

DIABLO A's MODEL OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2021

LEWIS & JANE RIPSTEEN'S 1931 Slant Window Town Sedan (160-B)

The car was purchased approx. 5 years ago and was trailered home from Nevada. It appeared to be a west coast body off restoration with no visible rust. It had original exterior hardware that was easily restorable. Since this is not a fine point car, due to touring modifications, many issues were discovered as I got further into detailed inspections of the prior restoration. The engine with Brumfield head, steering gear and distributor eventually needed rebuilding. Stainless repair and polishing with my 10" buffers, as well as installing a new radiator, water pump, V8 clutch, light flywheel, refurbished Marvel carb, and front and rear springs from A Springs were accomplished over a 2-year period. The car has an adjustable drag link with shortened pitman arm. New tires and tubes were installed as well as paint refresh / detailing in some areas. The late nodular cast iron Model A brakes were in great shape needing only adjustments. One of the most challenging processes was to re-align the doors and hood since the car was painted, adjusting / modifying the side mount brackets to prevent rattles, and inspecting and /or replacing and tightening all visible nuts and bolts, especially the front suspension. Even the front perch nuts were loose! An incorrect wishbone mount was replaced with the stock style to return the front end to the specified caster range.

The Bedford Cord interior installed by the prior owner, though not the correct pattern for the 160B models, was a custom job (not kit) that appeared to match the 1930 deluxe cars. It was in good shape and needed detailing of the seats and side panels including some cleaning and steaming. The interior garnish moldings were refinished with a unique combination of burl and mahogany grain, though I instructed the graining company to use the original period graining for the 160B. I've since corrected some imperfections with color matching and clear coating, learning the process as that progressed. Interior sun visors were missing, so some were fabricated and painted to match the taupe/ beige headliner. I have been searching for close matching fabric to cover the visors ever since purchase! Before their demise, I had Le Baron Bonney make a front seat back pocket since the rear doors had no side pockets.

Some other features:

F150 4 speed transmission with OD installed in the 1990's ; newly installed rebuilt MGB Armstrong shocks all around with homemade brackets adapted to fit the A frame; '32 oil fill pipe, period trunk mfg. in Los Angeles which needed restoration and refinish; original Model A luggage rack; rare clamp in style (perhaps 32-24 period) wind wings, period accessory stop light , original Moto meter mech. temp. gauge; period style back up light and LED rear lamps with turn signals connected via a 12 volt system and 100 amp alternator. Bud vases and other period accessories came with the car but will not be installed.



