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Nickey Chicago's
'61 Corvette Gasser #001

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AUG. 2014

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SKINNY'S LOWDOWN
'27 CHEVY ROADSTER



NOT YOUR OLD MAN'S CAR MAGAZINE

Movin' On

Words: Whitney R. Emke
Photos: Todd Gerhard

When Jack Elderkin, 64, first met his wife Kathy at the age of 18, he drove a blue '58 Ford. Many years later, when he first saw this candy apple green '55 Chevy 150 sedan, its style reminded him so strongly of that '58 Ford that he felt compelled to buy it. But it was no impulse buy—this purchase was a long time in the making. For 25 years, Jack worked his way up the ladder. He purchased a car, fixed it up, and sold it for a profit that he used to buy another car and repeat the process.

Somewhere in there, he and Kathy even managed to have a largely successful equestrian career, showing countless horses on a national level. But in 2004, the dwindling economy caused the couple to back off of the horses, allowing Jack to return his focus to custom cars. In both fields, the couple worked hard to make their way to the top.

"We started at the bottom of the totem pole and we worked our way up. We've been on both ends of the spectrum," Kathy says of both, showing horses and showing cars.



Now having worked their way to the top, the couple generally only shows on a national level. With this '55 Chevy, they've taken titles including Best Custom, Outstanding Radical/Custom, and the 2009 Rob Hoffman Memorial Award at the International Auto Showcase Custom and Classic Car and Trade Show in Syracuse, NY.

A three-year project, Mike Freund of Classics Plus Ltd. out of North Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, rebuilt the Chevy from the ground up. Under the hood is a 283 small block that's been punched out to a 302 with an Offenhauser 6-pack intake wearing Stromberg 97 carbs. The transmission is a Turbo 350. The front suspension is original, but the back has been dropped three inches with reverse eye leaf springs and lowering blocks.

Inside, it's clean and white: white vinyl rolled and tucked upholstery, white trim, white steering wheel, white weatherstripping, and white carpet that extends throughout the cabin and trunk. The dashboard features a stock gauge cluster. Outside, the car features a partially shaved body, custom bar grille, louvered hood and chrome reverse wheels with spider caps. The paint is candy apple green with a pearl finish. Custom graphics include scallops on the body and ghost scallops with metallflake on the roof.

This Chevy is symbolic of not only the American classic car culture, but of Jack and Kathy Elderkin's commitment to hard work and ultimately, to each other.

Special thanks to Mel's Antique Race Cars for letting us use his property for the location. 🍷

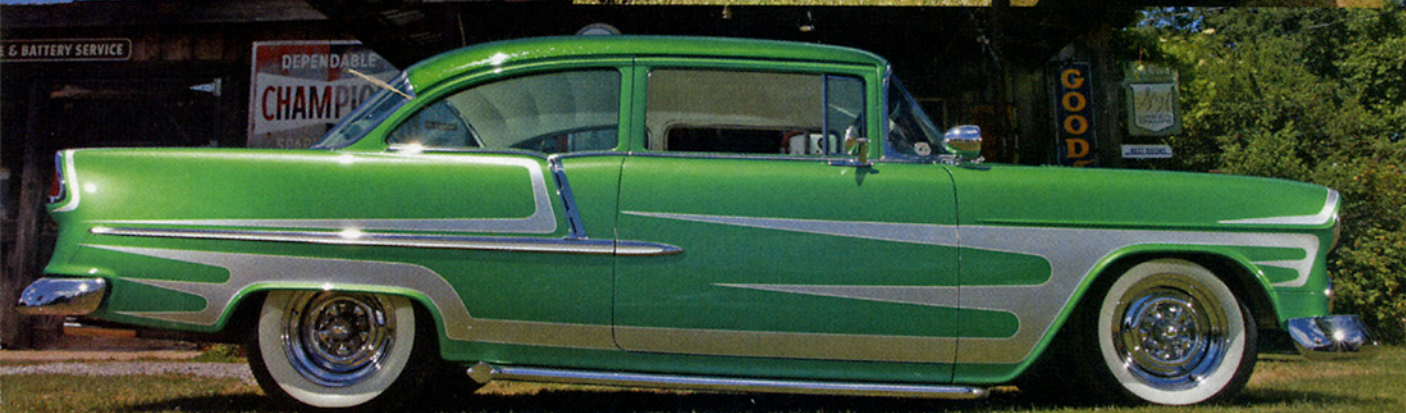


TECH SHEET

OWNER:	Jack Elderkin	SUSPENSION:	F- Stock R- Reversed eye leaf springs, 3" lowering blocks
OCCUPATION:	Retired	BRAKES:	F- Disc; R- Drum
LOCATION:	Walton, NY	WHEELS:	15x6 Wheel Vintiques chrome
BUILDER:	Mike Freund	TIRES:	215/75R15 Coker radial WWW
VEHICLE:	1955 Chevy 210 Sedan	SEATS:	Stock bench
GRILLE:	Custom bar	UPHOLSTERY:	White tuck-n-roll vinyl
PAINT:	PPG Candy Apple Green	STEERING:	ididit chrome tilt
PAINTER:	Mike Freund	TAILLIGHTS:	Lee custom lenses
GRAPHICS:	Scallops	CAR CLUB:	Goodguys
ENGINE:	Chevy 283 (bored to 302)		
TRANNY:	Turbo 350		
INTAKE:	Offenhauser 3x2 with Stromberg 97 carbs		
EXHAUST:	Dual glass packs		
REAR END:	Stock		



JACK ELDERKIN'S 1955 CHEVY



JACK ELDERKIN'S 1955 CHEVY

