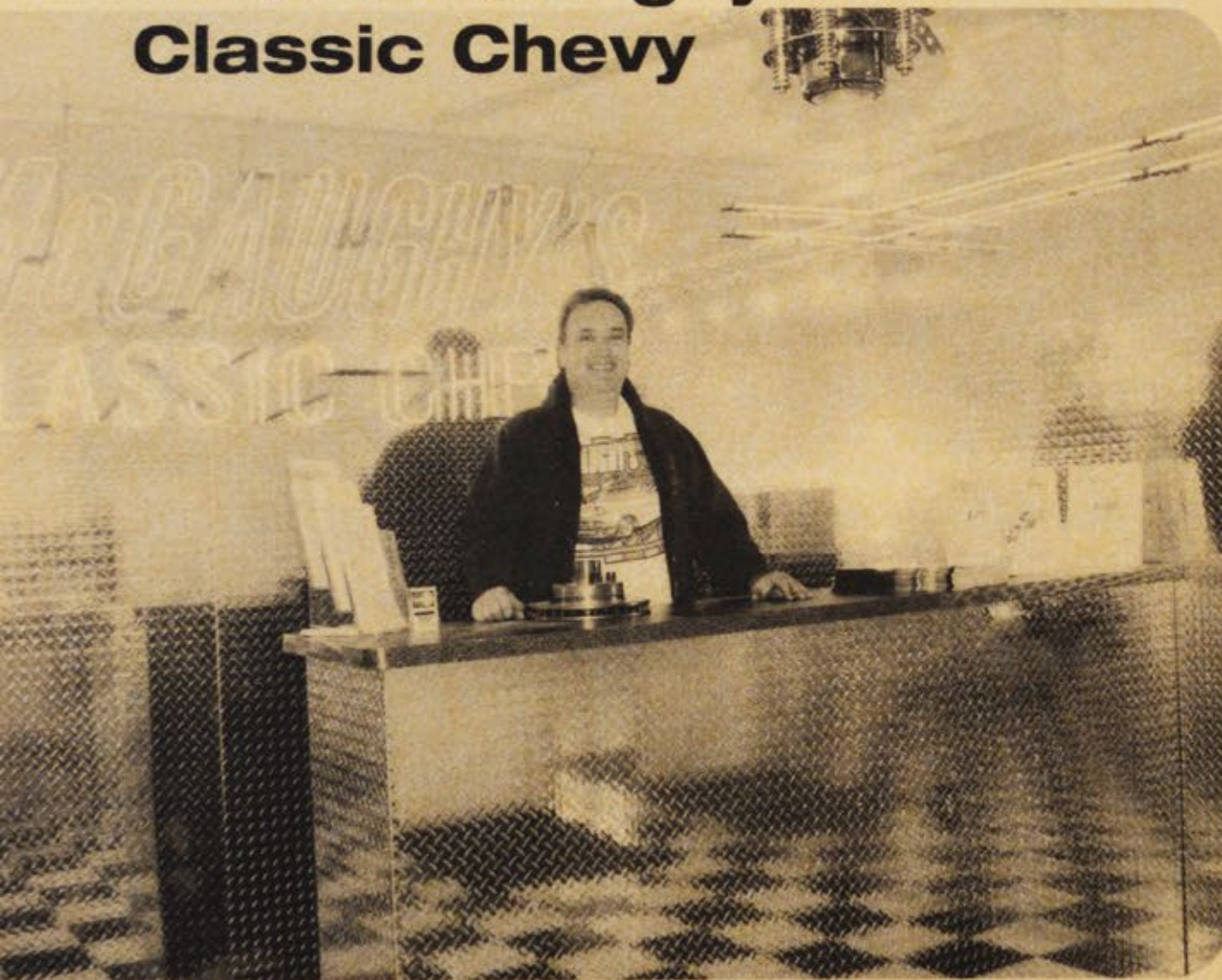


# HEARTBEAT HEAVEN

## Stopping in at Mike McGaughy's Classic Chevy



You just gotta like a guy who has a polished diamond-plate showroom! Though most of the business is mail order, walk-in customers to Mike McGaughy's Classic Chevy are greeted by plenty of shine and neon. Local Fresno residents may also encounter Mike's latest project vehicle—this '72 Chevy pickup.



BY DAMON LEE  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM RIZZO  
AND AUTHOR

**S**ome folks are die-hard Ford fans, while others bleed Chevy orange. We'd have to argue that Mike McGaughy falls into the latter category. Mike has been tinkering with old Chevys for decades and, like many entrepreneurs in the hot rod hobby, found a way to turn his pastime passion into a fulltime business.

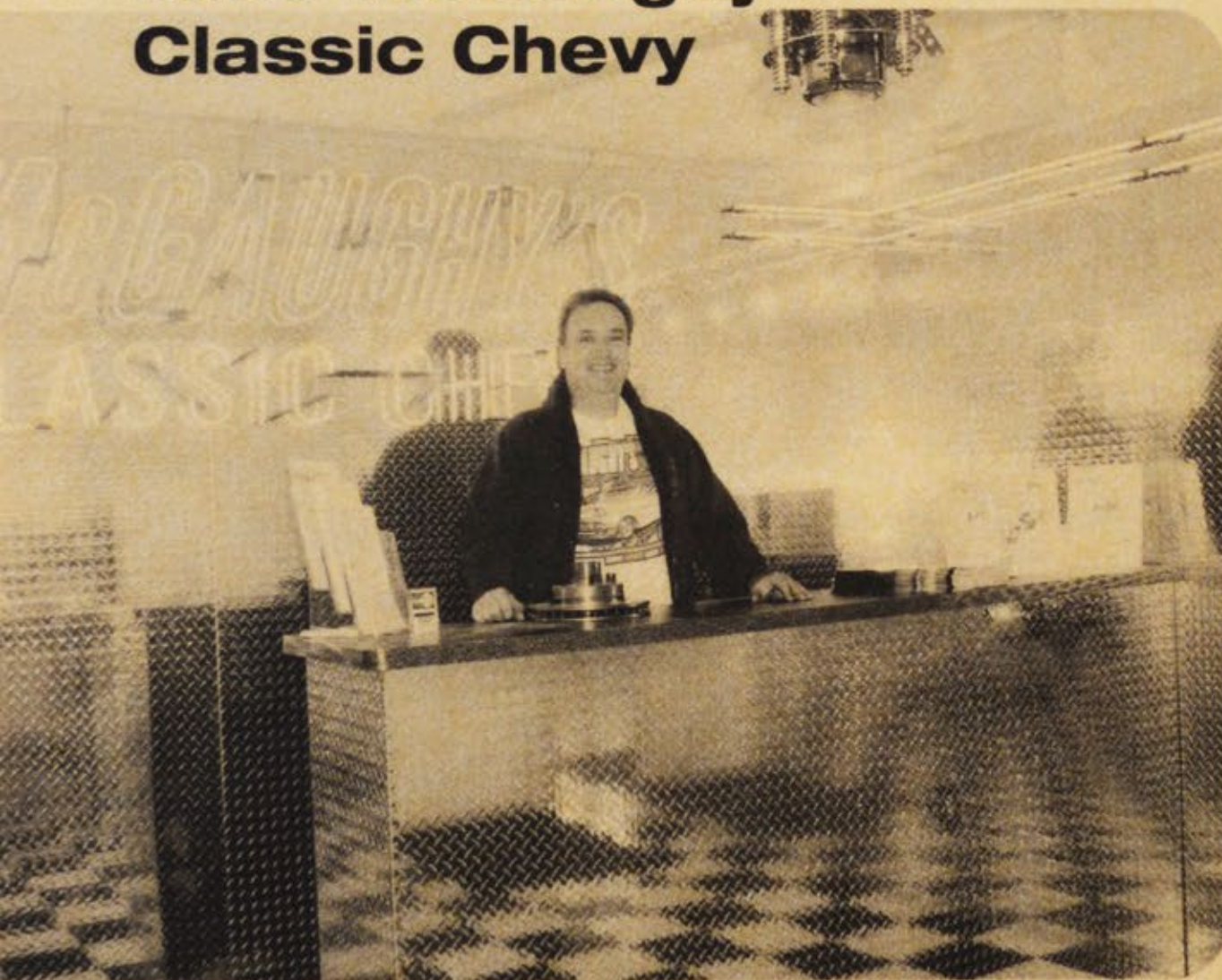
Mike's road to self-employment began when his wife, Susan, bought a '55 Chevy passenger car back in the mid-1980s. She wasn't pleased with the original power steering, so Mike opted to install a later model Saginaw 605 power steering box. Thanks to his engineering background he figured out the conversion in short order, and the finished product was so impressive that friends soon wanted power steering for their Tri-fives. Then friends of friends started asking about it, and soon a backyard business was born.

After several years of working on friends' cars on the side, Mike quit his day job in 1990 and opened his own shop in Fresno, California. Not wanting to be limited to just power steering, Mike expanded the business to include chassis items ranging from transmission crossmembers and disc brake conversion kits to tubular control arms and dropped spindles. All the while he searched for ways to make bolt-in components wherever possible so that anybody could install his products.

Quality products and competitive prices kept the business growing steadily, and before long Mike was looking beyond Tri-five Chevy cars to new markets in the Chevy realm. He began making parts for '58-64 Chevy cars, and eventually for musclecars like Camaros, Chevelles, and Novas. Expanding his line a few years ago to include '60-87-model Chevy trucks was a natural decision and has provided a tremendous amount of growth for the company.

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