

Hello John,

Nice to hear from you confirming our telephone conversation. Hope I can give you some needed information but I'm afraid the picture is still going to remain vague! I have the traditional "good news and bad news" - and the bad raises more questions than we may ever resolve!

Your unit was "final inspected" on June 29, 1939 and from the s/n you gave me on the phone (and sent along) that date was about as I expected. But (and when discussing Bantams, and Austins, too, for that matter - there frequently is a "but") -- your unit - as it originally left the Butler factory - was a Panel Truck! Not too surprising to find trucks and coupes turn into roadsters at some time in their existence but this is a first in a panel being reported as now sporting a station wagon body. With all the years that have passed and the nearly total interchangeability of components I guess one had to surface. But I do have one question which could have more than a little bearing on things: Is the present body a true wood station wagon body or a metal "wagon" with windows to the rear of the doors?? I hope you will confirm this as it could lead to another conclusion which I will then explain.

All Bantam engines and transmissions are completely interchangeable and the engines break down into just two types - two and three main bearing units. A ~~motor~~ produced in June of '39 and installed in a wagon should be of the two main bearing configuration. And a proper engine number should begin with 64--- which gives you quite a range. While engine numbers and s/n's did NOT match - an engine number in the 645-- range would be nearly ideal!

All two main engines were SAE rated at 7.8 HP and actual brake HP at 20 at 3900 RPM. The same engines, transmissions etc. used regardless of body style mounted.

There are no recommended "suitable substitutes" - although some enthusiasts have worked out "transplants" with other small components in the past. With a normal amount of luck you should be able to locate the Bantam equipment you need.

Good luck with your project - and please let me know if I may assist you further.

Cordially,

*George Doner*