

TESTIMONIALS FROM SHIP TO HAWAII

A TEAL, DRAG RACE-READY MUSTANG GT IS PARKED IN THE BACKYARD OF A KAILUA HOME NEXT TO A WHITE, 1971 VW SUPER BEETLE.

Bill Nylen
Antique Car Enthusiast

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IN THE DRIVEWAY SITS TWO SLEEK CORVETTE C4 SERIES, ONE RED, ONE SILVER. FORCED TO CHOOSE A FAVORITE, BILL NYLEN CHOOSES THE SUPER BEETLE, BUT ONLY BECAUSE HE'S FORCED.

You see, Bill Nylen spends a good deal of time and effort restoring these vehicles, so it's hard to pick a favorite. Some might call it a hobby, but when Bill talks about these extraordinary machines you get the sense that bringing these cars back to life is less of a hobby and more of a passion.

Growing up in Kailua, he caught the car bug early from his father,

Bill the 2nd. Back then, all the neighborhood kids would drop by his house and work on hot rods under his dad's guidance. Today, listening to Bill's eighteen-year old son, Bill the 4th talk about Mustangs, it's clear a first name isn't the only thing the Nylen men share.

Ker-chunk. Bill pops the hood of his lustrous, cherry red Corvette. Bill and his son look at the refurbished engine with pride. Two more months and they'll be finished. But finding the right car parts won't be easy. And if they're lucky enough to find them, it's a long and expensive road back to Hawaii. Luckily, the Nylens have discovered a helpful little short cut.



Bill Nylen rebuilds and restores antique cars as a hobby.

TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT RESTORING CARS.

We've got a sickness I guess. We're both car nuts and have been for some time now. We pick up cars that we find at a reasonable price that aren't being well cared for, that need some loving, and rebuild or restore them.

We rebuild engines, transmissions, rear ends, and suspension. We do body work, dents, Bondo, and rust and we're going to learn how to paint soon. It's pretty much whatever the car needs from bumper to bumper.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THIS?

Well, I've been doing it since I was seventeen or so, about the same age as (my son), he's eighteen right now. So we've been doing it for ten years. He started young. We got him into the business real quick.

IT MUST BE GREAT WORKING WITH YOUR SON.

Yeah, it is. I know where he is all the time and we don't have to worry about drugs and alcohol and stuff because he's here with a wrench in his hand and grease up to his eyeballs (laughs). It is great. It's nice that we both have something we can do together and enjoy.

WHAT'S THE CAR SCENE LIKE IN HAWAII?

Well, I guess there are as many car nuts here in Honolulu as anyplace else, but there are Corvette clubs that we belong to and Mustang clubs that we belong to, so we converse with people who have the same likes or dislikes as we do.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF RESTORING CARS IN HAWAII?

Well, our biggest difficulty is not being able to pick just one project to start and finish. We've got two Corvettes we're working on, a Mustang and a Volkswagon Beetle that's in the backyard. So we keep skipping from one project to another depending on what parts are available.



Bill and his son, Bill, stand in front of the home where they have been restoring cars for over 10 years.

We try to get the parts locally if at all possible. A lot of the times though, because they're unique, they're not available locally so we get them off the Internet and through recommendations from people at the Mustang club so we know they're reputable. Then it's a matter of figuring out how much it's going to cost to get back to Honolulu and that's where ShipToHawaii saves our lives.

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT SHIPTOHAWAII?

Actually, somebody showed me an article in the Star Bulletin, just shortly after the business began and we thought, 'Why didn't somebody think of this earlier?' and 'What a great idea!' So we enrolled and we've been thrilled ever since.

CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE SHIPTOHAWAII PROCESS?

Say there's an engine block that we need. We'll find out where one is available and find out, usually from the vendor, what they're shipping is going to be back to Honolulu- which is usually outrageous. A lot of times we discovered we're able to buy something in, say Pennsylvania, and they offer free ground shipping- which is great because we can get it from the East Coast or wherever it happens to be to the consolidation point for ShipToHawaii in Hawthorne in Los Angeles. When that's done, we get an email saying your part has arrived and it will be shipped out in the next day or so. Then we get another email that says come down and pick it up.

YOU USE SHIPTOHAWAII TO SHIP YOUR ENGINE BLOCKS?

Well, anything that's not available locally. We haven't found anything yet that ShipToHawaii said 'Oh, my God, that's too big or too heavy,' and these are big and heavy. And everything has come through just great.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SHIPTOHAWAII SERVICE?

It saved our lives. Sometimes we'll buy a part for ten bucks and find out it's that much or more to get it here. And then when we find out that there's free ground shipping and we're just going to pay the airfreight from the West Coast to here, and it's very reasonable, we're thrilled. I don't know how we would do what we've done without them.

HOW MUCH HAVE YOU SAVED?

Well, it varies depending on size. We just got a wheel for our Mustang recently. We were one short. One got damaged. It was twenty-five or thirty pounds and they wanted double to get it to Honolulu. If we wanted it, this was the way it was coming, and it was double what it was through ShipToHawaii. It's not always that extreme, we almost invariably save money through ShipToHawaii but that was a case where it was half.

WHAT ARE YOUR NEXT PROJECTS?

As soon as we find somebody who doesn't love their car, we'll be picking that up and have another one here. And my wife will be divorcing me soon (laughs). As soon as something catches our eye we'll be diving into that.

