

MODEL A'S in WA

1928 AR Phaeton / Tudor

Original Engine Number: CA-2081

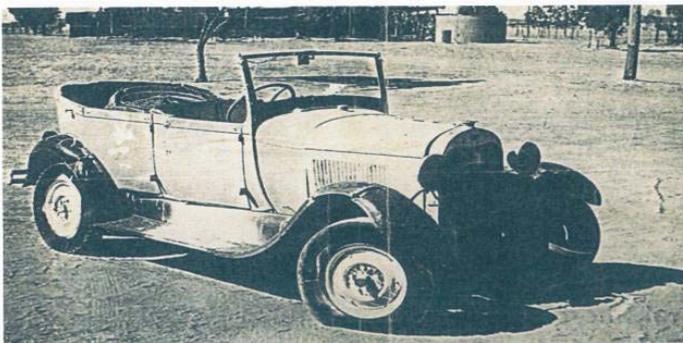
Replaced 2009, now CAA-60935

Owned and restored by Alan Smith

1961—

Body changed to Tudor 1989

(AR refers to the very first model with single rear brake shoes)



BEFORE

The Phaeton as purchased in 1961.



Alan and June Smith with their newly restored Phaeton, taken long before they changed to a Tudor in 1989.

Alan's family were pioneering farmers in the Wongan/Ballidu area moving there in 1924. They used horses for the first few seasons until they purchased a Fordson tractor. The tractor was not a success and they reverted to horses. At first, wheat was the only produce from the farm as the dingos were a problem if you ran sheep. It was the early 30s before the dingoes were under control and they were able to run sheep.

His father's first vehicle was a T Model truck and the family of six would drive into town, with the children on the back, as only two could fit in the front. The nearest siding for produce was Elphin, a journey of 13 miles. Their shopping was done in Wongan, 19 miles from home. Their first car was a second hand Overland.

Alan was always interested in mechanical things and several years later when it came time to have a bigger tractor, he built one himself. He used two Leyland Hippo truck diffs and its gear box but the engine out of a Leyland 680. The tractor was used on their farm for about ten years but not without a few problems! Today this tractor is restored and on display at Whiteman Park.



Alan's created tractor "Lana" with his wife June admiring his handiwork. (June created the name from the letters in Alan's name.)

In about 1961 a neighbouring farmer had a 1928 Model A Phaeton for sale. It was blue and complete but not driveable. It was purchased for 60 pounds. Alan has neither knowledge of its previous history nor how long his neighbour owned it.

Very soon after purchase Alan started the restoration. The woodwork had to be completely redone. Alan did most of the body work himself but was helped by a local friend. When purchased it had later model wheels but an original set came with the vehicle. The painting was also done by Alan.



Alan and his wife June joined the Model A Restorers Club in the first year it was started (1980) but because of the distance from Perth they were unable to come to the meetings or outings.

Once they retired and moved to Marmion, north of Perth, they became regular participants in our outings. It wasn't long before they decided that a closed car would be more comfortable and drier on wet days. So in November 1989 they purchased an original Tudor body from East Coast Autos. It was left hand drive so had to be converted. The Phaeton body was removed and sold to club member Reg Blewett for his son-in-law. The fuel tank, steering and other bits to convert it were swapped over. This time Alan had the body work and paint done professionally. He chose a Falcon colour which is Hermitage Red.

Sadly, June passed on 4th August 2005.



Tudor body from East Coast Autos.



Tudor being repaired and painted

Since the Marmion body change Alan and his Tudor have been regular Club participants as well as organising a monthly run annually. The Tudor has proved very reliable except for a broken rear axle on a club run a few years back. An RAC recovery truck carried the Tudor to Reg Blewett's where repairs were done.

In 2009 the original motor from the Phaeton, now in the Tudor, cracked and was not able to be repaired so a second motor was taken to Ray Abbott for a complete rebuild.

Alan and his Tudor have attended several National Model A Meets, including both that have been staged in WA as well as two in the Eastern States. In 2006 he went to Bathurst, shipping the Tudor both ways. Two years later it was Adelaide when the Tudor was shipped across but driven back.

In 2010 Alan and Beryl shipped the Tudor to Melbourne ready for a third Eastern National Meet. This was held in Tasmania and staged in Launceston. Unfortunately, Beryl had a fall in Melbourne just prior to catching the ferry. The diagnosis was a broken ankle. Beryl and Alan crossed to Tasmania and stayed for the week's Rally but cut the holiday short and flew home once the Meet was over. They planned on touring the island after the Model A Rally and Beryl had planned on taking part in a Swimming Meet, also staged in Launceston. It took some time but Beryl has made a full recovery.

Alan and Beryl attend our Model A Club events regularly and are valued members. In all, Alan and his Phaeton/Tudor have been members of our club for thirty years.

Scribe –Alan Jeffree May 2011



Alan and Beryl with the Tudor at their Retirement Village and on a recent club run.