1928 Model A Delivery Truck – A Rare "A" Indeed

I visited Tom Philpott while he was restoring his 1928 Model A Delivery Truck. At that time the frame was off and Tom showed me parts that didn't belong on any Model A Ford that I had ever seen or read about. We spent some time examining the parts and wondering if the car wasn't a prototype or very early test model. Tom sent me this very interesting email about restoring his delivery truck and agreed to let me publish it in this month's newsletter. Ken Smith, Editor



Tom & Cathy's 1928 Model A Delivery

To the best of my knowledge there are only two other 1928 Model A Deliveries left in the world. There are, of course, several 1929's left similar to this one. I said similar as I remember you were here while I was tearing it down and it had all kinds of weird parts. I have never seen parts like these before (perhaps they were Model T parts) and I know the 1929's didn't use these parts.

One point of interest is that Les Andrews (the author of the Model A Mechanics Handbook) also has a 1928 Delivery. We exchanged some photos and information during the rebuilding phase, which were very helpful to me, as the former owner had pulled out and burnt or threwaway all the wood and interior metal brackets. In fact, I got a letter from Les the other day and he is overhauling his Delivery and rebuilding his engine and wanted me to send pictures of the finished upholstery. It took me about two years to finish this car.

This car was one of the first Deliveries (possibly one of their prototypes) originally assembled in Chicago and my guess is that it was a showroom display car used by local dealers to take orders. They actually assembled the Delivery on an AR frame and the engine numbers mark it as a May 1928 engine.

I found the car in Wheaton, Indiana, about 70 miles outside of Chicago, where it had been stored in a barn for almost 50 years. Unfortunately there are no records on 1928 Sedan Delivery production, the first one was displayed in November 1928 and some people say there were a couple of dozen sold in 1928, while others say only prototypes were made and orders were taken in 1928 for 1929 models.

One of the amusing incidents in picking the car up was that I decided to haul it in a rental truck. I ordered a truck that had a rear door, which allowed for a six-foot clearance. I was told not to worry as all their trucks had a six-foot or greater door clearance. Unfortunately when we tried to load the car we found that the roll up door would not actually go all the way up and there was less than a six foot opening, which is needed to roll the Model A in. We tried letting the air out of the tires and that wouldn't quite do it, but we discovered that if Cathy and the former owners wife would sit on the rear bumper, we could just manage to get it in. I knew there was a good reason I asked Cathy to come along!!!! Tom Philpott