



Usually your wife doesn't know what she's getting for her anniversary, but Mary Knox of Andover, Kansas, knew exactly what she was getting and had some specific instructions for her present. The project started back in 1996 (long before Gary and Mary's anniversary), when Mary fell in love with a two-tone blue '52 Ford four-door. This car came from the original owner in great shape. Mary then decided the '52 needed a Ford powertrain and a '96 Lightning was found. The years went by and Gary slowly worked on the project. The project really took off again in 2008 when Mary found the perfect color on JF Lanier's '55 Chrysler wagon. The timing and gold color (gold is the traditional fiftieth present) made Gary get his tail in gear and get the car ready to be given to Mary on their fiftieth anniversary in 2009.

The foundation of the '52 is the stock frame stiffened up and fitted with a FatMan front sub-frame. The front sus-

pension is a FatMan's stainless IFS with big disc brakes and RideTech air bags for stance perfection. In the rear stock '52 leaf springs are augmented by RideTech bags and now hold a '59 Ford 9-inch with posi and 3.70 gears. The Lightning 351ci EFI Ford powerplant is controlled by a Street and Performance harness, wears a GT40 plenum and throttle body, spins an AOD tranny and uses Speedway headers feeding an owner-built 2 1/2-inch exhaust system. Toyo-wrapped 17-inch Saltsters by Intro serve as the car's contact point with the road.

The four-door sedan almost looks like a four-door coupe to us. Gary achieved this look mostly by removing the rear door handles and actually listening to his wife's suggestions. The rod features all the other standard mods like a solid badge shaving, frenched '56 Oldsmobile tail-lights and a mild nosing. Joel Newlon restored the side trim and belt line molding to perfection. The body was then delivered to the capable hands of Gwynne Bilson to be straightened out and have the DuPont Hot Hues Resolution Yellow hues laid down.

Anniversary
GOLD

by Louie Mayall

50 Years of Marriage gets Mary Knox this very Special '52 Ford



Mary planned on spending many a day running down the road in her '52, so Gary and Rick Fisher combined talents to give Mary a comfy feminine place to rock down the road. The dash was smoothed out and filled with Dakota Digital gauges, Custom Auto A/C, a Soundstream stereo with a backup camera, an ididit column with a Juliano's Mark 10 wheel and Ron Meyer graphics. The red/tan aircraft leather-covered Infinity and stock seats were embroidered with a yellow M and set off with dark brown short nap wool carpeting. Gary finished by wiring the rod together with a kit from

Affordable Street Rods and the couple set off driving.

They haven't stopped driving the car since its 2009 completion. We'd seen the car over here and over there for the last few years. Mary knew what she wanted because she knew exactly what to do with the car when it was done. There's nothing quite like seeing our country from behind the glass of a car everyone can reminisce with. Everybody is always happy to see you and even when you don't get where you're heading, you have a great time replete with a new story for your friends. That's what rodding is about at its core, going out and enjoying our pride and joy.

