

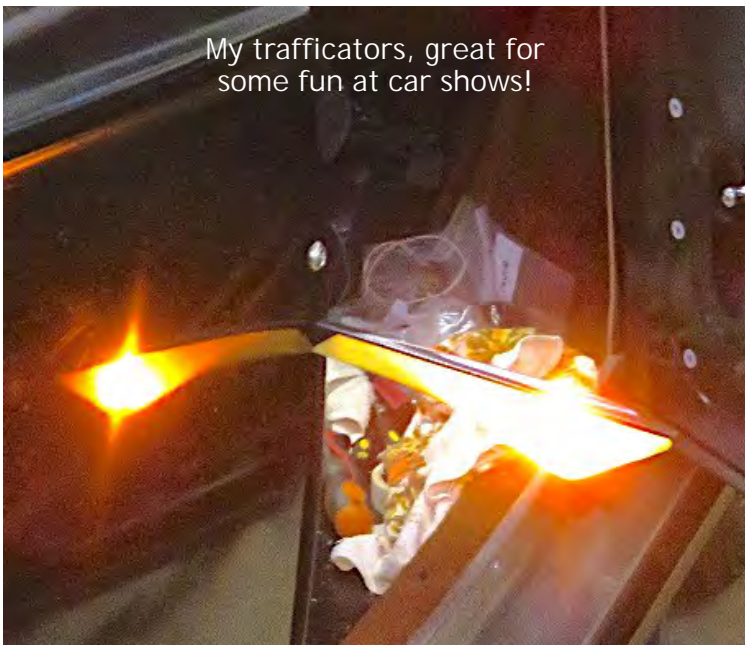
## My Story So far - Pt VI and Final By SMM 34643

When I wrote last time, I was hoping beyond hope that Johnny B would be able to come when my engine was started for the first time. But before that was going to happen, Les told me he had a few more things to get done. In particular, I didn't have an exhaust system yet, and then he surprised me when he said he had to fit my heater! "A heater?" I thought. "But there is no water pump on my early model SV engine! How can this be?" Les was full of surprises...



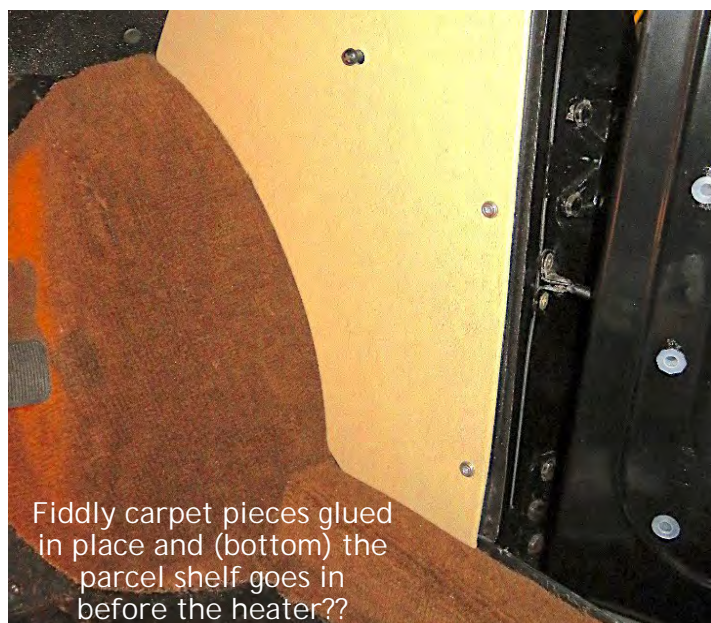
In addition, there was my complete interior to install; and my trafficators had to be fitted before the interior rear quarter trim panels.

My trafficators, great for some fun at car shows!

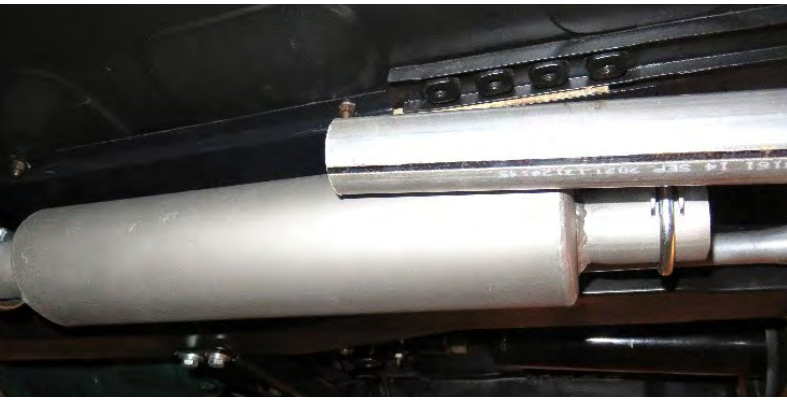


So, in October 2022, I went to my trafficators which Les had reco'd with new arms ages before. And remember, he had hidden a switch under the dash to switch between blinkers and trafficators; blinkers on the road, and trafficators for a bit of fun at displays.

Then it was the turn for my interior. Les started with the fiddly carpet pieces that need gluing, then the front kick panels. Then, mistakenly, Les fitted the parcel shelf before trying to fit the heater - he must like doubling his work!







I had assumed I would be taken off to the local muffler shop to get a new exhaust fitted, but I had yet another surprise when Les turned up with a complete new system in 3 pieces, ready to fit. He explained that he and Bobby Gill, another of his fellow Car Club members, were helping a group of school students (from a girls' school, would you believe?) to restore a Morrie, the same-model as me. They wanted the girls to install the exhaust system on their car themselves rather than take it to a specialist, so Bobby arranged for two complete systems to be made up using my old engine pipe and a borrowed tail pipe as templates. This enabled Les to install my exhaust without me having to leave my comfortable shed.

Now I was ready for this heater that I was amazed about! Apparently Les had to cobble it together from a couple of sources, but it came up nicely. But how to get coolant circulating through it from my thermo-syphon cooling system?? Well, on eBay, Les had found a NOS 1950s Smiths external water pump kit which was specific for my engine type, which I was very proud

to have installed in my engine bay. It is mounted on my generator, and driven by the flat side of the fan belt. Once the hoses were installed, I was ready for the heater itself. This is where some fun started.

With the parcel shelf in place there wasn't enough space for the heater to squeeze through, so Les had to drop the front of the parcel shelf, and then lower the steering column. Even then, I heard him struggling with



Water pump - mounted to the generator!

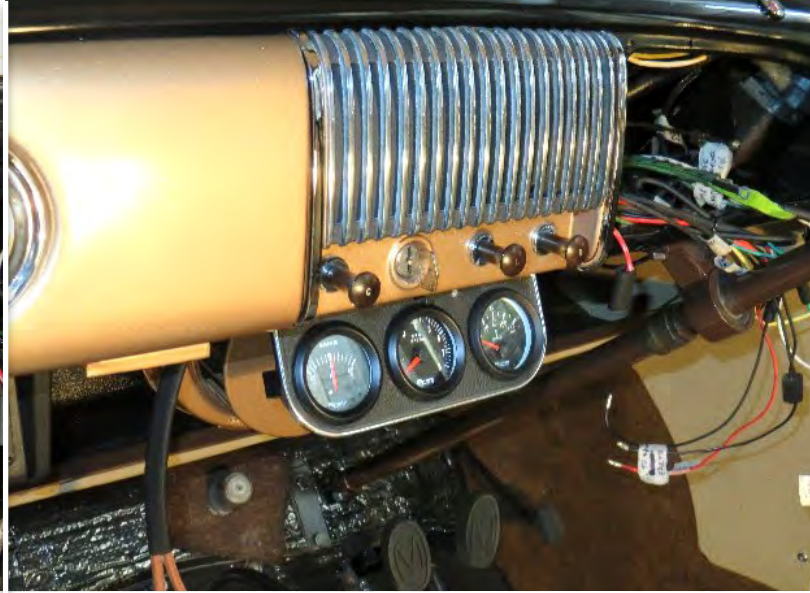


it, but he finally managed to get it in OK.

I got my glove box insert and radio cassette player at this time as well. Nice! Then my rear end was finished off with my boot handle, all my rear lights, boot badge







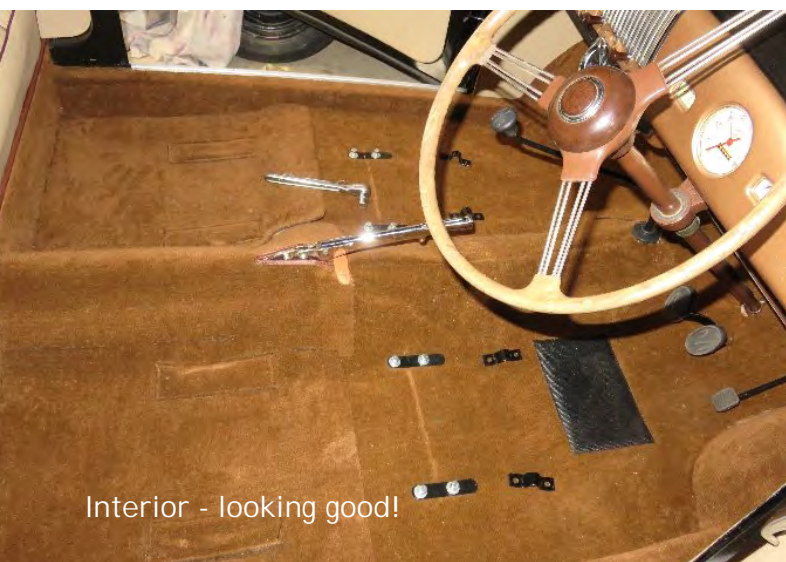




and reflectors.

I mean, by now I was getting really excited - everything was coming together, but at the same time I was becoming a bit impatient about finally getting back on the road again. There was still more work needed, so in November and December I got my front blinkers, door trims, rear quarter panels, sill plates, and additional gauges.

And then the news that I had been waiting for - Johnny B was coming again in December 2022, just before Christmas! Les said he would help with a couple of quick 2-



man tasks and then they'd start my engine.

As usual, Johnny also did a few other things between jobs, like fit the chrome tip to my tail pipe, and the number plate frame to my front bumper.

As it turned out, my engine started readily, albeit with a few teething problems with my carby, which Johnny set himself to sort out. However, shortly after, my engine

refused to start at all! Some quick trouble-shooting found that the brand-new repro coil bought from Holdens in the UK had failed. Jury-rigging my old coil to my distributor fixed the problem (made permanent later). OK, so Les would still be left to fine tune a few things, like adjusting the timing advance by road testing and getting my carby mixture right, but I was going at last!

In January 2023, Les set about finishing my beautiful interior - my dash gauge cover, underfelt and carpet, steering wheel and horn button, and finally my front seats, all in their original colours. I was over the moon!

So, like







that, there were just a few bits to do - chrome windscreen surround, and my screen wipers fitted. All right, so my pinstriping had yet to be done and my hubcaps had to be pushed on, but as far as I was concerned, I was ready for my rego inspection - finally! What a journey. It was time for a "Whoop, whoop"!

On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023, Les drove me to Ken Matthew's workshop in Ulladulla for my rego inspection, which I'm happy to say: "I passed with flying colours". A little later, Les awarded me with my new number plates!

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is my story. I hope to see you at a car show soon!

Cheers,  
SMM 34643

