

Marmon evokes the Roaring '20s

By Richard Kuehl

My favorite car is a 1928 Marmon. I saw it on the road with a "For Sale" sign in the window and chased the driver down the road to stop him. We talked, I rode in it and bought it the next morning—you might say it was a spur of the moment decision.

It was just one of those things I saw and couldn't live without. Its uniqueness was so appealing.

I've always had some kind of car to play with, as I've been a mechanic all my life and I love cars.

I've had a lot of cars, even convertibles and Corvettes, but this has to be my favorite car. I really enjoy it.

The Marmon is a big square car with a trunk on the back and spare tires on the front fenders. It looks like a Capone car, something the gangsters drove in those old Jimmy Cagney movies.

I enjoy talking to people about my car and if I go to the grocery store someone always says, "My grandfather had one of those," but a lot of people have never seen one before.

The Marmon Motor Company made this car and still makes semi-trucks, but they haven't made the Marmon since 1933.

It was only in production for about nine years and I'm always looking through magazines for Marmon parts, but I never see any.

The car was very presentable when I bought it, but I've done a lot of work to it since then. I put in a new steering column, dashboard and wire wheels.

I've made some other improvements to the inside and upholstery as well, which is grey velvet.

The exterior is a Chrysler color: black cherry pearl. Depending on the light, at different times this color can look black or maroon.

The car runs on Ford power; the running gears and motor are Ford, but I've never had to buy a body part.

Because I've never seen any Marmon parts in my magazines, I'm not sure how difficult it would be to buy a fender, door or hood.

I don't have room for air conditioning and I thought about installing power windows, but the windows are all the way up or down in two cranks. With just two cranks, I don't need power windows.

Working on the car is a great winter hobby. I think about selling it every winter, then change my mind when I drive it in the spring.

I also have a '37 coupe and I trade off driving them every other year. I really enjoy them and I never get around to selling them, so I drive them another year.

When the weather's nice, I drive the Marmon a lot. I've driven it to Kentucky and I enjoy just driving it back and forth to the grocery store.

Although I really did chase down the previous owner when I saw the "For Sale" in the winter, I first saw the car in September 1993 at a car show. Now I take the car to shows myself and have won 13 trophies with it.

Winning isn't everything though. After all, the Marmon is fun to ride in and I've always been interested in cars.

—As told to Tara Marion

Richard Kuehl lives in Oshtemo and drives a 1991 four-wheel-drive Chevy S-10 pickup truck. He is retired from General Motors.