

New Arrival Announcement

by Dale W., May 2020

Dale and Lisa would like to announce a new arrival into the Henry's Lady Model A Club. It is a beautiful bouncing 2265 lb. 1931 Model A "Huckster" Delivery Truck, affectionately named "The Banana Wagon".

This truck is an example of the many ways the Ford Chassis was adapted for a particular use. In 1931, this truck was assembled in Waipahu, Oahu, Hawaii and was used to deliver fruits and vegetables and various other commerce around the islands from the growers, to sea ship ports and local grocery markets.



This 1931 roadster chassis, frame and engine was purchased from Ford Motor Company on the mainland and shipped to Hawaii where the special truck body was fabricated and assembled out of Koa wood. By best estimates, 25 of these trucks were assembled in Hawaii, selling for about \$1,000 each. Today, this is the only Hawaiian-built truck like this one known to exist.

Now, what makes this Model A even more special is that I grew up with it and it sat right next to my Model A Pickup for many years back in the 1970-1980 timeframe. My parents Rex and Cookie Waldron were both founding members and were very active in the Hangtown A's of Placerville, California back in the late 1970's and 1980's. In 1977 Rex and Cookie were vacationing on the island of Maui, Hawaii and found the Banana Wagon with a "for sale" sign and then and there, they decided they had to have it. A deal was made and it was shipped by sea container back to the states. That was 1977 and that's when Lisa and I met and our lives intertwined. We were 17 years old at the time. As life's ups and downs come and go, my parents divorced and my mother kept the Banana Wagon and in the coming years she went on many Model A adventures with the Hangtown A's and then the Capital A's of Sacramento, California. For health reasons she put the Banana Wagon up for auction at the Towe Ford Museum in 1998.

Mom has been gone now for a little over 11 years. At the beginning of this year on a nice rainy day I sat down and was going through Mom's papers and enjoying all the wonderful family memories and then I found all the information Mom had collected on the Banana Wagon. From Yosemite to Eugene, Oregon she drove that Banana Wagon, and all points in between. She collected all the documentation of when and where it was built [that's another story all by itself],

and then I struck gold – I found the auction receipt that had the gentleman’s name and number who bought it at auction 22 years ago. I have always wondered whatever happened to the Banana Wagon after Mom sold it. I had always hoped it was in a private museum being enjoyed and taken care of as it should be. It had never resurfaced, or been seen or heard of since it was sold, but now I had a name and number so I called.....Disconnected. Well....shoot!



Now off to the internet to sniff this guy out. It took two and a half weeks of dead-end calls and leaving messages everywhere I could. I knew he lived in Stockton, California and was retired. As you know, one clue leads to another and I finally found a phone number that actually rings on the other end and then I heard him say Hello? Yup! I still own that Banana Truck. He had put less than 500 miles on it in 22 years and it was parked very patiently in a back garage. As we spoke and introduced each other he knew it was from Hawaii but never knew all its history. He stated he might want to sell it, to the right person. We worked out a deal, and I got to purchase back a piece of my family’s history.

I walk into my garage now, and see my Dad’s 1936 Ford, my 1930 pickup and now, my Mother’s 1931 “Banana Wagon” and I stop and go back in time when those three vehicles were in my parent’s garage over 40 years ago. They now have some chipped paint here and a small dent there and they all leak a little more, but we all leak a little as we get older so they all get a catch pan under each. It warms my heart to be able to be the care taker of my parent’s vehicles and the love I have for them and their vehicles.

