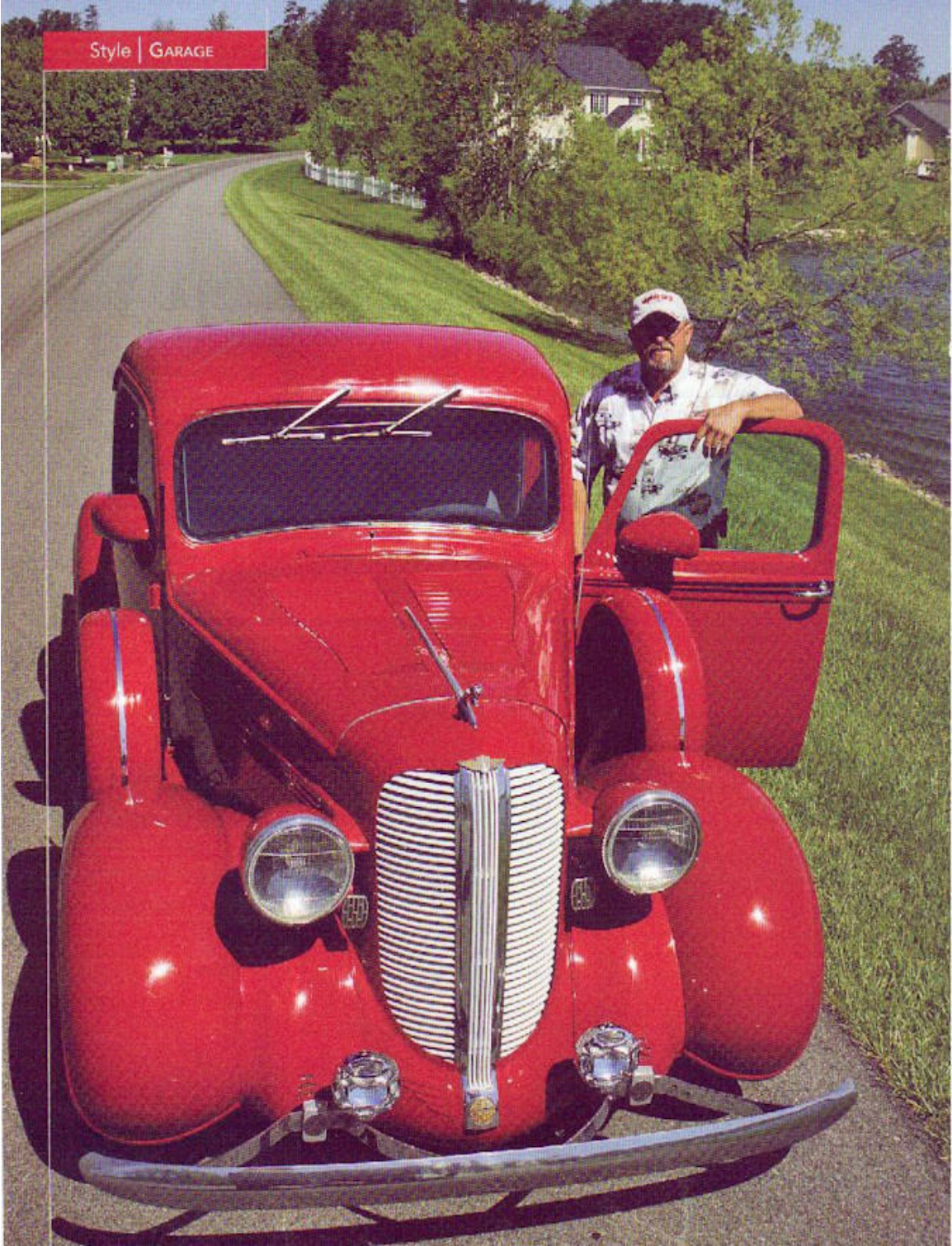


Style | GARAGE



Pickup Pleasure

Ricky Law's 1937 Dodge pickup truck

STORY & PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLIE SHIP

Car enthusiast Ricky Law wasn't looking to buy a vintage pickup truck. But there it was - bright red and gleaming like a Christmas toy.

It was 2006 and Law, owner of SML-based Law's Paving, Inc., and his wife, Wanda, were driving south to see son Patrick, a soldier stationed at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina. During the trip, Law saw a garage with several older restored vehicles outside, two of them trucks. The shiny 1937 Dodge pickup instantly caught his eye.

Wanda Law recalled that they were running behind schedule so there was no time to stop.

"It was dark when we got away from Fayetteville and rolling towards home, so we couldn't stop then," said Ricky Law.

The idea was to get the garage's phone number and call about the truck. That didn't happen either.

On another trip south, Law saw the truck again and decided to stop at the garage. He quickly discovered the business' owner was a Mopar enthusiast (short for M**O**tor P**A**RTs, the auto parts and service arm of Chrysler) who tended to sell his cars overseas where the demand for Chrysler hot rods and restorations is stronger than it is in the United States.

Law looked: There were two trucks there that he longed for, but the Dodge held his interest the most. Older Dodge pickups are harder to find than other brands. When he heard the story of the European sales, he decided to buy the Dodge.

"I bought the pickup in '06 just for pleasure," he said, noting enthusiastically that he made the purchase just because "I liked the way it looked - a whole lot."

The specifications aren't bad, either. The engine is a 360 Dodge, very mildly breathed on and feeding power through a Mopar 710 automatic transmission. The mildness of the exhaust note is largely because the engine has very few modifications: it has fancier valve covers and an Edelbrock manifold and carburetor, but remains stock internally. Even stock, the 8.4-to-1 compression ratio runs best on premium fuel these days. The rear end of the truck is from a Ford, as is the front end - a transplant from a Mustang II.

The truck also features some distinct modern conveniences, including power windows and a stereo that kicks out the latest AM/FM and spins CDs. Power steering helps keep things on the straight and narrow, and tinted windows keep strong sunlight at least partly at bay.

Law has had his Mopar truck about two years. He often drives it to local car shows as well as to get together with the Outlaw Cruisers, a local car club that hosts a charity car show in Rocky Mount.

The '37 Dodge pickup has fed a lifetime love of cars for Law, who now spends a lot of his spare time cruising, attending car shows and "just plain having fun checking out classic cars and trucks." 🍷

If you own or know of a car you think should be featured in a future issue of the Laker, send an email to charlie@smilhemountainlaker.com and tell us, "What's in Your Garage?"

