

THE 4-BANGER

VOICE OF THE NAPER A's

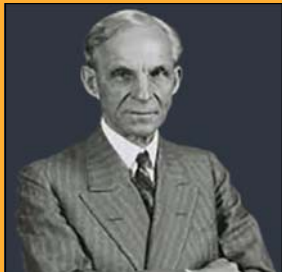
THE 4-BANGER VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2 ★ SUMMER, 2021

AFFILIATED WITH THE MODEL A FORD CLUB OF AMERICA



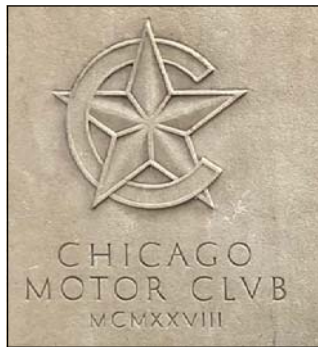
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HENRY SAID, "If you think you can do a thing or think you can't do a thing, you're right!"

1928 Chicago Motor Club Now a Hampton Inn



Photos By **PAUL HERBERT**

An overnight stay at the Hampton Inn in downtown Chicago reveals that this is no ordinary hotel. Its secret is that it's really a terrific destination for a Model A automobile owner. Here's why . . .

Like several other fine old historic buildings in Chicago, the 1928 Chicago Motor Club has found its restoration centered upon conversion repurposing for current needs. In this case, it became a hotel.

It's a fun throwback to the time when Henry Ford was churning out Model A's at Dearborn while architects celebrated

machine technology with the exuberant, streamlined forms of Art Deco style.

The building, reopened in 2015 as one of the classiest units in the big Hampton Inn hotel chain, may not be the biggest or the most prominent of Chicago's Art Deco towers. But it is surely one of the city's most winningly self-contradictory buildings. It is a short building that's all about being tall.

All Art Deco defining characteristics are compressed into a great

15-story package just west of Michigan Avenue: a trim silhouette with strong vertical lines; stylish geometric decoration; and a superb integration of art and architecture, specially in the lobby where the freshly restored mural map of the continental United States reigns with regal understatement.

The designers pulled off a \$41 million recycling job that transforms this "temple of transportation" into a 143-room hotel that bears little resemblance to



The lobby features a huge mural map of the U.S. and a 1928 Model A Ford roadster on display.

Continued on Page 5...



PRESIDENTIAL RIDE. IN A NORMAL POSE

TOUR DE FRANCE TO MARSEILLES (ILLINOIS)

Story By RAY McMAHON Photos By RAY McMAHON & ALAN PETRIK

Bob Fields arranged and led a very enjoyable Tour to visit Marseilles, Illinois, on July 23rd for lunch at the Coyote Cafe in its downtown area. Lunch was excellent and everyone in the town was very friendly and enjoyed seeing the Model A's lined up in front of the Cafe. Summer weather was pretty warm but steady breezes kept us and the Model A's running cool. Bob's route map served us well!

We had Bob, Gene, Bill, Rick, Alan, Lindy and Ray (riding shotgun with Lindy) on the tour . . . six cars in all.

The route was very nice and we all got to see the vast fields of corn, beans and hay being grown in our Heartland State. It looks like our farmers will have a good year.

Well done, Bob . . . great job on the event. Can't wait for another tour!



24th Annual Model "A" Day Sharon, Wisconsin — June 6, 2021



Photos By
JOHN
EMMERING



ROUTE 66 TOUR IN OKLAHOMA!



Family business in Oklahoma gave me the chance to drive 100 miles of old Route 66 from Tulsa to Oklahoma City, starting here at the Avery Bridge across the Arkansas River.

Story and Photos By PAUL HERBERT



This sculpture captures early years on the Mother Road.

Continued on bottom of Page 5...

5/12/21 TECH SESSION LUNCH AT ALAN'S HOUSE

We gathered on May 12th to explore the mysteries of Alan Petrik's 7-Tooth Model A steering column, but even more to enjoy a Petrik cookout repast featuring Diane's beans and a dessert of cupcakes topped with little Model A's. We tore into Alan's old steering column and got it mostly apart, then had a bench talk about 7-tooth vs. 2-tooth types, and retired from the field with some take-apart remaining to be done on the steering column.

Later on, Alan worked on the quadrant by soaking it for 24 hours with PB Blaster and then applied some heat, and got it off without much trouble.

It had rust, dirt buildup, and paint layers that had halted our lunch-hour disassembly efforts. He got it cleaned up, and found a good photo of a 7-tooth quadrant showing that the spark rod has stops top and bottom while the throttle rod has a top stop only.

For correct repairs, he must fabricate a top stop on the spark side of the quadrant.



CHICAGO MOTOR CLUB HAMPTON INN

Continued from Page 1...

the more common generic boxes that Hampton Inn more commonly builds along the nation's highways.

It's part of a broader Chicago trend that has turned several historic landmarks into hotels. Among them: the Reliance Building (now the Hotel Burnham), the Carbide & Carbon Building (now the Hard Rock Hotel); the Old Dearborn Bank Building (now the Virgin Hotel Chicago); and the Chicago Athletic Association. Earlier, the old Majestic Building, also home to the Bank of America Theatre, was converted into another Hampton Inn.

The historic building's features will delight architecture and auto buffs, as well as those who once ventured into the building for "TripTiks," the narrow flip books in which each page covered a stretch of highway and pointed out gas stations, hotels and the occasional campground.

The Chicago Motor Club pushed for good roads, provided emergency assistance, and excelled at offering route information for the needs of an ever-rising market of people buying cars and traveling in them in 1928.

The original architects, Chicago's Holabird & Root, turned out much grander Art Deco skyscrapers, like the Chicago Board of Trade Building at the

foot of LaSalle Street and the great Palmolive Building, a landmark for drivers on Lake Shore Drive. But what the Motor Club may have lacked in height and girth, it made up for in pre-Digital Age interactivity.

Motorists entering its light-filled, barrel-vaulted lobby would line up at counters to get road maps and travel advice. Across the lobby was a grandly scaled mural map by artist John Warner Norton. The map's sleek geometric lines picked up where those of the building left off. Its naturalistic color palette suggested that drivers wouldn't be conquering nature, they would be immersing themselves in it. This artful diagram was an invitation to travel.

There are crowd-pleasing touches to be enjoyed, like a 1928 Ford Model A Ford that sits on a balcony at the lobby's far end. Rich decoration adorns the lobby walls, including ribbons of silvery ornament and nickel-leafed plaster eagles that have been beautifully buffed.

The key, though, is that the lobby's color palette has been retuned after years of rehabs played havoc with

its visual harmony. With taupe-colored walls, and green-and-black terrazzo floors back in place, the soothing hues of the mural map grow organically from the lobby instead of resembling a piece of art stuck on a white wall.

Careful restoration of the map not only smooths sections of the piece that had begun to curl like old cheese. It also restores the map to its original width of 33 feet by incorporating a strip on the right edge that had come off and put in storage. This enhances the map's ability to evoke expansive spaces of a vast continent.

Hotel guests and the public can now take in all the splendor from a handsomely understated bar that replaces the old Trip-Tik counters.



Much appreciation to the Chicago Tribune for historical information on the Chicago Motor Club, its building, and the restoration project.

ROUTE 66 *Continued from Page 4...*



Most of Route 66 is straighter as re-aligned in the 50's and 60's. Some pieces of the older road remain.



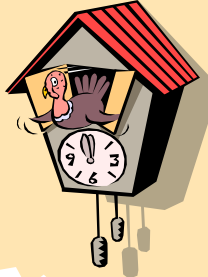
Roadside plaque, with Paul.

Here is a stretch from the Model A era, concrete-lined road with curbing.



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED...

TIME TO TALK TURKEY!



7th ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER

November 14, 2021 At 12:00 PM

\$26.⁰⁰ Per Person - Cash Bar Available

\$16.⁰⁰ Children ages 4-11, Free For 3 & Under

HOST: THE ILLINOIS REGION MODEL A RESTORERS CLUB

Elburn Lions Community Park □ 500 Filmore Street □ Elburn, IL 60119

Send your Name, Phone Number, E-Mail Address, Check Payable to Illinois Region MARC/MAFCA, and Club Affiliation to: ILLINOIS REGION MARC/MAFCA, c/o Melinda Pritchett, 40W051 Sunflower Lane, Elgin, IL 60124

*RSVP BY NOVEMBER 1 2021, Call Melinda at 630/842-7065 or E-Mail her at melindaborck@yahoo.com
A PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED TO THE CLUB WITH THE MOST ANTIQUE CARS DRIVEN!*

2021 SAFETY CHECK

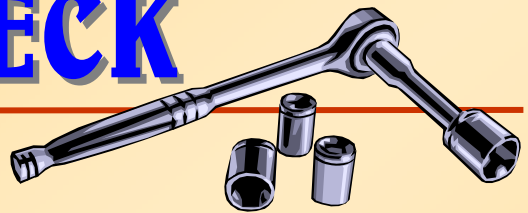
Voegtle's Garage in Warrenville May 22, 2021

Story & Photos By GENE EGERT

Thanks to all who made the 2021 Safety Check such a success on Saturday May 22nd, from 9:00 AM to 11:30. That morning, we inspected my 1930 Tudor, Pete Pope's 1931 Phaeton, Ed Danley's 1930 Fordor, and Bob Fields' 1930 pick-up truck that he traiered in.

No major problems were found, but there followed many discussions on troubleshooting and repair of many of common problems, with Lindy, Allan, Gar, and Steve all sharing experiences. Jeff Carstens made some coffee and the Club set out pastries.

As always, Ron Olsen's checklist proved a valuable guide!



2021 PANCREATIC CANCER WALK

Story and Photos By RAY McMAHON

We had another great turnout for this year's 2021 Lustgarten Foundation "Beat Pancreatic Cancer" Walk on Sunday morning, July 18th. The Walk was a big success this year with the Naper A's, Illinois Region of MARC, and the Studebaker Clubs all bringing out their cars. Our Steve Paul represented the Model T Club.

Overall the Walk Donated \$85,000 to the foundation at the start of the Walk. Our Club activity generated \$2,254 this year . . . an all time high for us and due primarily to a donation of \$1,032 that we received at the beginning of the Walk. The donor wishes to remain unknown. We cannot thank this person enough for their generosity.

Lindy Williams and another lady (both are Pancreatic Cancer Survivors) cut the Ribbon to start the Walk this year. We received really good feedback about the cars from the families of the Walkers. They enjoyed seeing the cars and talking with their owners.

A special thanks to everyone for bringing their cars and taking the time to participate in this year's Walk. We hope to see you all again next year!



Naper A's



**A Word From Gene Egert...
THE PREZ SAYS...**



Hello my fellow model A'ers! It's that time again, to put a few of my Great Thoughts to paper. It has been a slow start to the summer, although now we have resumed our regular Warren Tavern in-house meetings.

We had a great time on our Sharon, Wisconsin Tour and our Marseilles (Illinois) Tour. It was a great turnout (see full coverage elsewhere in this issue).

I know several members who have been out doing House Calls to assist others with car problems to be assured they run fine on tours. I was at Bob Fields recently, helping him with his brakes and cooling problem on his Tudor. Lindy and I were at Alan's assisting him with timing his engine, and found a BAD crack in the exhaust manifold which turned out to need replacement. Best to have found it in the garage and not on a tour! So it goes to show that having others look at your car may reveal things that you may have missed . . .

We have several more tours coming up (to Union and the Garage Tour, for example), but will mix it up a little with our annual Picnic now planned to be held at the Warren Tavern along with a local Model A Car Show and public demonstrations to help generate interest in the Model A hobby and our cars. It's a go, rain or shine!

Many thanks to Nick for his expertise on the Website and Minutes, keeping everyone up-to-date, and for Rich's work on the *4-Banger*. Soon, we will introduce a new section to advertise parts for sale among our club members. Keep this in mind if you have miscellaneous parts to sell or give away, and we will list them here free of charge!

**Model A Car Show
& Picnic Lunch**



**SEPTEMBER 25, 2021
10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM**

AT THE WARREN TAVERN
Warrenville Road at Second Street □ Warrenville, Illinois

- **PICNIC LUNCH FOR NAPER A's MEMBERS & FAMILIES.**
- **BRING A DISH TO PASS, DRINKS, AND/OR DESSERTS.**
- **NO CHARGE TO ATTEND, BUT COME IN YOUR MODEL A!**
- **WARREN TAVERN HOLDING OPEN HOUSE TOURS.**
- **WARRENVILLE CITY MUSEUM OPEN TO VISITORS.**

**SPONSORED BY THE NAPER A's
& THE WARREN TAVERN PRESERVATIONISTS**



Stock#13935 CALL NOW (310) 975-0272

USED CAR LOT

FOUND ON HEMMINGS WEBSITE:

1931 MODEL A VICTORIA

Location: Beverly Hills, California, 90210

Transmission: Manual 3-Speed

Condition: Excellent

Description: Elegant 1931 Ford Model A Victoria, black with a sand beige interior. The vehicle comes equipped with a manual transmission, rear luggage rack, wire wheels, whitewall tires, and spare tire. Mechanically sound, 40-HP four-cylinder engine.

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