



Portrait of Determination

Meet Jason Engel, an Oklahoma original who is building his dream career around an American classic.

While most Oklahoma teenagers were busy spending their parents' money, Jason Engel was turning his love of customizing automobiles into a way to earn his own cash. Now in his 30s, Engel has gone from lowering trucks in his father's garage to being the founder of Classic Recreations – the only manufacturer in the world officially licensed to build the collectible Eleanor Mustang, featured in the hit movie remake *Gone in 60 Seconds*.

Engel is just as hands-on today as he was six years ago when he built his first Eleanor in a small car stall in his father's dealership, T&D Motors. "Before any vehicle leaves my shop, I send my staff home and personally go over each inch," says Engel. "It's emotional. A lot of hard work and passion go into each one of these cars."

Engel expects the same work ethic from his bank. Working with Eddie Renfro at Oklahoma Fidelity Bank, Engel most appreciates the personal attention. "I can walk directly to the back, meet with Eddie, and have any issue resolved within five minutes. Whatever I need, they take care of me and my business."

Recreating Eleanor meant taking a chance, and Renfro believed in Engel's vision. "I spent 3,000 hours building it, and it took \$75,000 to finish," Engel recalls. "I used some of my own money, and Eddie helped me finance the rest.

He's always had confidence in me."

Engel's vision has turned into worldwide recognition. Today, Classic Recreations takes orders from across the globe. As his international business enters its next phase of expansion – a 12,000-square-foot, customer-oriented showroom – Engel once again turns to his friends at Oklahoma Fidelity Bank.

"Like always, Oklahoma Fidelity is there for us, right beside us in our successes," notes Engel. "Eddie and some of their executives actually came down here and rode in one of my cars. How cool is that? You simply wouldn't get that kind of personal interaction from other banks."

Engel works daily alongside his partner and wife, Polly, keeping Classic Recreations a family-oriented business.

He appreciates how Oklahoma Fidelity has done the same. "Unlike the big banks, they're family-owned and there's no fuss working with them. They know me when I walk in," says Engel. "God bless 'em, we've got a great working relationship."

Engel invites fellow car enthusiasts to visit Classic Recreations in Yukon, Oklahoma. You can also learn more about this Oklahoma original by visiting www.1967fastback.com.

Jason Engel
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