

Members Profile  
Wallace and Sharon Mellinger  
As printed in the March 2006 Newsletter

Wallace was born and grew up in Oklahoma City, went to Northeast High School. Sharon joined us in Oklahoma just after graduating High School in Florida.

Wallace's dad was a "fix them up and sell them and buy a better one" car guy and so by the age of 20 Wallace had owned about 21 different cars. He began driving at 14, helping his dad jockey cars around. His first car was a 56 Blue and White Buick. His family also owned a 57 Ford Custom 2 door post, 6 banger, 3 speed on the tree. They also had a number of 55, 56, and 57 Fords, a 58 convertible and a 58 Chevy with a 59 348 engine. His first real hot rod was a 56 Ford, bored 60 over, light cam, shaved heads and a 4 bbl. About all you could do in those days.

Sharon's first car was a 51 Pontiac Woody Wagon. She also had a mid 60's Corvair which she liked a lot. They really drove nice. Another car that she owned and wishes that she still had was a 68 Pontiac LeMans with the 326 V8 engine. She loved that car.

Wallace wishes he still had the little Falcon Pickup with the 327 Chevy engine. Back in the early 70's, a company built replicas of 32 Fords and 57 Thunderbirds. The Bird had a 302 and all the goodies for a mere \$7,800. He wishes that he had bought one. Sharon and Wallace have a common love of the Little Birds, 55-57, and both indicate that these cars are their favorites. Sharon's brother owned a 55.

Wallace began work as an electrical component mechanic on 18 wheelers, specifically starters, generators and etc. He moved up to Diesel engine mechanic for a leasing company and then on to management positions at Lee Way and Trans-Con trucking lines. He worked on the loading dock at Fleming for a while. Being handy and a craftsman, he started doing construction on the side and eventually started doing this full time.

Sharon stayed home with their 3 children and when they were on their own went to work at the FAA. Having worked her way up to supervisor she is in the process of changing jobs to become a Program Analyst. She has two cars in various stages: a 56 Thunderbird which is being painted; and a 65 Mustang Fastback which is near completion, Black, powder coated bumpers and door handles, a 289 powered Retro-Ride.

Wallace has the 50 Ford Pickup that he and his son built in the early 80's. He bought it from a neighbor and built it into a SHOW STOPPER. Powered by a 350 Chevy that has 202 heads, balanced lowered end, a Holly 770 Street Avenger carb, Sanderson headers, a 350 turbo tranny, followed by a Camaro 3:91 rear end. The body sets on an S-10 front sub frame. The bed has been turned around and shortened. Topped off by a great paint scheme. This Pickup has won many awards, among them the Best Engineered award at the Bricktown Cruise in 2001, selection to be on the Tinker Credit Union T-shirt in 2004, on the Classic Auto Parts magnet in 2004 and was on the cover of the Street Scene

Magazine in 2005. Many trophies support the fact that this Truck is a piece of art. The work on this Truck is very subtle but quite involved if you look close.

This summer the Mellingers are planning to drive the Thunderbird on a vacation to California. Their mission is to see the Redwoods, have a stop over in Arizona. This trip will be a leisurely trip, with ample time between stops to smell the flowers. They have been members of the Cruisers for 4 years.