

THE
Magnolia
NEWS



NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE RESIDENTS OF MAGNOLIA POINT

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BIRD SONG

JIM ARNOLD'S

MAGNOLIA *chrome*



1956 FORD THUNDERBIRD



Can you tell us about the history of this classic?

I bought it in late 2022 from a South Florida used car dealer, but don't have much history. Also, the Coker White Walls looked almost new, but I quickly found out they were 16 years old, so I had to buy new ones for safety.



Are you in any car clubs, and have you participated in any events or shows?

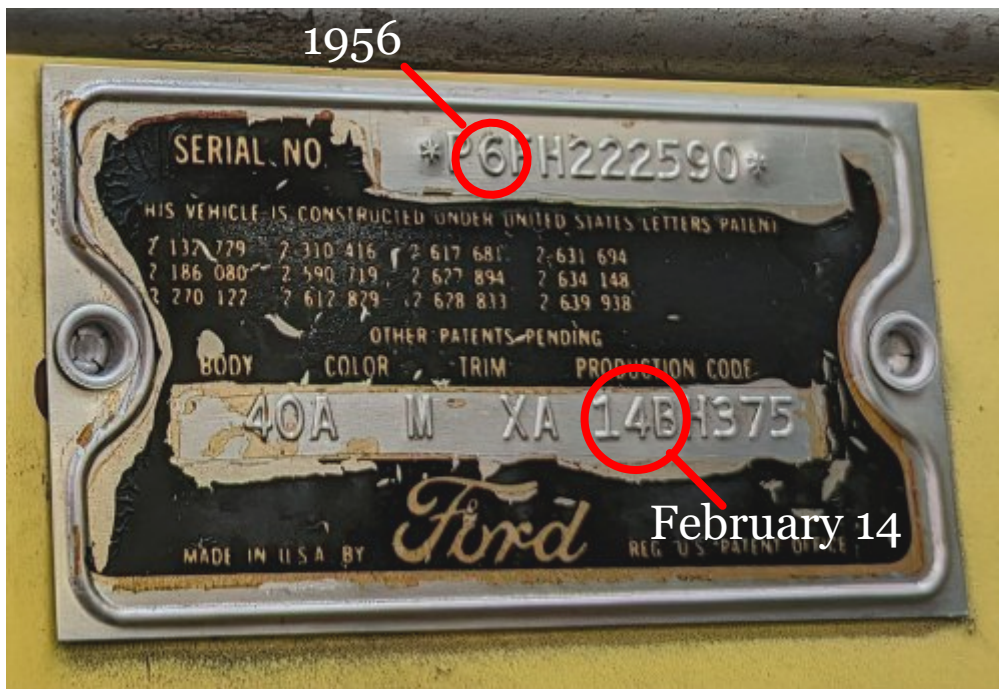
Yes, Clay County Cruzers which is a great organization of local car & truck lovers that does remarkable charity events. I just finished with a "Top 25" trophy at their "Rev It Up" car show at Moosehaven and met dozens of folks that loved the car.

Tell us about your car

It's a 1956 Ford Thunderbird. I have been looking at and interested in older cars for some time. I thought the T-Bird was a great example of a true "Classic Car" and the fact that it was yellow and had the "Continental" tire kit on the rear completely sold me on this one particular car. Of course, it didn't hurt that the car is the same age as my wife, Rosalind, and they both are beautifully decked out in yellow.

Have you restored or customized the car, and if so, can you tell us about the process?

Upon delivery of the car, the defective battery was replaced, and I am going through any non-working components. I am keeping a meticulous scrapbook of everything done to date. For example, I replaced the exhaust manifolds with new, ceramically coated ones to ensure they would never rust again. The entire exhaust system is being replaced now with the tailpipes going through the bumper as originally designed. My good friend and master mechanic Woody Underwood has done most of the work on the car. I have done the little items such as touchup painting, etc. Other improvements are new heat sensors, new gas gauge, radiator overflow tank, some minor paint work by "Darren's" and upgrading the car's wiring. I think the car had a semi-complete restoration about 17 years ago, and the interior still has that newly restored look!



Continued



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Crosby endorsed and his 2 minute commercial selling this car can be easily found on YouTube which brings back great memories of those old stars like Hope and Crosby.

What's your favorite experience with your car and what do you love most about owning it?

Easiest question of all. Owning the T-Bird is just a way to relax while not worrying about making double



What do you do to maintain it and keep it running well?

Change the oil, keep it very clean and polished and drive once a week or so. The 312 C.I. engine starts and runs better than you can believe for a 67 year old car.

How often do you drive it?

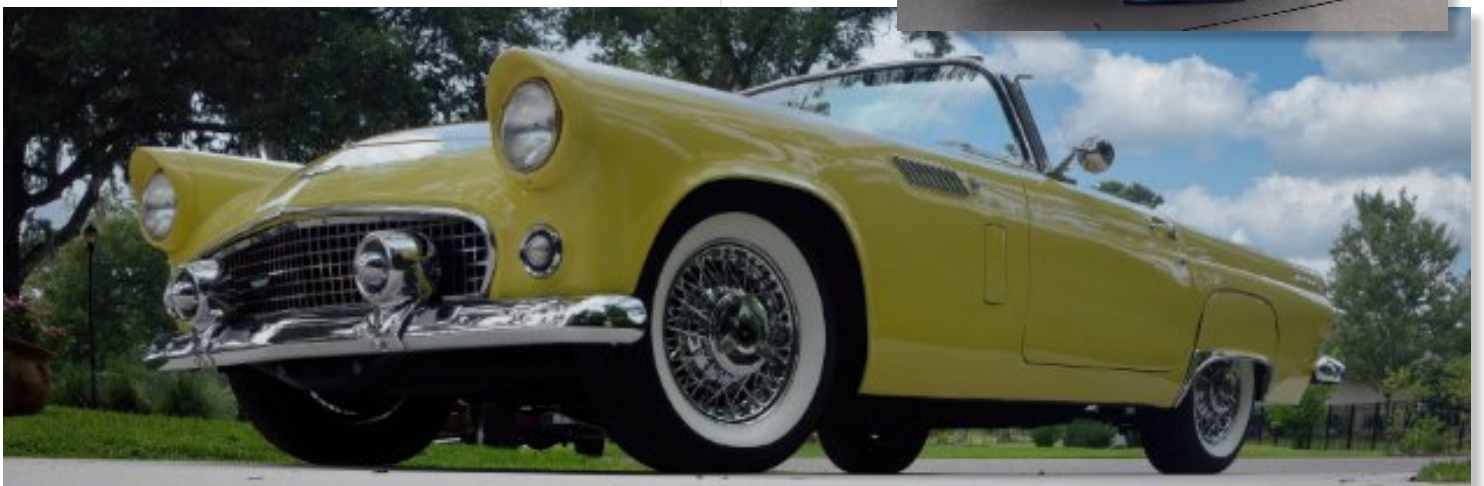
I take it to the Pub, Elks Lodge and a few other nearby spots. I hope to drive it to the Villages this October for the Classic Thunderbird Club International ("CTCI") Regional Convention where some 300+ other classic T-Birds ('55-'57) will be on display.



bogeys, losing a fish or missing a turkey. Also, everyone seems to love looking at the car and asking about it. Lot of thumbs up and horn honking along the way too. However, the best fact (which I didn't learn until the car was delivered) is that the data plate on the firewall shows a manufactured date of "14B" which means Valentine's Day 1956! Unbelievably, my wife and I walked down the aisle 25 years to the day later to get married!!

Are there any unique features about your car you like or dislike?

Again, the Continental package sets this car apart from all others. Of course, it has 3 tops, including the classic white with porthole top, custom black ragtop stored behind the back seat and a cockpit cover as well. Finally, the car is Bing



Photos: Editor

