

MY FIRST KING MIDGET

You've heard the story many times. A young boy sees an ad for a King Midget on the back page of a "Mechanics Illustrated" or "Popular Mechanics" and a life-long desire is born. This happened to me in the 1950's in Oregon City, Oregon.

My brother and I even schemed and planned to build our own car. Of course, money, materials and—more important—know-how were in short supply. So the Imitation King Midget was never built. I did purchase a 1941 Cushman motor scooter as soon as I got my driver's license (required for a scooter in Oregon.) A centrifugal clutch and less than stellar top speed was the only resemblance to a Midget.

When I managed to get a car, the scooter was history. More cars, marriage, and kids came along, but every once in a while, the dream of the King Midget surfaced. I saw some in museums and once I saw a very abused King Midget husk that was way overpriced at a swap meet. The dream was fading.

Fast forward to November, 2011, when my indulgent wife called my attention to an ad on craigslist. A 1967 model III was advertised for sale and the location was in the very town where my desire took root—Oregon City-- just 40 miles from where I now reside! It is a restored car with only 29 miles showing on the odometer. The family had purchased it from the original owner and then used it in Palm Desert, California as a fun-car and to carry their golf bags.

A deal was struck, and I have now fulfilled my childhood dream. We West Coast Midget owners are rare, and Northwest Owners are more so! This concludes my account, but my new status as a King Midget OWNER has just begun!

Duane Benedict, KM Club member # 0922 / 503-397-9806

Saint Helens OR

