

When I was 14 years old I went with my dad to a small Dodge dealership in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania to pick up his new toy. He loved flashy cars so when the LRE came out in 1978, he had to have one. I remember counting down till I turned 16 so I could drive it. He had other

plans and I didn't get to drive it until I was 18. By then he had added some true 1978 trucker equipment...fog lights, bug shield, etc. It became "mine" and I installed window tint and took to the streets.

On Friday and Saturday nights, teenagers used to cruise and do a little stoplight to stoplight racing in town. I would love it when someone pulled up beside me at a light. Afterwards we would all end up in the parking lot at McDonald's to hang out. The very best part was when I would step out of the truck after beating a newcomer and they realized they had been beaten by a girl. Those moments were the best! No offense fellas. It went on to eventually pull my horse trailer before dad sold it to move on to another new toy. But I never fell out of love with the LRE. My husband and daughter knew I loved the trucks and over the years as we got into showing cars as a family (Ford Trucks & Mustangs), I would always spend a lot of time checking out any one that I came across at a show. A fellow car show friend, Wayne Hart, shared a love of them as well. When we pulled into a local show one day, parked right beside our group tent was a 1979 LRE. Of course I enjoyed checking it out and then he came clean and said that he had recently bought it. Of course I was jealous. Then one day in March of 2015, he walked into my office and said hey I want to show you something. We walked outside and parked at the curb a ways down the street was a LRE. At first I thought it was his but as we got closer I realized it was a 1978 and then he told me it was for sale. So we went for a ride while I listed all of the reasons I was not in the market for it right then, namely my daughter was getting married and we all know how expensive weddings are! But on a back road straight stretch, he told me to stop and then "punch it". Which of course I did without hesitation and the rest is history. I made a deal the next day and brought it home.

In fact my daughter was so insistent that I buy it, that she even gave up her Mustang's garage parking spot.

It has been in numerous parades, photoshoots, a video and was the featured vehicle for the 15th Annual 50's Fest and was parked in front of our courthouse and on the front event tee-shirt. Wayne and I have had the honor in the annual Christmas parade for several years now as Santa's Wingmen following him into town. It has been so much fun to finally own one of my own after all these years. Melody Longstreth, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania