

## *"I'm Looking At My Dream Car"*

Don Jones always liked the style of the 1941 Lincoln Continental. For many years he looked at pictures in books and magazines, and always was taken with the car's looks, but never actually saw a real one. But that changed in 2001.

"I'd never seen a '41 Continental but in pictures, but I always wanted one," he said.

He always kept on the lookout for ads for any that might be for sale, but all the Lincolns he found were priced quite high.

A member of the Early Ford V-8 Club, he was looking at their monthly periodical one day in 2001 and found himself staring at a picture in a classified ad of a 1941 Lincoln Continental.

"Betty said, 'What are you looking at,' and I said 'I'm looking at my dream car,'" Don recalled. "She said, 'Well why don't you go ahead and call him, you know you're going to.'"

He said he called a couple days later, but didn't make any deal right away. He talked with a man who was trying to sell it for the widow of the owner. The man called him back and said he was sure Don would end up owning it so he convinced the widow to hold it for him. And the man turned out to be right. Don hitched up a trailer and drove to Nevada to buy a car he had never seen before.

"That was the first time I'd seen a '41 Lincoln, when I drove up to this guy's place," Don said. "There were only 400 of those convertibles made," he added.

The car was already fully restored when Don completed the deal with the widow in Carson City, Nev. It was originally a California car, but the previous owner had restored it after moving to Albuquerque, NM, and then later moved to Carson City, NV. It had been restored very close to original and still had the flathead V-12 motor with a 3-speed Borg Warner transmission.

Ford's V-12 motor had a reputation of being troublesome, and it ran rough and hot when Don first got it. But after installing a shroud for the fan and a making a few other minor adjustments, the overheating problem was solved.

While the car has 12 cylinders, it isn't particularly fast. And as a luxury automobile, it was intended mainly to provide a very nice ride. Don called the ride, "not bad for a '41 with buggy springs on it."

But it has the style Don saw in the pictures -- that automotive design that caught his eye. And now that he has the real thing, there's no question in his mind -- this car is classic. Not that he ever doubted that in the first place.

