

AUTHENTICATION - The process or action of proving something to be true, genuine, or valid.

Over the years many Thunderbird related topics have come up that were sometimes hard to prove as truths or fiction. Research was usually needed to make these topics factual or write them off as items of some ones imagination. Some items that come to mind such as certain year engine colour and engine identification numbers. You have all heard of number matching cars being advertised and also 'that is factory original and never been touched.' After 50 some years have passed it can be a bit difficult to come up with evidence of proof or fact.

This past year or more I finally managed to authenticate the existence of the tonneau cover that I have on my 1958 convertible. This search to authenticate it, not as a factory original part but as an aftermarket item goes way back to the 80's shortly after I acquired my '58 convertible. On one of our Thunderbird related travel adventures to Eastern New York State, the Hudson Valley area, I met up with an old friend who had just sold his 1960 Thunderbird convertible. He went on to explain that the buyer stated that he did not want any part of the cover over the back seat regardless that it was part of the deal and paid for. I informed him that I would gladly take it off his hands if he had no plans for it. A deal was struck and it went home with us in the trunk of our '88 Lincoln. He also shared with me some information as to the origin of this tonneau and his belief was that it was made available by a company from the New Jersey area that was called T'Boyd or something of that nature. This information stayed with me for years, as did the tonneau, and always tried to find more information on this company to see if it was 'fact or fiction'.

As most of you are aware, in 1962, Ford, under the leadership of Lee Iacocca, came out with a modified Thunderbird convertible known as a "Sport Roadster" that had a cover over the rear seat called a tonneau cover. The idea was to bring back the glory of the "two seater." This option model was again available in 1963 and as an option in 1964. At about this time a group of Thunderbird enthusiast and owners of 1958 to 1960 Thunderbirds had started a club of their own since not being welcome by the CTCI (1955 to 1957) This new group of Birders called themselves "The Squarebird Society." In later years this group would become known as the VTCA (Vintage Thunderbird Club of America), 1958 to

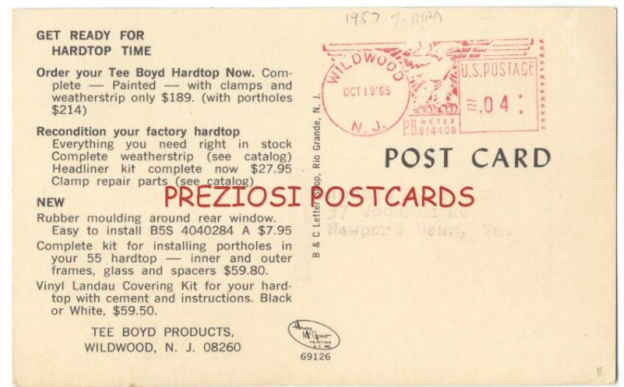


Bringing home our '58 in 1985

1966 Thunderbirds of which we, the SOTC, became a chapter back in 1979.

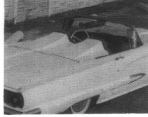
Upon the introduction of the 1962 'Sport Roadster', someone had the idea that a similar cover would be quite favorable to the Square Bird convertible owners. My understanding has been that these covers were made by or made for this company called T'Boyd and then advertised and sold by and through the J. C. Whitney catalogue. I have never seen the catalogue but a friend out in Olathe, Kansas U.S. has one and it is clearly listed in there. I have no idea of any numbers that may have been sold, as I know of no others except the one I have. Surely there must be others out there.

This past year, having a bit of time on my hands did a bit more research and I finally found some literature that documented the existence of the company that I was told about years ago by the owner of the tonneau I got it from and the correct name was " TEE-BOYD PRODUCTS " from Wildwood, N.J. This item was a promotion-mailing card. Now I am getting hungry for more info. My next find was a small TEE-BOYD catalogue. A mostly 1955 to 1957 Thunderbird "parts and accessories " catalogue. On the back page of this item it clearly advertises a cover for the 1958 to 1960 Thunderbird in picture form. Finally, I now have documentation.




FOR BIG BROTHER
(Four Passenger T'Birds)

TEE-BOYD TONNEAU COVERS
Make Your Convertible a Two Passenger Sports Car.



1958 - 59 - 60



1961 - 62 - 63

TEE-BOYD PRODUCTS
WILDWOOD, N. J.
08260

THIRD CLASS
PERMIT NO. 99
WILDWOOD, N.J.

O'Meara Motors, Inc
576 Connecticut Bld
East Hartford, Conn

\$134.50


With more research recently I discovered that this company was purchased in the 70's and the name was changed to " Tee-Bird Products ". They are still in business today and I have since spoken with the present owner. Apparently it was his uncle who purchased it back then. I asked him about the history of which he knew a bit and why it was called TEE-BOYD? He said most likely because that is the way they pronounced T'Bird in New Jersey. (T'Boyd). O/K. They still sell Little Bird parts and also Big Fords of the same years. Unfortunately however, no Square Bird Tonneau.

And so ends another search for truth or fiction. If you should know of one of these tonneau covers, please let me know. They did try to reproduce these aftermarket units a few years back but the quality left a bit to be desired.



Martin Brugmans ...

HOW TO
REPAIR YOUR
THUNDERBIRD
WITH FIBERGLASS



This beautiful car is the result of replacing and repairing original steel parts with fiberglass parts and materials. The step-by-step procedure is detailed inside

TI **Tea-Bird** **TS**
WILDV **PRODUCTS** 08260

P.O. Box 153
Exton, Pa. 19341 (215) 363-1725

PRICE \$1.50