

Wally Schang's 1934 Ford Pickup in 2016



Wally Schang's 1934 Ford Pickup was purchased by Clarence Wyss in the 1950's and is currently owned by Larry Wyss. Submitted by Larry Wyss

Message from Larry Wyss...

My name is Larry Wyss. I graduated from Dixon High School in 1967 and now live in St. Charles, MO with my wife of 47 years (Mickey). I have never been able to participate in the Dixon Cow Days parade but am hoping to this year. I have a 1934 Ford Model BB flathead V8 pickup which my Dad and Mom (Clarence and Zelpha Wyss) purchased from Wally Schang somewhere in the late 1950's.

Wally and his wife Dorothy owned a farm near Pisgah church and lived there until they passed. When Wally bought the truck (I have no idea what year this would have been), it was a Coca Cola delivery truck. When Dad and Mom bought it, the transmission was out. So, along with putting a transmission in it, Dad (along with my brothers-in-law, Ralph Manes and Jim Martin) decided to do some other work and get it licensed in 1961. It now has a lot of grey primer but you can still also see much of the original Coca Cola red paint (the red on the front is new paint). The truck has sat in my garage for the last 42 years and I have

finally realized that I needed to get it back on the road (before I have to get OFF the road!)

For those who don't know.... Wally Schang was a legendary professional baseball catcher. He caught the very FIRST pitch ever thrown in Yankee Stadium. He also caught for Babe Ruth, when Babe pitched there. He was the FIRST player to ever hit switch-hit home runs in a single game and was also Bob Feller's pitching coach. He had a .284 lifetime batting average. Wally was associated with other teams also.

Walter Henry Schang was a catcher in Major League Baseball. From 1913 through 1931, he played for the

Philadelphia Athletics, Boston Red Sox, New York Yankees, St. Louis Browns and Detroit Tigers. Schang was a switch-hitter and threw right-handed. For those who are interested, check him out on the internet. He was a very special person!

I feel VERY privileged to have this pickup. Not only because it was my Dad and Mom's, but also because of the memories of Wally. At left is a picture of how it looks today. Hopefully, I'll have done what needs to be done and have it in the parade on September 17th. I'm looking forward to seeing a bunch of my high school buddies and other friends that I haven't seen in a LONG time!

(More on Wally Schang on page 10.)

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