



## SURPRISE SURPRISE

Probably the last thing Robert Kurhajian expected to see at the Grand National Roadster Show was his own truck. Robert, from Huntington Beach, California, bought the '58 Chevy pickup almost 29 years ago from a gas station employee in Barstow, California. In the years that followed, the truck was treated to various levels of bodywork, engine swaps, and drivetrain mods—and has been stored in backyards, garages, alleys, and a couple of shops. After Robert's disappointing experience with a shop in Bakersfield, California, his wife Dava secretly tried to arrange for a rebuild on Chip Foose's *Overhaul-*

*lin'* television show. Instead, an *Overhaul*' representative recommended Brian Wheeler at Wheeler's Speed Shop, right there in Huntington Beach. Dava had the truck transported from Bakersfield. (Robert thought it went to the junkyard.)



# READERS' TRUCKS



The Chevy was in the shop for three years until completed in December 2009. Now the truck rolls on a TCI frame, boxed and extended 2½ inches with ShockWaves at all corners. The wheels are 17- and 18-inch Budnik Illusions. The eye-catching GM ZZ383 engine runs a Barry Grant "Badman" inline 4V carb and is backed by a 700-R4 and 3.75:1-gear Ford 9-inch. External customization includes a 2½-inch chop, frenched '46 Ford taillights, and black walnut bed wood. Mick Jenkins prepped the sheetmetal and shot the ink black paint. Pete Engel of Westminster Auto Upholstery finished the interior with beige leather upholstery.

"The first time I saw it was at the 2010 Grand National Roadster Show," Robert said. "These photos are the result of the hard work of the shop and my wife." *CCT*

