

History Through Our Eyes: Aug. 17, 1979, restoring a special car

Clyde Kwok and his then-teenage son Hugh road-test the Adams Probe 16 used in A Clockwork Orange.

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Concordia engineering professor Clyde Kwok and son Hugh, 15, road-test the Adams Probe 16 that was used in A Clockwork Orange. This photo was published in the Montreal Gazette Aug. 17, 1979 along with a story about Kwok's work restoring the car. *AUSSIE WHITING / MONTREAL GAZETTE*

"It's running like clockwork (orange)," read a headline in our Aug. 17, 1979 edition. Below it was this photo by Aussie Whiting. It shows Concordia University mechanical engineering professor Clyde Kwok and his teenage son Hugh road-testing the Adams Probe 16 that was used in the dystopian Stanley Kubrick film that had been a sensation a few years earlier. (In the film, the car was called Durango 95.)

Kwok's hobby was to work on unique cars until they were in perfect condition and then sell them; after the work was complete he lost interest, he told us.

"I don't own a home or a country place or stocks. I have my cars and even if I don't make money on them, I learn through working on them. A good professor has to keep on learning to be able

to help his students,” Kwok said.

The Adams Probe 16 was highly impractical. It had no doors; access was through the roof. It was extremely low and thus not always visible to other motorists. And “its design was so far ahead of its time in 1969 that race-car ‘spoilers’ — which keep high-speed cars flat to the road — hadn’t been developed,” we said, meaning that at high speeds it could lift off the ground. Only three were ever built.

Kwok told us that he had bought it a few years earlier, after he saw it in front of the Chateau Champlain and asked his students to help him track down the owner. He wouldn’t say how much he paid.

Kwok has since retired from Concordia, and his hobby has evolved into a business. Father and son are now running Wingho Auto Classique.