

May 10, 1995

Hello John,

I trust the enclosed documents will be of assistance in your quest to have your vehicle correctly re-titled. Your name (in print - your letter) rang a bell and I checked filed correspondence. Sure enough - we discussed this unit four years ago. And you were kind enough to send along several poloroid prints of the 'lil fellow.

You do have an extremely rare ~~MINI~~ Bantam. Only one so designated "Utility Wagon" appears in the factory journal! Subsequent to that entry apparently all orders for that body style were filled by properly modifying panel trucks they had in factory stock. Maybe they had some orders for utility wagons, maybe they decided to produce some for distribution to their most active dealers/distributors -- maybe they just made up some when they had a little slack time on their hands. We will never know the total production of that body style but it must have been miniseule at best. Your unit is obviously not the original which appears in the journal - in fact it appears nine months later and about 2200 production units later. (Don't hold me to that figure because I've not taken the time to check numbers skipped or assigned to units shipped over-seas) Regardless - it is very much a vehicle worthy of restoration as an example of how the little Bantam company tried to tap into any segment of the market. A true case of "might have been."

Good luck with your project and please keep me informed of progress.

Oh yes - you may have wondered why you never saw an article relating to you and your exceptional "find" in the Club News. It is a long story but to boil it down - not all of us are as interested in historical accuracy as thee and me! Trophies and myths and glitter and fabrications have a very definate hold on so many. But the time will come when the truth (even with a few warts) will be appreciated and your jewel will find a proper setting. I assure you I want to help furnish that setting at the proper moment.

Write me if I can be of any other help.

Cordially,

*George*

P.S. I figured trying to explain "sta. wgn" and "utility wagon" to State clerks would only raise more questions (and if like Pa. you had to submit a photo) we could dodge around it with my explanation because the page copied did list both "sta. wgn" and "panels" (and your unit was listed as a panel I decided I had to come up with some explanation as to why a panel is now listed as a "Station Wagon" on their records! I hope it works for you!