

June 1, 1944.

Much has already been written about the history leading up to the creation of the World War 2 jeep. I recommend that the reader obtain **All American Wonder**, Vol 1 and Vol 2 by Ray Cowdery for a good historical perspective as well as an excellent resource for restoring your jeep.

Another book, written by Herbert R. Rifkind, **The Jeep —Its Development and Procurement Under the Quartermaster Corps, 1940—1942** should be of interest to the dedicated student of jeep. What is neat about this book is that it was written when the information was fresh, 1943 (a short update or note was added in 1946). Steps leading to the jeeps developments as well as information about contracting and negotiation procedures are covered. There is also a discussion of the name jeep, what it means and how it became associated with the 1/4 ton vehicle.

Sometimes I am asked how I got started with the jeep. I really don't know it just sort of happened. In fact, when I was looking for an off-road vehicle, I hadn't really considered the jeep.

Back in 1979, I was in the Air Force stationed at Tyndall AFB near Panama City, Florida. I wanted something fun to drive. So I started looking for a Volkswagen Thing which to my untrained eye look a lot like the WW2 Kubelwagen used by the Germans during that war. Well, all the examples I could find were just too expensive.

So I kept studying the want ads and eventually found what was described as a 1952 Willys Army Jeep. It turned out to be a M38A1 that had had the body replaced with a fiberglass ver-



Figure 1. My first jeep, a “1952 Willys” M38A1, complete with fiberglass body. That’s me and my dog, Russell.

sion. The gas tank was where the rear seat should have been. But I fell in love with that jeep. I drove it every where for the next year.

In 1980, I was going to college to earn a degree so that I could come back into the Air Force and try the officer road. I felt I no longer needed the jeep and sold it; boy that was a mistake! Three months hadn't gone by and I missed that old girl. Well, being in college I now had less money to play with than I did when I was in the service—so my search for jeep had more restrictions.

Nothing was affordable until I found a 1941 “Willies” MB jeep for sale. I have forgotten the name of the fellow I bought the jeep because it was so long ago. But from the moment I first saw the jeep I knew I would have to own it. Many of you may have this affliction, there is no known cure for it. The only thing that can ease your suffering is the accumulation of an early jeep and the purchase of miscellaneous parts to go with it.

So I purchased the jeep for \$750 and drove it home. Ah, it was a glorious drive of about twenty miles. Upon arriv-