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I'm very sure that when the Ramblin' Oldies Car Club in Baton Rouge started plannin' their 32nd Annual car show, the date of the Super Bowl wasn't a real consideration. And, heck, why would it be?

But that was before . . . before the New Orleans Saints went Marchin' into Miami!

I've been to a lot of car shows and it's pretty standard to have a small church service on Sunday morning. But I have never been to a show that had a Saints 'Who Dat' Pep Rally before the church service. There were actually more folks sportin' the Black & Gold than the various car shirts you usually see.

With over 150 cars in attendance, it was a very nice Pre '49 show and there were some real standouts. For instance Barry LeBlanc, of Covington, La., calls his gasser style '33 Willys a 'Rare Breed.' I wouldn't say it was radical, but with the bumpers and running boards removed it does take on a unique look.



And you gotta' love it when a guy buys a pair of side view mirrors and declares it the start of a great Street Rod! Unfortunately I can't tell you if he was Boudreaux or Thibodeaux, but he was really happy with his new project car!



Somehow I always seem to be drawn to the big cars, the REALLY big cars . . . as in a huge, 142 inch wheelbase, Champagne colored '35 Packard. Oh baby! Ya know, these weren't just the average family car. Oh, no! There is absolutely nothin' average about it. This is luxury on 12 cylinders. Many other car companies went out of business during the Depression but the Packard Twelve Series is credited with saving Packard.



Maybe it's the side mounted spare tire that grabs my attention or that mile long hood or just maybe it's the aviation inspired dash . . . nah, it's the hood ornament.



Since I mentioned it, let's talk Hood Ornamentation. Some are iconic. Take for example the 'Goddess of Speed' on a '35 Packard,



the 'Chieftain' on the '48 Pontiac Silverstreak



and that 'Flyin' Fish' on a '29 Nash! Wait!

Did a '29 Nash even have a hood ornament? Much less a flyin' fish? Well, it does when Norm Grabowski gets done with it.

Norm lives in Arkansas, but he came down to show off one of his latest projects. That's why he's "The Godfather of Sole" and if you doubt that for a minute, all you have to do is check out the doors of his Nash "Kinda Fresh Fish" truck.

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He's a really funny guy and Jimbo and I got to spend a few minutes visitin' with him and he was proud to show me the inside of his truck. But low and behold, while I was getting' some pics of the inside of the Fish Truck . . . Norm Grabowski became an official card totin' Charter Member of The ASRA.

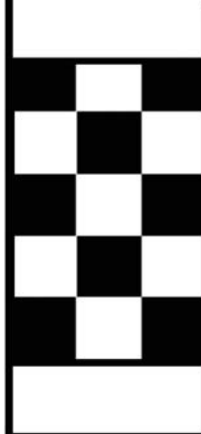


Well, I'm off to the Starbird show in Tulsa and then I'm takin' my life in my own hands and goin' to Galliano, La. for the Swamp Stomp. If I survive, I'll certainly write about it, but if things get rough, I'll be callin' for bail money!

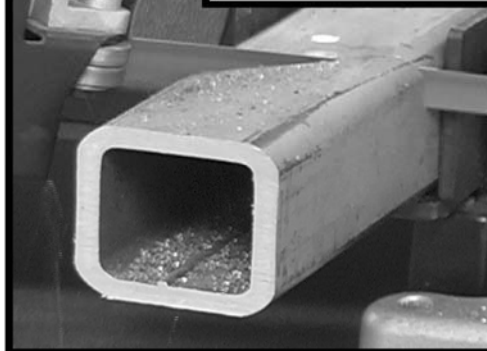
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Grabowski, a wood carver and actor (figure that combination out), hand carved the inside door panels and well as the exterior doors of the fish truck. And it features a signature fish skeleton in the dash, running boards, and wheels.

He may be best known for havin' built the "Kookie Kar" used in the late 50's TV show 77 Sunset Strip, but he's also partly responsible for the Henway truck. Oh, so now you wanna know "Whats a Henway?"

Well, Norm and his buddy built a series of weird lookin' trucks and called them Henways and when they were asked, "Hey, whats a Henway?" the answer was always simple. "Oh, 'bout 2 or 3 pounds."