

Vehicle Description

1954 SIAM-CROSLEY VINTAGE RACE CAR

A rare barn find in as-raced configuration. Built by students at Purdue University for a class project and raced by Frank Isaacson at Wilmont, Lawrenceville and other tracks. At one time it was run out of Sandy McArthur's shop (but not owned by him). The car was mentioned several times in contemporary reports in the Class H News, an H-Modified newsletter. H-Modified was for racing cars that were 750cc or under. In the early 1960s it was sold to Steve Hawxhurst, who ran it successfully until 1962. He won his class at the Milwaukee State Fair races in 1961 and also ran at Meadowdale. Next owner was Charles Reupert, then Jim Wisniewski in Wisconsin, who apparently raced the car until around 1964 when it was parked in a barn. It has not been run since so has not been butchered or upgraded like so many old race cars. It is complete and still wears its green paint and numbers from its last race.

The car's frame was built by the Purdue engineering students (a sturdy ladder) that mounts widened Crosley front suspension with drum brakes in front, with a Fiat Topolino rear axle and Fiat drum brakes in back. The 4-speed transmission is from a Standard sedan (probably a Standard 10).

The Crosley engine was set up by Bruce Townsend (who also built Crosley specials) in Bloomington. The compression was raised by removing the steel plate between the block and the crankcase. The cam was custom ground by Weber to specs provided by Isaacson and was a one-off. Hawxhurst felt it was a very good cam and included with the car is extensive correspondence and copies of period photos of the car, its history and tech specs. The dual-point distributor was from a Divco truck. In a letter Hawxhurst said, "The car is a good little car, a real ball to drive, and when set up right and tuned right I was able to take any Crosley and some of the 750 Saabs particularly on a tight course where its handling shows up to advantage."

The body is a Fibersport, which was a commercially-available fiberglass racing body built by Bill Mays. It has been cut around a bit, and needs a lot of work to look pretty, but has "loads of patina". It is right-hand-drive (popular on racing cars at that time). The seats seem to be out of an airplane, and the wheels are steel. The car is currently green, but appears to have originally been metallic blue. After being stored for years, it has been passed around among vintage racers but has not been restored. It does not run and will need a complete rebuild, but all the parts are there and should not require any R&D. Due to its history and originality, it should be acceptable for even the most exclusive vintage racing events.

And the name? According to family members, when the car was completed the builders wanted a name for it, so they went to the dump and found an emblem on a Canadian washing machine (or refrigerator, they weren't sure) called the Siam. They pried off the emblem and it is still on the car! This is a piece of racing history that needs a good home and mechanical attention. Good luck!

The car is sold in as-is condition. Be sure you know what you are buying. It is located in Weatherford, Texas (just west of Fort Worth) and must be picked up there within three weeks of close of sale. A \$1,000 deposit is due within 72 hours of close of auction. Payment must be made in full in 7 days. All payments must be in cash, cashiers check or wire transfer.

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Terms of Sale

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