

## Bob and Nancy Anderson's 1955 Ford Crown Victoria

By Steve White

For Americans, the decade of the 50s was a time of great national pride growing out of victory in WWII and an abiding confidence in the future, despite a troubling world situation. It is no coincidence that the cars of the 50s reflected the upbeat outlook of the times, as it was no accident that those cars represented the high watermark of American industry.

By 1955, every American make offered an overhead valve V8 engine, which fueled a nascent horsepower race that would continue long into the future. And most of the cars powered by those engines had new bodies with styling to match.

Ford was in the second year of its new Y-block V8 and the first year of stylish new bodywork. At the top of the line stood the stunning Crown Victoria, which featured an elegant chrome "basket handle" across the coupe's hardtop roof. A wraparound windshield was new to Ford and available V8 engines ranged in displacement from 272 cid to 292. Basic horsepower was 162, but options achieved maximum output of 193.

All this was happening long before the threat of foreign competition when American car production had a lock on the world market. In 1955, first-place Chevrolet held a slight lead over Ford, a year when both makes competed with formidable new cars. Both brands produced well over a million units that year.

Car-wise, Bob Anderson is a product of the 50s, an era he remembers with fondness when kids cruised the drive-ins like Hot Shoppes with their lowered and leaded personalized cars, many of which were Fords and Chevies. Crown Vics especially made a lasting impression on him, which led to the purchase three years ago of the lovely black and white car featured here.

This Crown Vic was optioned with an automatic transmission and continental kit. In keeping with Bob's nostalgia, it even has glass-pack mufflers. Since purchasing this car, Bob has replaced the motor mounts, rear oil seal, and straightened the rear quarter panel. Not a bad investment of time and money for a 60-year-old car.

Bob and wife, Nancy, enjoy their car on weekends and take it on tours, to car shows, and parades. Does anyone know a better way to enjoy your leisure time?

