

## *Roger Davis Trip to Mifflinburg and York, Pennsylvania*

As documented in Aldie Johnson's Mail Truck book, the United States Post Office Department purchased 400 1929 Model A Mail Trucks and 400 1929 Model AA Mail Trucks. They made a second buy of 1000 Model A trucks and 2500 AA trucks in 1931/32. The Model A Mail Truck bodies were manufactured by two automotive body builders: The Mifflinburg Body Company (MBC) in Mifflinburg, PA and the York-Hoover Body Corporation in York, PA.

I recently had the opportunity to visit Hershey, PA for their annual swap meet and car show. Mifflinburg and York are both within driving distance of Hershey. I decided to visit both these communities to see if any of these facilities still existed. My late 31 Mail truck was one of the 500 Model A Mail Trucks with the body manufactured at MBC. Aldie Johnson's book indicates that vehicle numbers 11301-11800 were made by MBC which includes my truck, 11729. His book has a drawing of the MBC facility, but I didn't know if it still existed.

After a wonderful drive through the Pennsylvania countryside, we arrived in Mifflinburg. We hoped to visit the carriage museum in Mifflinburg, but it was closed at the time. After a bit of driving around the old part of town, we found that, indeed, at least some of the facility still exists. It is currently occupied by the Rusty Rail Brewery.



Their website confirms this is the site where the Mifflinburg bodies were made stating that MBC produced the mail truck bodies for the Post Office Department as part of a Congressional authorization that allowed the agency to replace its fleet of World War 1 Parcel Post delivery vehicles.

Rusty Rails Brewery website link:

[https://www.rustyrailbrewing.com/our-brewpub/our-history/page.aspx?id=5375&fbclid=IwAR1zhXQMybgXLvjweVXdFW28O4Lm6ar3yxJAJ5wA\\_cdGdIWksqbilB4Spfw](https://www.rustyrailbrewing.com/our-brewpub/our-history/page.aspx?id=5375&fbclid=IwAR1zhXQMybgXLvjweVXdFW28O4Lm6ar3yxJAJ5wA_cdGdIWksqbilB4Spfw)

Later we decided to see if we could find the York-Hoover facility. The York-Hoover Body Corporation of York, PA manufactured the bodies for 400 1929 Model A mail trucks and 500 1931 Model A mail trucks. It is my understanding that they were built at their facilities in the York, PA area, including one on Belvidere and Linden Avenues in York, PA. York Wagon Gear Company was formed in 1892 building carriage bodies. In 1928 they "Merged with the Hoover Body Company becoming the York-Hoover Body

Corporation. Business flourished with truck bodies for the U.S Post Office, Railway Express, Bell Telephone, etc" (York County Agricultural and Industrial Museum). Indeed, the building on Belvidere and Linden Avenues still exists, recently converted to apartments. With the demise of wood bodies, they started making caskets in 1931 and are now recognized as one of the preeminent casket makers of wooden caskets in the U.S.



What a wonderful experience to participate in the Hershey events. Even more memorable was to visit these body companies and connect them with the history of my 1929 Model A Mail Truck.

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