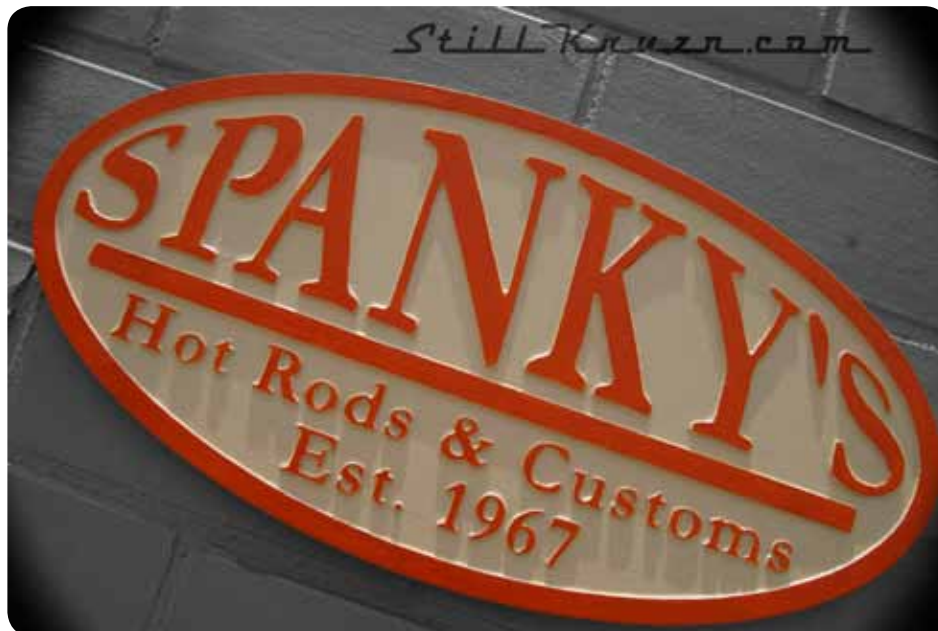


Spanky's Hot Rods & Customs

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We first met Mike 'Spanky' Cooper on, of all places, Facebook. What a world of technology we live in. Anyway, my first impressions of Spanky's Hot Rods & Customs was that it was a local hot rod shop that built and worked on local hot rods. Was I ever wrong. This guy works on cars from all over the world, literally.

Pulling up to the shop, in downtown Heber Springs, AR, you don't really know how big the place is. Come to find out, it is a 10,000 square foot shop.



There is also a show room on the front that when entering into takes you back into time. There is all sorts of memorabilia in the show room. Everything from antique pedal cars to a General Lee car.



Hanging above the center of the room is a Texaco sign, in honor of Mike's father-in-law. The whole back wall is decorated into separate areas honoring different members of the family. One part of wall is in memory to Heber Springs Wholesale Grocery, which was housed in the building at one time.



After helping his son build a '70 Nova, that received national attention, Mike decided to turn his hobby into a business. A business that has also become an

attraction for the many car enthusiast in the area.

Currently in the shop are a '32 Ford Roadster, '48 & '56 Chevy Pickup, '58 Nomad, '60 Impala, '68 Camaro, two '69 Camaro's, '69 Nova SS, '70 Chevelle, '70 Chevy C10, and two cars from Australia, a 1974 Falcon XB Coupe GT, and a 1974 Falcon Ute, among many others if various stages of completion.



Spanky's Hot Rods is a family affair; not only is there a piece of the wall honoring each of the family members, but each one has a piece of the business that they run. Mike's wife, Susan, keeps everything on track, from ordering parts to paying the bills. Daughter Samantha, runs the showroom and art gallery when she is not in school, and his son Michael,

handles the website and other graphic duties from Mississippi.

Mike also helps out with a car show that is held each year in downtown Heber Springs. The Heber Springs Christian Health Center is the beneficiary of the car show. That have had almost 200 cars at the show and it is held on the courthouse square.

So, if you are in need of a restoration or a turn-key hot rod be sure to look Spanky up. Or if you just like to look at cool shops be sure to stop by the shop. You can also visit him at www.spankyshotrods.com.





