



The Beginning of the Story of a Model A Bus by Ken Ehrenhofer

I have known about this bus for many years, but never did I think I would ever get a chance to own it!

Lee Roy Hartung owned many Model A's, but this one caught my eye so I thought, how cool it would be to own a Model A Bus and take the whole family for a ride in it!

In 2011, Lee Roy passed away and I went to look at the Auction on display. A great collection of history was displayed before our eyes. Lee Roy was a great collector of all things including bicycles, license plates, motorcycles, old cars, world fair collectibles, and Model A Fords, of course!

I went home and told my wife I could possibly bid on a Model A Bus, and she said, "Go ahead"! I almost fell off my chair and immediately went to the bank to make arrangements. Lots of Model A's were being sold and the prices were very high; so, I thought it would immediately go out of my price range. Luckily and to my surprise there were only two of us bidding and I won the bid at \$4500 and \$5300

out the door as they say, including taxes. I could not have been happier as I now owned a bus that I have been watching for over 40 years. Hiring a flat bed to get it home worked well as the rear tires were frozen because the barn flooded every time there was a heavy rain.

I owned it for several years and Tim Stegenga jumped on it and replaced a broken rear main leaf spring, the rear backing plates and all of the brakes and wheels on the rear as they were completely rusted away. Thanks to Tim, we drove it out of my barn in 2015 in front of a big crowd of people attending our Model A and T Parts swap held each year on my front lawn. It was exciting as the dirt and rust was flying around with people riding in the bus! My driveway is big enough to do circles and give rides.

After owning it and enjoying driving it, I was in my middle seventies and wondered what am I going to do with the bus now! I knew I could not afford to restore it, so I thought about the sister bus in Greenfield Village at the Henry Ford Museum. This green bus gives rides daily in Greenfield Village to visitors. In fact, in 2019

it gave rides to 37,000 visitors and I thought this was a wonderful thing to do! This brought me to the idea of donating the bus to our fantastic Model A Museum, with the intent of using it to give rides to visitors of the world famous Gilmore Museum. A great idea but it needed a full restoration, so we developed a plan. First of all, we asked for donations of a rebuilt engine and then we found a Model A Club willing to rebuild the chassis, so if we could get a lot of help and money of course, we could actually do the restoration, counting on our Model A family to step up and help out to complete this crazy restoration project....well, it sounded like a good idea, but will they step up and support....all we could do was try and see what happened!

The donations started coming in and everyone seemed to like the idea. People asked how they could help and said they wished they lived closer so they could help us. We started to sell T and sweatshirts to help raise money! Tim Stegenga, who is a good friend of Jay Leno arranged for us to have a raffle of two airline tickets to visit with Jay Leno. This helped us raise money to get the project going and we were on our way!

I was looking for someone to help restore the chassis. I called Don Temple from North Carolina and Grier Fleischhauer, and they agreed to restore the entire chassis. The Coastal Carolina A's stepped up and provided the labor to get this job done. In about one year, they were ready for us to pick up a completely restored long wheelbase 157" chassis. They kicked the project into high gear with this fast turnaround and we went down to attend a great cookout party and pick up a restored chassis.

This was the beginning of our bus project, and this will give us an opportunity to thank all the people who have worked on, or donated parts and money to this wonderful project. The completion of this great project is a tribute to all of these who participated whether it be by working or donating parts and or services or by donating money to pay for all this effort.

The body, floor, windows and hood and all other parts were restored in my shop, the Forty Horse Farm, and included many other people to thank for all their effort. Please review the list of work done by many contributors in another section of this booklet.



Our appreciation for all of these donations from so many people cannot be mentioned enough. Without these donations the bus project would have fizzled out in a few months.... I can only say **THANKS** from the bottom of my heart.

We have not included a list of monetary donations as this would be difficult to complete. We must thank all donors as without all of you the bus would not have been completed.

Thanks to all!

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED! WHETHER YOUR DONATION WAS SMALL OR LARGE YOU ARE PART OF THIS HUGE TASK!

If you do not see your name on this list, please let me know and I will add you as I want this list to be complete as possible.

Many people have helped restore the 1931 AA Ford Bus and here is a list of some of the workers and donors involved. We want to say Thanks to everyone from the bottom of our hearts as without all of you this could not have been accomplished. Let us celebrate this great accomplishment together and enjoy the vision of visitors to Gilmore going for a ride in our bus and maybe encouraging more young people to participate in our great old car hobby.

The Barn Crew – The group that hangs out at the Forty Horse Farm and started the Restoration of the bus!

Ron Ehrenhofer	Ken Ehrenhofer	Bill Byrne
Tim Stegenga	Ken Kalck	Jan Wyckoff
Wayne Stanek	Chris Prodzinski	
Tyler Prodzinski	Gene Levin	
Nick Clancy	Steve James (Deceased)	
Mark Widmer (Deceased)	Mark Maron	

Bratton's Antique Auto Parts – Walt Bratton and Family donated all the parts needed to restore the AA chassis! Walt Bratton, Jeff and Debbie Kichline

Snyder's Antique Auto Parts – Don Snyder helped in many ways. He donated aV-8 Clutch and 34 seat springs! Don Snyder

The Coastal Carolina A's – The group that restored the complete Chassis for the bus!

Norman Davenport	Richard Farrow
Grier Fleischhauer	Joe Gehres
Mike Morton	Bob Reid
Randall Riggs	Larry Rucker (Steering Wheel restoration)
Don Temple (Don was team Leader)	
Judy Temple (Judy was Promotional Sales)	
Wayne & Vivian Koga (Vivian was photographer)	

CPS – Coachcraft and Precision Services – The restoration shop that did all the sheet metal work and seat upholstery. Bob Lederer, Sam Waltermier, Vince Fracassi, Master Sheet Metal Fabricators and John Revilla and Joe Rincon, Upholstery Shop.

Berg's Radiator – A donation of an AA radiator for the bus project! Gary Bergbower.

The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village – The inspiration for the donation of the bus came from the Village as they use the same bus to give rides to visitors. They also loaned us two bus seats and many other parts that we were missing so we could duplicate them. Without this help we would not have been able to complete our bus. Ken Kennedy, Gordy Williams, and Jacob Gullet.

Moss Designs – The group that cut trees down, kiln dried them and made a new floor and many wood parts for the bus! Russ and Phyllis Moss, Jerry and Mary Braasch

Herbs Glass and Trim – the group that cut all the window glass. - Phred Hollister

Octavia Tool – our go to machine shop and great friend for all things needed, especially known for the windshield frame and many other jobs too numerous to mention! - Larry Rust

The Naper A's MAFCA – From Naperville Illinois, this group volunteered every Tuesday and more days near the end, they were instrumental in sanding and prepping the walls for paint and lifting the walls into position. All we needed to do was to make sure we had donuts, and they were there to get the job done. Without their help we would not have finished this year. We are here today because this group stepped up and helped in so many ways!

Lindy Williams	Gene Egert
Alan Petrik	Jim Weaver
Jim Stulga	Rich Volkmer
Ray McMahon	Ken Jagodzinski
Ken Fischer	Paul Herbert
David Orseske	Bob Verrando
Jerry Rigatos	David Skinner
Bob Fields	Dan Manola

The Illinois Region MARC –

Roger Halverson	Dan Manola	Randy Yockey
Dan Pritchett	Reed Lesiak	
Jack Scambler	Don Morman	
Mike Kochevar	Jim Nierman	
Mike Dennis	Jim Stockinger	
Andy Stockinger	Jim Dooley	
Wally Wiesner	Larry Brandel	

The Man from Milwaukee – Every Tuesday the Man from Milwaukee would help in any way he could. He took on tasks that were very difficult, from finding a company to make the wall mirrors to getting them cut and beveled. He is also responsible for the electric step which will help the elderly enjoy their ride on the bus. - Lee Paulus

The Michigan Connection – Stuart traveled from Warren Michigan and stayed a few days each time to help in any way he could, so he is in competition with Larry Wallace and Steve Burton and Vince Falter for the Longest Distance Award! - Stuart and Kimmie Krueger. A Michigander who also traveled to Woodstock to help and support the bus project and he is part of the Michigan connection. – Vince Falter

The Wood Man – Experts in wood working are not easy to find and this great woodworker helped when ever we had a real challenge in the wood area. Mainly responsible for making the wood in the front doors, he figured out how to make these most difficult pieces so the project could finish on time. - Bob Jackowiack

The Roof Crew – This group took on a most difficult challenge and did it with real class. The roof wood was old and falling apart but they duplicated it exactly and traveled to Woodstock to install it. A key factor again in getting the job done. They purchased special wood working tools for finger jointing. They were instrumental in getting the roof back on the bus! - Larry Wallace, Steve Burton Larry Sills (Deceased)

Custom Plating Specialists – Donated all the plating on the bus - Terry Meeks

Advance auto Parts and PPG – As a PPG dealer Advance Auto Parts donated all the paint and supplies needed to restore the finish on the bus. This included primers, paints, sandpaper body fillers etc. Vanessa Schoepfer and Savanna.

Coker Tire - Thanks for a reduced rate for new tires, tubes, and valve stems.

Woodgraining – Woodgrain Specialists - Dan and Ron Hedges, a father and son team who did the complete interior in wood grain.

Aoogah Horn – Tom Conley, Jim Diehl. Tom Donated a horn and Jim restored it to new condition.

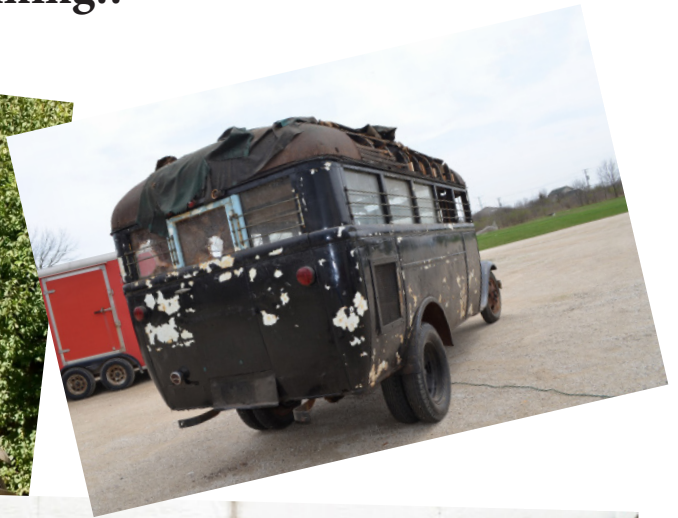
Top Material – Eric Haartz, Eric donated the top material.

Cassin Custom Upholstery – Installed the top and the headliner and helped in many ways. Shane Cassin

Carburetor – This was a donation of a late 1931 Side Bowl Carburetor completely rebuilt to show quality from one of the best carburetor guys in the business – Richard Hanson

General Kinematics – Volunteered to bend the rear bumper and duplicate the bumper borrowed from The Henry Ford Museum Bus. Paul also bent the front bumper center bar, made parts for the seats, and helped in many ways. Paul Maschoot.

The Beginning!!



Restoration Has Begun!













THANK YOU again, to all the Bus Boys and Bus Girls. This project couldn't have been done without you!!!