



WILLY'S  
GARAGE  
■ WITH PAUL WILLIAMSON



Say hello to *Christine's* little sister

# Furious '59



Bill Danners and his son Curtis keep a very close eye on their prized 1959 Plymouth Fury. Father and son aren't afraid the car will roar away and cause murder and mayhem like the infamous Stephen King car *Christine*. Don't worry; she was a '58 model. What they are worried about is that the old Plymouth might go missing, and then they'd have to wait again for another 40 years to find another one.

The senior Danners owned a 1959 Fury back in the day, and has spent the last few decades lamenting about how he never should have sold the car.

Bill explains: "My folks bought the car in 1959 from Russell Motors on Portage Avenue, and I used to drive it to Tech-

Voc High in the early '60s. All my friends said it was the nicest car in the whole school."

The car was traded for a new Galaxie in 1962 and, although she was gone, the big Fury was never forgotten.

Trying to replace your first four-wheeled love is a favourite pastime for many baby boomers, and Bill did a lot of searching over the years for just the right Fury. Those cars are rare, to say the least, and spotting one in mint condition is an even rarer sight.

When his son Curt found one for sale on the Internet in the St. Paul, Minn., area, Bill knew he had to have the car. He and Curtis viewed pictures and did some cross border haggling over the phone before heading out to the Land of 1,000 Lakes to purchase the car last summer.



Plymouth was trying to one-up the competition in the late '50s, and the Fury was filled with special features and styling cues that still look futuristic 45 years later.

This Fury came factory equipped with a 318-cu.-in. poly engine, or the Fury V-800. The high performance motor was factory rated at 230 hp and this car still features the original numbers matching engine. Other interesting features included a pushbutton automatic transmission and a dash mounted rear view mirror. The forward look is equally complimented by mile high fins and enough chrome to blind opposing motorists.

The car had recently been restored in Minnesota and the body was in fantastic condition.

Once home a fresh interior overhaul was the first order of business. Ron Schewe of Ron's Custom Upholstery on Regent Avenue did an awesome job on the interior, including the installation of factory correct swivel bucket seats and a rework of the factory padded dashboard.

This car came to the guys with a pretty nice cloth bench

seat but there is no comparison to the fresh looking and ultra-cool red and white vinyl seats Schewe has masterfully recreated.

In addition to the interior upgrades, the car also received a pair of chrome dual antennas and a cool spare tire cover atop the trunk lid. Dennis at Ultra Autobody did a great job sealing up the lid and blending in the paint.

Some mechanical upgrades were also brought into the mix, with the majority of the tweaking being done by Curt in the family garage. Curt also detailed and painted the engine bay and motor and has polished everything in sight.

Gotta-Go-Auto was also enlisted for some of the more involved mechanical work, including a new rear end. The transmission was professionally rebuilt at Dominion.

Curt has also hidden a killer stereo for some cruising tunes and plans to remove all of the stainless steel trim and polish it to perfection this winter.

The car is shared between father and son. Bill likes cruising because it brings back memories of a simpler time when a car was still a car.

Curtis, on the other hand, enjoys getting behind the wheel because the car is flat out cool from every angle.

With its mean looking front grill and long lean styling, the car is routinely mistaken for *Christine*.

Curt explains: "Even though she's *Christine's* younger sister, people all seem to know that if her headlights turn on and nobody's behind the wheel, they better start running."

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Curt Danners

