

“Kari-Keen Karrier” Luggage Trunk Clinic

Twin Cities Model A Ford Club

Phil Zins

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Thanks & Acknowledgements

Club Members

- Gary Anderson
- Jim Bateman
- Ken Huber
- Justin Mass
- Brad Nelson
- Vince Smith
- Richard Zins
- Any others I forgot :-/

Others

- Neil Bateman & Wright County Collision: Paint Work
- Tony Behmer & J V Industries Inc: Sandblasting & Priming
- Terry Meetz & Custom Plating Specialists, Inc: Chrome Plating

Quick Tease (Details to Follow)

Before



After



General Background on Luggage Trunks

- In the 1920s & '30s, before cars had integral trunks, there were many luggage-**rack** and luggage-**trunk** manufactures. How many; dozens, hundreds? *Who knows?*
- A few of the manufactures were:
 1. **Ford** sold (as an “authorized accessory”) both a “luggage carrier **rack**” and a “luggage carrier” **trunk**. *Anyone know who was the supplier/manufacture?*
 2. **Kari Keen Mfg. Co.**, Sioux City, Iowa; “KARI-KEEN KARRIER”
 3. **Watts-Morehouse Mfg.**, Jackson, Michigan; “Steelwood Auto Trunks.”
 4. **F-K Specialties & Supply Co.**, Indianapolis, Indiana.
 5. **Dan-D Karrier**, Lafayette, Indiana made an telescoping/expandable carrier.
 6. **Kary-All Auto Mfg. Co.** Sioux City Iowa also made a telescoping/expandable carrier. *Notes: Vince Smith has a nice example on his Phaeton. Although it is also a Sioux City Iowa company, I don't think it is related to the Kari-Keen Company.*

Kari-Keen Mfg. Co. Background

- **Kari-Keen Mfg. of Sioux City, Iowa** produced the “KARI-KEEN KARRIER” luggage trunk.
- **Established in 1925 and by 1930 employed 200. Produced 76 types of attachments for autos**, most prominently luggage trunks.
- Other products included: (1) hot water **car heaters**; (2) in-car “Koach-Bed” **sleeper conversions** and: (3) in later years produced 4 types of coupe-type **airplanes**.
- **Went out of business in 1937** when cars began being made with integral trunks and because of the depression.
- The “KARI-KEEN KARRIER” was a **rugged all steel trunk** and was one of the most popular trunks for the Model A Ford.

Kari-Keen Mfg. Co. Background (cont.)

- Had both **standard and deluxe models**. The deluxe model had more chrome trim and was designed for cars with side-mount spare tires.
- **Capacity was 5 cu. ft. closed and 7.5 cu. ft. open.** A “weather proof” fabric cover was available for use in the open position.
- It was **heavily advertised** (see example ads) and sales promotions **targeted Ford dealerships** with a **30 day free trial for new Model A’s**.
- A **Litchfield Minnesota Ford dealer sold 625** Kari-Keen Karriers in one year.

Kari-Keen Example Advertising

106 THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN May, 1930



Farm relief—with a new idea

The American farmer was quick to sense the importance of Kari-Keen. And bought them by the hundreds of thousands. With its help he was able to make his family car do double duty. It became a light truck as well as a pleasure vehicle. And now the city man—the merchant, the salesman, the worker, the sportsman—follows the farmer's lead. He has discovered that the Kari-Keen is as handsome as a trunk and tremendously more useful. Adds nearly nine square feet to the car's capacity. Easily carries four hundred pounds. No whip. No rattles. No more ruined upholstery. No more crowded, uncomfortable cars. It is bringing relief to the farm and city alike. Get full particulars from your car dealer, or send to the Kari-Keen Manufacturing Company, Sioux City, Iowa.

KARI-KEEN

A THING OF BEAUTY WHEN CLOSED

BIG LOAD CARRIER WHEN OPEN

Kari-Keen
KARRIER
SUCCESSOR TO TRUNKS
THE BAGGAGE CAR OF THE AUTOMOBILE

Takes a Whale of a Load !



HERE'S an entirely new convenience, the greatest luggage-carrying device ever made for automobiles.

You can use a Kari-Keen closed for an ordinary auto-trunk load. Swing it open and you have a large, roomy carrier, with space for five cans of cream; a large case of poultry; sacks of feed; bulky carvings and home-made linens; tools; or a steamer trunk and several traveling bags.

Kari-Keen
KARRIER
The Baggage Car of the Auto

It has 7½ to 8½ square feet of space in which to pile your loads. Capacity 400 pounds. Fits all cars since 1925.

Nearly every time you drive to town you can use this handy, safe carrying space. Besides its frequent uses it is mighty handy in emergencies. When you want immediate repairs on a machine or implement you can put it right in a Kari-Keen and take it to town.

No longer need you scratch and mar the finish of your car. No longer need you use an beautiful, upholstered interior like a farm wagon.

Used Open or Closed

When closed it resembles a fine automobile trunk. It is built of steel, trimmed with brilliant chromium bands and finished in lustrous black or, at small additional cost, beautiful lacquer colors to match all models.

Ask your car dealer to show you the Kari-Keen Luggage Carrier.

KARI-KEEN
MFG. CO., Inc.

2182 East 7th Street
Sioux City, Iowa



"It's MORE Than a Trunk !"

Kari Keen Example Advertising (cont.)



Kari-Keen
KARRIER
The Baggage Car
of the Auto
More than a Trunk

"Now we'll all enjoy the trip" because with the luggage in the Kari-Keen there's comfort in the car!

WHAT fun is an auto trip if you are wedged in between a lot of heavy, jostling traveling bags, suit cases and other luggage!

You'll have room for all of your baggage in the new Kari-Keen Luggage Carrier! It gives you a special compartment with 75 or 87½ square feet—room for several suit cases, valises, hat bags and even a steamer trunk! It has a capacity of 400 pounds.

With your things in a Kari-Keen you'll be comfortable in the car! You can relax and stretch out and have more "elbow room." No longer need you risk scratching the fenders of your car. No longer need you use its fine, upholstered interior like an express wagon.

Kari-Keen Swings Open or Closed. When used closed it has as much carrying space as any standard auto trunk—room for a suit case and several smaller packages.

Beautiful Lacquer Colors
Brilliant Chromium Trimmings

This carrier resembles the most beautiful automobile trunks. When installed it looks like a built-in factory job, giving the car long, low, rakish lines. It is made of steel and trimmed with ever brilliant chromium. Finished in lustrous black or, at a small additional cost, handsome lacquer colors to exactly match any car. For all models since 1925.

Fitted Weatherproof Cover Available

For covering the carrier and contents. This cover keeps out the dust and rain. No other cover or fee. A built-in tire carrier is included. Your present rear bumper can be transferred to this equipment.

Great for Picnics and Outings. Kari-Keen provides a safe, roomy place for the lunch baskets, cooking utensils, ice cream boxes, thermos jug, and other articles and packages. And when you get there the things are handy to reach, without climbing into and out of the car. Kari-Keen carriers are ideal for camping trips. Only a trailer holds more.

Salesmen—you can put your grip, sample cases or even big demonstrating machines in this big carrier.

Merchants—Kari-Keen frequently saves buying a light truck for special deliveries. Washing machines, sewing machines, ice boxes, phonographs, various pieces of furniture, crates and boxes can be conveniently and safely delivered in a Kari-Keen carrier.

Farmers—your case of milk or cream, crates of eggs, baskets, sacks of feed, etc.—any of these products can be hauled in a Kari-Keen.



KARI-KEEN MFG. CO., Inc.
2181 East 7th St. Sioux City, Iowa

A beautiful addition to any car



There's Only One

Kari-Keen
KARRIER
The Baggage Car
of the Auto

SALES of Kari-Keen Luggage Carriers continue to reach new high levels. Only this matchless combination of beauty and large carrying capacity could appeal to so many thousands of car owners.

When you swing it open, Kari-Keen provides a safe roomy space for luggage that would otherwise have to be crowded in with the passengers. . . . bulky traveling bags, big crates and boxes, cans of cream, salesman's sample cases, etc. It is also used closed for small loads.

Beautiful Lacquer Colors
Brilliant Chromium Trimmings

Made of pickled steel with new, brilliant chromium trimmings. Available in black or handsome lacquer colors to match any model.

Write for full information. The rapid growth in Kari-Keen sales has no equal in trunk or luggage carrier history. Get the facts.

Kari-Keen Mfg. Co., Inc.
2117 East 7th Street, Sioux City, Iowa.

SALES AGENCIES

Philadelphia, 2506 N. Broad St.	Los Angeles, 440 Sutton St.	San Antonio, Texas, 403 Brooklyn Ave.
Chicago, Ill., 2017 Michigan Blvd.	Oakland, 1620—16th St.	Boston, Mass., 1258 Baylston St.
	Portland, Ore., 32 Grand Ave. So.	
	Toronto, Canada, Canadian Sliding Seat Co., 680 Bay St.	

January 1929 305

What Needed Repair/Rebuilding?

Original/vintage luggage trunks are hard to find and are usually in bad shape. This one was in typical bad shape but most of the original parts were there and repairable. The following is a partial list of what was wrong.

1. Overall, badly rusted, bent and dented.
2. The “clam shell” hinge was broken and badly rusted.
3. The front mounting brackets were torn/broken.
4. Latching buckles badly worn & broken.
5. Chrome trim dented, dinged and cracked.
6. Missing rear mounting bracket.
7. Missing wood slats (cushions) under luggage box.

(See pictures below for details)

Trunk "Before" PIC 1 of 10



Trunk "Before" PIC 2 of 10



Trunk "Before" PIC 3 of 10



Trunk "Before" PICs 4 & 5 of 10



Trunk "Before" PICs 6 & 7 of 10



Trunk "Before" PIC 8 of 10



Trunk "Before" PICs 9 & 10 of 10



Bracket "Before" PIC 1 of 7



Bracket "Before" PICs 2 & 3 of 7



Bracket "Before" PIC 4 of 7



Bracket "Before" PICs 5 & 6 of 7



Bracket "Before" PICs 7 of 7



Missing Third (Rear) Mounting Brackets

(PICs from Steve Plucker's Model A News Article Jan-Feb '16)



Missing Wooden Cushion Slats

(PIC from Steve Plucker's Model A News Article Jan-Feb '16)



Rear Bumper Extensions

(These are for '28/'29, need '30/'31 set)



Mounted Rear Bumper Extensions

(PIC from Steve Plucker's Model A News Article)



Buckle Repair PIC 1 of 19



Buckle Repair PICs 2 & 3 of 19



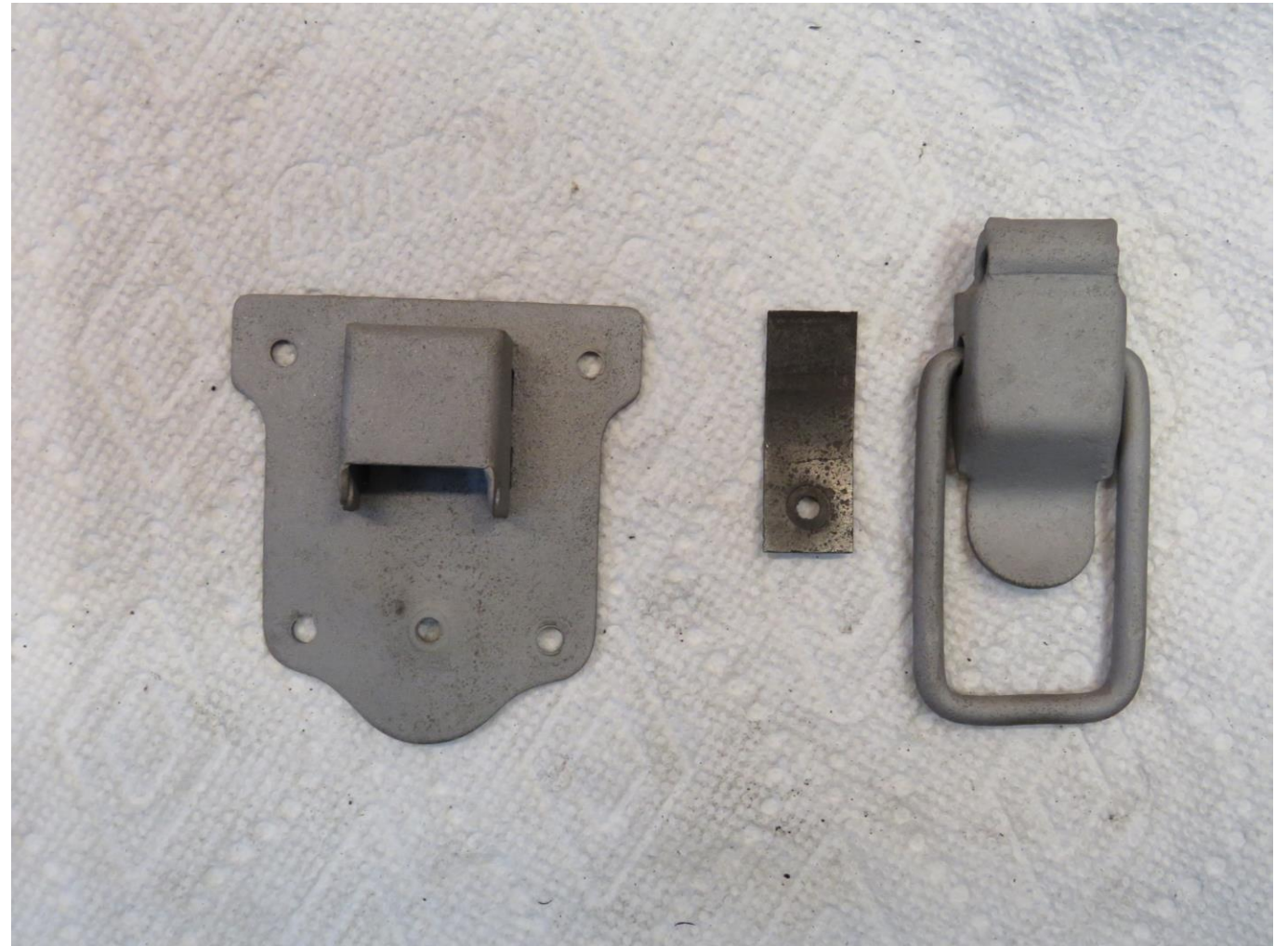
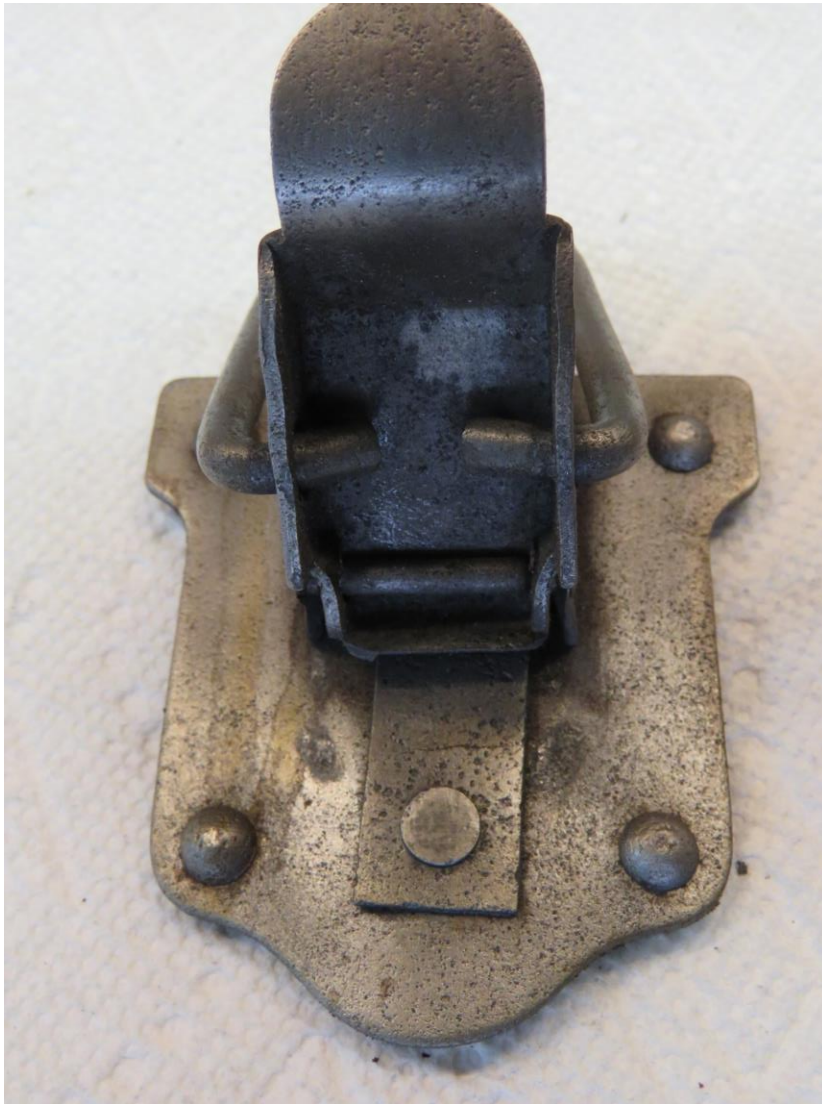
Buckle Repair PICs 4 & 5 of 19



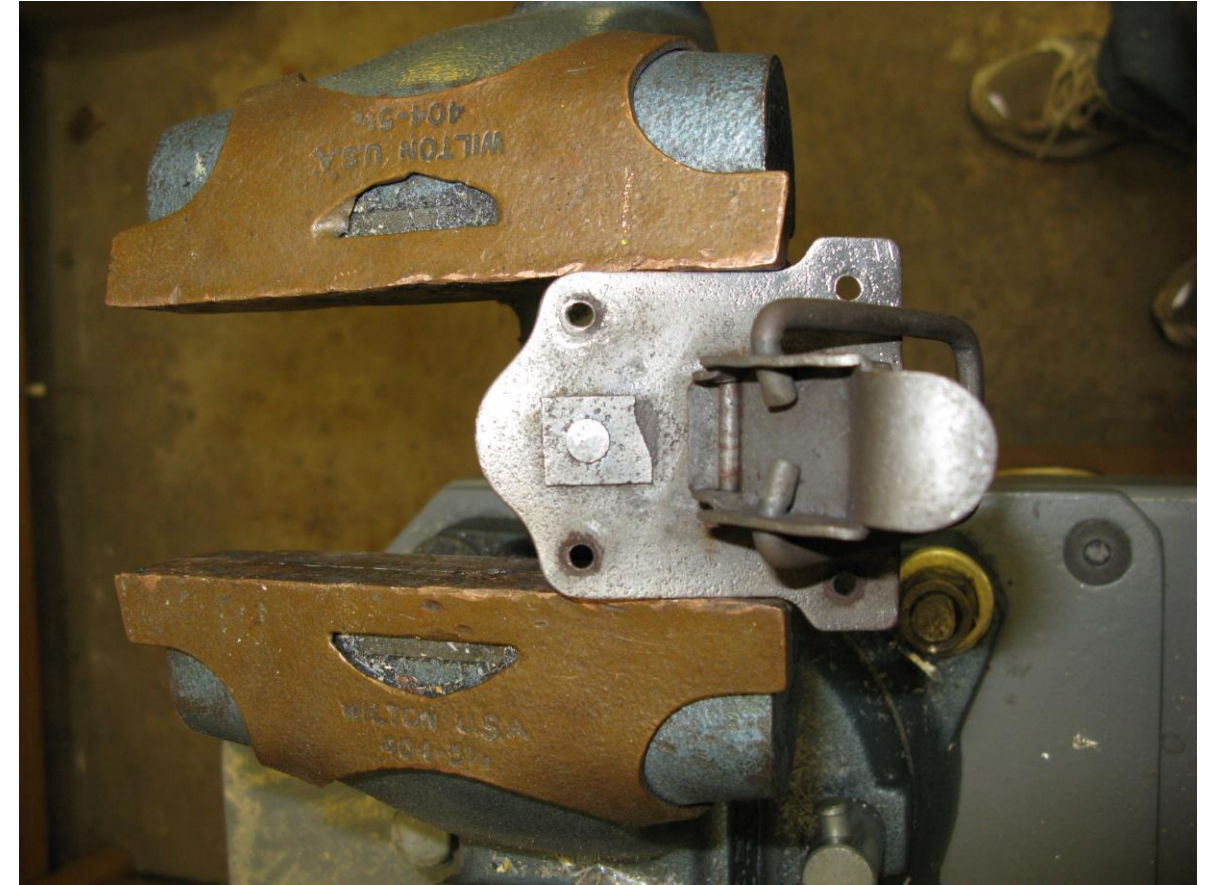
Buckle Repair PICs 6 & 7 of 19



Buckle Repair PICs 8 & 9 of 19



Buckle Repair PICs 10 & 11 of 19



Buckle Repair PICs 12 & 13 of 19



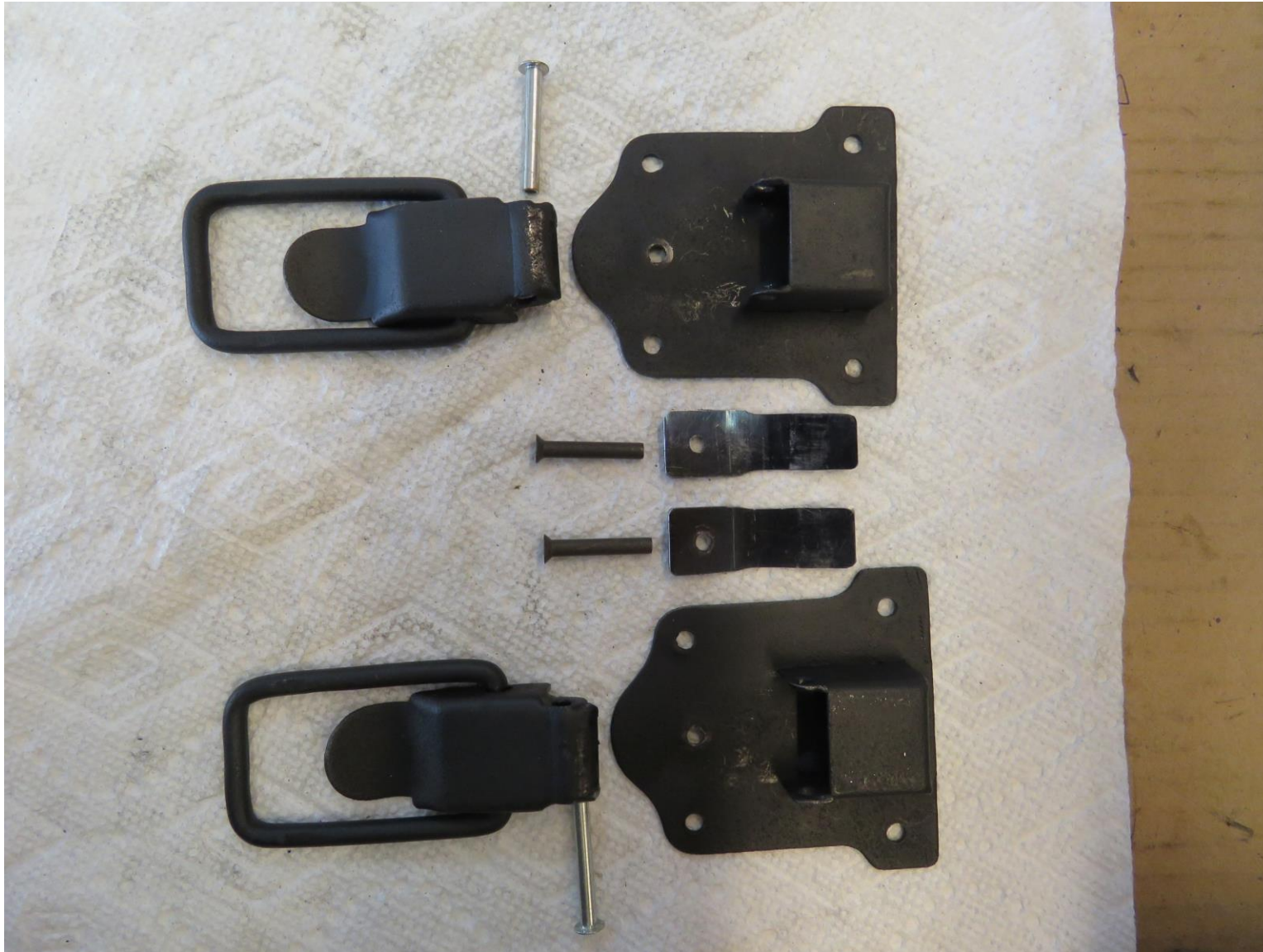
Buckle Repair PIC 14 of 19



Buckle Repair PICs 15 & 16 of 19



Buckle Repair PIC 17 of 19



Buckle Repair PIC 18 of 19



Buckle Repair PIC 19 of 19



Tire Carrier Repair PIC 1 of 5



Tire Carrier Repair PICs 2 & 3 of 5



Tire Carrier Repair PICs 4 & 5 of 5



Trunk "After" PIC 1 of 15



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Trunk "After" PIC 2 of 15



Kari-Keen Karrier Clinic-TCMAFC May 2017

Trunk "After" PIC 3 of 15



Trunk "After" PIC 4 of 15



Kari-Keen Karrier Clinic-TCMAFC May 2017

Trunk "After" PIC 5 of 15



Trunk "After" PICs 6 & 7 of 15



Trunk "After" PIC 8 of 15



Trunk "After" PIC 9 of 15



Kari-Keen Karrier Clinic-TCMAFC May 2017

Trunk "After" PIC 10 of 15



Kari-Keen Karrier Clinic-TCMAFC May 2017

Trunk "After" PIC 11 of 15



Trunk "After" PIC 12 of 15



Kari-Keen Karrier Clinic-TCMAFC May 2017

Trunk "After" PIC 13 of 15



Kari-Keen Karrier Clinic-TCMAFC May 2017

Trunk "After" PIC 14 of 15



Kari-Keen Karrier Clinic-TCMAFC May 2017

Second/Alternate Bracket For Coupe (2 ½ in Lgr.)



References & Sources

- Model “A” News Articles:
 - “Advertising The Model A Ford” by Jim Thomas, March-April 2015.
 - “The Kari-Keen Trunk Assembly and a Very Early 1929 Tudor Sedan” by Steve Plucker, January-February 2016.
 - “The KARI-KEEN Manufacturing Company Accessories for the Model A” by Gary Johnson, March-April 2016.
- Ford Barn chat room discussions.
- All of you fellow TCMAFC members who own Kari-Keen trunks:
 - Jim Bateman
 - Ken Huber
 - Brad Nelson
 - Justin Maas
 - ***Others?***

The End
Thank You