

# EVIL MACHINES FROM NEAR AND FAR

Story and photos by Larry Edsall



**T**he 70,000-member Goodguys Rod & Custom Association opened its 2011 season with its second annual Spring Nationals, an event that attracted more than 2000 cars and their owners, parts vendors and a multitude of spectators to the WestWorld equestrian complex in north Scottsdale.

Among those owners were Greg Selvidge, a native and resident of Washington State who also has a winter home (and sizable garage) here in Arizona, and Jack and Tammie Nelson of Farmington, New Mexico.

### 1964 CITROËN : GREG SELVIDGE FROM FRANCE VIA WASHINGTON

Selvidge brought one of the most unusual of the vehicles on display—a 1964 Citroën built over a NASCAR racing chassis and powered by a 610-horsepower LS7 Corvette V8.

Selvidge had also displayed a car at the first-ever Goodguys event, held way back in 1983 in northern California. A native of the Seattle area, Selvidge is an entrepreneur and inventor. He owned the Craig Craft boat company. His creativity includes products such as the California Car Duster (subsequently and to this day found in seemingly every car enthusiast's trunk).

"I've been in this business a long time, and everything I do is different," Selvidge said of his car-customizing tastes. He listed projects such as a series of 1940 and '41 Graham Hollywoods, one of which was purchased by comedian Eddie Murphy. He also removed the wood from a 1951 Ford woody wagon, replaced the wood with metal, but then airbrushed woodgrain into the metal. The car won at the 1991 Grand National Roadster Show and was purchased by comedian Tim Allen.

But Selvidge admits the Citroën, which looks stock until you notice the size and style of the wheels, the internal roll cage, or open the hood and see the big racing V8, may be his weirdest and most complicated project—so far. (You might want to check back with him when the Goodguys return to WestWorld at the end of the year.)

### 1970 MUSTANG : JACK AND TAMMIE NELSON FROM FOUR CORNERS IN NEW MEXICO

Meanwhile, the 1970 Ford Mustang convertible the Nelsons brought from New Mexico to the Goodguys event wasn't nearly as radical as Selvidge's French custom, though at least two aspects of the car caught your eye: its 482-cubic-inch Ford V8 engine and the hand controls Jack Nelson uses when he drives, as he did during the autocross competition that was part of the Spring Nationals.

Thirty-five years ago, when Nelson was a teenager, his car was struck by another. Nelson got out to get information from the other driver. The other driver bolted the scene, leaving Nelson standing between his car and one that had stopped to help, when yet another car slammed into them. The impact severed Nelson's legs.

Nelson, who works for his family-owned business that transports oil-drilling rigs and other equipment around the Four Corners area, owns, he thinks, "17 or 18" vehicles, including an RV that he drives with hand controls for road trips such as the visit to Scottsdale. All of those "17 of 18" vehicles are Fords, with one exception: Nelson recently traded a drag-prepped Fairlane for a 1971 Plymouth Scamp.

While he loves his Fords, which include seven Mustangs, Nelson said he's always wanted to see what it was like to experience some Mopar muscle on the street, and now he can. ■

