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Chapter #40
Our 50th Year
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"Valley V8s.org"

Mar 2021



FIFTY YEARS

GrowdUp

Date line, 1963, Location, Valley College parking lot, Burbank Blvd 1961 Corvair, White, Blue int...

Don't think for one moment that just because I was only 3 years old, Sitting in My Dads lap, His foot on the gas peddle, both our hands on the steering wheel, You can bet, I drove the hell out of that car

And THAT, Was when I fell in love with cars. Thats also when I started learning about tools. Lets not forget that a"Real Man" was taught how to navigate the Sears tool bins, Blindfolded.....&, Oh, the Smells of the tools, & warm popcorn & nuts

That is also the height of the Models & the Slot car craze, with a track on every corner, & the same for hobby stores. Thats it, I'm done for....

Some time after that, My folks & I moved to Van Nuys, 1964, & before the 405 was finished Ahhh, Slots, 8+ lanes of heaven. The box art, The best, & remember, this was before Hot Wheels. So, how to be faster, Rewind motors, wheels, controllers, all this "Hi Tech", for the time... What a GREAT time to spend with your Pops. So now what, WE paint.. Most of the kits had 2 vers. 1 slot, & 1 nin slot, & + they came with drivers. Of course, back then, Pre PC, you had a skull head also. Dad & I were the builders, & Mom was the painter

Of course, from there, we moved on to Models. The 1st, Aurora, 1/32 scale. Multi piece body's, & they were not very good, but who cared, I was building with My Dad, & learning to paint with Mom, & they were fun Again, the Box Art was awesome. That was back when it was drawn, & colorful. Back then, research was, going out to the car & looking a things like firing order, colors of the engine parts......As for paints, YUCK. You went to the local body shop & bum some paint, Lacquer... May not have looked that good, but it was different. Or, maybe they were a friend, so they would shoot your body with enough paint to melt it, Again, It was Bitchin for the times.

Thats how I learned about Models & Cars, Hand in Hand....

Time moves on. The Ol Man & I started working on full size cars, "Yer not gonna drive until you can check the oil, tires & change a tire. (Miss that ol pain in the ass). Slots died off, Hot Wheels came up, Models go kind of boring, but I never stopped building. 15 ½, Learners permit, Drivers Training in Hi. Sch. Turns out, My Pops was a race car driver, (Willow Springs), So, figures I drove My DT teach Nutz. 1st car, was the Moms 73 Chevelle Wag. 350, REAL vinyl wood paneling. Turns out, Mom used to also race. Thats the car I got My license in. We got the Wag in 74, for about \$2000. That was when Vega's were at \$4000 to \$5000. Next was a 69 Nova, 307, dog dish caps, those went into the trunk, total Mom mobile. Dad had work cars, 68 / 69 El Camino's.

Cars have always been My life, the same with Models. Had a few Bikes along the way

At some point, I started to build for barris, Got involved in a detail shop, where I drove some wild rides, & Little did I realize that across the street, was the Revell shop, unfortunately, it was as they were moving to Ill. Again, Time move on. The slot craze was making somewhat of a come back, but they were these crazy fast lexon's. Models were still part of My life, learned to airbrush, & found a paint shop that taught Me how to paint & Mix In & around those time, H/O slots came into fashion. Later on I met the future Wife, & I had way to many Cars, Bikes, & Models to fit into her house, Yet, I made it work, until the kids

Yard sales, great for finding MORE junk, But... The kids loved slots, even more with a train controller until they learned control.

At some point, the wife took Me to a hobby trade show. That's how I got into building for model comps. That was over 30 years ago & still going. It paid for My 55 Ford, & allowed Me to be at My kids events. It has also allowed Me to interact with some awesome people in the car indrustry...

Well, That's My life, & it's been a fun life so far...

