

MODEL A'S in WA
1928 AR Phaeton
Engine Number: CA 47869
Owned and restored by Dennis Turner
1970—2006
Sold to Jeff and Nam Perret 2006



The following information was obtained from a telephone conversation with Dennis Turner, who lives in Kalgoorlie.

Dennis traced the history of his Phaeton to somewhere on the Nullarbor. He couldn't find out a location but it was brought in from there by a guy who lived in Kalgoorlie. It was dismantled but never worked on and that is how Dennis purchased it in about 1970.

Dennis, who still lives in Kalgoorlie, then started the long process of restoration. Over time he accumulated the remains of another six or seven Model As, all in various stages of disrepair. The completed Phaeton was made up of the best bits from this collection. However, the Nullarbor Phaeton proved to have the best bits so the completed car is quite original.

The restoration took eight years. Dennis, being a mechanic, could do all of the mechanicals himself. He did have the motor done by a local but he was never happy with it. Some time later he was put onto a young New Zealand guy in Perth who redid it with Dennis's instructions. This young fellow later moved to the Eastern States and in more recent times Dennis has arranged for a friend to send his Model A engine to him as he was so impressed with his work.

Dennis did all of the body work and paint himself. The upholstery was the only work he farmed out.

The restoration was completed in time for the VCC of WA's 1979 Rally West. He tells me that Ray and Toni Mahony, who also were living in Kalgoorlie, completed their 1929 Phaeton at the same time. Both cars were entered into Rally West but Ray couldn't get time off so Toni drove the Rally without Ray. She was accompanied by two or three girl friends.

Dennis sold the Phaeton to Jeff and Nam Perret in 2006. In the twenty seven years of driving the Model A, Dennis clocked up 36,000 miles. It did two Rally Wests, several Mandurah Rallies and visited Esperance many times.

When Dennis was a young lad his father owned a good second hand Model A as their everyday vehicle. I guess those days were the days he enjoyed and remembers, hence his restoration of a Model A in later years.

From the telephone conversation with Dennis I detected there is still a soft spot for the Model A. He continues his historical vehicle love and currently owns an MG and several old motor bikes, his oldest being a 1936 BSA, still in original useable condition.

Thanks for the time we spent on the phone Dennis. Thirty six years of your Phaeton's history is now recorded in history!

Scribe Alan Jeffree

May 2011

The story of Jeff and Nam Perret's ownership was printed in *Western Model a News* Volume 31 Issue 4, November 2010.



Above: Ray and Toni Mahony's 1929 Phaeton lined up and ready to go on the run to Hurij's on Sunday 18 September 2011.

Right: Model A's and moderns lined up at the front of Hurij's home.

