

The Bus Line

Keeping Up with the Bus!



A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO THE RESTORATION OF A 1931 MODEL A FORD PASSENGER BUS

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The Bus Project is finally rolling. It is an exciting and wonderful project and we are going to need all Model A'ers to assist and help out. This is the first issue of a newsletter with the purpose of keeping all Model A'ers informed who have an interest in seeing this project to a successful conclusion. This will be an electronic news letter only, and will be sent out when bus project news becomes available.

The Project Goal: The Goal of this project is to fully restore a 1931 Adult Passenger Bus (the same as the one in Greenfield Village) to be used at the Gilmore to give rides to visitors around the Gilmore Campus!

- Currently we are in the planning stages of putting together a program to start the project and to get a working plan in place. Here is what is going on right now:
- A chassis is being assembled so we can lift the body off the original chassis and pull it out from under the body and place it on a this extra chassis. The original chassis will expose the original engine number to be used on the rebuilt engine.
- A late 31 Model A Engine is being restored by Antique Engine Rebuilders and is waiting for the Engine number to be found, hopefully, on the original chassis.
- A raffle is being planned with the prize being a trip to California to visit the Jay Leno Collection and Museum. This looks to be one of our biggest fund raising activities with more fund raisers to be coming along.
- We are preparing an announcement article in each of the Model A Magazines, *The Restorer* and the *Model A News*.

Many Donations are already spoken for so we must thank our Donors for their great generosity and support!

Please support our donors by buying their products or services

Donor List:

Chassis Rebuild - Don Temple

Parts to rebuild the chassis - Jeff Kichline of Bratton's Antique Auto Parts

Wood for the roof - Larry Wallace

Wood for the Floor - Russ Moss

Engine rebuild - Anitique Engine Rebuilders - Richard Falluca

Plating - Terry Meeks of Custom Plating

Window Glass - Phred Hollister of Herb's Glass and Trim Paint - PPG Automotive Paint

Body shop supplies - Jeff Molik of PPG - Advance Auto Parts.

Carburetor - Richard Hanson.

Radiator - Tim Dundedale of Revcore Radiator, Inc.

Woodgrain Interior - Dan and Ron Hedges

The excitement and cooperation from all who learn about the bus project has been inspiring. When people learn about the Bus they ask "How can we help"?

So many people have stepped up already with many more to come as the word gets out.

Where did the bus come from?

It was owned by Lee Roy Hartung of Glenview, Illinois who had it stored in his barn since the 1960's.

After Lee Roy passed away Ken Ehrenhofer purchased it at an auction.

Ken has donated the bus to the Model A Ford Foundation and they will loan it to the Gilmore Museum - not to be displayed but to serve as a working bus to give rides to visitors to the Museum. The inspiration to do this comes from the Greenfield Village bus (the same type bus) which gives rides to visitors on a daily basis during the summer season.

What has been going on? The first thing we needed to do was to build a chassis so we could remove the bus body and put it on a rolling chassis so we could move it around. The next thing



that was to be accomplished was to get an engine block that was a late 31 and OK to rebuild. Bill Aupperle donated a late engine block and it was given to Rich Falluca of Antique Engine Rebuilders for a complete rebuild. Next, the Bus Body needed to be lifted to be able to see the engine number on the frame. This was accomplished



by the group I refer to as the “Bus Boys.” This is a group of volunteers who stop by my barn in Woodstock and are interested in helping with the bus project. The lift was accomplished by using 4 hydraulic jacks and two square crossbars to do the difficult lifting part of the job.

Upon raising the body it was possible to see the original number on the frame. The Illinois State Police were then called in to do an inspection and the engine number was stamped onto the rebuilt block. The number happens to be from the September 1931 time frame. This brings the bus back to having matching numbers and we were then ready to remove the chassis from under the bus body.

It was easy to push the chassis forward while the extra chassis was pushed underneath and the body lowered onto it.

The bus body is now sitting on a rolling chassis and the original bus chassis is ready to go to Don Temple for restoration.

So you can see a lot is going on at the Forty Horse Farm and the Bus Boys have been really busy. This is a huge task. Watch for our upcoming raffle where two lucky winners are going to win a trip to visit the Jay Leno Collection.



Here is a photo of Tim Stegenga and Ron Ehrenhofer posing to look like they are lifting the body. Look closely and you can see the jacks under the body LOL!

Any questions regarding the bus project please call Ken Ehrenhofer 630-697-3906 or Email at kehrenhofer@msn.com