

MICK SHOUP

RMOC "SPOTLIGHT" - DECEMBER 2021

Mick and Terry Shoup live in Broomfield, Colorado. Mick was born in Wichita, Kansas and cruised out to Boulder in the back seat of a 1953 2-door hardtop Oldsmobile 98 Holiday at the age of 10. His father had been in the oil business and transferred to the Boulder area in response to a job offer.

A few years earlier, Terry came to Boulder from Maryland with her family. She and Mick lived near each other but didn't know it until that day in 1969 ... when they met at Shaw's Mobil station where she got gas for her 1962 Chariot Red F85 Oldsmobile station wagon, like the one depicted in the attached ad. Mick was a "gas jockey" (his words) at the station. He had just graduated from college and she was working in the graduate computer center at CU. It was love at first sight. They were married in 1971 and just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in April of this year. They have four children and eight grandchildren.

Mick graduated from Boulder's Fairview High School. Terry graduated from Boulder High School. He entered Colorado State University in Fort Collins, graduating in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education and Social Studies. He taught Social Studies and Geography at Centennial Junior High School in Boulder for 25 years, retiring in 1994. Mick started his own housecleaning business in 1994 and continues to clean houses part-time, primarily in the Boulder and Broomfield areas. (He doesn't do windows, he said).

Mick has a couple of hobbies: collecting antiques and Lionel model trains. He has an elaborate train set-up in his basement that would be the envy of enthusiasts young and old. We members who attended Mick's many Christmas gatherings in the past always headed to the basement to see the trains operate and check out any new additions to the layout.

Mick has always been interested in Oldsmobiles since his father bought a brand new 1953 98 Holiday, 2-door hardtop. It had a blue top with a white body. His father traded the '53 for a gray 1957 98 4-door Fiesta. It had the memorable plastic seat covers. The family called it the "Gray Ghost." Mick learned how to drive and took his driver's test in that '57. As soon as Mick passed the test, they traded in the '57 at the Russ Lyons dealership. They received a whopping \$900 for that car.

Mick's first car in college was a 1946 Ford with a 1950 Oldsmobile engine. His first Oldsmobile was a 1964 Super 88 4-door hardtop that he purchased from the McCaddon dealership in Boulder in 1969. It was Saffron with a Cameo White top, nicknamed "The Screaming Yellow Zonker." Unfortunately, this car was stolen right in front of the apartment that he and Terry shared in Boulder just after he had made the last payment. It was never recovered.

Mick and Terry had three Oldsmobiles in the 1980s – a blue 1983 98 and two 1989 Cutlasses. One Cutlass was gold and the other was red/maroon. None of them were new, he said, but they were nice. In 1990, Mick purchased his "signature" (and favorite) Oldsmobile – his 1955 98 Holiday 4-door hardtop. This car had been advertised in the *Rocky Mountain News*; the owner lived in Longmont. The '55 had a 324 CID engine and was originally black and white. He nicknamed the car "saddle shoe" after the black and white oxford shoes that were popular in the 1950s. He repainted the top Dove Gray when he restored it.

Mick joined RMOC in 1990. He had stopped to check out a car show in the parking lot of Gunther Toody's restaurant in Arvada. There, he met club member, Dick Belgard, who hooked him up with RMOC icon, Al Russell. Mick then attended a Show and Shine event at Empire Oldsmobile in Denver and decided to join the club. Mick has been very active in the RMOC. He was Activities Chairman for a time and served a five-year stint as Secretary.

He then purchased a 1994 Light Teal Metallic Aurora, the first year of that iconic car. Then, in 1995 he found a 1968 98 Luxury 4-door sedan equipped with the 455 CID/365 HP, Turbo Hydra-Matic transmission, power seats and windows, air conditioning – the works. It was Jade Gold with the original cream colored vinyl top and had less than 100,000 miles on the odometer. He had spotted the car with a "For Sale" sign on the window. It had been parked in one of those open areas where sellers could display their cars and potential buyers could pull in and check them out. Both he and Larry Ruppel looked at the car and thought the price seemed reasonable (a bargain, actually) – \$1,500 – and just in the nick of time, before the car got ticketed and towed for being parked illegally.

The only Oldsmobiles Mick owns at present are the '55 and the '68. He characterizes them as "rolling restorations" – a continuous work in progress. In 2006, at the Buick Pontiac Oldsmobile Cadillac (BPOC) Show and Shine event, Mick's '55 received the Al Russell Memorial Award which was established to honor the kind of car that would be most appreciated by the late Al Russell.

Since then, Mick has taken his cars on long-distance trips to several Oldsmobile Nationals. Both cars have received numerous awards. The '68 received a First Place at the Oldsmobile Nationals in Albuquerque in 2017. At the 2019 BPOC Show and Shine, Mick's '55 received the "Best 4-Door Sedan" Peoples' Choice Award. In years past, the '55 received "Best Original Interior" and "Best Project Car" at a local cruise-in. The car is an eye-catcher as are the unique "spirit" items he displays such as his radiator water bag, hat box, suitcase, Electrolux vacuum cleaner, etc., some of which were actually owned by family members back in the Fifties.

Mick said his most significant and memorable club event was the 2001 Nationals where he served as "tour guide" (his words) and assisted with judging. He said it was the hardest but most rewarding event because of its size and complexity and because the event was "ours," meaning RMOC's Nationals.

When asked why he has maintained his relationship with RMOC over 31 years, he talked about the people, which most members cite, and says the club is like a "second family."

It was noted above that Mick and Terry hosted Christmas gatherings at their home. They did that in late December for 15 years, from 1990s through the 2000s. It was a wonderful activity that brought members together to celebrate the season. The highlight of the event was Mick's Christmas tree adorned with literally hundreds of decorations including antique ornaments, pictures, interesting family heirlooms and such. When leaving, members could pick an ornament from a second, smaller tree to remember the occasion.

Thank you, Mick, for being such an integral part of RMOC for over three decades and helping to make the club the outstanding organization it was, and still is, today.





MERRY

CHRISTMAS!

