

Jensen's Pickup

This pickup project actually started out in 1987 with my oldest son with the purchase of this pickup in San Luis Obispo California. A friend of mine had seen it at the Turlock swap meet and thought that it was restorable. So on his recommendation we made the trip to Southern California. If the price hadn't been right and the fact that we had driven 800 miles, I would have walked away from what was a basket case of "junk" that was a collection of 28 to 31 parts, with little restorable foundation of sheet metal or mechanical parts.



I decided to bring it home knowing that I did have a good late '31 chassis that had been under a 31 slant windshield sedan that we could use for the chassis. Then about 6 months later we ran across another 31 Budd Cab pickup in Carson City that



was all together and running, so this project was basically placed in the back of the garage for 25 years. We have kept that "other" pickup in its unrestored condition since it was mechanically sound, but obviously a good photo op for the Grapes of Wrath.

It was in 2006 that my youngest son approached me on the possibility of restoring the "junk" truck to upstage his older brother's pickup. Without my son's encouragement and labor, this truck would still be a candidate for the scrap yard.

I have to give credit to Snyder's and Bratton's for providing the needed patch panels and sub floor and some credit to my limited ability to use an acetylene torch, spot welder, bulls eye hammer, file and hammer including something called "bondo", we were over the span of about 5 years able to retrieve this truck to its present condition. It will never place in a judging contest, but is a road worthy Model capable of touring with the best of them.



This will be the last restoration project that I will attempt. For one-half the money I spent (and not to mention the time), we could have found a restored pickup in better condition.



But then I would never have been able to spend all the hours with my youngest son and have the pride of having this little Maroon Pickup parked in the garage next to my '31 Tudor, '30 coupe, and the "Other" 31 pickup.



Rick and Jim Jensen
verdirick1@gmail.com