

*MODEL A'S in WA*  
*1928 Phaeton*  
*Restored and owned by*  
*Colin MacKinnon*  
*1968—1974*  
*Sold 1974 -*  
*Currently owned by Noel and Jenny Broun*

**MODEL A STORIES FILE**

As you all know we are working on obtaining the story behind every Model A in WA. It is uncanny how stories evolve. Some months ago a gentleman by the name of Colin MacKinnon phoned Pat Bussard at to ask if anyone in our club could advise him on how to clean out a petrol tank. He had his original 1975 XB Falcon ute to repair. *(I remembered meeting him at the start of a run some years ago and sending him a copy of the newsletter with an invitation to join the club. We had quite a long conversation and I suggested he contact Alan Jeffree for advice - but not during an Eagles game!)*

Some time later Pat gave me his phone number and Colin and I had a conversation re the tank but much to my surprise we spent time talking about A Models. Colin restored a 1929 Phaeton over five years and completed it in 1973.

Colin was a good friend of John and Ivy McLean. John and Ivy were members of the Model A Restorers Club of WA, and restored a Model A Roadster which is now owned by Gary and Kym Knight (Greg and Jill Axford).

I informed Colin of our project and the very next day he emailed me his story which now follows.

Alan Jeffree *(and Pat Bussard)*

**Colin MacKinnon's 1928 PHAETON STORY**



Purchased 1968

Vendor - Unable to recall name other than first- John ? a young mechanic. \* *see bottom of page 7.*

Restoration period - 1968-1973

Sold 1974

Buyer Architectural Designer –Kalamunda

**Sundry Recollections - Colin MacKinnon**

Due to my work for many years in the bush many of the parts were obtained there during the parts collecting period, with parts being mostly free. The following sample responses, some overheard, others said to me many times, will explain the situation at the time. Wife to husband: “Hurry up and give him the rubbish before he changes his mind.” On arriving at a farm house and finding the boss not home, the lady of the house saying, “You are too late, mate, he drove it to the tip” At that time Australia was still riding on the sheep’s back and these flash new cars were coming on the market, and A Models and others of similar vintage were being disposed of.

I recall being on a farm near Collie to hopefully obtain parts I was told were there. On the way to see these the farmer told me he had to pick up a ram on the way back. He was driving a Dodge car that looked new to me so I expected we were going back in a ute. This Dodge car it turned out had a removable back seat and the ram was in the back on the way to the steading. Not only did I enjoy collecting parts, the whole experience had been fun. The eventual result of having surplus parts required the purchaser to hire a truck to take them to his place. I did not wish to hang on to them knowing someone would want them, and I did not want something I no longer needed taking up a shed.

Back to the A Model Phaeton. While looking for parts I saw an A Model parked at the MWS&DD works yard on Kew St. Welshpool. I stuck a note on the steering wheel: *Looking for parts* with my name and telephone no. The owner phoned that evening telling me he had parts. On enquiring about parts available he responded with: "You can drive it away!" and admitting he had enough of car restoration. On getting the car to my place, within a week I had stripped it down to the chassis and started a thorough restoration from scratch. As the car was partly restored this gave me a good start. Due to my having a comprehensive range and options of parts, the car was restored to a high standard. I have to admit to being reminded from time to time of my father's advice I often heard, "Boy, never start something you can't finish."

Other challenges crossed my path and the decision was made to sell the car (1974).

For some family reason, the new owner contacted me advising he was having to sell the car and giving me first option of purchase. By that time I had moved on to other challenges and reluctantly declined the offer. The A Model was sold again not long after I sold it, perhaps 1-2 years later but I'm not certain of that. I was to learn later it was purchased by N F Broun, at that time farming in the Shire of Coorow.

I continued being involved at that time with contracts in the country and had to go north on some business I can't now recall, and decided to call at Noel's farm. Meeting him turned out to be the most incredible coincidence. I had been driving my 1975 XB Ford Falcon 500 ute (I still use it) for three hours and reached the road end where I decided the farm was. This was then at the end of the five mile stretch of sealed road west of the Town of Coorow heading for Brand Hwy. Before I turned on to the gravel I stopped for an oncoming car to make sure I was on the right track, and he turned on to the same road. This was Noel, and he had driven, if memory serves, from the S/West. This is my recollection. What I do remember is him telling me he had bought a house at Lesmurdie to garage the A Model due to problems with the gravel roads in the district and he would have more use of it in the city.

If you are able to contact Noel Broun he may be able to correct any of my recollections that may be inaccurate. I do know there are Brouns still in the Coorow district.

Should you find bits and pieces of this pot-pourri of a yarn any help for your proposed records of the WA Ford A models you are welcome to make use of it to edit in your own format.

**Back to AJ:** Since talking with Colin I have spoken to Noel Broun and sent him a copy of this story. Noel does still own the Phaeton and still farms out of Coorow. I have asked Noel if one day he can write his part of this vehicle's story.

A final word – Colin would like to buy the Phaeton back if it became available!! (*I asked if he would be interested in purchasing another Phaeton, and he replied he would consider this. Anyone wishing to sell a Phaeton might contact Colin through Alan J or Pat Bussard.*)

Scribe for the pre amble and this concluding section.

Alan Jeffree

### **But Colin had more to say!**

Working in the back shed early this morning (with my hands on a 1964 XF Falcon Engine) but apparently having A Model in my head, I had an unexpected memory recall. I realised one of my close friends worked at the Kew St works depot (MWS&DB) where I saw the A Model parked. I thought it worth a shot to give him a call to see if he knew the man John from whom I bought the car parked there. Vince, being a mechanic at that depot said the owner previous to me was John Baker. I had no contact with John following the purchase of the partially restored car.