

Studebakers Future

Submitted by James Bell

It's always wonderful to see younger people have an interest in Studebaker vehicles and want to keep the legacy alive.

Since one of the goals for the Studebaker National Foundation is providing Scholarships for such students, it's nice for people to see a recipient and how it effects their future as well as the Studebaker Marquee.

The following is from SDC Member Graham Noblett who received a SNF \$1,500 Scholarship. Graham has a passion for Studebaker and has recycled the remains of a 4 door 6 cyl Lark that likely wouldn't have ever gotten back On The Road without him.

He did the Lark in High School, so you can imagine all the things he will be capable of doing after going through one of the best Colleges for a degree in Automotive Restoration!



“My name is Graham Noblett and this is my 1961 Studebaker lark. It's the sort of car that few others really care about, as it's a four door, six-cylinder three speed car with only two factory options. It was for this reason that I took a few, umm, liberties with it. I kept everything for the most part stock Studebaker, but I chose the most outlandish and vibrant paint scheme I could think of. Bright green and white two-tone exterior, bright blue interior, Lark themed artwork on the hood, and red wheels. It's a very recognizable car for sure. I have learned so much from working on this car.



I started out with a scattered pile of rusty parts and hardware and put it all back together into a running driving car. I did all the work myself. I rebuilt the engine in high school auto shop, I did all the patch panel fabrication and metal work, all the electrical, paint and body work, brakes and chassis work, fixing a rotten part of the frame, and the list goes on. My neighbor Tom who I got the car from helped me learn and do it all, as he's an old Studebaker guy and is a wealth of knowledge. The car was left all apart outside for 10 years, so lots of pieces went missing. I fixed things with whatever junk I could scrounge for cheap/free. I also learned my way through everything, so there are many mistakes and crude repairs all over, but I don't care. I love the car for what it is, and I can say that **I** was the one who saved it from the scrap heap. As with any old car, it's never quite done.



There are still lots of things I still need to finish on it, so I routinely have friends over to help tinker. Working on the car for the past two years has given me a real appreciation for classic cars and has really motivated me to go to school to learn how to restore old cars. I have always been an excellent academic student, so I could go to school to be an engineer or some other office job, but I really do best working with my hands. Everyone always says I'm an old soul, and that I appreciate old things more than other kids my age, so a career working with classic cars is perfect for me. Many of my fellow automotive restoration buddies at school want to eventually have careers managing restoration work, but I learned during my project for my Eagle Scout Rank that management is not for me. No, I much prefer performing the actual work and doing real world problem solving. Hopefully with the skills I learn from McPherson College I'll be able to save more neglected and forgotten cars like the Lark".

Thanks,
Graham

When contacting the McPherson about SNF awarding Graham a scholarship, the following is what SNF received from Josh Hubin and you can see they appreciate our goals and common interest:

Hello James, It's great to hear that you've (SNF) chosen Graham as a scholarship recipient. Graham is an excellent young student who will definitely put it to good use.

I think it's pretty amazing what you and the Studebaker folks do to support the young people out there who love old cars.

Thank you so much for continually supporting them. If you're ever in the area give us a call. We'd love to give you a tour of our facility and show you some of the projects that the students are working on.

Please let me know if there's anything else I can do to help.

Best Wishes,
Josh Hubin
Director Of Admissions
McPherson College

If any readers have interest in a future follow-up article on Grahams new experience, please let us know.

A big Thank You to all the Chapters and people who donate to make the SNF Scholarships possible!