

# My '67 and Barb's Little GTO

By Barb and Earl Lewis



Once upon a time .... a long long time ago on a cool brisk morning - the sun was shining and view was breath taking ..... deep in the Heart of St. Charles is where my story begins. It was in the later part of 1967 while I was picking up a friend at the Ken Bender Pontiac Dealership that's when' heard a voice in my head saying "take me home". As' turned to my right ... here it was ... staring at me ---sitting so quietly on the lot - it was love at First Sight - A 1967 Plum Mist GTO. So, I stopped my 1962 Chevy with a new 301 with 13.1 poppers and a no float cam - and that's where' had my "WOW" moment. Could this be a dream I thought but before I knew what happened the trade was made and deal was signed ... I drove out in my 1967 Plum Mist GTO ... Later 'learned that there had only been 47 Plum Mist GTO's.

While making this deal I had asked "why this car had come back to the dealership", and the salesman replied that it came back because the owner's wife said to him "take the car back .. .it's too fast - return it now"! The only power option it had was the 400 -- and all the car wanted to do was simply go-o-o-o-o-. later down the road I added a fiber tear drop hood with a set of thrush side pipes. I guess my love for modifications started a long long time ago. Then later, came a set of moto spider mags which was way out of my budget but I figured a way to work in a lot of over time in order to pay for these. Then it was every weekend my buddy and I went to Alton or MAR raceway and that car was my first GTO which I'll never forget. We had so many memories and great times together.

Then years later - many years later - to be exact --- I was still talking about that Plum Mist GTO I used to have - I finally got that Ok to start looking for another GTO - Then my son Scott called me one night and said "Hey Dad," there's a Red 67 GTO for sale on Hwy N not

even 1 mile from our house. I got in my car and went down to check this out -- Again -an instant love affair began. It brought back all the old memories and then I asked the selling price. It seemed a little high for the condition it was in - I called a friend who did body work to give me an estimate on what I was looking at. I made the offer and owner said "no way". So now this started me on a search since now I knew I had the "GO FOR IT" from the boss at home. Took a friend with me and we went on a few road trips and we traveled a few different states only to find clones - holes in the floor boards - trunks missing - and some wouldn't even start. So while we were in Michigan my son Scott, calls me again and says the owner of the Red 67 GTO - one mile from the house -and said ,"Tell your Dad I'll take his offer". With those words I responded "Tell him I'm on my way". So we put the peddle to the metal and headed home. You know where this story ended.



Now the work began ••• First I had a new black vinyl top which also involved some body work. I had thought about taking the vinyl top off but Barb said "NO" -- she liked the look. So we kept the black vinyl top. Then I had it all repainted the same color "Torch Red" - Then of course another big job was in the works - the engine - we pulled it out and I took it to great engine builder I knew, who went through it completely and also re-did the crank - balanced and ported it. Of course, those who know my car can agree it has been modified. I wanted it to be like my first GTO love. So on went the side pipes, full length ladder bars, air shocks, aluminum intake, shorty headers and an old idea with a new touch - 3" custom Ram Air connected to the lower head light. This was an old idea that had come back to me. I had always

wanted to put a rear spoiler on my first GTO so I started looking around and I finally made up my mind to try a 1970 rear spoiler and felt good about this choice. I don't think there's another GTO like it so I must say "I did it my way". The ol' Goat has done good at car shows receiving it's share of trophies, received 3 Gold Concours awards at GTOAA and a POCI Silver.

Barb comes up to me one night and goes "0, WOW, look at this -look what I found on E-bay". She shows me a picture of a 1967 Blue GTO Go-Cart ... We had never seen anything like it - so we did some research and found out that this was a promotion give away back in 1967 in the grocery store - and we found out that there are only 5 or 6 of them left in existence. We contacted the owner who was from Florida and made an offer and we were the proud owners of another 1967 GTO. My son was headed to Florida on vacation and lucky for us he took the trailer and hauled it back. It was in pretty rough condition but we were excited in our find. It had scratches, broken fiber glass and a shot engine. So off to the body shop it went and I decided we would re-do the Little GTO just like the Big GTO. So off went the blue and on went the Torch Red paint - side pipes- wheels - dash stickers -a new engine (6.5 horse) and of course, the rear spoiler. Later down the road we had the removable black roof made. The little GTO has followed the Big one to 6 National Conventions and has had articles written about her and at one convention the article read that it was the most Photographed GTO there. It also has made the trip to Pontiac, Illinois for the Regional convention for several years now. Last year, it had its' first official race. It went up against the Museum's Pontiac Fiero. We had been hounding him to pull the Fiero out of the Museum and challenged him to a race -we turn around and it was being pushed out the door - the mechanics started working and the Fiero fired up - it was running again and the race was on. We raced around the court house square a few times and at the finish line - it was too close to call -- it ended in a tie ... We will see what happens this coming September. The two cars together seem to be entertaining to many people and we're always willing to let the little kids sit in the little GTO or the Big one and get their pictures taken. When they are together - they are a people stopper.

The Gateway GTO Club and GTOAA is one of the best things in life we've been a part of. We have been so many places and have so many great times. There's always something going on and what a fun bunch of people - We've met people all over the country who are all in love with GTO's - Pontiacs and cars in general - It's been a great ride - and look forward to many more memories down the road and the future ahead - We have to say Thanks to all of you "We have the greatest friends and you mean the world to us"! Special thanks goes out to the following for their support and ideas and help. Bob Barks at Complete Auto for my paint, Michael Miller, mechanic and Tim at Complete Paint and Fabrication for work on the Main GTO and work on the little one who made it a mini me. Also may be rest in peace, Ron Elliot for my engine. Keep those motors growling ...•• and those tires spinning .....







