

## My 1957 Thunderbird by Diana Roloff



It all started when I decided I wanted a 1957 Ford Thunderbird. I loved the two-seat car with those sweeping rear fenders. The 57 always looked so sharp.

We had a 1961 Thunderbird convertible that was large. I was unable to drive it even with the seat all the way forward. I couldn't drive it when we went on long trips. We sold the 61 to an auto dealer in Dallas, TX who wanted to complete his Thunderbird collection with a 1961 Thunderbird.

We were introduced to the new retrobirds in 2001 when the Dakota Thunderbird Club was contacted to help introduce the new 2002 Thunderbird. Don was president of the club at the time and we said "yes"! The cars arrived at Eide Ford for our use for the day. The Ford representative from Dearborn, Michigan had asked that we drive the cars around town to see the reaction of people who saw it for the first time. The Club was given several new 2002 cars for the club members to drive.

Don got to drive it for about fifteen minutes. He had to visit with the Ford rep so I took the car and forgot to bring it back. I knew right away I had to have one...but that 57 still sat in the back of my mind.

After we sold the 61, Don found a numbered 2004 Monterey Mist Pacific Coast Roadster (PCR) in Schaumburg, Illinois at a BMW dealership. We traveled to CA, OR, WA, British Columbia, Kelowna, Banff and Glacier National Park. We attended the Vintage Thunderbird Club International in Kelowna during one of these excursions. It is a fun car to drive but you really need to know how to pack when on long trips. On the trip to Kelowna, we had a hitchhiker, an unwelcome mouse. We got it with a sticky trap. Don was given a "Hard Luck Award" at the VTCl banquet!



We attended the VTCl conference in Kansas City in August of 2016 and entered the PCR to be judged. I visited a lady that was a few cars down from us who was selling a 57. There it was. That opportunity to own a 57 Thunderbird. The lady spent more time unselling the car by telling me what was wrong with it than trying to sell it. We decided maybe buying an older car wasn't the best idea. So, as fate would have it, a friend of ours from the Minneapolis Chapter informed us of a blue 2005 50th Anniversary Thunderbird for sale in their newsletter. Well, we drove to Minneapolis a couple of weeks later. I could hardly contain my excitement. Don said to not be so eager because we wanted to "negotiate" a price.

Let me tell you, I immediately bought the blue! But wait, there is more!



In October of 2019, we took a trip to North Carolina. Don had heard of a 2005 Cashmere Thunderbird in Kansas City. I loved the Cashmere color so we stopped on the way back to check it out. The Cashmere, a numbered car, was in beautiful shape but it was really dirty. I bought the car on the spot and drove it home. Oh, about the negotiating part, I should remember that next time.

Although we have three Retro Birds, we still do not own a 1957 Thunderbird...not yet!

**Note: We would LOVE to hear your 'car story' ... please submit your story to Don Roloff at [rolnon@bis.midco.net](mailto:rolnon@bis.midco.net) and we will publish it in the newsletter as soon as we are able!**