

Family HOLIDAY



Wayne's right foot is pleased to control 502ci of big-block Chevy with RamJet fuel injection, a ceramic-coated 3-inch exhaust system and a built 700R4 transmission.



by Louie Mayall

Wayne Powell, the current owner of this sweet '55 Oldsmobile, has been going on vacation in this car since his parents bought the Olds new in 1955. Wayne's mom drove the car for over 20 years and put 89,000 miles on the clock before the car was retired. The storage of the old Holiday went on and eventually Wayne and his wife (who dated and went on their honeymoon in the '55) ended up with the car in their garage. Wayne kept assuring his mom and wife, Marcella, he had plans for the

old car. As often happens, the car sat there while the kids were raised (raised'ish?), but as Wayne got more time and money the project came right to the surface. All that time spent pondering beforehand left Wayne with a clear plan of how to make the old car into a great driver for Marcella and him to take many holidays right into retirement.

Wayne knew just the guys and took the Olds to the gentlemen at Mild to Wild in

Albuquerque, New Mexico. The stocker was blown completely apart and then the fun began. A Mustang II-based IFS riding on air was slipped into a custom made front clip. Flaming River power rack and pinion steering combined with Wilwoods brought the Mill into the 21st Century. The boxed rear rails were outfitted with a Currie 9-inch located by a four-bar, bouncing on Shockwaves and hanging 20-inch Coys. Wayne slid a RamJet 502ci big-block from GMPP pumping out

502 fuel-injected clean horsepower between the frame rails. The hungry 502 is kept manageable with a 700R4 automatic overdrive slushbox.

Wayne and Marcella's plan was to restore the original beauty of the 98 Holiday, so mods were kept to somewhere near minimal (we'd say none, but restorers would disagree). All of the stock trim was detailed to perfection and put right back into place. The body was un-molested, but straightened out significantly before Mild to Wild laid down the two-tone hues in non-stock-



Wayne may have spent his youth canoodling with his wife in the front seat, but the interior is still made for driving with leather benches, Vintage Air, bumping tunes and GPS navigation.

looking Napa White and Cypress Green. The lights were halogen upgraded, a third brakelight added, a rear vision camera is hiding somewhere back there, and those monster 3-inch tail pipes sure ain't stock and neither are the 18/20-inch wheels.

When you've spent 50-plus years in an interior, including courting your wife, you know exactly what it needs to be perfect. The stock dash, trim and gauges were reconditioned and slipped back in place. The interior was updated with a billet steering

wheel, Flaming River column, billet pedals, a DVD player, GPS navigation and Vintage Air. Mild to Wild stitched the doe leather interior in Taupe and Celery around a pair of bench seats with seatbelts. An American Wiring kit was used to get the juices flowing to all the power accessories, cruise control and the like.

Wayne may have spent many a night dreaming about the old Olds over the years, but he built it to honor the memory of his parents and what their investment in life meant to him. He

also wanted a rod he could drive straight into a high-octane vacation. The rod looks picture perfect, and as far as an investment goes we think mid-'50s Olds couldn't be hotter right now (cause they look bitchin), and the beefed-up and tricked out chassis combined with 502 Ram Jet power have to make the car a dream to drive. Keep having a great time Wayne and we'll be looking for your dad's '61 Dodge pickup in a couple of years.

Wayne and Marcella Powell from Albuquerque, New Mexico, dated in this very '55 Oldsmobile his parents bought new in 1955. The rod now sports 18/20-inch Coys and a Ride Tech inspired stance.

