

1925 Hispano Suiza H6b Laundolet

1925 Hispano Suiza H6b Laundolet S/N.11252, was built to order for Mr. Andrew Mellon, as a present to his daughter Ailsa. He was at that time one of the wealthiest men in the U.S. It was used at his estates in Pittsburg, Pa., and Long Island, N.Y. While he was Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, Ailsa was his social hostess, and I have a photo of the car taken at that time in Washington.

The Hispano has a 6.6 litre, 6 cylinder overhead cam engine, which is essentially one bank of their aircraft engines of WW I. It has an aluminum block and head, with steel sleeves forming the cylinders. In accordance with aircraft practice, it has a dual Ignition system and dual batteries. The car has four wheel brakes, with a power assist system that was so successful that Rolls Royce used it on their cars under license from H.S.

The body was built by Kellner of Paris to Mellon specifications. I found Ailsa's buy off signature on a build-card behind the upholstery. It was in family use throughout it's lifetime. Upon his retirement, the family chauffeur was given the car to drive to Sarasota, Florida, where it was last driven in 1938, and left in a rented garage. When the chauffeur died, it was shoved out into an alley, where it sat for an extended period of time in the Florida sun and rain.

A friend of mine happened upon it in 1970, and I purchased it in very derelict condition from the chauffeur's estate. I stored it until after I retired, and have done a total frame up restoration, starting in 2003.

Don Nichols