



Founded in 1894 by the Woman's Book Club, the Everett Public Library has a long tradition of innovation. Everett was quick to take advantage of Andrew Carnegie's philanthropy, and opened a beautiful new building in 1905. In 1924, although the local economy was in rough shape, Everett became the second library on the West Coast to purchase a Model T Ford "Book Truck". We believe the name Pegasus (Greek Mythology the Flying Horse) came from a popular book of that time *Parnassus on Wheels* by Christopher Morley.

Records do not exist, but the common practice was to purchase a chassis from the Truck Division of Ford and then have the body built to specifications by a local coach maker. Pegasus was soon out on the muddy



Model T Ford (1924)

streets of Everett, visiting schools and people who were not able to get to the Library. In the words of Theresa Gemmer, present Head of the Library's Outreach Division: "Bookmobile Librarians are the Marines of library service. We do whatever it takes to get books to readers."

When Ford introduced the model A in 1928, Everett decided to upgrade. The Model T version - while much more attractive from an aesthetic point of view - was mechanically inferior to the heavier and more durable Model AA. The frame, wheels, and running gear were better able to handle the weight of a full load of books. As a result the body was removed and placed on a 1929 Model AA chassis. This rig served those who could not come to the library for the next 20 years.



Model A Ford (1945)

Then in 1950 the bookmobile driver resigned, and as was the practice at that time the Washington State Patrol provided both driving and vehicle

examinations. The driver designee went down to the office on Walnut, picked up the trooper and proceeded with the road test. It didn't go well. The driver was not skilled and the vehicle was in need of repairs. Legend has it that the mechanical turn signal arm actually fell off during the examination. At the conclusion of the road test, the trooper walked around the vehicle then turned to the would-be driver: "Madam. You and this vehicle are a menace, and I am taking both of you off the road." Shortly thereafter the bookmobile was sold at the City auction to Bob Koger for \$250.

Bob removed the bookshelves, and converted Pegasus to something resembling a pick-up/flatbed to haul gravel for the boathouse he was building on Smith Island. Story has it that the bookmobile was too high to clear the bridge over the Snohomish River, and that it was *modified* by some four inches. Koger sold Pegasus several years later to Allen W. Hansen who used it for odds and ends, including teaching his kids to drive. She was then "parked" for about 15 years. After learning of her existence in 1992, the Rotary Club of Everett donated \$1,500 for Pegasus and a set of tires.

Since then the project has been marked by a series of starts and stops - seemingly more stops than starts. The



Model A Ford pre-restoration project (1992)

major milestones are as follows:

Engine - Doug Oakes (the Library's *Computer Guy*) and Herb Matthews (long-time machinist for Everett Auto Parts) completely rebuilt the engine including new crank and pistons, cylinders bored, new valves and bearings - the works. At this point she is mechanically better than new because they did some special bearing work on the crank and camshaft that have been chronic problems for those engines.

Body, Phase I: The frame was stripped, sand blasted, and re-painted. Some body parts were cleaned up, some were replaced. The latter include new fenders, new shocks, new running boards, quarter panels, and running board supports. Brake shoes were re-surfaced. Ray Fugier from the City of Everett Motor Vehicle Department put Pegasus back together mechanically. Transmission was ok, clutch was rebuilt. The worm-gear

style rear end was shot, and a search turned up a 1930-31 hypoid style replacement.

Body, Phase II: Gary O'Leary from Dykeman Architects completed drawings of the coach in part by scaling old photos and in part by examining a 1929 Ford Mail Truck in the Museum of Flight. Larry Olson, a finish carpenter in the City of Everett Facilities Department, completely built the cab and coach from oak and marine plywood.

Body Phase III We are looking for someone to skin the coach and cab in sheet metal. Then a paint job and lettering "Everett Public Library" in a style and color typical of 1929.



Model A Ford mid-restoration project (2003)

Use When Complete - One side will be re-created as she would have been in 1929 - books, magazines from that era. The other side will be finished with components from a high-tech library of the 1990's complete with battery operated computer and a cell-phone connection to the Internet. A

small puppet theater will be fabricated around the rear door. Then she will be taken to schools, the mall, nursing homes (where we know some old-timers used her when they were kids.) She has been in several parades and has been a big hit.

Thanks to our special angels

- Rotary Club of Everett - for the initial purchase, and a set of tires
- Dave Lewis & Mic Heffron - did the initial dis-assembly, saving every part for either re-use or to use as a pattern.
- Friends of the Library - Currently \$200 in an account for the project
- Moon on A Model A Club - President Dale Campbell - available for technical advice, information on parts. In addition to his vast knowledge of the Model A, Dale Campbell was able to provide many parts that would otherwise have been difficult to find.
- Sunset Auto Body - painted the cowl/gas tank



Model A Ford driven in parade (2004)

- Stan's Collision - painted frame, primed fenders.
- Goldfinch - replaced windshield and driver's side window.
- Everett Steel - trimmed up a multitude of small angle brackets that provide reinforcing.
- Everett Auto Parts - has promised to provide materials for final paint job.
- Dwayne Lane Auto Centers - cash donation
- Larry O'Donnell - cash donation
- North Everett Lions Club - cash donation
- Doug Oakes & Herb Matthews - re-built the engine
- Leroy Nau - donated parts
- **And Finally Sheet-Metal Skill? Your name here!!**



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www.epls.org/bk

Child in back of the Bookmobile (late 1940s)



P·E·G·A·S·U·S

1929 Model AA Ford
BOOKMOBILE

Everett Public Library