



On Tuesday January 9th, 1979 a Li'l Red Express rolled off the assembly line at the Warren, Michigan Dodge Plant. It was delivered to a dealership in Dallas, Texas awaiting its new owner. UNFORTUNATELY, a heavy footed prospective buyer took her out for a "test drive" and heavily damaged the front end of the truck. It took nearly a year for the insurance settlement and repair to make the truck available for sale again. This may explain why a 1978 hood was installed on a 1979.

The first original owner wasn't interest in a "red" truck, but after a test drive he just had to have it. He purchased it in January 1980. Following the sale, the owner became employed at Lone Star Dodge therefore, all maintenance was performed by "certified technicians". He reported the truck "never" experienced a mechanical failure.

In July of 1985, the original owner decided to trade in the LRE until he discovered the truck nearly "doubled in value in only 5 years". He decided to keep the truck and have it restored. He had "visions" of it in "showroom condition" and put nearly \$2000 into it.

For some reason this LRE was put into storage in 1993 for a 24 year hibernation period that was the last state registration on the truck.

Fast forward to 2017, the LRE was bought at auction by a dealer in Pilot Point, TX.

On December 14, 2017, Rita and Charlie bought “Li’l Red” for their 38th wedding anniversary. She quickly became Rita’s truck. About a month of cleaning, polishing and repairs “Li’l Red” was back on the road and attending local shows.

We contacted John Roberts many times to verify part numbers for originality and authenticity. We also validated the original owner’s statements by artifacts found in the truck. Receipts, coins, state inspections, car show fliers and more indicate this LRE was tucked away for a long time. A carton of Marlboro’s were \$11.69 in 1989.

On January 23, 2019, it was necessary to begin a complete restoration which included engine and transmission overhaul. Many hours were dedicated to this restoration under watchful eye of “Rita”. We hope the original owner approved of our work.

September 27, 2019 was “Back on the Road Again” day with Willie singing on the radio.

This LRE is undoubtedly the most fun truck to drive and show. We don’t think we will ever be at a show where someone doesn’t say, “I remember when these trucks were new” or “I knew someone who had on of these”.

Charlie and Rita Backes, Weatherford, Texas