

WE'VE OFTEN BROUGHT YOU POST-war pickups in *Classic American*, but rarely one as immediately post-war as Bob Luxford's 1946 half-ton example. Often nicknamed the 'jailbar' due to its vertical grille slats, in this case Bob's jailbar grille is conspicuous by its absence due to the fact this was the way it was when he bought it and he hasn't yet got around to re-fitting them, making for a menacing front-end!

Bob, from Hersham in Surrey, found the cool old hauler on the Internet, on the H.A.M.B. (to be precise H.A.M.B. stands for 'Hokey Ass Message Board',) the main international message forum for devotees of traditional style hot rods and customs. It was advertised by a seller in Spokane, Washington, but unfortunately sold before Bob could secure it. However due to bad weather in the USA, the buyer was unable to get to Spokane to complete the sale and bowed out. Bob received another e-mail from the seller later asking if he was still interested, which he was.

Bob immediately contacted import company Golden Chariots to collect the truck and arrange shipping since GCI also have a payment facility where they will broker the actual purchase of the vehicle, as well as shipping it. The Pick-up was trucked down the West Coast to LA, before being loaded into a container for shipping to the UK. The whole process took seven weeks door-to-door and once it had arrived at Chatham Docks, Bob was pleased to find it was exactly as described and also had a pick-up bed full of spare parts! Once some turn signals had been installed and the handbrake fixed the truck was ready for MOT and registration.

As you can see the paintwork has weathered nicely to a cool old primer-patina that Bob loves, as do many of his hot rodding mates, though he still gets plenty of folk 'who don't get it' asking what colour he intends to paint it! Although the body looks rough to the un-initiated, it's actually very solid and the cab is completely rust free,

1946 Ford Pick-up Bob Luxford, Hersham, Surrey

Rough'n'ready is the current vogue for old trucks like Bob's



FORD

amazing for a 60+ year old commercial vehicle the Ford only really needed a small bit of welding on one rear fender on arrival.

These trucks were the first Ford vehicles to run an open drive prop in place of the old torque-tube set-up, (the passenger cars followed a few years later) and as such the transmission rear yolk were sought out by early

hot rodders to convert their rods. At the front the original axle has been dropped by Mor-drop, again an early hot rod trick by one of the original companies that made the modification popular.

Under the hood is a stock 239cu. in. Flathead motor with a three-speed floor shift. The truck was advertised as being a bit smoky, so Bob removed the engine and treated it to a new set of rings and big-end bearings. While the engine was out Bob also painted the block with some navy blue Hammerite he had on the shelf, only to find out that it was the correct colour that it should have been! Bob's since enjoyed driving the truck over the past summer, but knowing him it may well have been moved on, especially now he's got the hang of this importing lark!



Interior is sparse; but there is a heater!

