

# 1957 Transtar Work Truck

by Cliff and Debra Lao

**W**e have seen quite a few old Studebaker work trucks turned into show trucks and daily drivers. We have also seen a few old Studebaker work trucks made into faux work trucks. But we really haven't seen any old Studebaker work trucks being used as **present day work trucks** in your magazine.

We would like to introduce you to "Trudy", our signature, everyday work truck for Cliff's Classic Care Plumbing, LLC, located in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Don't be fooled by the picture, she isn't just another pretty Studebaker advertising a business. She is a dependable, daily work truck that we use for our plumbing service and repair business. We opened Cliff's Classic Care Plumbing, LLC in August 2005 with the goal of matching our love of classic cars with our plumbing skills. Since then we have had a few work trucks taking on the mantle of Cliff's Classic Care Plumbing but none have stood out like Trudy.

We purchased this Studebaker from Art Copeland in Georgia in March, 2010 after seeing her on eBay and trading emails and phone calls for about a year. We drove her back from the Atlanta area to southern Arizona over the course of four days. While she wasn't very fast, she was definitely dependable. Trudy is registered as a 1957 Studebaker Transtar 1 ton, but has a 155" wheel base which gives us a clue that she is actually a 1 1/2 ton truck.

Since owning her we have added custom made tool boxes on the flatbed for our tools and materials. We also have custom made ramps that come out from under the bed and a Warn winch attached to the "headache rack" to assist in getting items up into the bed, like our 300-pound sewer machine. We have rebuilt the 1963 Studebaker 289 full flow V8 and upgraded to disc brakes to handle the additional weight of our plumbing materials. We have replaced the dash and headliner with Studebaker International parts and added lap belts for safety.

She is a dually and has a factory power assisted steering. Monday through Saturday, Trudy can be seen driving around southern Arizona as Cliff takes care of the plumbing needs of our customers. Many times Cliff has been pulled over by someone who just wanted to take a picture of the truck. Other times she has brought us business



just because someone saw her around town and called us for plumbing work.

Young or old, Studebakers definitely catch peoples' attention and start conversations that would not have otherwise happened.

Even though she is a daily work truck we have entered her in a few car shows; she won First Place in the Rex Allen Days Car Show in Wilcox in May 2010.



## WHAT'S NEW FROM CLASSIC ENTERPRISES

### CUSTOM LENS KIT

Our new lens kit is designed to form a flush surface across the recessed side panel end of any Studebaker type pickup box. The kit includes two striking translucent red end cap covers. Two specially manufactured "Lazy S" shadow shields with light refractors, screws, stand-offs, spacer gasket, and instructions. LED bulbs & sockets now included - a very impressive setup - Total Kit \$260 plus 10% shipping.



### CUSTOM TAILGATE



Die stamped double wall construction in heavy #16 gauge steel. Obround detail stamped on reverse side. Hinge pins and screws included. Chain or padlock tailgate latching system shown at left. Can be special ordered without chain hook eyes. Have any leftover paint? Who says that you can't have an original tailgate for authenticity and our custom tailgate for "Cruzin".

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