

young man with a mission'

Auto buff rejuvenates old coupe



Photo by Brian Snook

For nearly two years, hundreds of hours of work, and a few setbacks, things are in the final stage for Mark Gribble and his rebuilt '37 Chev coupe. Gribble has literally replaced every

bolt and nut from top to bottom in attempting to bring the vehicle back to life. Completion is set for the end of winter term.

Lynda Roberson
The Print

Mark Gribble is a young man with a definite mission. After two years of hard and tiring work, Gribble is about to complete the total rejuvenation of a 1937 Chevrolet coupe.

"I bought the body of the car during my vacation of 1976," Gribble said. "A friend, Brian Snook, found the car body, knowing that I was interested in rebuilding an old car from start to finish. So I bought the body for \$200. The body was in good shape, although it had no wheels and the windows were broken out."

"Bringing that car body home started a chain reaction of events that were disgusting at times, but still turned out to be a lot of fun. My friends were willing to help me on this project, so a lot of team work and effort was put into that car," Gribble

"First of all, the car had to be thoroughly sanded, so I had a big sanding party. All my friends came and brought their sanders. Then there was the business

of getting a motor. I bought a rebuilt motor from the auto mechanic shop at Oregon City High School," Gribble said. "However, after putting the engine in the car, I had to rebuild it two more times before it ran fast and smooth enough. The first time was here at the college in auto mechanics, and the second time I rebuilt it was last summer at home."

The reason Gribble had to rebuild the engine a third time was because he had put a tri-power carburetor in it which turned out to be too much power. "It caught on fire. Now I think most of the kinks are out and the engine is in great shape," Gribble said.

"So far, my friends and I have sanded the body down to metal, put on primer, a new engine, rear end, custom drive line, new brakes, wide mag wheels, dual exhaust and a new radiator, so that the only part original is the body," Gribble said.

Chris Kaser, a student here at the college is re-upholstering the car seat in his upholstery class, according to Gribble.

Because of the volunteer services of Gribble's friends, his expenses have been kept to a minimum. Gribble did have to pay to have the car rewired, but everything else has

been accomplished through the labor of friendship.

"It would be a fair estimate to say that I have spent around \$1,500 on the car at this point. I expect the car to be worth \$3,200 to \$3,600 when it is completed though. I was offered a car worth \$2,300 in exchange for my little Chevrolet quite a while ago, but no deal!" he said.

After a few minor adjustments and a new paint job, the car will be ready to drive full time. However, Gribble doesn't think that he will start driving it until spring term when the weather will be nice.

"This will be one of the sharpest cars in Oregon City," Gribble said.

One interesting twist to Gribble's experiences in rebuilding this car is that he switched his major from auto mechanics to engineering.

"I discovered that I like working on cars for the fun of it, but I don't think that I would enjoy it as a career," he said.

However, Gribble thinks that he would probably begin a similar project in another 10 or 12 years.

"My folks will be glad to see this job finished as there has been lots of activity at my house since I started work on the car. My Dad has really become interested though and has expressed a desire to rebuild a car for himself," he said.

Gribble plans to drive the car for awhile and at this time cannot even consider selling his "gorgeous two-year project."

"This was something that I always wanted to do, even though it will be nice when the car is finally completed," Gribble said.

Turkey Trot road run planned

Runners of all ages are invited to compete in the first annual cross-country Turkey Trot sponsored by local community schools Nov. 10 at 1 p.m., Meldrum Bar Park, on River Road in Gladstone.

Meldrum is the Gladstone counterpart of Clackamette Park, where the Willamette River meets the Clackamas River.

The Turkey Trot first-place winners in each of five age divisions will receive Thanksgiving turkeys. Second-placers get chickens and third-comers get eggs.

Clackamas Community College

The cross-country event is open to anyone over age 18. The youngest category will jog six miles, and the 61-and-over group will do two miles, and the other three groups will each run a specified distance.

The race is sponsored by Tri-City Community Schools and the one dollar entry fee may be pre-paid at community school offices at Gladstone, on Portland Ave.; at Oregon City High School; or at the West Linn School District offices.

Official Turkey Trot T-shirts will be on sale for \$2.50.

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