

# COUNTS FEATURE STORY

I



## DANI CHURCH

**It's a little-known fact** but not all car guys are guys! Exhibit "A" is Dani Church.

Dani broke the glass ceiling a few months ago, announcing she wished to be a Count and has been an avid member ever since. Turns out she has been a car gal her whole life, having owned several cool cars and being a member of a couple of car clubs in her past.

Dani was born in Washington and gives her Dad the credit for her car crazy state of mind. Dad was a hard working man with a special interest in cars and tools. While in Washington Dad would take Dani to Spanaway Speedway, For a period he served on the pit crew for a driver named "Lucky" and Dani was right there.

Dani and family moved to the Black Hills when she was just 11 years old. Somewhere about then he purchased Dani's first car—an orange AMC Gremlin (I always wanted a Gremlin). Dad and Dani made a deal. If something broke he would help remove it but then Dani had to replace it on her own. Now that's real OTJ training.

Dad worked for Homestake Mining and suffered a broken back in an accident. This pushed the family to the warmer climate of Reno, Nevada in 1995. Here his interest in cars never waned .

He was challenged to build an 11 second car for less than \$3,000. With Dani's help and parts from

36 different donor cars he came in at \$2,750 excluding paint and upholstery. The only original part is the headliner. And yes, it would cut an 11.6.

.Dani migrated back to Sturgis in 2012. She works at the Ft. Meade Veteran's Hospital and her husband , Mike , proudly wears the Fed-Ex uniform.

Meanwhile Dad was deciding that he had too many cars and the car he built on a dare could go. He brought it to Danny in May and we are tickled he did.

The car built on a bet is "The Bird". It is a 1968 Ford Falcon originally manufactured in Oakland, California. It was colored hideous green (not sure if that is a Ford factory color). It looked like a lima bean, according to Dani.

It is powered by an early 70's 500 cubic inch Cadillac tied to a GM 400 Turbo transmission. A plethora of small parts from Mustangs and Grenadas and who knows what finished off this bad bird.

I am really glad Dani and her Dad were not on the same budget when they came to the exterior. The Bird is an eye searing yellow with ghost flames and the interior is black on black. Though Dani states that her car is a Go Car not a Show Car, it certainly gets a lot of attention and second looks.

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**Here are some before and after shots of Dani Church's Lima Bean Falcon which sprouted into a full fledged Big Bird.**





# Culver's Cruise-In is a huge success



The Dakota Rods and Classics held their annual spring Culvers Cruise-In car show on Saturday afternoon and evening, June 3, 2017. This twice-a-year FREE car show has grown to gigantic proportions with over 160 cars this year. This gives their club an opportunity to raise money for charity as well as funding DRC activities with their 50/50 raffle and t-shirt sales.

It always amazes me that so many new or old cars seem to surface at shows like this. I only took so many photos so I will not title them and let you get the picture. Culvers was super busy and they are running out of space to display cars and trucks! JN editor





What we don't endure for the sake of a little sticker with the number 23 on it. We are forced to take our specialty cars out for a drive on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. We are bombarded with a collection of automotive memorabilia which would make many museums jealous. We had to share our experience with a huge group of likeminded gear heads and families and we were obligated to stuff ourselves with potluck like only Midwestern ladies can put together. Woe is us!!

Seriously. On May 21 Steve and Deb Kroger opened their fabulous shop once again for the 2017 NSRA Appreciation Day. Steve and Deb were enroute from California and did not attend but Scott Kroger and his wife were gracious hosts. Steve has amassed a stupendous array of automotive treasures which includes antique gas pumps and soda machines, diecast models and tons of NASCAR goodies with an emphasis on Dale Earnhart collectibles. Even Ronald McDonald loves hanging out at Steve's place.



Gary Kreun and Rush Elliot inspected 47 vehicles between 10a.m. and 4p.m. Several owners went home and returned with another vehicle. At least 40 of those inspected received the coveted 23 point sticker. Every car person likes to be able to look at the underside of their car once in a while and welcomes another set of eyes studying the obvious and not so obvious flaws. Gary said that several of the failures were for non-working neutral safety switches. The inspectors put in a lot of time giving each vehicle a thorough shakedown, often pointing out items of interest which, while not safety violations, still were helpful for the vehicle owner to be aware of. Some threatening weather and graduations held the attendance down a bit from other years but Gary points out that he will perform the NSRA inspections throughout the year. Give him a call to coordinate a time.



# NSRA APPRECIATION & INSPECTION DAY



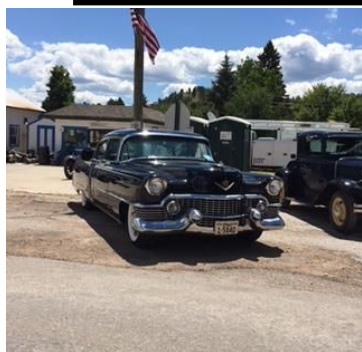


# WHITEWOOD CRUISE-IN

another successful event

The last weekend of June brings two major car events to the Black Hills each summer. One is the annual Black Hills Camaro Rally, held in Sturgis with several hundred Camaros showing up from all over the USA. The other big event is the free Whitewood, SD car show and celebration on the main street of Whitewood. Over 135 vehicle owners come from all over the Black Hills to show off their neat cars. They even have “open container” and you can go down to Bullwackers and pick up a cup of cold brew and check out all the cars and trucks on display. It’s a lot like a County Fair atmosphere with vendors on the street corners and good ole 50’s Rock and Roll blaring from the speakers on Main Street.

They sell 50/50 raffle tickets and a lot of door prizes are given away throughout the entire day! This year there were several new cars on display including a beautiful red and silver ‘56 Chevy two door hardtop and a cool ‘57 red Chevy sedan delivery owned by Bruce Peterson from Belle Fourche. Sorry I didn’t take more pictures of the show but it was impressive! JN





12th  
Annual

July 2nd,  
2017

# MILE HIGH Car show Lead, SD

On what turned out to be an extremely nice day with only a few afternoon showers and temps in the 80's, the Mile High Show and Shine drew over 100 cars.

The Nelson family, Rodney and Sharlene and sons pulled off the biggest show in the 12 year history of this show. The show location overlooks the Open Cut in Lead, SD. and is next to the Lead Mining museum and Lead mining wall.

Despite many other major car events going on in the Midwest 5 Counts were on hand. They were Kelvin Hannah, Kenny Yates, Al and Glynda Smith, Denny and Dale Volmer and Jim and Ann Neuzil.

Notable winners were Jim Strathan, whose '41 Willys coupe won Best



A variety of nice motor cycles added variety



Ford roadster still looks good.



Denny Vollmer's '65 Chevelle is too cool.



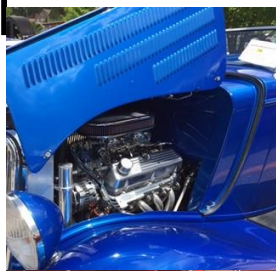
Another nice Pontiac GTO



Cool Model A roadster



My favorite, 1948 COE fire truck



A very nice '67 Impala



Here is a cool 'Rat Rod' '40 Chevy was For Sale!



Here's an example of real diversity



The Big Winner



Ron Island's Cameo



Street/strip '59 Chevy

