

Incoming president already shares automotive engineering knowledge



Fixers Club

By John Koning

It goes without saying that On Top of the World boasts many beneficial amenities and unique features rarely found in other communities.

One of those is our state-of-the-art wood shop, run by the Fixers Club.

However, the best part of the wood shop is not the machinery it houses, but the many talented and interesting people it attracts.

One of those people is Ray Tabor.

Ray is the Fixers' president elect. That means next year he will be the leader of the pack. It's an appropriate description borrowed from the 1964 pop classic by the Shangri-Las.

Although Ray might not be a motorcycle maniac like the guy in the song, he has buried the needle in his 1956 Mercury Phaeton Montclair with its heart-pounding V8 Lincoln engine.

Ray is an automotive guy from headlights to tailpipe. This husband of 52 years, father of four, grandfather of six and great-grandfather of four, has Pennzoil running through his veins.

Ray spent a few years on the oil rigs in Kansas before moving into the automotive world. He spent 35 years honing his automotive skills on a staggering array of cars. Among them were four 1930 Model "A" Deluxe Roadsters, a 1930 Model "A" Phaeton fold down soft top, and a 1934 Rolls Royce four-door convertible.

He also turned a 1949 Mercury from a nasty green color into a beige work of art with chocolate brown skirts, french-style headlight bezels



Ray Tabor inspects the progress of his latest project. The solid oak model was inspired by a 1943 Ford Jeep

and twin tear drop spots.

You might ask, "what can an auto body man offer to our wood shop?"

The answer is, plenty!

If you have ever examined a bad body job, you will appreciate the craftsmanship and attention to detail required to produce a flawless finish and those silky smooth lines.

Now, Ray brings that same care and precision to the OTOW Fixers Club as he taught in automotive night school.

Lucky us!

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