



My Lil Red Express came to me from my grandfather. In 1981 when I was 15, my grandfather bought a 1978 LRE from a local used car lot. He was the second owner and had a strange plan for the truck. He was always tinkering with mechanical things trying to get them the way he wanted. He always bought slant six powered Dodge trucks and planned to take out the 360 v-8 and replace it with a slant six. He was going to pull his Airstream camper with it. He felt the torque six was best for pulling. I couldn't believe what he was telling me and pleaded with him not to do it. He was a very stubborn man but thankfully for some reason he listened to me. He kind of forgot about the LRE and it moved between different buildings and sheds on his farm but was rarely driven. I would always sit in it and check it out when I went to see my grandparents. It ended up backed into an open shed in 1989 with only 23,361 miles on it. My grandfather passed away in 2009. Fast forward to September 2019 and I received a phone call from my Aunt Betty who was the executor of my grandfather's estate. She said I know how much you have always talked about grandpa's LRE and since we have a deal working to sell the farm would you be interested in owning it? I went and looked at it and even

though it was rusty, it was complete. I decided to take on the restoration. I joined NALRETO in January of 2020 and started to do research. My wife and I went to the annual meet in Pigeon Forge and met several club members who answered questions and gave me leads on tracking down parts. We traveled from our home in Ohio all over the country (MN, SD, KS, MD) buying parts. I then completely disassembled my truck and rebuilt it doing everything but the engine machine work myself. I was hoping to have it done for the Branson meet but didn't get it done until July. I will be bringing it to Louisville this year and hope to see all of you there. Scott Lantz, Bellfontaine, OH

