

Feature Car

Submitted by Ron Walters

Here are photos and story of my original/un-restored 1985 Grand Marquis. It has 37,412 miles on it. Powered by a 5.0 liter V-8.

The story behind my acquisition is this: The car was purchased new from Leader

Lincoln/Mercury by my nephew's great grandfather who lived in Aff-

ton. My nephew lives in Dexter, Mo.

When his great grandpa passed a couple of years

ago, the car was given to my nephew's grandfather, who did not drive

it. When my nephew turned 16 this past year, his grandpa gave him the car. He drove the car for a short time until the heater core rotted out and began leaking coolant in to the car. After that, he lost interest in the car and wanted a pickup. The car was parked in their back yard under a maple

tree. The car had also developed other issues. Only one power window motor would work due to stripped gears in the

other three. The battery went dead from sitting. He called me and asked if I wanted to buy the car. He wanted money for a down payment on a pickup. He told me to make an offer. I drove to Dexter to look at the car. It looked awful. All covered in tree sap and tons of leaves packed in to the cowl and the trunk sills. The carpet in the right front passenger compartment was soaked

with coolant. We got the battery to take a charge and got the car started. It ran good. I explained to my nephew that with all of the issues the car had, I would not pay more than \$600.00 for it. Twenty four hours later, he accepted!

His dad drove the car to St. Louis during a trip to a Cardinals game. The car made the trip, but by the time it got here, the left front brake caliper was locking up and the rotor was HOT.

I managed to get the car to Troy. I spent 10 hours on a

Sunday detailing the car using a steam

cleaner, lots of soap, lots of wax, and a lot of elbow grease. I

spent a week scrubbing the carpet and seats several times to get them clean. I replaced the battery, tuned the engine, rebuilt the brakes, rebuilt all four window motors, replaced shocks, replaced the heater core, replaced the stereo, replaced the water pump and thermostat, repaired a lot of other minor items, and changed the oil. The oil filter was dated 2009 with a black marker. That's how infrequent the car was used. Now, it is an awesome car! It drives and runs so smooth! No squeaks, no rattles, and no wind whistles. It drives like new! It is such a good road car! I love driving it and it catches the eyes of a lot of motorists. I am looking forward to showing it.

Ron

