

**PICTURES DO LIE!**  
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My wife graduated from high school in 1955. I had always liked the looks of the '55 Chevys, and with my wife's 50th class reunion coming up in a couple of years, I convinced her that I should buy one. I started out looking at a '55 Chevy Nomad that was located near us, but ended up missing out on it. Later while looking on E-Bay at some cars, I found another 1955 Chevy, only this one was a two-door hardtop. It was turquoise and white with the 265 cubic inch V8 engine, three on the tree, or should I say a stick shift transmission on the column? It also had fender skirts, plus wide white-wall tires and full hubcaps.

The owner e-mailed me lots of pictures and assured me that the car was in great condition. The car was in Florida. The bidding seemed to be low, but I really wanted to see the car before bidding on it. So my wife and I made plans to fly down to Florida. About this same time we found out that a family member was going to have some surgery done. So, we decided she would stay with the family member and I should go check out the car without her.

I really did not want to go Florida by myself. Instead, I talked our son-in-law into going with me to look at the car. However, when it got down to the wire, his boss decided that he could not spare him right then. By now the bidding was about to close on the '55 Chevy, so I decided to go ahead and bid on it, without seeing the car. Big mistake!

I had a shipper deliver the car and I was disappointed from day one. Not only do pictures lie, this guy did a pretty good job of it too!

The wide white-wall tires turned out to be port-a-walls! I didn't even know you could still get them. The exhaust was coming out from under the door. The engine would hardly run because the carburetor needed to be rebuilt. When you shifted gears it would hang up between gears because everything in the steering column was worn out. The car also had a bad vibration when in motion.



I called the previous owner and he agreed to help with some of the expense to repair all the problems. But this ended up being a drop in the bucket compared to what I had to spend fixing all the problems. First, we rebuilt the carburetor. The vibration turned out to be the drive shaft and it had to be replaced. Most of the shifting linkage, had to be replaced. The complete exhaust system was junk. When I'm doing repairs I like to do them right the first time, so the exhaust system was replaced with stainless steel and changed to now have a dual exhaust system. The tires were also replaced with four new radial wide white-walls. I was never fond of the car after all the problems I'd been through, so a few years later, I got rid of it!

I do know now not to trust pictures, because they can be very deceiving!