

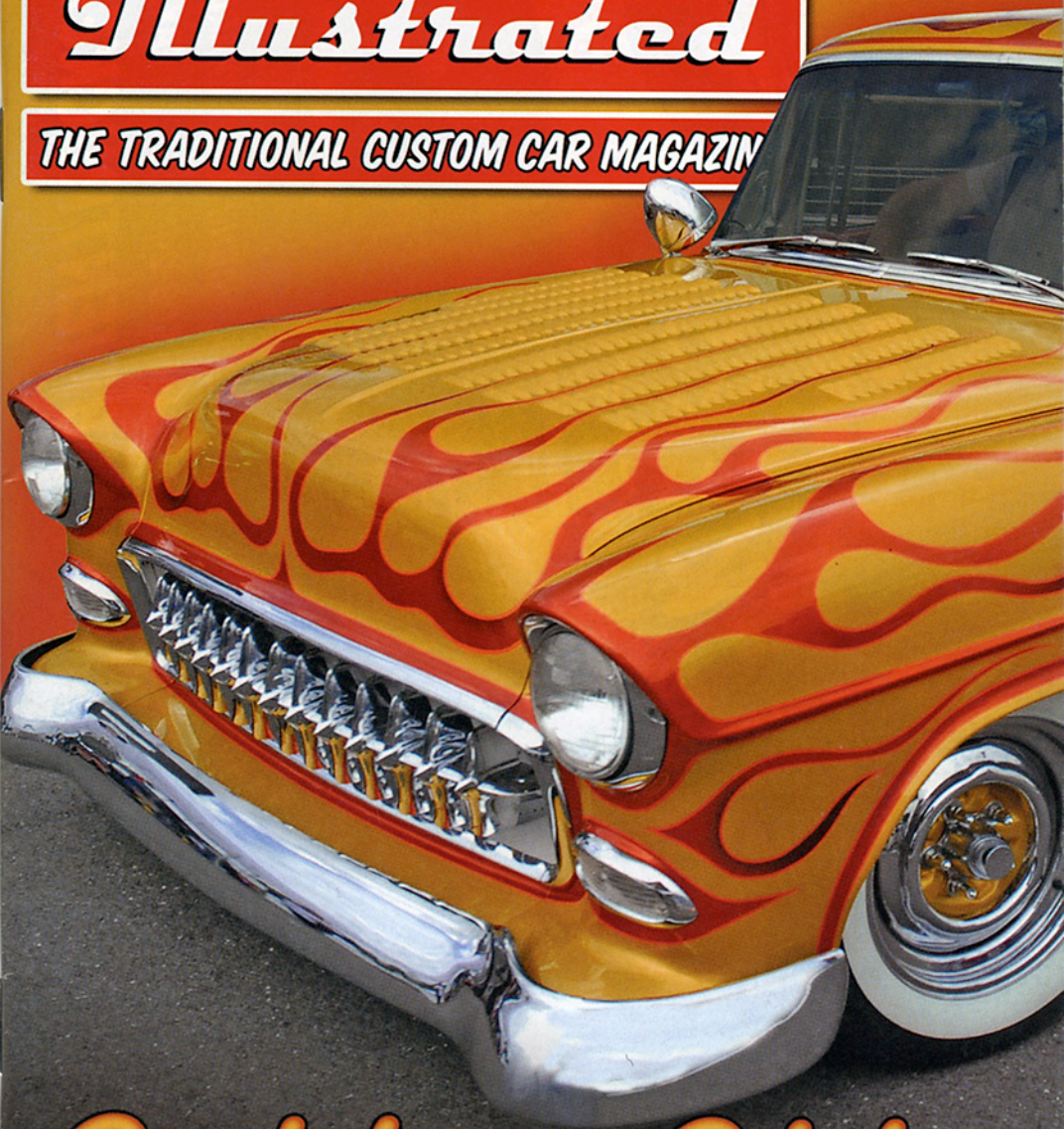
KUSTOMS

Illustrated

ISSUE #48

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Vintage Slides
from 1960-61

THE TRADITIONAL CUSTOM CAR MAGAZINE



Golden Oldie

DICK FREUND'S '55 CHEVY

KUSTOMS *Illustrated*

THE TRADITIONAL CUSTOM CAR MAGAZINE

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Golden Eldie



DICK FREUND'S '55 CHEVROLET

TEXT & PHOTOS BY LUKE KAROSI - SPECIAL THANKS TO MIKE HNATH

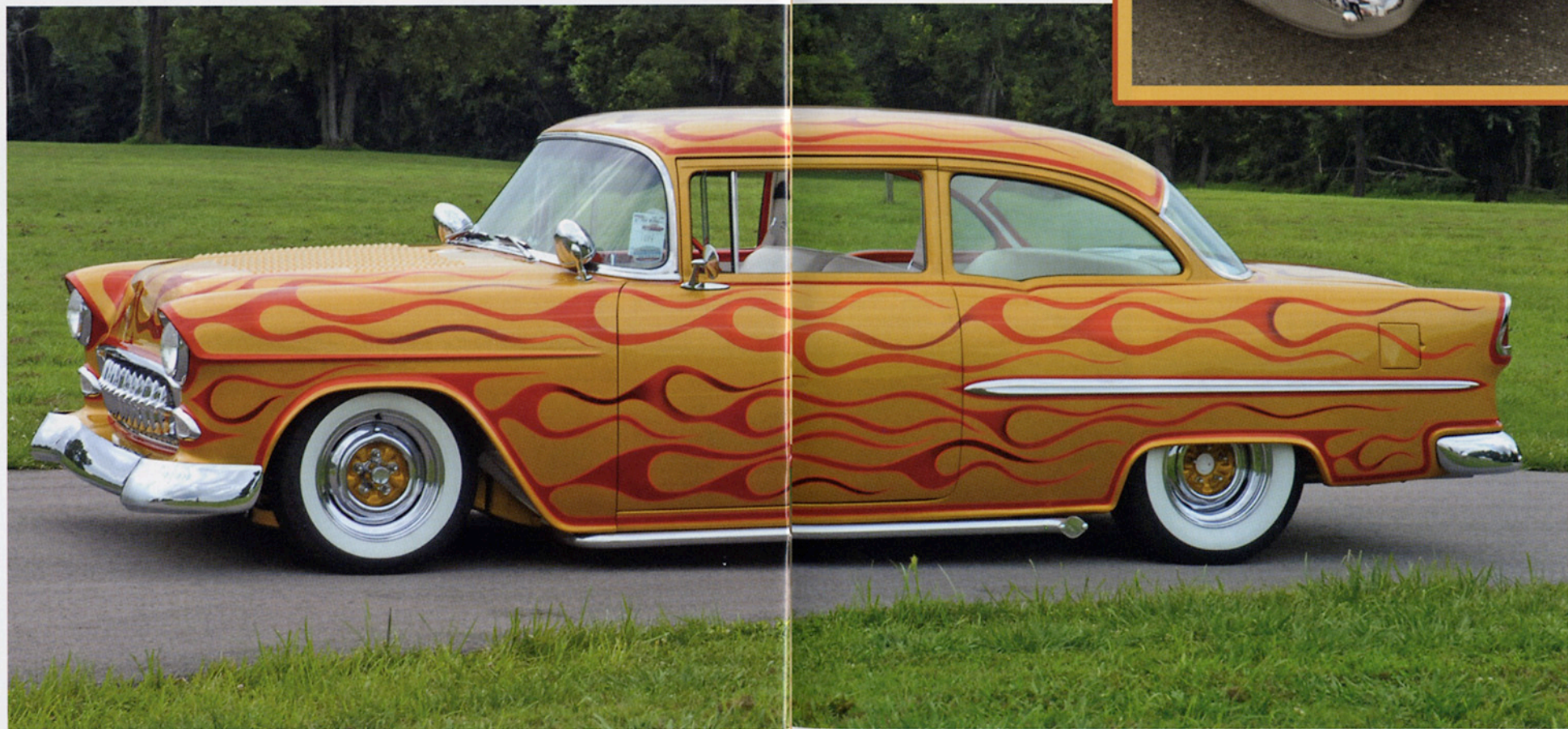
family project. Dick, his wife Sue, daughter Cheri and of course Mike all worked on the car that summer together and got it in primer and drove it. (Jim Hubbel and another good friend, Jack Bahr, were also a big help getting the Chevy on the road.) This would be the first of several transformations for the '55.

In 1988, Dick and Mike opened shop as Classics Plus Ltd in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Together they built cars for customers and themselves. Recently, Mike's son Nick joined the ranks and they are now officially a three-generation business.

As stated earlier, the car would go through several incarnations, including a clean two-tone blue and white street cruiser and then a full-blown frame-off redo mild custom that featured Sapphire blue paint with silver scallops. This version got a lot of attention at the shows and in magazines, but the Freund's weren't finished yet. The best was yet to come!

With Nick on board, the family decided to tackle the old '55 once again. The result is what you see on these pages and it is fantastic. If you think the paint job was inspired by Larry Watson, then you would be cor-

Classic Lee taillight lenses always look good in '55 Chevys. Dick's Bel Air combines subtle body modifications with radical paint and colors. This style ushered in the '60s thanks to the likes of guys like Larry Watson who wasn't afraid to experiment with colors and bold designs.





bumper, the rear too has its bolt heads shaved and smoothed. The entire car was pinstriped by Barber Graphix in Fond du Lac.

Under the hood is just as sanitary as the rest of the car. The pure white firewall, fenderwells, radiator support and under hood area really make the Solar Gold small block mill pop. Polished fin valve covers and an early Cadillac air cleaner with flames and striping give it extra appeal.

United Trim in Fond du Lac stitched the white pleated upholstery. An orange colored carpet matches the candy tangerine dash, but the star of the show has to be the two-toned and very fitting '61 Impala steering wheel.

It's safe to say the Freund's have successfully nailed the late '50s/early '60s traditional look with their "Golden Oldie" '55 Chevy. And, we're pretty sure that Larry Watson would be proud, too! *KI*



rect! Mike says that every night after coming home from working on the car, he would jump on the computer and search for Larry Watson painted cars. He studied them very carefully; especially the Al Lazarus '55 Chevy. You may recall that Al's Chevy was the first to feature Larry's famous "Seaweed Flames" which were long, stringy and covered the entire car including the roof and trunk. It looked radical back then and it looks radical today! Dick's '55 really captures that late '50s/early '60s look, but the wild flames are just part of it. The hood has been nosed, peaked and punched full of louvers. The front splash pan has been welded and smoothed to the fenders and the bumper has been shaved and rechromed. The white grille cavity features a '57 Corvette grille. Like all good mild customs, the door handles have been shaved. The stock Bel Air side trim has been modified by shortening its length and removing the vertical piece. It's a subtle yet effective touch. The trunk lid has been decked and like the front