

Her Name Is Sweetie Pie

By Judy Ann G.

In 1985 Bob was asked to become the insurance agent for an elderly couple named Bill & Ina who were in need of a new insurance agent.

Bob made an appointment for them to come to his office so he could review their policies and be sure they were properly covered. When he checked over the policies he noticed they owned a 1940 Chevrolet Special Deluxe Business Coupe. Bob asked Bill to tell him about the “old car” and Bill said “Oh, that’s Ina’s car”.

Well, Ina was more than happy to tell her story about the “old car”. Ina was born March 23, 1907 in Scotland. Her family immigrated to Canada and then to Washington State. In the mid-thirties she went to work for an accounting firm in downtown Seattle. She rode the interurban from Alderwood Manor to Seattle until they discontinued the interurban service in 1939. In 1940 she bought the “old car”, albeit then a new car, from the Hopper Chevrolet dealership in Edmonds, Washington.

It was her first car, a brand new 1940 Special Deluxe Business Coupe! In the 1950’s she went to work for the Post Office in Alderwood Manor and then retired in 1973. At that time she parked the car in the garage and never drove it again. Bob told Ina that 1940 was the year both he and I were born and he would sure love to have an ‘old car’ of that year. If she ever wanted to sell it he would like a chance to buy it. Ina laughed and said, “NEVER”.

Well years would pass and at every policy review time, Bob would make the offer to buy the “old car” and Ina would laugh and say, “NEVER”. However, one day in 1996 Ina called and said “Bob, if you want that old car come today and bring your checkbook.” Bob called me and said, “grab your purse, Ina wants to sell the old car.” I was watching our three year old grandson, Scott that day and I told Scott “put your shoes on, Papa’s buying an old car today. We need to be ready to roll in ten minutes.”

We arrived at Bill and Ina’s and the “old car” was parked in their driveway. It was our first time to see it and we fell in love with it immediately. Love at first sight, I guess you could say. Ina was waiting for us inside, sitting in her favorite chair. We sat down and Ina said “I want \$2300.00 for the “old car”.” Bob had done some homework and checked old car values and had told me the car was worth at least \$2000.00. So Bob said (like a silly boy) “Will you take \$2000.00 for it”? Ina looked at him with her steel blue eyes and said “What! You need a loan?” After we all quit laughing Bob handed her a check and the “old car” was ours.

Since the “old car” had not been driven for many a year we had it picked up and delivered to our home the next day on a flatbed tow truck. And that is where our adventure really began! That next day a brand new shiny white tow truck delivered the “old car” to our driveway and that is where the attitude of the “old car” began. From the moment that “old car” rolled off the flatbed and rolled down our driveway you knew she thought she was something special. Maybe that’s why they are called “Special Deluxe.” more on next page



Her Name Is Sweetie Pie (cont. from p. 1)

As we carefully opened the doors and sat down inside we were thrilled to see that the “old car” was in such good shape. No rust to speak of and no dents but lots of holes. There were holes here, there and every where. Bill had drilled the holes to put extra lights on so Ina would be seen. He had also put an extra horn on so she could be heard. He had the “old car” painted cream in 1946 so Ina would always be visible. There were lots of wires that had beginnings but no ends. We had a lot of work to do.

We carefully looked in all corners and when we opened the glove compartment we found a note dated December 27, 1940. It read:

**Ina
O.K. Sweetie Pie
I came over &
Put chains on your car.
So you are
O.K.
I Love You,
Bill
Drive Carefully !!**



Cont. on next page

Her Name Is Sweetie Pie (cont. from p. 2)

It was at this time we gave the “old car” her name of Sweetie Pie. And the name suits her well.

Sweetie Pie has had much work done to her. The first to be involved was Dave Folsom. He is a master craftsman at his trade. He put her engine into working order and it is beautiful. He also put her back together after she was dismantled for a not so pleasant painting experience. All her chrome was redone. Her windows were replaced and her upholstery and interior lining were also replaced. She has some



new old stock items and of course she has new white wall tires. She, however, is as stock as she can be. One of the unique items that she has from her original purchase is a cigarette holder that when the cigarette is dispensed to you, it comes out lit.

Sweetie Pie’s original color was Battleship Grey but out of respect to Ina, the first Sweetie Pie, we had her repainted Cameo Cream. It just seemed to be the right thing to do.

Bob has kept a very detailed diary on Sweetie Pie from day one. It is up to 112 pages and I think it has reached book status. It tells everything that has been done to her including when she has gone out for Sunday drives. There are also pictures of every stage of improvements. She is very well documented.



Sweetie Pie was picked for the 2005 VCCA calendar and Bob was able to have her placed in the month of March to honor Ina’s birth month.

Ina turned ninety-eight in March of last year and Bob took her for a ride in Sweetie Pie on her birthday. He had Glenn Miller music playing and Ina was tapping her toes when she turned to Bob and said “1940 was a wonderful year, wasn’t it.”

