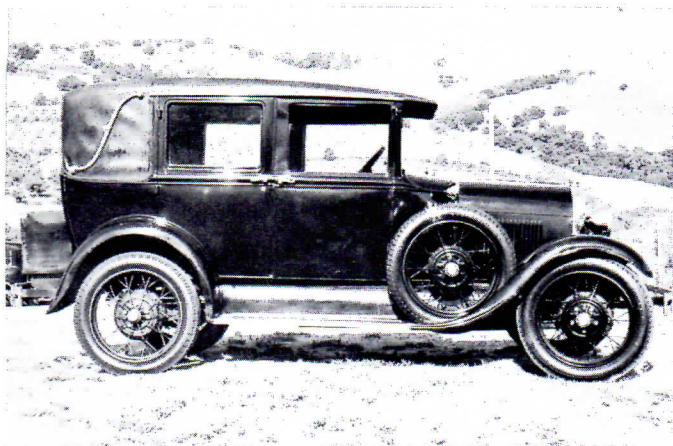




Our Pelican

By BILL JONES

It looks like a pelican. With that beak out in front, for a sun visor, it's weird. Thirty-eight years ago, early 1930, a Mr. Don McAllister walked into a Ford Agency on Park Street in Alameda, California. A left-over 1929 was on the floor and because these were the depression years, a chauffeur driven car was not the popular seller. The agency had taken this Town Car and extended the solid roof area over the open front seat section and put mohair material over the imitation leather front seat.

A deal was made and that's how Mr. McAllister drove a 1929 Town Car away from the agency registered as a 1929 four-door sedan. At that time the spare tire was mounted behind the car. Mr. McAllister replaced the right front fender with a well and purchased a trunk. It remained this way through the years until I obtained it in May 1968.

Mr. McAllister and his family drove and enjoyed it for many, many years. He very cleverly devised a two by four that fit over the left front fender (to fit the curve) and was able to carry lumber by slanting it down to the rear of the running board where he placed an eye bolt to secure the boards with a rope or strap. Thus, no damage to fenders or board, but functional. He rigged up a muffler hose take-off to the driver's front section as well as having heat to the back seat area. Mr. McAllister was a tall man and put a couple of matched boards under the front seat so he could raise the angle of the seats for better comfort. He also desired more space to carry tools, etc. so under the rear seat he made two boxes about a foot in depth by six inches wide and eight inches long. These extend down on each side of the banjo differential housing.

The body was mulberry maroon and the rear mohair had a light lavender color when the sun hits it right. In extending the roof and top, of course a complete new mohair headliner had to be installed but it is the usual light brown color.

Mr. McAllister passed the car along to his son, Jim McAllister, a minister, of Millbrae, California. Jim treasured the car as a family heirloom for years. He used the car for about a year in his work, making hospital calls, attending meetings, etc. Occasionally he and his family would drive it around on a Sunday afternoon cruise. For the past several years, though, it had a broken head stud and was not started.

The car was carefully placed perpendicular to the driveway back in one corner of the garage, on blocks. Boating is a hobby of the family and half of the garage was occupied by a beautiful boat on a trailer.

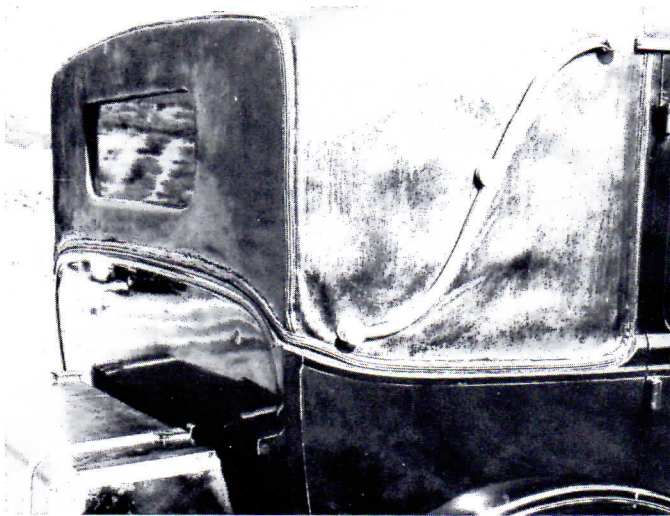
When we learned about the car we were determined to see if Jim would part with it. My wife, Edie, talked to the McAllister family and learned they planned to keep it. Seeing the futility of trying to dissuade them, Edie invited them to join the club and asked them to the next Bay Area Chapter meeting.

Jim and his son Skipper did attend the next meeting and learned of the many tours and activities being planned, how people loved their Model A's and enjoyed them. A few days later Jim called to say his family realized, because of his church work, they would never be able to enter in the fun-filled activities because they were mostly planned for Sundays. They felt that since they couldn't participate in these events, it was a shame to deprive another family of the joy of the "A" and making the best possible use of it. Also, they knew the money could be used to assist in their children's future education.

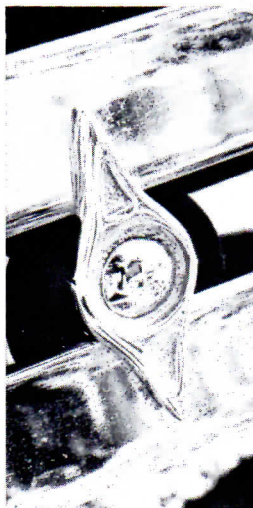
Apparently, and luckily for us, they felt we were the ones that should have it! We had to wait a whole week before we were able to get together and were able to make a deal. What a long week for us.

After sitting so long we put on some exterior parts, a battery, rolled it down a hill and got it started and drove it forty miles to its present stable. We've replaced the old tired motor, put on 21-inch wheels and tires, polished it up and given it much attention and love.

Right now it's unique, our pelican, but there are town cars and town cars but none like our pelican •



SQUARE rear quarter with specially fitted landau iron.



MEDALLION on rear bumper.



COWL LAMP with vertical fluted lens.