

you aint seen nothing yet

About 2 years ago, I looked at some car stuff on eBay here in Europe. There I found an engine I had never been thinking about to play with. It was a 9-cylinder aircraft engine. The guy who wanted to sell the engine had made a table out of it with glass on top. The next morning on the toilet (in my opinion the best place to think about really important things) I couldn't stop thinking about the engine and thought this could be the thing for a really crazy car. 3 days later the engine was in my garage.

The first thing I was thinking about was a truck cab for the vehicle. I thought a cab would be the best body because it's small and you can see much more of the frame, front and rear suspension, engine, etc...The second thing was the grille. It had to be a Terraplane grille from the end 30's - a must for me. I love those grills! Now I had everything in my mind to build a crazy thing and put it together.

Some weeks later my friend Luici Becker (who owns a CNC machine shop) came to my garage and I told him about my new project. We talked about how I could connect the engine to a tranny. After a while he told me he would help me build

an adapter. In the meantime, I bought a '34 Ford pickup from my buddy Jason Pewitt in San Francisco. I asked him to find a '35 - '37 pickup cab for me. He did a good job and after awhile he found the '37 Ford pickup cab for me. I loved the great rust patina! He cut the cab into 2 halves and put it on the bed of the '34. At the same time I found the '37 Hudson grill, also in California.

After 2 months, the main parts for the star-engined vehicle arrived in my garage here in Europe. Unfortunately, my friend Luici had a lot of work in his company and it took about 8 months before he could finish the tranny adapter. During this time, I couldn't do anything - just collect parts for the vehicle. Then there was the big day and moment when he came to me with the adapter... now I had everything to start!

I screwed a welded frame to the floor of my garage where I could fix all the parts (cab, engine, axles...) I tried to find the best-looking position of all the main parts and welded the grill, engine, cab, front and rear axle to the frame down on the floor. After that, I built the frame and connected all of the parts together. It sounds easy but it took months.

I had no idea how this engine worked, or how to get it started. By chance, a hot rod guy came to my house and asked me about a Model A hood. Then he saw the aircraft engine and he told me about his friend.

'He has the same engine on a frame ready to start - he can help you.'

After a couple of weeks the guy came to me and he taught me how to start such an engine. He also gave me important information about radial aircraft engines. They are not really like common engines where you turn a key and start it.

