

EARLY F-SERIES

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In 1967, I purchased a blue and white 1954 Ford F-100 pick-up from a former classmate of mine. It had a six-cylinder engine that I knew would have to come out. This was back when I was still doing a lot of wrenching. The replacement engine was a 292 V8 with 312 heads. This was hooked up to a three-speed transmission.



I remember when I first fired it up. WOW, now that sounded more like it! I still did not have the exhaust hooked up, but I had to take it for a test drive. I told my wife that I would be right back, and she wanted to know where I was going. That's when I told her I just wanted to take the truck for a short test run. She said she wanted to go with me, but I tried to talk her out of going. I told her the truck was going to be very loud, as the exhaust was coming right out the manifolds. It didn't matter, she said she still wanted to go.

We lived in a subdivision at that time, which was near the city limits, so I drove real slow to keep the noise down until we were out of town. That's when I jumped on it! However, my wife did not see this coming, and her head snapped back, cracking the rear window. Boy was I in trouble! My wife never asked to go on any more test drives! Later on I sold this truck.

Eleven years later, I ended up buying another 1954 Ford F-100 pick-up. This one was painted gold, and someone had installed a 289 V8 engine with an automatic transmission. The engine was getting tired, so I found a low mileage 302 V8 engine, and switched them.



About this same time, our son bought a nice 1956 Ford F-100 pick-up. He decided that he wanted to change the rims on his truck. So I agreed to buy his Crager wheels that he no longer wanted, and put them on my F-100 truck. After a few years we both sold our trucks.

Many years later, I found out that one of my old trucks was parked in a barn near where I now live. When the guy showed me the truck, I told him that I used to own it. He did not believe me, so I told him I would prove it to him. I went home and bought back a picture of the truck when I owned it. Small world! Unfortunately, that truck was lost in a fire when the neighbor's barn burned down a few years ago.

Over the years, I've owned four of the F-100 pick-ups, and three of the F-150's. All of them served me well. Our truck today is a red 1950 Ford F-1 pick-up that we bought in 2002. It is equipped with a 302 V8, and a C4 automatic transmission, and it is my pride and joy. Plus, the ladies love it!