The Story of "Miss Ida" my 1936 Ford

The history of my one family owned 1936 Fordor Deluxe Touring Sedan is complex. It all started when Ray Longshore left the family farm near Newberry, South Carolina. He was a teenager when he left the farm because his father would not let him take the farm mule to town. His father told him that the mule had worked hard all week and needed to rest.

My grandfather spent time out west being a cowboy. He spent several years around 1910 in North Dakota. An aunt of my grandfathers left him some money when she died. In 1916, with this money, my grandfather went to school to be a mechanic at Sweeney Automobile School in Kansas City, Missouri (Insert postcard picture). He talked about going out to where a car broke down to repair the cars. He said people would stand around to watch him fix the cars.

Sometime later he transitioned to automobile sales. He was associated with J.O. Walker, a Ford dealer in Columbia, SC. In 1936, he opened Longshore Motors, a Ford dealership in Batesburg, SC. Longshore Motors was recognized for Outstanding Sales Results during the S.T.S. (See'em – Tell'em - Sell'Em) Campaign May and June 1936 (Insert plaque picture here).

In 1937 he left Batesburg to open up Longshore Motors in Columbia S.C. In 1940 he moved to Rock Hill, S.C. to open a Ford dealership. Later in the 1940's he opened up Longshore Ford in Belton, SC.

My 1936 Ford Fordor Touring Sedan was my grandfather's demonstrator in 1936. After 1936, he gave this car to his mother, Ida Clamp, who still lived on the farm on Route 3 in Newberry County. Ida Clamp was 72 years old when she received the 1936 Ford. She kept it until she died at 101 in 1966. The last South Carolina Tag on the 1936 Ford was from 1965. (Insert picture of (L-R) George Clamp, Ida Clamp and Ray C. Longshore)

After owing the 1936 Ford for twenty-two years, Ida Clamp, my great-grandmother, was asked why she did not get newer car. Her reply was "But why get rid of my car, it suits me and I am afraid I cannot drive these new cars."

My great-grandmother was still driving the 1936 Ford at 94 years of age. Family history notes that she always complained that other drivers would not get out of her way. Based on the restoration of the 1936 Ford, she ran into a lot of things that would or could not get out of her way.

When my great-grandmother died the 1936 Ford was moved from the open shed it was under while on the Newberry Farm to a tin warehouse behind my grandfather's house in

Belton, SC. Sometime later my Ray Longshore gave the 1936 Ford to my mother, Icey Longshore Hammett.

In the late 1960s or early 1970s, the 1936 had a new soft top installed and the car was able to be driven a short distance. I drove it down the street and it ran well. The temperature gauge was not working so we were afraid to drive it for any length of time. I went into the Air Force and as far as I know, the 1936 Ford was not driven anymore.

My mother left the 1936 Ford in my grandfather's warehouse. In 2006, my mother gave me the 1936 Ford. I brought it to my house and put it in a closed garage.

In 2015, I decided that I wanted to get the 1936 restored. I joined the Upstate Early V-8 Club and met Alan Groome. I had asked several club members about who could help restore my car. The club members all said Alan Groome.

I told Alan that I wanted to find somebody to restore the 1936 Ford. He agreed to look at my car. He also brought his son, James Groome, to take pictures of my 1936 Ford car. (Insert picture of car in garage).

Later they gave me an estimate of what it would take to get the 1936 Ford running. In March 2016, Alan and James Groome and another club member came and hauled the 1936 Ford to their shop. Alan and James Groome nicknamed the 1936 Ford "Miss Ida" after my great grandmother, Ida Clamp.

This 2nd part of the Story of Miss Ida about the restoration has to be told by James and Alan Groome.