

Company restores classic automobiles

By Ron Wilson

Director

Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University

Look down the street. Here comes a 1952 Chevy four-door in robin's egg blue. What a beautiful car. This car has been restored to its fabulous condition by an automotive craftsman from rural Kansas.

Alan Siebert is the auto specialist who redid this car. Fittingly, his business is called CARS which stands for Classic Automotive Restoration Specialists.

Alan was born in Great Bend. His father ran the body shop for a local auto dealership named Spruills which is now Marmie Ford. When Alan's father wanted to start a

business of his own, he opened a body shop in the Stafford County community of St. John, a town of 1,215 people. That's rural - but there's more.

Alan helped out in his dad's body shop as a kid and moved into the business himself after graduation, working for his father and learning from him first hand. "He was my vo-tech teacher," Alan said with a smile.

Now Alan has more than 30 years experience in the business. Of course, he's a rookie compared to his father, who began in 1949 and was still coming to the shop regularly until he got sick in 2012. That would give Alan's dad 63 years of experience in the auto repair business. Wow - Alan has a long

way to go.

In 2007, Alan's wife Janet transferred to a job in Arkansas City. Eventually Alan transitioned to a new business and new shop in the Arkansas City area as well. They live in the nearby community of Parkerfield, population 342 people. Now, that's rural. Alan also broadened his business from auto repair to auto restoration, which is one of his specialties.

The new business, as noted before, is called CARS: Classic Automotive Restoration Specialists. There is a lot of interest in classic cars around Arkansas City.

"Ark City has a big classic car show each year," Alan said. "It's called the Last Run. Last year was the 40th annual, and they had more

than 600 entries."

Alan's business can handle the full gamut of auto restoration and repair from A to Z - or as his business card says, "From Model A's to Z28's." He has literally worked on everything from Model A's to the most modern automobiles. Of course, lots of restorations involve muscle cars from the 1960s and '70s.

"I've worked on Mustangs and Camaros and Corvettes from that period," Alan said. Now those were real cars! Alan worked on a gold 1970 Plymouth Duster and a 1968 Barracuda which was banana yellow. "It sounds crazy, but we added a black stripe and it looked really cool," he said.

One time Alan went to look at a

used car in the Dodge City area but it wasn't suitable. "What else do you have?" Alan asked. The man showed him a 1962 Austin Healy which the man wanted to gut and turn into a salad bar in a restaurant. Alan bought and restored the car, saving it from a fate of lettuce and ranch dressing spills.

Then there was Carol, who came to Alan to ask about a 1952 Chevy four-door. It had been Carol's family car which she had driven to high school. Her grandmother ended up with the car, which had deteriorated and then sat for 25 years. The car was in terrible condition.

"I could see the ground through the floorboards," Alan said. And talk about bucket seats - the front seat was literally a big bucket turned

upside down.

But Carol's 45th high school reunion was approaching and she wanted that old car restored. After hours and hours of work, including Janet and their daughters, Alan restored that car to pristine condition and painted it the original color.

Look down the street. There goes a 1952 Chevy four-door in robin's egg blue. The driver is Carol, with a big smile on her face as she goes to her 45th high school reunion in style. We commend Alan Siebert, a classic automotive restoration specialist, for making a difference with his craftsmanship and workmanship. In my opinion, building such a business in rural Kansas is the way it "auto" be.

Party in the park



A group of people enjoyed the nice weather last Sunday to gather under one of shelters at Gulick Park.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Grants available for community gardens

It is the season to begin thinking about fall garden cleanup; it is also time to apply for a 2013 Kansas Community Gardens Project Grant.

The goal is to provide seed money (up to \$5,000) for Kansas community gardens to raise public awareness about community gardens and the benefits they offer to a community and its residents, said Evelyn Neier, Kansas State Research and Extension 4-H Youth Development

garden specialist, who works on the grant project.

Gardening provides health-promoting physical activity, said Neier, who noted that grant funding also is intended to unite diverse community groups in teaching and learning gardening skills, and to encourage collaboration on sustainable strategies to improve access to fresh, local foods.

The grant opportunity is funded by the Kansas Health Foundation

and administered by Kansas State Research and Extension. Twenty-four grants of up to \$5,000 were awarded in 2012, the first year of the three-year grant.

According to Neier, first-year grant recipients used the funding to make capital improvements such as building a tool shed, and to cover big ticket items from installing irrigation equipment or a water line to building raised beds, adding fencing, or improving the soil to

increase a garden's staying power - and sustainability.

Kansas communities are encouraged to apply; grant specifics and applications are available at www.kansascommunitygardens.org.

Neier encourages communities developing a grant application to first review profiles of gardens that have been funded to learn more about the variety of ways communities are using the funding.

Grant applications must be com-

pleted and postmarked by Jan. 15, 2013 to be considered for funding.

More information on the Kansas Community Gardens Project Grant opportunity also is available at Kansas State Research and Extension offices throughout the state.

More information about The Kansas Health Foundation, a private philanthropy dedicated to improving the health of all Kansans, is available at: www.kansashealth.org.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story.

Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors.

We believe that news should be fair and factual.

We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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FRIDAY Sept 28th, 2012
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- Interested bidders will submit references to Rick Johnson of Farmers National Company by November 1, 2012.
- Qualified bidders will be invited to a Multi Parcel Lease Auction to be held on Monday, December 3, 2012 at the Community Building in Benkelman, Nebraska at 1:30 PM.

For a complete property information packet and auction process details, contact:

A-19904

Farmers National Company

Rick Johnson, AFM/Agent
McCook, Nebraska
(308) 345-1240 • (308) 340-0306
RJohnson@FarmersNational.com

For more information, visit our web site at
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Advertisement for Bids
Reconstruction of curb and gutter and sidewalk

OWNER: City of McDonald
504 Ottawa, McDonald, KS 67745-0095
TEL: (785) 538-2222

ENGINEER: Evans-Bierly-Hutchison & Associates, P.A.
596 Airport Road, Goodland, KS 67735
TEL: (785) 899-7019

The *City of McDonald* will receive sealed bids for the RECONSTRUCTION OF CURB AND GUTTER AND SIDEWALK. *City of McDonald, 504 Ottawa, McDonald, KS 67745* until 5 p.m. CDT, Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. Bids will be opened and read aloud immediately after the specified closing time.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS: Major items of work include (approximates): 4,225 square feet of concrete sidewalk; 345 linear feet of curb and gutter; 690 square feet of 6" concrete pavement along the toe of the curb; 210 square feet of 6" concrete entrance pavement; 3 ADA ramps; and various other appurtenant work.

Bidding Documents may be examined at *City of McDonald*.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the City office upon depositing \$40.00 for each paper copy of specifications drawings and specifications. No refunds will be made.

Bid security in the amount of 5 percent of the bid shall accompany each bid in accordance with *Instructions to Bidders*.

Each of the projects will be reviewed separately for compliance with the Bid Documents, and the **OWNER** reserves the right to award the contracts to two separate contractors or to award as a package to one single contractor.

OWNER reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any and/or all bids.

Note: City will be doing more than this one block in the near future.

Love him. Hate him. You decide.

2016: OBAMA'S AMERICA (PG)

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SHERMAN THEATRE,
GOODLAND, KS.
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NIGHTLY 7 P.M.
SUNDAY MATINEE 1:30 P.M.

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