

Manny's New Purchase

1973 Citroen D Super



For those who may want the details:

Reg. No: GE6821

VIN/Chassis no.: 05FD2801

1985 cc

4 speed manual

I thought I'd give you a few words about why I love my Citroen.

I'm not a 'car person' -- never have been. I haven't owned a car in over 35 years, preferring instead to let my wife have that honour, and I drove rather minimally. As a commuter cyclist I biked to school and work for over 30 years in Philadelphia and now live within walking distance of my place of employment. My family went through several cars over the past three decades, and I enjoyed driving a 1983 Chevrolet Caprice -- the kind New York cabbies used to drive in droves, and that policemen used. They ran forever, were roomy and very

powerful on the road, and my highlight as a driver was careening down Sixth Avenue in New York City surrounded by yellow versions of what I was driving. Other than that fleeting experience, I really couldn't care less what I drove and I tended to use rental cars for any distance driving, having an ingrained suspicion about relying on the cars we possessed (with good cause -- they tended to break down most inopportunately, or get stolen). In fact, the Caprice was left unlocked inadvertently, stolen and chopped up for parts within two hours.

When I discovered that a colleague was leaving New Zealand recently -- the colleague who owned the Citroen -- I got in touch and expressed an interest in buying it, as I had admired it, and as I had also begun to see the value of having a car in this vast beautiful country, at least for some lovely weekend drives. The timing was right: prohibitive costs did not permit him to take his car to his destination country and he was able to sell it to me at a decent price after I took a test drive.

During the test drive my colleague turned to me and said, "Once you drive this, why would anyone want to drive anything else?" If you're lucky enough to have that opportunity, I fully agree! The drive convinced me. As you know, the Citroens are just beautiful, and they ride like a dream. Those who know me, and know of my car-aversions, simply say "it suits you". And I think it really does. The hydraulics, the turning headlamps, the magic carpet ride, the roomy and comfortable and large interior, the way it takes corners -- it's all great. Best of all I feel as if I am actually doing something productive by simply driving this thing.

When I pulled into the parking lot of my swimming pool, someone asked me for an autograph (no kidding). I worked hard to convince the person that I was just an ordinary slob who was lucky to own a really extraordinary automobile.

Manny