

JUNKYARD JUNKY

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When our son, Tom, was a senior in high school he bought a sharp 1972 Dodge Challenger with the 340 c.i. engine with the Thermo-Quad carburetor. The car was bright yellow with black accent stripes and a black vinyl top.



The car seemed to starve for fuel, so we added an electric fuel pump. Now we had too much fuel pressure. Next, we installed a pressure regulator that seemed to help, until the Thermo-Quad started to leak like a sieve. The carburetor was just a poor design, and a throw away at that point.

Tom scouted out all the local junkyards for another carburetor, and finally found a junkyard that had just bought a bunch of ex-police cars. They were all Plymouths and had the 440 c.i. engines, with the Thermo-Quad carburetor. Tom asked the junkyard owner if he would sell one of the carburetors and was told that he would have to remove it himself and once it was off, there would be no refund. So, Tom asked if I would go with him to make sure the Thermo-Quad was going to bolt onto his Challenger's 340 intake manifold. I said that I'd love to go, you never know what you might find in a junkyard that you think you can't live without!

Looking over the assortment of ex-police cars I found a clean, unmarked police car, but it had high mileage. Boy, could I ever have fun with that car! I have had a lot of boyhood friends that become police officers later in life, but having an unmarked car would do just fine for me!

Well, we did come home with the Thermo-Quad, and the unmarked police car. I thought it would make a nice second car, even if my wife didn't really agree. Oh, that Thermo-Quad carburetor bolted right up to the 340 intake, and worked great!

After awhile all my friends knew the unmarked car so the fun kind of got old, but the car did turn out making a good work car. When I did sell the unmarked police car, it stayed locally for a few more years. When I'd see it, I would always wonder how many miles it must have on it by now?