Blood, Thread & Shears
Exclusive Shop Visit!

'40 Willys Coupe Feature

San Antonio Raceway
Super Chevy Show Coverage!!!
Do it for Gene!!!

Wolf Motorsports Magazine

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Story Teller by: Jeff Wolf

Do it for Gene!!!!!!!!!

Wolf Motorsports Magazine has teamed up with Mercury Charlie owner of Mercury Charlie’s Garage here in Austin to begin a crusade to improve our content that we are offered while watching our favorite car related shows on TV.

I’m sure that anyone in our hobby has seen, met or studied the work of the Legendary Gene Winfield. I’ve had the pleasure to meet Gene in person and I can tell you right now that he is a total pleasure to be around. Gene owns his own shop out of Mojave, California where he continues to build custom cars. Gene currently in his 80’s, continues to lead the automotive industry with his Kustom creations. He travels the world making appearances at different automotive function, he flies all over the world to lay down some of his awesome custom paint. He even takes time out of his busy schedule to visit with us and thousands of his fans right here in Austin, Texas. He visits a few times a year, once to attend the Lone Star Round up and then again in the fall where he holds a metal shaping class at Mercury Charlie’s Garage.

Mercury Charlie and I believe that Gene Winfield would be a valuable asset to the car related shows that we see on TV. Imagine if Gene had his own TV show? What would it be like? Well, here is an idea, go out to the internet do a simple Google search for “Gene Winfield” and see what you come up with. Imagine a man in his 80’s who has been customizing cars for a living for several decades having his own TV show. Imagine what topics he could come up with to talk about, entertain and educate us with? Imagine spending an hour each week glued to the TV watching a True Legend in our hobby entertain and educate us.

Now, here is your chance to make this happen! Check out page 73 of this magazine for more details!!! And please help us spread the word! DO it for Gene!!!!!!

Thank you, WMM & Mercury Charlie
San Antonio Raceway was rumbling that fine Saturday afternoon in May. May 5th to be exact, while some folks were celebrating Cinco de’ Mayo, Wolf Motorsports Magazine was out for an afternoon of high horsepower, shiny sheet metal, polished chrome, tire smoke all while a hint of racing fuel flowed with the wind.

We took some cool photos for you to enjoy during these warm summer months while you try to keep cool.

Enjoy the selection of cool street cars and full out race cars that we put together for you in this segment of the August issue. WMM
Seemed to be a tri-five weekend both on and off the track with these two fine examples of mid fifties Chevrolets.
Traditional hot rods were around on the show field while the pit photo below shows another gasser style Tri-Five.
Unfortunately I’m a bit too young to remember this type of display being the normal for drag racing back in the day, but I did think it was a really cool setup.

Here we have one of the racing contestants warming up the tires to make his pass at San Antonio Raceway! If only technology would allow for the smell of tire smoke to be incorporated with photo and video.
Jesse Vester's ’40 Willys Coupe
formerly known as “The VARMIT”
**Jesse Vester** owns this very rare all steel ‘40 Willy’s Coupe. Even the front and rear fenders are steel. The Willy’s originally from Oklahoma and was found as intact original coupe. There was a bit of damage to left rear of the cab due to being hit by a fallen tree.

For over 35 years the car spent life as a drag car in the A-Gas Supercharged class. It was raced and won or placed in the Top Five at many race tracks on the west coast.

The previous owner had moved from the Bay area in California to Georgia where he continued to race and show this car at shows in Tennesse, Indianapolis and Brainard raceway.

Through all the years of racing the car it has not sustained any damage as a result. With the current value of all steel cars on the rise, Jesse is in the process of building this car into a street legal hot rod, and of course it will still go down the quarter mile upon occasion.

The All Steel ‘40 Willys Coupe currently consists of a full race chassis that has been certified by the NHRA to handle a 7.50 ET. The front suspension is a full rack and pinion with tubular upper and lower A-arms with Wilwood discs front and back to assist in handling the stopping chores. The engine has five hundred and nine cubic inches that sport polished and ported aluminum Brodix heads with a full roller Comp Cams camshaft with plenty of lift. The induction is handled by an 871 BDS blower and electronic fuel injection with 16 injectors all backed by a GM Turbo 400 Tranny. The power transfers through the drive shaft to a Ford 9” rear end and has Carrera adjustable rear shocks.

This set up is capable of producing over 1100 horsepower and gives it plenty of power to cruise down the quarter mile. The cars best ET was 7.92 near 163 MPH.

It was a total pleasure to meet Jesse and check out his historic ‘40 Willy’s Coupe. See you in Fort Worth, and yes, I’ll take you up on that offer to ride shotgun around the track!!! WMM
Here is Jesse’s Willys getting the inspection completed by officials at San Antonio Raceway. This day was the first time Jesse had been behind the wheel of a race car since 1965.

I was excited when I saw and heard it go down the track and even more excited when researching this feature I got part of the history of this car. I see plenty of bench racing in the future, Especially when we meet up at the Goodguys Lonestar Nationals in October.

The steering wheel that makes this car go straight holds a place in the history books. Yes, I said the steering wheel.

The race that ensued was between the Willys of K.S Pittman and the Willys owned by Stone Woods and Cook. This race took place at Green Valley Raceway in Texas. K.S’s Willys was totaled in a crash that day sometime in the 60’s.

The previous owner of Jesse’s Willys graciously helped K.S with the damaged car by hauling it back to California and storing it for a few months. This steering wheel was given to the previous owner for helping him that day and it currently steers this Willys.

That’s a piece of hot rod drag racing history folks.
Here is a good close up of the paint scheme used on the Willys.

The base coat consisted of Dupont Gold Pearl, followed by a top coat from the House of Colors (code RPC4) then ghost flamed in Red Gold Pearl.

Outstanding use of color!!

With a full racing harness, roll bar and racing seats this cockpit is all business.

It will keep you safe and secure during its blasts down the 1320.

The trunk is fully finished out with a polished fuel cell, more of the roll bar carrying over into this area for added safety and even employs a chute to slow the beast down.
Even though it has show car characteristics in regards to fit and finish, I can vouch that it is all business once it pulls up to the line.

509 cubic inches of blown and injected engine producing over 1100 horsepower. It consists of Brodix polished and ported heads with a full roller cam from Comp Cams. The induction consists of an EFI BDS Blower with 16 injectors all backed by a TH 400.
The history of this ‘40 Willys is outstanding. It has been raced all over the country Bakersfield, Sears Point, Sacramento, Las Vegas Raceway, Los Angeles County Raceway, Gateway International, Bradenton Florida and Indianapolis Raceway. It has either won or placed in many these outings. It’s show car days were also filled with Best of Class awards! Jesse has him one cool hot rod. WMM
Yes there are rear tires there amongst all that tire smoke. You could hear them screaming for their life!!!
Imagine seeing this Tri-Five cruising on the weekend. At first glance you may think 265 small block, then when you take a closer look and spot the killer meat under the rear, you may quickly change your mind.

That’s one of the cool things about vintage drag racing, you can see cars run against each other that are 20-30 years apart in model year.
Yet another tri-five out in the show field sporting some old school Weld wheels. The black interior is pure leather and has a tach to warn onlookers that it isn’t just a show car.

(top) This teal ’55 Chevrolet Nomad was out on the track showing what he could do. This day wasn’t hazy...that is tire smoke affecting the clarity of the photo (bottom) Here is a nice example of one of the numerous Tri-Fives on hand on the show field.
There is nothing wrong with having your mild custom at the drag strip. This is one cool ride and I would love to do a feature on this one if any of my readers know who this is...send ‘em my way!!!

Ok, I know what some of you are thinking, but I dig the flames and the huge exhaust pipes which release smoke from the trunk that was converted into a BBQ. I call them prepared!!

Interesting what you see in the pits at the vintage drag races.
Blood Thread & Shears is a kustom interior shop owned by Craig Willits out of Haslet, Texas. We had the distinct pleasure of traveling north to visit with Craig and check out his shop.

The name “Blood Thread & Shears” couldn’t have been a better name for the shop as Craig specializes in leather for the custom interiors he does.

Sit back enjoy some photos and information from our trip.

WMM

Custom interiors peaked his interest back in the ’70s. He was always hanging out at the hot rod shops and the interiors caught his eye. To get the necessary training, Craig answered a newspaper ad in the early 80’s to be trained in upholstery work. This was Richmond, California. He was trained by two women. This training took about 3 years to complete.

While in upholstery class he purchased a sewing machine and has been working for himself since.

Here is a shot of the business office of Blood Thread & Shears. The office is very clean, well organized and has a few of Craig’s awards displayed for customers to check out.
Here we have an “Outstanding Interior Custom Award” from the ‘98 Sacramento Autorama.

Craig’s customers (while he lived in California) attended these shows, and his interiors speak for themselves as you can see by the awards he has won.

(top) Another “Outstanding Interior Custom Award” this time at the ‘98 Grand National Roadster show.
(bottom) Once of his customers John D’Agostino.
Here we have a shot of the work that is going into the interior of this ‘37.

Upholstery guys prefer that you have the wiring complete, stereo components and other odds and ends complete when they begin the interior work.

(top) ‘37 Ford 5 Window that was in the shop during our visit.
(bottom) here is one of many of Craig’s work areas throughout his shop.
Here we have a photo of the high end carpet being installed in the ‘37 Ford. As you can see Craig does an awesome job and has great attention to detail.

(top) Here is a piece of the interior seating being hand formed for use in the ‘37. (bottom) Craig lines the trunk with sound deadening and heat resistant material.
The doors are also lined with more sound deadening and heat resistant material. This will be one cool, quiet and comfortable cockpit!

(top) Craig still owns his original sewing machine to this day.
(bottom) The button machine, allows for the placement of buttons into the leather. It has multiple dies of different sizes.
Here is a finished shot of the interior of the ‘37 Ford 5 Window Coupe. The steering wheel, door and window frames and dash are finished in a hydro dipped burl woodgrain. This is the detail that Craig is capable of. Creating one off custom interiors for your car or truck.

Here is a completed photo of the window frame around the drivers side door. Here you see the hydro dipped burl woodgrain treatment that adds to the intricate detail and puts the finishing touches on an already awesome interior.
Notice the seat and matching headliner. Another example of the level of craftsmanship that goes into every interior that Blood Thread & Shears creates.

This sample belongs to a Tri-Five Chevrolet. I bet this would equate to many many comfortable miles for the owner.
The Super Chevy show visited the Texas Motorplex on Saturday May 12th 2012. The Super Chevy Shows features an Autocross, Drag Racing, Swap Meet and a good sized car show. Wolf Motorsports Magazine made the roadtrip north to Ennis, Texas to provide plenty of coverage for this months issue. Follow along with me over the next several pages while we show you some of our favorites. WMM

(top) ‘53 Suburban aka “Detailer” The exterior is covered in Inferno Orange with carbon flash metallic fenders. (bottom) Power comes by waked by of an LSX engine producing 665 horses backed by a 4L85E transmission.
(top) Jody Parker owns this cool ‘67 Chevrolet Camaro SS. White exterior with blue stripes set over a set modern 5 spoke wheels.

(bottom) Check out the detail and the cool script on the stock valve covers.

The interior is an exercise of old and new. Stock dash, door panels mix with the custom leather seats, leather wrapped steering wheel and upgraded entertainment system to round out the beautiful interior.
(top) Mike Price of Frisco, Texas brought out his two-toned ’69 Chevelle. Two-tones include a burnt orange and rootbeer while polished wheels complete the exterior package. (bottom) LS Powered!

(top) Full custom leather interior with the right number of pedals and Dolphin gauges keep an eye on the vitals. (bottom) Leather and great detail work continue into the trunk which houses a build plaque.
Custom door panels, rear seats, suede headliner and package tray complete this awesome interior (bottom) Mercedes “Cinnamon” Wilton English Wool Carpet matches the interior like a glove.

The ‘69 Chevelle has 2” drop spindles, rides on a full Hotchkis suspension and has a 12 bolt rear with 3:73 gears. The wheels are Bonspeed Big Block wheels in sizes of 19’s in the front and 20’s outback wrapped in BFG’s.
Grab a Tiger by the tail and your liable to get bit. This way cool GTO has a nice deep red paint job and rolls with polished 5 spokes. The engine has all of the necessities including Pontial Valve covers.

Stock black vinyl seats and a 4 speed Hurst shifter certainly look good with the wood grained steering wheel and dash.
This bright yellow ’62 Corvette sure looks good under the cloudy Texas skies. It is owned by Henry and Carol Vloedman from Woodward, Oklahoma. Small Block Chevy power provides motivation.

(top) Tan leather goes well with the bright yellow dash trim.

(bottom) The trunk is finished as nice as the interior and has a modified corvette emblem mounted flush in the center panel.
Browny Cooksey from Mesquite owns this ‘71 Chevrolet Blazer clad in Viper Blue and sporting large diameter 5 spokes (bottom) LS6 power with an engine cover that has hood vents from a muscle car.

More blue flows over into the interior with the comfortable leather bucket seats, blue carpet and blue dash accented with just the right amount of chrome. The interior also has a bit of modern electronics to make the Blazer a bit more entertaining.
Chevrolet C-10 decked out in bright fire engine red riding on a set of highly polished wheels. The engine bay will knock your eyes out with plenty of bright work to accentuate the fire engine red!

(top) Perfectly color matched interior sporting a series of Dolphin gauges keep tabs on things. Light colored leather goes well with the body colored dash. (bottom) Outstanding!!!
The Impala’s trunk is all original looking with the factory splatter paint, trunk mat. A Ride Tech Air Pod compressor and tank system help the Impala achieve it’s loooow stance!

(top) Killer Stance, Jet Black and large hoops set this Impala apart from the rest (bottom) Injected W-head engine is just AWESOME!!!
(top) Our friend Michael Fleming from Jones, Oklahoma brought out his ‘71 Chevelle SS Wagon. (bottom) Motorvation comes from a Chevrolet Ram-Jet Small Block.

Michael enjoys a stock looking Chevelle SS interior. Mike you owe me a ride the next time I see you!!
Not sure who owns this awesome ride, but as you are aware it earned itself a cover photo for the August issue.

The silver color really caught my eye against the partially cloudy skies and the cool wheels and bright work didn’t hurt his chances of being “seen” either!
Mike and his Chevelle are no strangers to magazine coverage as you can tell by this cover shot on Muscle Car Power.

Stock black interior accented in red make for one cool clean interior.

(top) '70 Chevelle SS owned by Mike McDonald out of Lubbock.  (bottom) pop the hood on this and watch your hands so that you don’t lose one around this mountain of 502 cubic inch Chevrolet Big Block.
(top) Mark Harvison owns this sinister looking black ‘71 Chevelle SS. It was built by Tommy’s Rod Shop. The deep black paint is flawless. (bottom) 454 cubic inches of LSX power produces 620 hp and 590 ft lb of torque and is backed by a 4L80E.

(top) The interior is just OUTSTANDING!. (bottom) The trunk is finished and appears that it could have been completed on the assembly line. It has given me inspiration on my own project.
This my friends was one of the highlights of the event. It’s powered by a jet engine and is piloted by a young lady. If you haven’t ever seen one of these things run down the track, please add it to your bucket list. You won’t be disappointed. It makes plenty of noise, smoke and heat to make your day enjoyable.

I never get tired of Chervolet’s traveling engine displays. From mild to wild the fine folks at Chevrolet have it all. They even have rubber mats under them to collect the drool.
Hey fellow automotive enthusiasts,

Wouldn’t you like to see Gene Winfield have his own TV show? Just a few minutes of your time could make this happen.

Simply go to the website provided below and give The Discovery Channel your thoughts.

http://corporate.discovery.com/contact/viewer-relations/

I’m hoping that with enough feedback to The Discovery Channel this will influence them to approach Gene!

thank you for a few minutes of your time,

Mercury Charlie
Mercury Charlie’s Garage
Austin, Texas
Cruisin' the Information Super Highway

The February 2010 issue of Wolf Motorsports Magazine marked another first, the addition of “Cruisin' the Information Super Highway.”

This section of the magazine showcases links to special interest areas of the World Wide Web that deals with our love for the hobby! Sit back in your easy chair, grab a refreshing drink and expand your daily entertainment value with web sites that will get your mind wondering!!!!

Enjoy the latest addition!!

Wolf Motorsports Magazine

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Thank you for your interest and support!!!

Jeff
Wolf Motorsports Magazine

Bench Racing is defined in several different ways. The urban dictionary defines Bench Racing as:
1. To discuss quarter mile elapsed time of a car based on a list of modifications or horsepower estimate.
2. To discuss the estimated output (in horsepower) of one engine versus another based on lists of modifications done to each engine.
3. To discuss the estimated output (in horsepower) of one engine versus another based on lists of modifications done to each engine.

While I do agree with the Urban Dictionary’s definition of Bench Racing, Bench Racing in the context of this section of the magazine will be defined as:
1. Discussion of ANYTHING automobile related between at least two individuals with the goal of passing time at a car show, sharing automotive related ideas, opinions or entertaining themselves or others.

Please feel free to share your bench race session with the readers by emailing: benchracing@wolfmotorsportsmagazine.com

A History lesson better than in any text book………

As I worked hard to meet this month’s deadline, I had time for a bench racing session where I learned a bit about the history of the ’40 Willys Coupe that was featured this month. WOW, I can’t wait to continue this session that was combined with one of the best history lessons.

Hopefully, we’ll meet as planned later this year at a show in Fort Worth. I mean, what more could you ask for? A bench racing session and history lesson all in one?

A history lesson better than in any text book!! WMM