. OVER THE YEARS I HAVE OWNED/BUILT (IF MEMORY SERVES ME) 16 DIFFERENT VW'S. I BUILT SEVERAL "BAJA" BUGS. I HAVE REPAIRED THEM MECHANICALLY, DONE BODY WORK, PAINTED ETC, THEN USUALLY SOLD THEM FOR A PROFIT. THAT IS, ALL WERE SOLD EXCEPT FOR ONE, A 1967 VW BUG WHICH I STILL OWN.



Dennis & Johnnie Wuethrich

"HOBBIES"

I SPENT 32 YEARS WORKING ON L.A.P.D. AND DURING THAT TIME I COLLECTED "PIGS" FOR OBVIOUS REASONS. I HAVE APPROXIMATELY 350, PLASTIC, WOOD, CERAMIC, PEWTER, GOLD, SILVER AND WHATEVER PIGS IN MY COLLECTION. THE MAJORITY "LIVE" IN AN 18 SHELF CABINET. THEY HAVE BEEN COLLECTED FROM ALL OVER THE U.S.A. AND EUROPE.



Figure 3 - 1967 VW BUG (FOR SALE!)



Figure 4 - 1941 FORD WOODIE

IN 1976 WHILE WORKING PATROL WITH L.A.P.D. AT VENICE BEACH, I SAW A 1941 FORD "WOODIE" DRIVE BY WITH THREE OCCUPANTS AND "FOR SALE" SIGNS IN THE WINDOW. I MADE A "U" TURN AND PULLED THE FEMALE DRIVER OVER. SHE IMMEDIATELY WANTED TO KNOW WHAT SHE HAD DONE WRONG. I REPLIED, NOTHING, HOW MUCH FOR THE CAR? SHE SAID, "\$5,000.00" AND "THOSE TWO PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN BUYING IT" I SAID "ANY DEPOSIT?" RECEIVING A NEGATIVE REPLY, I SAID, "I'LL BUY IT." TO WHICH SHE SAID, "OH, WHAT DO I TELL THEM?" I REPLIED, "TELL THEM TO GET OUT OF MY CAR!" I BOUGHT THE "WOODIE" AND STILL OWN IT. IT HAS SPENT THE LAST 4 YEARS BEING RESTORED AND IS ALMOST FINISHED. IT WAS A "FRAME OFF" COMPLETE RESTORATION, WHEREIN EVERYTHING IS EITHER REPLACED, REPAIRED OR REFINISHED TO ALMOST ORIGINAL CONDITION. WE, JOHNNIE AND I, BELONG TO "THE SAN DIEGO WOODIE'S" AND "THE NATIONAL WOODIE" CLUBS.

THE MOST RECENT ADDITION CAME LAST MONTH AS A SURPRISE TO JOHNNIE FOR HER BIRTHDAY. I BOUGHT HER A 1957 CHEVROLET BELAIR 2 DOOR SEDAN TO ADD TO OUR COLLECTION. IT'S AN OLDER RESTORATION WHICH IS MODIFIED FROM THE ORIGINAL CAR.



Figure 1 - 1957 CHEVROLET BELAIR



Figure 2 - 1968 DUNEBUGGY GRANDDAUGHTER AND ME (SATURN IN BACKGROUND)



Figure 5 - OUR 2006 WINNEBAGO (IN THE CA REDWOODS)