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Fond Memories

Dave Foster's '49 Oldsmobile Coupe

By Tim Bernsau

Photography: Rick Amado

Remember the kid in *American Graffiti* with the black '49 Olds coupe? That's right, there wasn't a guy like that or a car like that—not in the movie, anyway. But if you'd been in that place at that time, you'd remember both of them. The guy was Dave Foster, who grew up in the Bay Area town of Redwood City, California. His good-looking girlfriend was named Betty. The car was a black '49 Oldsmobile DeLuxe 88 club coupe. Bored Rocket V-8. Engle cam. LaSalle floorbox trans. Tuck 'n' roll interior. Wide whites with painted steelies and center caps. Nerf bars.





That's Betty back in the day, posing with the original '49 Olds that inspired the modern, modified recreation.