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Earl Smithson's Red Beauty

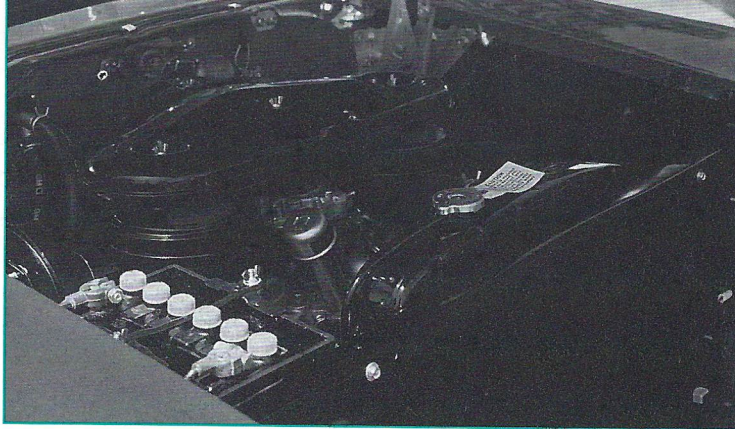
Tech Help: ANTI-LOCK ABS BRAKE SYSTEM INSTALLATION
SPECIAL 20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Finally there it was....no, not just a car....a 1957 Chevrolet Nomad! One of the most beautiful vehicles ever produced. You could see your reflection in its bright Matador Red paint. It's 270 HP engine gave you chills just looking at it. The chrome was blinding as the sun shone on this beauty! At last, after over 4 years, my Nomad was finally complete. I couldn't wait to show it off and tell the story of its journey from never-never land back to life.

I have heard so many people say that restoring a car is too hard. It is hard. I think that is the way it is supposed to be. What makes a restored Classic so great is the commitment to the hard work involved that produces a quality restoration.

I first saw my '57 Nomad in 1982 while making a business call to a prospective client and CCI member Tommy Moore. He had begun to restore the car for the owner. Six years later I heard about a '57 Nomad the owner wanted to sell because he had lost interest, and it turned out to be the same car. After some negotiations, the Nomad was mine. I brought it home in October 1988 on a rollback and in many boxes, completely disassembled.

On Thanksgiving Day, I put the body in a jig and began to clean years of dirt and grime off the bottom. I knew I was starting something I would need help fin-



ishing. Looking for a quality restoration shop would be next on the agenda. Being able to have my hands on the restoration and to work with the shop was very important, so the search began.

In June 1989 while we were at the CCI convention in Dearborn, Michigan, my friend Bobby Snead introduced me to Gary Robbins, the owner of Solid Gold Classic Chevy, Inc. Gary picked up the car in October '89 and the restoration began. During the next 3 years, I went to what seemed like hundreds of swap meets looking for parts and supplies and spent countless hours on the phone. Thousands of miles were put on our family car running

The Red Beauty From Never-Never Land

by Earl Smithson #76102 • Mechanicsville, VA

back and forth to Norton, Virginia while working with Gary on the restoration.

Taking our '57 Nomad from total disassembly through restoration to its current state has been quite an experience. This summer, our red beauty has earned 2 Platinum Certificates and 2 Best Interior awards at CCI shows, as well as numerous awards for Best Engine, Best Paint, and Best Restored Original Classic at shows in Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina.

Many thanks to Tommy, Richard, Phil, Bob, Mac, Gary, Nadine, Bobby, Ted, and Vonda for all their work and support in making this restoration possible. A very special "I love you" to my wife, Linda, who never complained about the money or time I spent restoring our red beauty.

