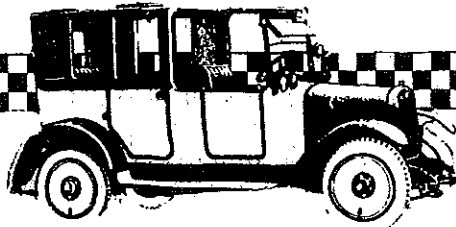


Continuation of "History of Checker" by Rod Walton, from "Checker Factory Headlights Magazine."



"The Checkerboard News" Checker Car Club of America May 1985

In 1964, Checker dropped the Superba name and all cars designated as A12's were called Marathons. The different models were identified by a letter suffix to the A12. For example, the wagons were A12W and the extended wheelbase limos were A12E's. The cabs became all A11's with the extended version the A11E.

The Continental engines were dropped also in 1964 and Checkers were equipped with the Chrysler 326 eight cylinder and the Chrysler engines were dropped for the Chevrolet 230 six, and the 283 eight. In 1965 the Chevy 327 was offered, and in 1968 the engines were the 230 six, the 307 and 327V-8's.

In late 1969 the Medicare was introduced, it was an odd looking vehicle with its roof raised ten inches and the rear doors opening to a full 180 degrees. It was built on a 129 inch wheelbase and could accommodate up to three wheelchairs with the right hand bucket seat removed. Only 100 of these cars ever made it off the production line and in late 1970 it was discontinued.

In 1972, the chrome bumpers were removed to make way for the new sturdy all aluminum bumpers along with the side lights replacing the reflectors. These two changes were the last major changes of body style that Checker made.

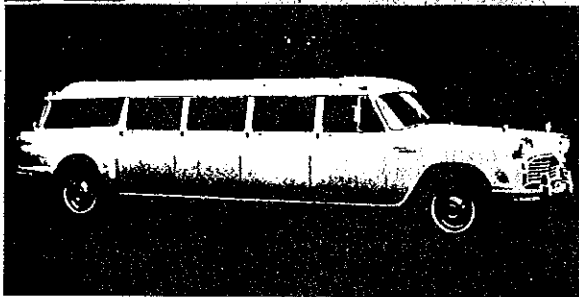
When the 1974 Model Year was over, the eight-door Aerobus and the Marathon station wagon were discontinued leaving only four models produced. The cabs -A11 and A11E, and the passenger cars-the Marath-on A12 and A12E.

IN 1976, Checker reintroduced the Aerobus in a different configuration. It was an eight-door stretch of the A11E Taxi

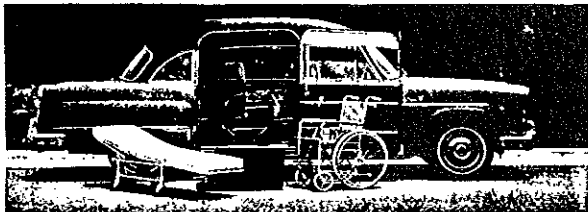
with room for 15 passengers. That, too, was short lived with the last one rolling off the assembly line at the end of that model year. Again Checker was back to four models, never to introduce another new one again.

After the recession that started in 1979 and lagging sales, coupled with a change in the taxi industry, Checker closed the doors on the sixty-year-old assembly line that was considered the Rolls Royce of the taxis in its hey day. The company has expanded its outside contract work for the automobile industry.

It was a sad day on July 12, 1982, when the last iron horse rolled off the assembly line bearing the green and ivory colors of the first cab to roll off the same line sixty years prior. A person can still see a Checker pounding the streets of the inter-cities proudly carrying its passengers to their destinations. It will not be long though before the boxy, cumbersome cab with all the room inside will be nothing but a fond memory to many people as they squeeze into the compact with the suitcase on their lap reminiscing about the "Good ole' Days".



8-door aerobus



1969 Medicare

A new "Special Discount" for Checker Car Club of America members is enclosed with this May issue. Cab Service & Parts have all your names on "record" in Chicago, Ill. (this was a special consideration for the checker owners which I thought was pretty nice)

Stainless Steel Exhaust Pipes (supply original pipes, no index cards) \$6.00 per Ft. (last a lifetime) Mr. Dan Johnston 15 Fry RD, Greenville, Pa., 16125 (412) 588-1918, Call before 8:00AM.

Parts Wanted

'64, Needs (4) Brake Drums "Badly" (2nd time for his request, somebody must have something) Anthony Diago, 1401 E. Ayer St., Wilmington, Del. 19804, (302) 994-0502

'64, Needs (1) Exhaust Valve (called (5) places I had listed in Nov. Newsletter, nothing available (Even a good used one would get this "Gem" back on the "the road again". (For Continental O.H.V. 6-cyl. Eng.) W.R. Bray, 310 Quailwood Dr., Athens, Ga. 30606

'66 A-12, Service Manuals Steve Fisher, 1220 8th St. Bremerton, Wa. 98310

'69 Horn Button, Robert A. Frank, 402 Guyon Ave, Staten Island, N.Y. 10306

Source of Gaskets for Overdrive Trans. use! Chev. Eng. '64-'69, Paul Willer, 3890 Hartman Rd., Sodus, Mi. 49126

'70 Parts Bk., S.Man., O. Man. Sales Brochure, Jim Briggs, 214 N. Galveston St Arlington, Va. 22203-3354

'78 LR. Fen. John Drochak 45070 Vanker St, Utica, Mich. 48087

Publicity Column

With the grateful help of the "money" magazine the exposure has been immense. So far I've been notified by the members of seeing articles in the San Francisco Chronicle and a Florida newspaper. I've been contacted by two radio programs from Pa. & Okla. for taped & live "talk" programs, lasting from 10-20 min. "We're Growing" 275+

Article in "Money" Magazine, April 1985



"I'm tired of struggling to fit in small cars. How can I buy a Checker?"

Q. I'm six feet, four inches tall and weigh 280 pounds, and I'm tired of struggling to get in and out of small cars. I need a big car. Can I still buy a Checker?

JOHN BAXTER Oklahoma City

A. Although the Checker Motors Corp. of Kalamazoo stopped producing Checkers in 1982, you can still buy a used one. Probably the best way to find a privately owned car is through the classified ads in the quarterly newsletter of the Checker Car Club of America, published by Don McHenry (469 Tremaine Ave., Kenmore, N.Y. 14217). You get the newsletter if you pay the \$5 fee for joining the 125-member club. McHenry says that most Checkers advertised range in price from \$3,000 to \$6,000, depending on their age and condition. You can spend less, however, for a Checker cab that has logged 120,000 miles or so on the streets of Chicago. The Checker Taxi Co. (845 W. Washington St., Chicago, Ill. 60607) is selling some 100 Checkers as it phases them out of its fleet this year. The 1981 models sell for about \$1,200 and the 1982 models for \$1,500. Unlike most Checkers, which use gasoline, these cabs run on propane, which is 10% to 20% cheaper than gasoline but harder to find. A couple of parts dealers in Chicago and New York

Written Susan J. Macovsky

City stock spare parts for Checkers made after 1965, but you'd have to wait for them to be shipped to your repairman.

Anyone have any articles about "Checkers" I'd really appreciate them, for future "Newsletters". I've received some all ready and I want to personally thank all the people that sent them.

Cars For Sale

'67 Wagon, Rebuilt inside & Out, Jack Wagner, 3447 No. Pontiac, Chgo, Ill. 60634, (312) 625-6126

'69 Marathon, 327, AT., No PS. & PB. Mint, 46,000m., Steve Leaderman, 1414 Mason St., Balt. Md, 21217 (301) 669-5459, Early AM., \$5,000 (or late night.)

'69 Marathon Limo Perkins Diesel, repainted & in good cond., Paul Lerner, P.O. Box 66, Senecaville, Oh, 43780

'71 "Limo", Bill Newton, 43 Beacon St., Forestville, Ct. 06010 (203) 584-2330 '62-Cont, Eng. OR \$200.00

'68 Aerobus, Completely Rebuilt, 282 eng, \$3,000.00 Palm Harbor, FL (813) 784-438

'73 Marathon, less than 40,000 m., Ann McKay, 1555 Vallejo St., San Francisco Ca. 94109 Day (415) 776-4274, 673-1713 (Evening)

'73 4-Dr. 350 (has some rust holes) B.O. Less than 20,000M. Mrs. Ed. Collins, 131 Main St., Falls Ck., Pa. (814) 371-7273 (near Du, Bois, Pa.)

'75 Marathon, V/8, jump seats, AC, White paint, Blue interior, CB radio, 120,000M. (needs work) Robert Gillespie, 100 Somerset Ave., Garden City, N.Y. 11530-1231

"A Checker being sold" (retiring) doesn't need two (2) John C. L. Cowen, 3280 Bloomcrest Drive, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. 48013

'79 Marathon, AC., PB, PS., AM/FM Radio, New Tires & Brakes, Exc. Interior, ask! - \$6500.00 (812) 923-5525 after 6:00PM. IN.

67-4Dr. Std. Tran. 283 V/8 \$1500.00, Janesville, Wi. (608) 756-2575

'70 Medicare "Limosene", 54,000 miles, Exc., "rare", only made one year; Lewis Ferguson, 3209 Troy Ave., Roanoke, Va. 24012 (703)-563-1945

Swap '65 wagon for '71 & on, 4-Dr. money to "boot" or buy outright, Mark Benens-on, 585 West End Ave, New York, N.Y. 10024, (212) 687-5630

Parts Source

Mrs. Helen Alexander, Cab Service & Parts, 1157 West Monroe St., Chicago, Ill., 60607, (312) 421-1121

B & G Sales, (Fiberglass body parts) 2733 Miles Ave Pittsburgh, Pa. 15216, (412) 561-8495

Customizing & Restoring, Donald Cook, 5810 N. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33306, (305) 771-9090

Tri-Us Auto Parts, Inc., (Specialists in Checker Parts Only) 32-76 47 St. Astoria, N.Y. 11103, (718) 728-9444

TURN

OVER

Parts For Sale

'75-'76 Fender Panels, \$75.00 each (No Rust) (six)
Doors \$40.00 each (fair to good) (four) Grill \$40. Painted
(1) Bob Hinkley, P.O. Box 14, Newark, N.Y. 14513
Checker # -----
05013-Heater Blower Mtr. '65-'71 (all models) \$18.00
95414-Switch Assy, Std. & Overdrive Trans., 1 1/2 #
back up light-late '61-'64, inclusive (All M) \$1.00, 3oz
97491-Resistor Assy.-Std. & H.D. Motorola Alternators
'62-'71, \$2.00 (3oz.)
95701-Relay Assy, Overdrive Trans. '62-'71 (All M) \$10.
647931-Lamp Assy (R.Lic) 4-Dr. '62-'82 \$10.00 (5oz.)
(Above 4-Dr. only \$10.00 (5oz.))
701417-clutch assy., viscous fan drive A-12W, 6M &
A-12W, 8M-Aerobus Model (Manf. by Eaton, Yale &
Towne, Inc.) \$25.00 (2-1/2 #)
701082-Ballast Assy.-Ignition Coil (6-cyl) '66-early
'71 (all models) \$3.00 (3oz)
701534-'71-'72, (all Models) Switch Assy, Horn \$1.00 (3oz)
703663-Switch, back up, '70-'72 (all Mod.) \$1.50 (3oz)
705077-circuit breaker (dash) 20amp & 25amp \$2.00 (2oz)
705308-Neutral start & back up switch (all Models),
1975-82 \$6.00 each (4oz)

Above parts are all new. When I have listed ounces
for weight just send along that amount extra,
(either in your check or in stamps) Listing in #'s
check on your end with parcel post or U.P.S. who's
the cheapest and include that amount with your
cost of part. (I want to be "fair with everyone, OK")
(some of the lbs. & ounces I put on the next line)
Don. McHenry, (add. & etc. at btm. of "newsletter")
First class mail: 1st oz. 22¢, 2nd oz. 17¢ & so on.
The Heater Blower (4-1/2 lbs) & "Viscous" fan drive,
2-1/2 lbs) add 15 % for shipping. (I'll send best
way).

The August "Newsletter"
will have the complete
membership Roster. A lot
of people will discover
how close they are to the
owners of the greatest
car in "America".

Belt Buckels \$8.00 (Inc.P.)
I "hit" a little delay on
new "logo" for decals,
patches, buttons, shirts,
hats & "T" shirts. Just
be "patient". When I get
this right, everybody will
be satisfied..

I'll be at Magungle, Pa.
on Aug. 3rd in Special
Interest Class. "See you
there" ('60 "Superba"
Wagon, N.Y.E-459, Red top
& Black Bottom)

Annual Dues \$5.00
Next Checkerboard News
in August, about 3 mths.
"Keep it Growin'"
"Keep it Rollin'"
Don. McHenry
469 Tremaine Ave.
Kenmore, N.Y. 14217
(716) 877-3358