



Promise Made To Grandfather Fulfilled...

Dan Brand Restores Grandfather's Rare Car

By: Louis Hoglund  
Pelican Press

The old and rare automobile was parked in the shelterbelt, and later in a storage shed, for many decades.

But on July 7, the 1947 Frazer was back on the road—to the Lake Country Cruisers vintage and classic car show in Pelican Rapids.

"I'm fulfilling a promise," said Dan Brand, who has renovated the car his grandfather gave him back in 1972.

Essentially a "one owner" car, Brand's grandfather Otto flew to

Michigan, picked out the car at the factory, and drove it home to his Barnesville area farm.

"It was sitting as long as I can remember out in the back of the house," recalled Brand. His grandfather said "get a log chain, drag it out of here, and it's yours—under one condition: Some day you get that car fixed up."

Semi-retirement gave Dan—with assistance from his wife Brenda—the extra time to tackle the job. Brand, Sand Lake, is a familiar face in the small engine shop at Lakeland General Store, Dunvilla, during the busy season. During the winter, he focused on the Frazer.

"It is very rare to find one in this condition...I haven't seen any around here," said Brand, noting that it might be one of the first Frazers to ever display at the Pelican car show.

The Frazer (1946–1951) was the flagship line of upper-medium priced American luxury automobiles built by the Kaiser-Frazer Corporation of Willow Run Ypsilanti, Michigan, and was, with Crosley, the first American car with new envelope body and fresh postwar styling.



Not long after his wife died, Barnesville area farmer Otto Brand hopped a flight to Michigan to buy his 1947 Frazer—direct from the factory—and he drove it home.

This picture and text is in one of the Brand family scrapbooks.



Dan Brand, works on the springs for the seat in the 1947 Frazer he restored. The car was a one owner vehicle, bought direct from the factory.



The metallic blue is "not exactly factory" color—but close—according to Dan Brand, who has completed restoration of a 1947 Frazer. Most of the car is "original," including the wheel cylinders—which Brand managed to find online—in the original box, from a seller in New Hampshire.

The car was named for longtime American automobile executive Joseph W. Frazer who became president and general manager of Kaiser-Frazer.

Production began on May 29, 1946, and the Frazer made its public debut June 29, 1946. There was one basic four-door sedan body shell that was shared with the similar but lower-priced (by \$200 to \$600) Kaiser.

The Frazer line had a relatively small fraction of the automobile market share. By 1948, Frazer sales totalled about 1.5 percent of all American cars built.

Executives at Frazer were convinced that powerful existing manufacturers colluded to shut off supplies of materials and parts necessary to the success of the new company. Production ceased in 1951.

Considered something of a "luxury" car at the time, it was priced just under the Cadillac, noted Brand, a Barnesville area native.

The Kaiser-Frazer line had some special innovations:

- The transmission is a manual

three-speed, but automatically kicks into overdrive.

- The interior was an extra fancy "Darrin Styled".
- The radio had settings that could be selected—then switched to the

various stations with a foot button. That was one of the challenges Brand faced in the restoration. He finally found a Frazer radio online—for 70 bucks; and it worked.

• Some Frazer models also had push-button door lock openers.

Brand's restoration is "pretty close to original," including the radiator. "I brought it to a radiator shop, and couldn't believe that he got it fixed," said Brand.

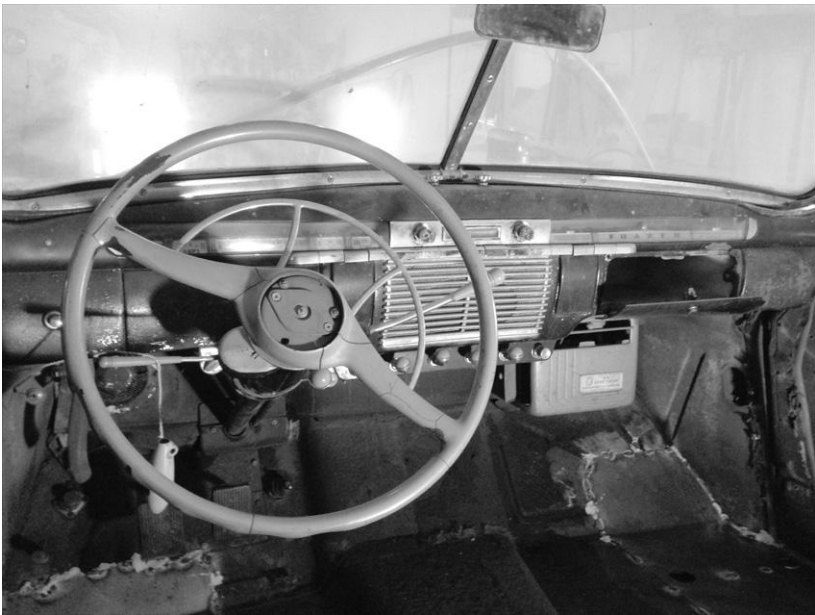
The back seat upholstery, which had been covered for most of the storage years, is original. The Brands improvised on some of the other upholstery, and hit a snag when the first glue didn't hold up to the summer heat.

The car is road-worthy, but not a vehicle he is likely to take on road trips. "I wouldn't be scared to drive it to Fargo, just reluctant...I just don't want something to happen to it," he said.

"For me, it was the satisfaction of getting it up and running," said Brand



A rear view of the 1947 Frazer.



A glimpse of the interior, during the restoration of the 1947 Frazer—which won a design award from the Fashion Academy of New York in 1946.

VFW, Auxiliary Still Going Strong After 74 Years

By: Karen Carpenter

The Barnesville VFW Post 4628 stands proudly on Front Street. It is a symbol of patriotism and sacrifice.

The group of veterans and auxiliary are working hard to assure that the VFW Post 4628 is open and available for future generations.

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars must be US citizens who were honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States. During their service the veterans must have served in a war, campaign or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters.

The National Veterans of Foreign Wars organization was established in 1913. Post 4628 was chartered on October 21, 1945. World War II was over the following month. Members will celebrate their 75th anniversary in 2020. The Auxiliary was instituted the following year, June 20, 1946.

The VFW occupies the Engels building at 202 Front Street South

in Barnesville. The building was constructed in the early 1900s. The structure was built by Peter Engels as a soloon while serving as mayor in Barnesville's formative years.

"The old building is a challenge to maintain but it is rich in Barnesville history!" said VFW Commander Kevin Hufnagle.

Between the Post and Auxiliary there are approximately 280 members. "Many of these men and women are getting older and it is increasingly challenging to attract younger members," stated Hufnagle.

Over the years the VFW Club was a local watering hole and their bar was open to the public. Because there are three liquor establishments within a block of the VFW, members made the decision a year ago to discontinue having the bar open. This decision resulted in no set business hours.

The VFW is striving to improve their image from the days when

they were considered to be a bunch of boozers. They wish to focus on events including families. The only event not open to the public is the annual Membership Supper; otherwise guests are always welcome.

Members have for many years offered meals to the public and still do.

For over 15 years, monthly pancake breakfasts have been offered. Occasion special meals have become regular monthly events.

"These meals are extremely beneficial to cover expenses," said Hufnagle. "There are monthly old-time dances which cater to the senior crowd. Dancers from over 70 miles away come to the Barnesville VFW

for socializing and exercise.

"Barnesville Potato Days brings in a sizeable revenue. The Post is most appreciative to the late Roger Ellefson and his family for sponsoring the annual Rocky Mt. Oyster Feed at the VFW club.

"The novelty of this festival is enjoyed by many people from near and far. Of course, any and all donations are greatly appreciated!

"The auxiliary puts on the popular Syttende Mai supper every May and this past year sponsored a well-supported Oktoberfest meal and plans are to do it again."

Every organization has its core people who do most of the volunteer work and the VFW is no exception.

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Mary Ann Scheffler, left, Phyllis Mulari, center, and Marlene Schell, right, prepare some snacks for the butterfly dance. The VFW Auxiliary help with the Lion sponsored father-daughter event.

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Current VFW Commander is Kevin Hufnagle, left, and VFW Auxiliary president is Becky Stout, right. Both leaders spend many hours at the VFW club rooms organizing events and meetings. Hufnagle joined the Navy in 1981 and retired in 2001 at the rank of Chief Petty Officer. He served on several ships and shore commands and had two major six month deployments. First was to the Persian Gulf in the mid-1980s during the Iran/Iraq tanker wars and the second was to the Mediterranean while the Bosnia conflict was ongoing.

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