

INSIGHT

Street rods glisten in the desert sun

by Gary Puckett
Staff Reporter

A typically perfect October weekend transpired last Saturday and Sunday as Las Vegas played host to some of the finest street rods in the country. The Hot Rod and Street Machine Super-Nationals were presented at the Thomas and Mack Center parking lot by Ford Motor Company/Motorcraft parts and General Tire. Scores of glistening street machines dazzled spectators while rock music blared from various sources and vendors offered their wares.

The "Golden Memories" auto club of Las Vegas represented many local entrants and helped sponsor the event. One member, Ron Reed of Henderson, entered a beautiful 1964 Chevy Nova. He and his father (who also had an entry) did most of the work themselves. Reed claimed that he knew "all about backyard projects" and had been working on the car "for about three years."

Reed's machine was not carted to the event on a trailer; it was driven.

"I drive this car at least three times a week," said Reed. This was in sharp contrast to many of the other machines which were on the premises only as display pieces.

Ken and Gayle Turner, also of Las Vegas, seem to share Reed's enthusiasm for cars which are actually driven on the street.

"We've put 10,000 miles on this car in the last two years," said Turner about his pristine but potent Chevy-powered 1936 Willys named "Heart Attack." Turner said he knew the history of this

vehicle which originated in Ely. He claimed to be only the third owner of the car.

By far, the majority of the rods from the time previous to 1940 were Fords. A few were Chevrolets and a very few were Dodges. One unusual entry was a 1938 Plymouth which belonged to Jerry Simmons. This immaculate car really stood out in such company. Simmons had quite a time locating parts for this beautiful and rare automobile. The car is now complete with the exception of a lens which is missing from one of the rear lights. However, the rarity of this car was not its most notable feature.

"What impresses people most about it is that it's all Mopar," said Simmons. (Mopar is Chrysler Corporation's name for genuine Chrysler parts.) This fact is in contrast with most machines which frequently feature components from other manufacturers especially the ubiquitous small-block Chevy engine.

Among the entrants who chose to drive their cars to this event were Lori Still and her father Troy Still. Their spotless 1937 Chevy came from Oklahoma under its own, more than ample, power.

"We have another one like this at home that we use for spare parts so if someone hits it, it's no big deal," said Troy Still to explain his lack of hesitation to put such a rare car on the road. This attitude serves as a unique form of collision insurance.

With the beautiful weather as a backdrop, these beautiful cars put on a great show. We as spectators were fortunate to be able to take in both.



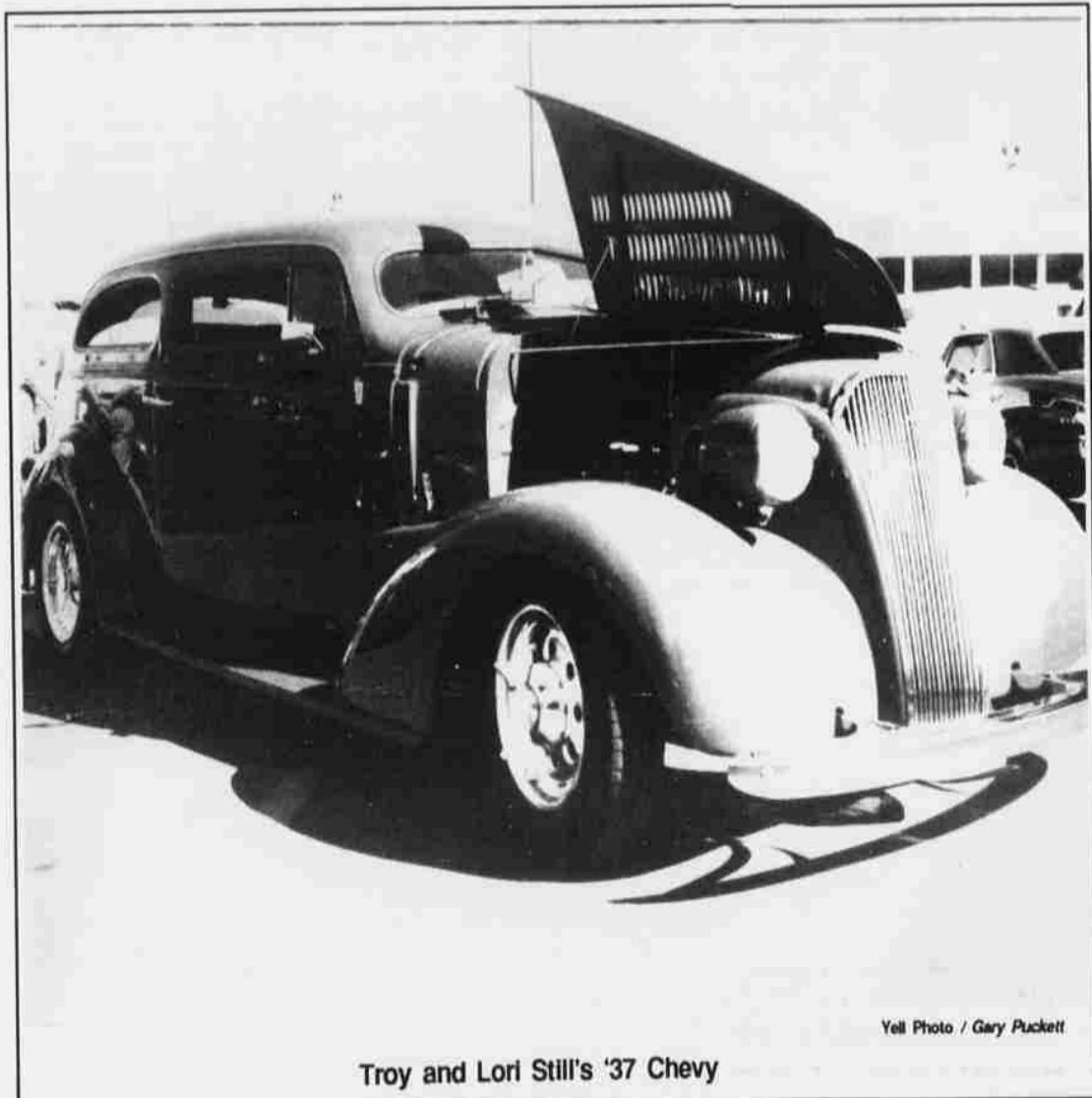
Ron Reed's '64 Chevy Nova

Yell Photo / Gary Puckett



Carl Hokanson's '38 Chevy

Yell Photo / Gary Puckett



Troy and Lori Still's '37 Chevy

Yell Photo / Gary Puckett

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