

TIMES REMEMBERED

By George and Annabelle Pope

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The year was 1958, and the Model A Ford Club of America was in its early formation. The Pope family had just joined MAFCA and moved to Central California. We owned a 1931 Deluxe Coupe with rumble seat. We soon discovered the coupe was not the car for a family of four. While on a Sunday outing to Sequoia National Park, we stopped at the "Mountain Home" store for refreshments. The store owner was selling a 1930 Town Sedan. The car was unrestored with a black paint job and army blanket upholstery instead of Mohair upholstery. It was only missing a horn. The owner stated that the engine ran like a clock. The family decided it was a good car and all would be more comfortable than in the coupe. The price of the car was \$200, as is.

Now carrying around \$200 cash was unheard of at that time. A friend was along and he loaned us \$25.00 for a deposit to hold the car. Returning the next weekend with the remainder of the funds and checking out more details of the car, like a short trip on the mountain roads, we headed home. The owner had found the horn while we were on the test drive. The trip home was a 100-mile white-knuckle ride. Once home, most of the strange noises from the car were eliminated by a good grease job. Our first outing was the big Model A Meet at Edwards Air Force Base, traveling with the Bakersfield Chapter as security. There were no problems. When we moved to Pomona two years later, the car was completely disassembled and restoration was finished in 1965.

The sedan was painted maroon and reupholstered with grey mohair. The engine was untouched. From this point on, the Sedan made many long distance tours throughout the United States and Canada. The Sedan made the trip to the 1968 National Meet in Dallas and the 1972 National Meet in Seattle and then across Canada.

The Popes moved several times over the years, finally returning to Central California. 50 years later on a Charter Oak A's Chapter tour, a stop was made at the Mountain Home store for refreshments. The Sedan had returned for a visit. The original owner had passed away many years before but "Mountain Home" had changed little. Our thoughts went back to the day the Sedan was driven home and actually made it home.

The Popes are a "little bit" older now but are still active in the Model A Club and the Charter Oak A's. "Old Red", as it was nicknamed by a member of the Pomona Chapter, still is a favorite for touring. The engine still performs like a clock, however the "ticking sounds" are getting very loud of late. Our Model A stable has grown to four, but the Sedan is the garage "Queen."

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