

FORD RANCH WAGON 1954

WITH SURFBOARDS
PRODUCED BY DURHAM CLASSICS



Story by Roger Thiedeman

Are you a so-called “average” collector, who buys a model just because you like it, then places it on display for you and your friends, relatives, and visitors to admire? Do you also tend not to think too much about how the model was conceived, designed, and built or – in the case of an especially intricate and detailed replica – how all those fiddly bits were painstakingly put together? Well, join the club. I’m much the same too. But if you want a brief insight into how a high-quality model car is manufactured – by hand, no less – you could do worse than view the 2½-minute video clip on the following website: www.durhamclassics.ca.

While browsing the remainder of the Durham Classics site, cast your peepers on the interesting range of white metal replicas produced by Julian and Margaret Stewart, who own and operate the small mom-and-pop outfit that Margaret describes as an “artisan company” in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada. Launched in 1980, Durham Classics has an interesting history with links to another world-famous model car maker. When English migrant Julian Stewart was employed as an engineer in an electronics firm in Canada, one of his workmates was a compatriot

from the “old country”, John Hall. Like Stewart, Hall had been an avid collector since childhood of Dinky Toys, Matchbox Toys, and other miniature vehicles.

Eventually, Hall gravitated toward the manufacture of model cars out of resin and, later, white metal at a factory in Brooklin, Ontario. Thus was born the now-famous firm of Brooklin Models – a name any discerning model car collector would recognize. At first Stewart helped carve pattern blocks for Brooklin Models. But when Hall decided to return to England, taking the business with him, Stewart set up his own model car-building company.