

REO model G 1908

Imagine this:

A dusty street in a small American town. A few horse-drawn wagons rolling along, and among them something strange — tall wheels, exposed metal parts, and a sound unlike anything people had heard before.

It isn't a carriage.

It's an automobile.

It's a REO.

Behind this machine stood a man named **Ransom E. Olds**, a visionary who believed that the future belonged not to horses, but to engines.

Back then, owning an automobile meant far more than simply having transportation. Cars attracted attention wherever they went. People stopped and stared. They waved. Some even crossed themselves.

Children would run after a passing automobile, while dogs barked furiously from the roadside.

The driver experienced every journey with all the senses — the wind, the dust, and the smell of the countryside. Every trip felt like an adventure.

Roads were rarely smooth. Most were little more than wagon tracks cutting through fields. After a rainstorm, they often turned into muddy obstacles.

A driver needed patience... and more than a little mechanical knowledge.

Gasoline was commonly sold in pharmacies, since gas stations had not yet become part of everyday life.

Starting the engine required a hand crank, and when the engine finally sprang to life, it felt like a small victory.

Depending on the version, engine displacement ranged from about 1.6 to 2.0 liters. That may sound large today, but engines of the period operated at very low speeds.

Power output was modest — roughly 12 to 16 horsepower.

Our REO was acquired from a private collector in Wilmington, New York, carrying with it not only a remarkable history, but also a glimpse into the very beginnings of the American automobile age.