

Retired NY Teacher Says His Volvo Will Outlast Him

By FAY ABUEL GASIM
Associated Press

BAY SHORE, N.Y. (AP) — It just keeps going, and going, and going. No, it's not a battery. It's Irvin Gordon's 1966 Volvo P1800S.

Gordon's small, red two-door has well more than 2 million miles on the odometer, the equivalent of nearly 1,176 times across the globe.

The retired schoolteacher from Long Island hopes to reach the 3 million mile mark by next year. He only has 34,000 miles to go.

The 72-year-old Gordon drives his Volvo everywhere. He has held the Guinness World Records mark for High Mileage Vehicle since 2002 and was the first person to hold that record.

"It's just a car I enjoy driving," he said.

He bought his beloved car on June 30, 1966, for \$4,150 at the age of 25. "It was a whole year's salary," he said.

Gordon originally wanted the convertible Volvo with air conditioning, but it was too expensive. He paid extra to have an AM/FM radio, though.

"It was \$10 extra, and at that time, \$10 was a lot. But an AM/FM radio was a big deal," he said.

Gordon's car has just enough room for him and his essentials. His front bumper is filled with pins of his mileage achievements. Even his license plate says "MILNMILER." And his trunk overflows with the many car parts he thinks he might need when on the road.

"I have a set of everything," he said. "If I have it, then I am not going to need it."

Gordon has been taking road trips since he was a kid and continued through his adult years. He says he would just tell his family to pack their things and hit the road. Gordon's two daughters went on his road trips until they outgrew the tiny red car.

"They just couldn't fit in the back anymore. That is when I bought the station wagon," he explained. "Volvo, of course."

His odometer doesn't have enough digits to display the

actual mileage, but Gordon has tune-up records verifying it.

Now divorced, Gordon takes road trips alone. With trips to Montreal, Texas and Michigan in just the last month, the last leg of his trip should not be too hard. It took him 21 years to reach the first million miles and 15 more years to reach 2 million. Gordon averages 85,000 to 100,000 miles per year. Most of his trips are for auto shows, but he also takes trips across the country just for a good cup of coffee.

"I have had coffee in every

state," Gordon said. "I am my own travel channel."

The avid driver believes in taking care of his car, and he doesn't let anyone else drive it.

"That's why I bought my girls their own cars," he said.

Jordan Weine is a mechanic at Bay Diagnostic, an auto shop based in Brooklyn and a Volvo expert. He says because Gordon takes care of his car, he is able to get high mileage without much change to the car's original mechanics. The car still has the original engine, though it was rebuilt twice in the car's lifetime.

"How high does a redwood grow? If it is not messed with, it will grow," said Weine, who hasn't worked on Gordon's car. "And there are very few redwood trees and the same goes with this. There are very few people that can achieve 3 million miles."

It is clear that Gordon loves his car and he can't imagine getting rid of it.

"Why would I want to get rid of it?" he asked. "Kind of like a good woman."

Gordon's car has brought him fame. Gordon himself is surprised every time he gets into his car and edges closer.

Bridgewater Interiors Receives New Detroit's 'Closing' Award

DETROIT — Bridgewater Interiors, LLC — a joint venture between Johnson Controls, Inc., and Detroit-based Epsilon Technologies, LLC — was presented with New Detroit's "Closing the Gap" Corporate Award at the annual Closing the Gap awards dinner.

Bridgewater Interiors is a certified minority business enterprise by the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council.

The awards are presented by the nonprofit coalition, each year, to an individual, an organization and a corpora-

tion that have made a positive impact to improve race relations in metro Detroit.

"It's an honor to be recognized for our commitment to a diverse workforce," said Ron Hall, president and CEO of Bridgewater Interiors.

"Our success in the automotive industry is a testament to the talents and hard work of our employees and their dedication to producing quality products for our automaker customers."

New Detroit is a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing race relations.

U-M Students Go Higher-Tech to Make Solar Car Go

PAINESVILLE, Ohio — Avery Dennison announced today that the University of Michigan's solar car, Quantum will be wrapped with Avery Dennison's popular vehicle wrap films when it competes in the 2012 American Solar Car Challenge. Avery Dennison MPI 1005 Supercast Easy Apply RS™ and DOL 1360 were installed on Quantum by TKO Graphix of Indianapolis, Indiana.

"We focused on streamlining Quantum over the last two years and shaved off 200 pounds compared to our previous car."

"The wrap is an important improvement to the car. We eliminated a significant amount of weight with the wrap. The vinyl conforms very well to the compound curves of Quantum's body — and looks just like paint," said Cole Witte, engineering director for University of Michigan solar car. "We focused on streamlining Quantum over the last two years and shaved off 200 pounds compared to our previous car."

This year, Quantum is lighter than its competitors' cars that use paint instead of vehicle wraps. Traditional paint weighs about 9 pounds while the Avery Dennison MPI 1005 Supercast Easy Apply RS and DOL 1360 wrap materials weigh between 8 ounces and 1 pound.

The reduced weight gives

the University of Michigan solar team a distinct advantage as Quantum makes its way through the 8-state, 1,650 mile course. The race begins on July 14 in Rochester, NY and ends eight days later in St. Paul, MN.

Avery Dennison graphics films create a great look and serve as an innovative way to reduce weight for the team to succeed in the race as well as showcase Quantum's sponsors," said Kathleen Hall, vice president and general manager, Avery Dennison Graphics and Reflective Solutions.

"The opportunity to support America's most successful solar car team and the engineering, innovation and dedication of the student-led University of Michigan group is an honor."

Avery Dennison MPI 1005 Supercast Easy Apply RS, a digitally printable pressure-sensitive vinyl that is repositionable and slideable, makes application easy. In addition it features air egress technology, allowing air bubbles to escape during the installation process.

TKO Graphix, a graphics services provider that has worked with the University of Michigan Solar Car team for several years, wrapped Quantum and several team vehicles in the Avery Dennison digitally printable, pressure sensitive material.



The U-M Quantum solar car in Ann Arbor together with Chevy chase vehicle. Hail to the victors.

"It's exciting to partner with college students that push technology to the edge with the passion to win the race," added Hall. Since its inception 20 years ago, the University of Michigan team has built 11 custom solar-electric vehicles and won 6 National Championships, establishing itself as America's top team.

Vinyl wraps aren't limited to solar cars, they can be installed on vehicles, boats, ATVs, motorcycles, and RVs — the options are almost end-

less. Not only is a wrap lighter than paint, in many cases, wrapping a car is more affordable than a custom paint job and can be installed faster.

Avery Dennison helps make brands more inspiring and the world more intelligent. The company is a global leader in pressure-sensitive technology and materials and retail branding and information solutions. A FORTUNE 500 company with sales of \$6 billion from continuing operations in 2011, Avery Dennison is based in Pasadena, California and has employees in over 60 countries. A division of Avery Dennison, Avery Dennison Graphics and Reflective Products provides imaging materials and service solutions for fleet, architecture, transportation, traffic and safety markets. For more information, visit wwwaverydennison.com or wwwaverygraphics.com. Certain third party trademarks and tradenames used herein are the property of their respective owners.

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