

1899 Locomobile Steam Carriage

BRIEF HISTORY

- ★ This 1899 Locomobile steam carriage was designed by the Stanley twins of Stanley Steamer fame and produced under the Locomobile name. It is car number 221 of what many consider the first production run of automobiles in the USA. The example on display is arguably the oldest production American automobile still in use today. It has had only 3 owners.
- ★ Around the year 1900, the automobile industry was in its infancy and the available technologies limited. None the less, there were 3 candidates being considered as a power source: Steam, Electric & Gas.
- ★ At the time steam power made the most sense as it had successfully powered locomotives for over 60 years, was well known, and extremely reliable. As we all know, the final winner was the internal combustion engine.
- ★ However, if you had been alive at the turn of the last century you probably would have assumed steam would be triumphant, and for about the first half decade it was. At one time there were over 120 steam car companies created in the USA, most lasting only a few years. The Locomobile Company stopped steam car production in 1904. The Stanley Motor Carriage Company under the direction of the Stanley brothers survived the longest, producing steam cars through 1927.

1899 LOCO SPECS

- ⦿ **Manufactured:** Newton, MA in 1899
- ⦿ **Water Consumption:** 25 miles/ tank
- ⦿ **Main & Pilot Fuel Capacity:** 4.5 gallons
- ⦿ **Operating Steam Pressure:** 200 psi
- ⦿ **Cost When New:** \$650
- ⦿ **Fire Up Time:** 20 minutes
- ⦿ **Speed:** 25 mph maximum
- ⦿ **Fuel Consumption** 10 mpg
- ⦿ **Engine:** 2 cylinder, 3.5 hp
- ⦿ **How It Works:** First, light the pilot & main burner. Wait until the water boils in the fire tube boiler, creating steam pressure. Open the throttle sending steam to the dual piston engine. The engine is chain driven directly to the rear axle, making a clutch or transmission unnecessary. Just open the throttle to go & close it to stop.

