

THE REAL REASON MY MODEL A ACTED UP

Do we really think our cars don't get jealous?

BY LYNN SONDENAA

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, was a beautiful, sunny day. So when my friend Stan Symank needed help to attach the female door dovetails into his Slant Window sedan, I decided to drive my Victoria to Newberg. That way we'd have a live model to look at if we needed a visual. But I'd forgotten that Model A's have personalities.

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I parked my Victoria in front of the shop bay where Stan's Slant Window was parked. The Model A's could see each other. I bragged to Stan how well my Victoria had run during my hour-and-forty-five minute trip to his house.

WE WORKED ON HIS CAR for two to three hours. I got ready to return home. My Victoria fired right up and off I went ... for 200 yards as it slowly lost power and died. Great. Here we go again!

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It would not start, so I began to diagnose why. It had electricity and good voltage to all the electrical parts. I pulled off the carburetor and checked the gas flow, which was fine.

Then I took the carb apart, minus the jets that needed the special wrench.

THE ENGINE STARTED, and off I went ... as far as the northeast side of Newberg, where it started to cough and sputter.

I opened the GAV three turns, and my Victoria started to run well enough to get me home.



THERE ARE TWO MORALS to this story: Do not let your Model A see you working on another Model A, as they get jealous. Second, don't brag about how well your Model A runs, as they are like a teenager and just want to prove you wrong!

WHEN I WAS HOME, I had the correct tools to take apart the carburetor.

What I found was a crack halfway around the bottom of the cap jet. This is why the three turns of the GAV knob kept the car running. It supplied the necessary fuel that the carburetor wanted. That's the official diagnosis.

But in truth, my Victoria was mad at me — just not quite mad enough to be placed on a trailer. ☹



Lynn Sondenaar of Sandy, Oregon, purchased his first Model A while in the 7th grade. He and his wife, Patty, are members of the Beaver Model A Club of Portland, Oregon, and own a 1929 Roadster Pickup and a November 1930 Victoria.

