



Fred Lloyd's most recent muscle car project is a 1963 Chevy Impala. Fred, who has been in the automotive repair business for 35 years, hopes to devote about half of his business to restoring classic cars.

MIRROR PHOTOS BY KRISTI LEIGH



Fred Lloyd, owner and operator of Lloyd Bros Automotive (right), and his technician, Matt Fager, stand outside Fred's newly painted and remodeled shop. Fred has expanded his repair business to include the restoration of classic and muscle cars.

# Lloyd Brothers Automotive In Waterville Flexes Its Muscle With The Addition Of Classic Car Restoration Services

BY KRISTI LEIGH  
MIRROR REPORTER

Fred Lloyd, owner of Lloyd Brothers Automotive in Waterville, hopes to "flex and extend" his business with the new addition of his Muscle Car Garage.

"Basically a muscle car is just a car with a big engine and lots of horsepower," Lloyd explained. "They started becoming popular back in 1964 with the Camaro and the Mustang."

Fred has been interested in the restoration of muscle and classic cars for a long time.

"I grew up with the muscle car era and always have been playing around with the cars," he said.

In addition to continuing his general automotive repair business, Fred has been working on this new venture, housed in his current shop.

"I'm hoping that 50 percent of the time I can work on the muscle car part of the business, and then the other 50 percent of the time, work

on just regular automotive repair," Fred said.

Fred forged a working relationship with Jim Bernthisel, owner of Bernthisel Collision in Waterville, to do the body work for the muscle cars.

"I like working with Fred," Bernthisel said. "He's a very knowledgeable person and we both have our expertise in different areas. It works out real well. We do the body restoration work and he does the mechanical work on them."

Fred has been working on cars for the past 35 years, beginning his business in Waterville out of a three-car garage off his parents' home.

In 1975, Fred and his brother, Denny, moved the car repair shop into the building where he continues to work. In 1987, Denny moved to California and no longer works on cars.

The idea for Fred's Muscle Car Garage started to take shape about two years ago.

"Just in the last couple of years, I've had people bringing in the old muscle cars to get repair work done," said Fred. "They're a lot of fun to work on and there are fewer people out there that really remember how to work on them properly."

One of Fred's customers is Tom Austin, a Harley dealer and car collector for 25 years. Austin is now a full-time car collector and boasts a collection of 60 cars dating from 1940 to 1972.

"I've been collecting muscle cars all my life — since I was a kid," Austin said. "I still have the first '67 Camaro I bought when I was 16."

Originally from Perrysburg, Austin now lives in Arizona. His job keeps him on the road a lot, taking him to car shows all over, such as Hershey and Carlyle, both in Pennsylvania; Auburn, Ind.; and the Woodward Cruise in Detroit.

Austin's travels also bring him out to this area to stay at his other home on Lime City Road in Perrysburg and to visit his parents.

"I buy and sell and trade (cars) around," Austin said. "That's part of the hobby — you're always upgrading and changing. Fred's worked on a bunch of my cars. He's worked on at least 30 cars for me."

A 1965 Plymouth Satellite Convertible, a 1969 Dodge Dart Swinger, a 1971 Z28 Camaro and a 1967 Buick Grand Sport are just some of the cars Fred has worked on for Austin.

"He gets better on every car," Austin said. "Plus I can watch and make sure nothing happens to the cars. I can trust him."

While Fred has been running the Muscle Car Garage portion of his business for about two years, he just

changed the name on the sign and painted the building in the last six months.

"I'm hoping that I get a name for my repair work and I'm hoping it takes off like the other portion — the other repair that I've been doing for the last 35 years," Fred said.

He plans to display his work with Bernthisel whenever there are car shows, especially in the summer months.

"I like showing off what we do," Bernthisel said. "I'm proud of the things we do so I like sharing it with other people."

For those interested in collecting and trading muscle cars, Fred suggested browsing the Internet or subscribing to

periodicals that offer vehicles for sale, such as Hemming's Motor News.

Lloyd Brothers Automotive and Muscle Car Garage is located at 307 South St. in Waterville. It is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number is (419) 878-5693.

## Henry Fowler Graduates

Henry "Hank" Fowler, a 1999 Anthony Wayne High School and Penta County Vocational School machine trades graduate, recently graduated from the NASCAR Technical Institute in Mooresville, N.C.

He is the son of Russ and Brenda Fowler, of Waterville, and husband of Lisa Krassow Fowler.

Fowler was selected by his classmates to be the student speaker at commencement ceremonies. He also received awards for excellent attendance, was named to the director's honors list and was nominated to the Alpha Beta Kappa honor society.



Hank Fowler

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