Collectors carefully coddle '50s Chevys

recalls the year his friend Fowler bought his car:
"When I knew him at that time, he was a little different than the average person," he says. "Right from day one he protected his car as if it was his away hild."

he protected his car as if it was his own child."

To the average car owner, Fowler's form of protection may have seemed extreme. When he would pull into a gas station, he refused to allow anyout himself pump gas into it (and these were the days before self-service). He would not allow any attendant to wipe down the winkshield with an ordinary rag and would cover the car up every night.

Tom Gunther, 17, a junior at Redford Union high School, was only 14

years old when he fell in love with his car. But it was more than just puppy love at the time.

One day, in the summer before he entered eight grade, he came across a 55 orange Chevy sedan for sale near his home. He bought it for \$300 and had it towed home. It wasn't in the best running condition at the time, and he didn't have a driver's licers.

SINCE THEN he's worked at restoring it and has plans to paint it candyapple red and refinish the interior with crushed well. He hopes to show the car in the next Autorama show at the car in the next Autorama show at the car in the single plans to rebuild his \$56 Chevy convertible to reflect his own image. The car

belonged to a neighbor and acquired the reputation of the "yellow screamer," when the original owner would race the car up and down Tedgraph.
"I want to do it my way." Joe says.
"I want it to be something that's indentified with me. Nobody wants to be associated with someone else's car."
"It's the old ego trip. You make it a part of your—something that reflects your tastes just like someone who works in art."
Joe has added a new motor, different wheels, a different transmission and plans to paint a red flame across the car.
Jim, Jerry, Tom and Joe are mem-

Jim, Jerry, Tom and Joe are mem-bers of the Metro Chevy Club, a

nation-wide club with some 200 mem-bers in the area and Canada. The club sponsors family-orientated activities including dances, picnics, swap meets, pleasure trips and a monthly news letter with information about main

Patlow says the club also differs reduced insurance rates for club members.

THE SECRETARY of the club, "Fee

THE SECRETARY of the club," Tele Bauerle, finds parts for club members who want to restore their cars and arranges group rates for their pur-chase. Club members have displayed their cars in parades and auto shows such as Autorama Trucktin America at Portate Silverdome.

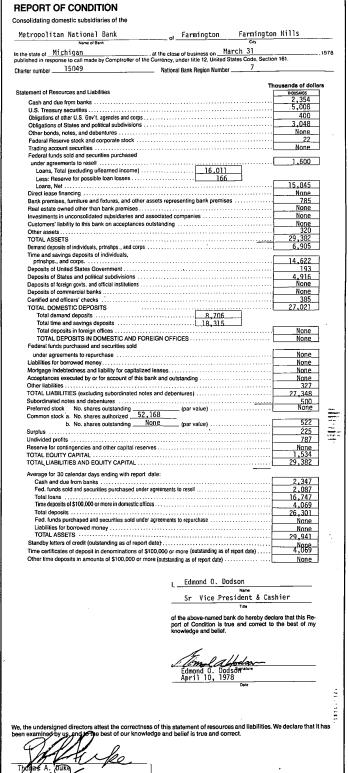


Jerry Patlow and his son, Sean, 10, are pictured with the family '57 Chevy. The car is only out in the summer when roads are clear of ice and snow. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)



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