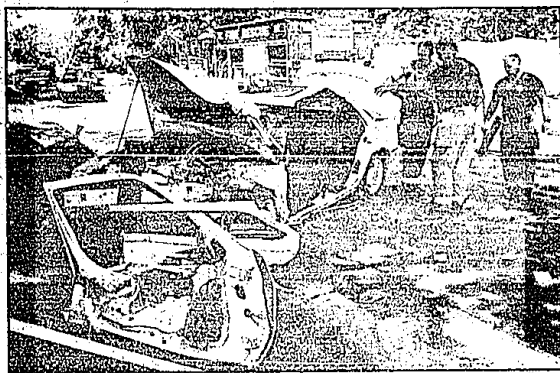


Drake Road mishap



Wreck: Farmington Hills firefighters had to use the Jaws of Life to remove the occupants from this car after an accident on Drake, south of 13 Mile. But injuries were relatively minor, according to Farmington Hills Acting Fire Chief Peter Baldwin.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

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used Ford," he said, admiring his white convertible.

Shelby's turn for a classic also came on her 16th birthday last year. Her gift was a 1971 Dodge Challenger.

The three autos and family members gathered at the weekly Cruise the Grand in downtown Farmington to show the world not only their familial interests but the cars that have generated lots of hard work and pride.

"It was a piece of junk when I got it," Shelby said of her Challenger. "It was four different colors; a big piece of Bondo."

With her dad's help, Shelby restored the Challenger, and is forever tweaking it just a bit more. In her first showing, the Good Guys Show, she received the Staff Pick Award for the car.

She has no doubts that people are surprised, maybe even a little shocked, that a young woman has not only a deep interest in cars, but can overhaul one as well as any man. You can see how things work with the engine. You can take it apart and put it back together. Sometimes you can give it another part to give it a little more oomph.

"I got a tool box for Christmas when I was 10," she said. "I grew up with it. It's pretty much all I do. I knew more about cars when I was six or seven than my friends do now. It was something my dad and I could do together."

The customized floor mats bear her nickname: "Shelbo" as does the rear license plate. "The color is plum crazy - the original color when the car came off the factory line," Shelby said.

When Charlie Henry gave his daughter the Challenger, there was a deal to go along with it. "If she worked on it, she could drive it."

There was no similar deal when Charlie Henry got his

Thunderbird from a circle of car buffs - the same group his dad, Leslie, went to when he got his 1934 Ford four-door sedan. And he's had plenty of other classics, including a Model A Phantom.

"That's the original Henry Ford soybean paint," Leslie Henry said, beaming with pride as he pointed to the 1935 black Ford. Every part of the Ford is original except the upholstery. And it can travel 85-90 mph.

The elder Henry, who is married to Audrien, was always in love with cars, an affection he obviously passed down the generations. His first car cost \$2. "My father made me take it back," Leslie Henry said. "I grew up with Fords. Since I was such a Fordophile I started lecturing and writing about cars. I made a mid-life career switch from a chemical engineer to a museum curator. I turned a hobby into a profession."

There was no way out for Charlie Henry, an engineer with Dallmeier Chrysler. His love for cars was immediate. In fact, one day as he was at a red light in his Thunderbird, he noticed a woman in the next lane in a Corvette. It was love. And then it was marriage to his wife, Linda.

"They had a wedding cake with a Thunderbird, a Corvette and a traffic light on it," Shelby said, describing her parents' nuptials.

"I don't wave at blondes in Corvettes anymore," Charlie Henry said.

While Leslie Henry's attention is more for the pristine quality of classic autos, Charlie Henry's love is about horsepower. Shelby doesn't disagree with her father.

"My dad started to race when he was 18," Shelby said. "When I turn 18 I can race. I might try it."

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Local representatives attend Elks convention

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks visited the home state of former member Harry S. Truman recently to "give hell" to some of the problems confronting our nation and our youth.

The Elks, whose National Convention was the 136th in their history, are represented locally by Farmington Elks Lodge Number 1986, whose Exalted Ruler, or Lodge President, is Robert E. Beauchamp of Farmington Hills.

Local representatives attended the Kansas City convention to help shape the programs and policies of the National Order, which currently boasts almost

1.2 million members nationwide.

The Elks have a long tradition of philanthropic service, sponsoring youth athletic and drug education programs, aid for people with disabilities, college scholarships, cancer and transplantation research, and veterans' service programs. The Elks have also made significant commitments through America's Promise, an organization committed to providing fundamental resources to our nation's youth.

Among the highlights of the convention were speeches by the two overall winners of the Elks National Free Throw Competi-

tion. They were the best of more than three million kids, ages 8 to 13, who participated in this year's competition.

Also addressing the convention were Tim Gubler of Bountiful, Utah, and Robby Schwandt of Utica, Kan. the top two winners in the Elks National Foundation's "Most Valuable Student" scholarship competition. Each student will receive a four-year scholarship worth \$30,000. The Elks National Foundation annually awards more than \$3 million in scholarships on the basis of academics, leadership, and financial need.

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The exhibition is organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria & The Trust for Museum Exhibitions.

It is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities.

In Detroit, the exhibition is made possible by a generous grant from Henry Axelson, Inc.

Additional support is provided by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the City of Detroit.