# 1946 Squad car was one of first models off the line after WWII

When peace finally broke out at the end of WWII it was time for the auto manufactures to retool from the swords of military production to the plowshares of personal transportation. Ford, like most of the other car builders at the time, dusted off the existing 1942 tooling, went to work on simple trim and grill facelifts and started spitting out as many "new" 1946 models as possible. With no new cars for over four years, the public was anyaliable. Government agency's were also limping along on well worn vehicles and, at times, were able to get priority over the public.

This 1946 Ford Super Deluxe. Thus or sedan was purchased by the Cakland Police Department. While city governments usually

buy lower priced "fleet" models, Oakland was forced into the Super Deluxe because Ford saw no need to build the pre-war, entry level Special model and regular Deluxe sedans were in short supply. The only option on the car was a set of factory "heavy duty" 15 inch wheels (Fords came equipped with taller "units). Upon delivery, the sedan was fitted with an Edison two-way radio, (.Calling all cars . . . cailing all cars . . . . and on the door. It's funny to think that in such a short time we've come from stock Ford Tudors with broadcloth upholstery to today's screened-in rolling mini-jails.

On patrol in the 1946 On patrol in the 1946

## Ford Squad Car

This drive report car is owned by Skip Silva of San Leandre,



CA. Skip had seen the car for years languishing away in the garage of a neighbor. The neighbor had bought the car at a Oakland city auction in 1950. The Tudor had just 63,000 miles on it. It was driven home, parked in the garage and just sat there. By the '70s the engine had frozen but the neighbor still refused to sell. Finally, in 1978, the owner, in the midst of a

the car

sand called Skip.

Silva pulled the heads, hammered on each piston till it came loose, buttoned it all back together and drove it back and pen were removed and new rings and red bearings were installed. The Tudor new has over 68,000 miles on the dometer and runs great. Skip has done a few other modifications as well. He works for the City of San Leandro and had access to a set of modern 15 inch police pursuit radials - some "take

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offs" from a wrecked modern patrol car. They fit nicely on the Ford's optional wheels. Two inch longer front shackles lower the front a bit. The "Baby Moon" hubeaps are temporary until a nice set of originals can be obtained.

through the gears. I had never driven an original stock pow-ered post-war Ford sedan before and was really surprised at the performance for a car of that oro. I'll bet that only a few luxu-ry cars with big engines and tall gearing could run away from it. It leaves asche Chevys and Ply-mouths from that era in the duct.

It leaves stock chevys and rymouths from that era in the dust!

The handling is also very good. Usually, in my experience, radial tree make older cars feel mushy and squirmy. In this application, the three somehow canceled the straight axle Fordist bendency to follow imperfections in the road and "hunt" from sich endend to follow imperfections in the road and "hunt" from sich endendende to side. This car rode semonthy and required much less correction at the helm. A run over to an industrial area sllowed me to test the sire. It wound up slowly, just like in the movies, and took at least three minutes to wind down. Great stuff!

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