

# “The Saga Of Burnie”

By Phil Kneeland

*I have a* unique story of a unique "Model A" purchase, that our President, Jason Deisman" made a few months back. Our chapter is The Charter Oak Model A Club of Visalia, Ca. Jason deals in all sorts of Model A's and T's; buys and sells cars, parts, etc.

Well, he read about a recent find up in the Santa Cruz, CA. hills after their big forest fire wiped out a vast portion (280,000 acres) of those hillsides.

This particular advertisement highlighted a “1931 Phaeton” (with an accompanying photo) that had the misfortune of being in the path of the fast-moving Santa Cruz forest blaze. As we've learned this Phaeton was in pristine condition, stored inside and babied by it's owner. It had a permanent place in the lower garage of a beautiful home. It was housed with several beautiful restored cars, as I understand. But, the fire wiped out everything. It not only burned the car but, to add-insult-to-injury, the upper story of the home collapsed on top of our “Burnie the Phaeton”.

**Our Chapter President**, Jason owns a unique 1931 Phaeton, not restored but a "unique driver".



President Jason Deisman's "Unique 1931 Phaeton Driver"



**So, being** the owner of one 1931 Phaeton, Jason thought it might be fun to own another Phaeton that was not in too great of shape.

Jason contacted the advertiser and found that it was for sale, "for a not to steep a price", and delivery was included. Jason being the character he is made arrangements to purchase and have "Burnie-The Car-B-Que", delivered to Visalia.



Burnie The "Car-B-Que"

**When it arrived** he had it delivered to a friends place that had some room to store such an item. We unloaded it onto his car trailer, in the terrible condition it was in (by the photo above I'm sure you can imagine). There probably was not more than 5 parts that were usable.....but that was not what Jason had in mind. (Remember our President is a "real character".)

**Now, Jason** paid good money for this "rusty relic" and hadn't really decided what to do with it (and was taking a lot of snide remarks, jabs, etc., for buying this wreck!)

Jason being that "character" decided that our Club needed some extra income and so he offered "Bernie" up for "Raffle". Jason is a real salesman and towed "Bernie" around to a couple of Swap Meets and found several "buyers" to purchase raffle tickets at \$20.00 a piece.

**Now his story was;** "You can use Bernie for Yard Art" ..... He ended up selling several hundred dollars worth of tickets and had the "Grand Drawing" in late spring.

The kicker to this whole story is that the winner wanted "Bernie for yard art"!



**He had it** delivered to his front yard; dug a pond around it; lined it with rocks and antique collectables; and topped it off with a nice recirculating waterfall.

Our President Jason donated the proceeds of the raffle to our Club and all were happy, when "everything was said-and-done"!!

**Big lesson learned!!!.....you can re-purpose old Model A Relics!!!!!!!**

*Phil Kneeland, Past Pres.*

**Charter Oak Model A Club**

**Visalia, Ca**

