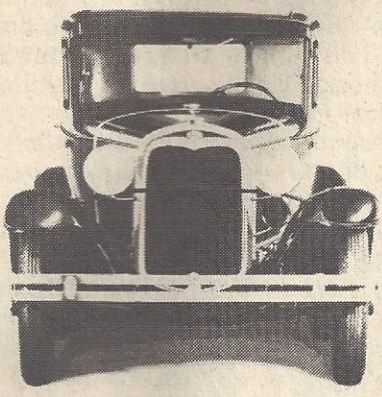


F-1B TILLOTSON CARBURETOR

by Russell E. Baetke

The Model F-1B carburetor was made by Tillotson for the Model A Ford. Externally, it has visual characteristics similar to the original Zenith delivered on the car. The small external lever just below the throttle shaft is a clue that the internal workings of this unit are quite different from the carburetor it was designed to replace. Some internal features of this model are shared with the Zenith and the Tillotson X, but it is mostly filled with unique features worth exploring for the technology it represented. This carburetor attempted to fulfill the complex variable requirements of fuel-air mixture that neither of the more popular carburetors addressed. It should have performance better than either of the others, yet this is a carburetor found mostly in the junk pile. It was a technologically sophisticated unit with features which gave rise to early trouble in the days it was originally offered. Residues deposited by early fuels and the lack of adequate filtration disabled the small internal jets in this carburetor. Of the several I have opened, all were filled to entirety in the passages adjacent to the jets. To return one of these to operating condition, the jets and passages must be cleaned without removing two of the jets, because they are permanent. With patience, these passages can be probed and blown with air. The location of some are so obscure that a careful study of the schematic is required to assure that all have been found. This is an interesting carburetor! If you wish a challenge, restore one and prove to yourself if it was either a worthy contribution to automotive carburetion or deserving of obscurity.

Disassembly

For the most part, disassembly is like any other carburetor, but there may be some trouble removing the threaded parts in a badly corroded unit. The air bleed jet is down a long threaded hole and this may cause trouble, so be sure the screwdriver blade has a good fit in the slot. Another item is the idle jet, which is soft brass tubing and subject to collapse. Use a small three jaw chuck as a wrench to distribute the force when unscrewing it.

Upper Unit Assembly

The upper casting is die cast of zinc base alloy and has the part number FU-1. The primary

