



# Project Speedy Delivery Update

By Benjamin Hunting

The summer might have drawn to a close, but our '49 Ford Panel Truck project is still moving forward at full steam. The last time we looked in on Speedy Delivery we told you about some of the finishing touches we had pulled together to help bring the truck close to completion. This time around, we're going to discuss the engine work that we recently had done in order to give Speedy Delivery some additional bite to help back up its hot rod bark.

Now, most projects typically start with taking care of the mechanical details before any other concerns, but the '49 Panel Truck has had anything but a 'normal' life since it first fell into our hands a little more than a year ago. We wanted nothing but the best for our hot rod, and that has meant working with our Speedy Delivery sponsors to schedule stints in the shop around both the summer show calendar as well as the busy agendas of some of Chicagoland's top builders, mechanics and automotive craftspeople.

In charge of making sure that the Panel Truck was properly motivated under the hood were the team at Legend Racing (847-923-8979). Legend has been operating out of Schaumburg, IL for the past 16 years as one of the premier engine builders and custom performance shops in the Chicago area. Doug Roden and his son Steve work together as a team servicing a mix of street rods, muscle cars and restoration projects in a wide variety of areas. The two love to get involved in anything from suspension and brake upgrades to full race engine builds. Essentially, if it's old Detroit iron, the Legend crew will welcome it with open arms.

In addition to the projects that roll in and out of the Legend

Racing shop, both Steve and Doug have their own particular custom cars that are a staple of the Chicago scene. Steve turns heads with his 1965 Pontiac GTO, which features a Tri-Power setup and a four-speed transmission, while the Legend '57 Chevrolet Bel Air is a ride that has been featured numerous times in the pages of Gearhead News.

The goal coming in to Legend Racing with the '49 Ford was to put together an engine package that would offer some serious grunt but which would also give us the dependability we needed to take the truck to all of the different cruise nights and shows on the Gearhead schedule. We brought with us a 351 cubic inch Ford short block that we discovered had originally been installed in a marine application. Doug and Steve were wary of installing this particular mill in Speed Delivery, as they had some bad experiences with marine engines in the past.



On their advice, we decided to instead use a 351 block provided by Legend Racing in order to make sure that we wouldn't run into any problems down the road.

Doug and Steve went through the entire engine, machining every single surface to ensure that all tolerances and clearances were as exact as possible. Steve described this part of the process as the most meticulous and time-consuming aspect of any engine build. The engine was bored .030 over, increasing displacement to 356 cubic inches, and every component in the valve train was replaced with top shelf components. A Comp cam was installed to give the V8 a somewhat more aggressive idle and better breathing, and Clevis bearings also found their way into Speedy Delivery's engine. The engine will be finished with a chrome

timing cover and chrome valve covers to go with the aluminum intake.

Steve Roden estimates that the engine is now pushing out somewhere in the neighborhood of 400 to 450 horsepower, which is more than enough to make sure that the Gearhead crew is never late for a show - no matter how many copies of the News we decide to pack inside the Panel Truck's generous cargo compartment.

With only a few more changes left in store for Speedy Delivery over the coming months, we'll soon be drawing our series of updates to a close.

Make sure to pick up our next issue to find out what we decided to do to make sure that the rest of the '49 Panel Truck's drivetrain was up to the task of handling its newfound brawn.



Engine components provided by Warrner's Circle in Joliet, IL. Edelbrock intake manifold, Quick Fuel carb., Comp Cams' camshaft and valve train components and Fluidampr balancer to name a few of the parts contributed by Warrner's Circle. Full specs listed in our "Speedy Delivery" feature next issue. Go to [www.warrnerscircle.com](http://www.warrnerscircle.com) for parts for your ride.

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