

CITY SLICKER

How are you going to keep 'em down on the farm once they've seen Gary Lee Cooper's super '52 Chevy Styleline DeLuxe?

TEXT BY JEFFREY RICK ■ PHOTOS BY EDGAR HOILL

Gary Lee Cooper of Houston, Texas, took a very methodical approach when he decided to dive in to his first automotive project, a five-year complete frame-off restoration of a '52 Chevrolet Styleline DeLuxe. He documented the home garage project on videotape so that he could relive those late-night moments when some new phase of the "City Slicker" operation would come together. Gary Lee also acquired all original sales literature, accessory catalogs and shop manuals for the '52.

Gary Lee is an industrial engineer for the Fedex Corporation, and it's fair to say that he really delivered the goods when he engineered this stylized Styleline.



Much was left stock on the fabulous '52, but that doesn't mean that Gary Lee took the easy way out. On the contrary, many times it's just as difficult to restore it as it is to replace it, especially when you're dealing with a 50-year-old piece of machinery that's seen better days. Besides, Gary Lee knew that the best thing that you can do to a '52 is to make it as good as new.

With that in mind, Gary Lee kept the stock inline 216-c.i.d. 6-cylinder engine with its 90-hp output. He even retained the original 6-volt charging system rather than modernize it with a 12-volt upgrade. An AC Delco ignition and battery fire up the half-century-old Chevy engine and AC Delco shocks keep City Slicker running smooth on its stock suspension. Gary Lee did all of this work at home in his garage (and he's got the video to prove it!).

Gary Lee made a little road trip to Rolo's Paint & Body in Houston for a slick finish worthy of his big city ride. Francisco

