

For Ray Gildon, who always had time ...

By Suzanne Monk
EMCC

Editor's note: *This story is featured in the current issue of The Lions' Pride alumni magazine.*

Toward the end of July, I drove up to Galloway-Chandler-McKinney Insurance in Columbus to take a photograph of Jimmy Galloway and his wife, Pam.

The couple has established a scholarship in honor of Pam's late father, Mr. Ray Gildon, who worked as a mechanic for the Lowndes County School District.

The award is called the Ray Gildon Excellence in Automotive Technology Scholarship.

My idea was to raise the hood of a car and take a photo of Jimmy and Pam Galloway pretending to work on the engine. I thought that would make a nice photo, but when I arrived, I learned they had another idea.

"Listen, if you don't mind, what we'd really like to do is drive out to Pam's mother's house and take the picture out there," Jimmy said.

"Pam got to thinking about it, and she remembered her father's truck. It's one he restored from the chassis up. We went out to her mother's house in the country, and we got the truck started and backed out of the barn. Pam spent all day yesterday getting it shined up and looking nice. Would it be too much trouble to ride out with me and take the picture there?"

No trouble at all.

We met Pam and her mother, Nealie Gildon, at a peaceful house on a hill. And there, parked under a tree, was a fully restored 1948 Ford F1 pickup.

"If it had wheels on it, my father worked on it. He loved old cars, but he didn't have time to spend on them until he retired. He actually restored this truck from pieces of three trucks," Pam said.

"My father never went to mechanic's school, but he was always teaching himself, and someone was always calling him because they were broken down on the side of the road."

So, the scholarship is a tribute to Ray Gildon, who always had time to help.

"We're big supporters of EMCC," Jimmy said. "We'd like to help young, aspiring, mechanically adept students in the automotive technology program. And we'd like to honor Pam's father. He was a humble, hard-working benevolent man with a passion for his profession."

The first Ray Gildon Excellence in Automotive Technology Scholarship will be awarded to an EMCC student at the Golden Triangle campus this semester.



NEW SCHOLARSHIP

Jimmy and Pam Galloway of Columbus pose for a photo beside a 1948 Ford F1 pickup restored by Pam's late father, Mr. Ray Gildon.

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