

THE 4-BANGER

VOICE OF THE NAPER A's

THE 4-BANGER VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4 ★ WINTER, 2018

**AFFILIATED
WITH THE
MODEL A
FORD CLUB
OF AMERICA**



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President:	Gene Egert
Vice President:	Tom Eklund
Treasurer:	Lindy Williams
Secretary:	Nick Mazzarella

**TRAINS DON'T WANDER
ALL OVER THE MAP
'CAUSE NOBODY SITS
IN THE ENGINEER'S LAP**



Celebrating The 90th Anniversary Of The Model "A" Ford's Grand Introduction!

By John Emmering

Along with traditional holiday observations this winter, Model "A" enthusiasts have another big reason to celebrate. Yes, we are now witnessing the 90th anniversary of the introduction of "The New Ford," which is how Ford Motor Company officially referenced its freshly-designed 1928 Model "A."

The well-planned unveiling of the Model "A" actually rolled out across the nation on December 2, 1927. It was the culmination of many months of intense activity by the Ford enterprise.

Surprise telegrams delivered to Ford Dealerships all over the country on May 26, 1927, were the first inkling a big model change was on its way. That telegram from Ford Headquarters advised dealers that the auto manufacturer was "starting early production of an entirely new Ford car, superior in design and performance to any now in the low price light car field." After years of urging by his son Edsel and others, Henry Ford had finally given in to the undeniable fact that the Model "T" needed to be replaced with a new, more up-to-date automobile.

Continued on Page 6...



A gentleman named Joe DiPerna used to make these nifty wooden Model "A" models in a variety of body styles to sell at our swap meets. He used a variety of hardwoods for contrast and applied a lacquer finish. They were about 15" long and very nicely detailed. Haven't seen Joe in a long time... Does anyone have his contact information?



STOCK UP ON THE PARTS YOU NEED!



**MAFFI
NEWS
MINUTE**

34th Annual Winter Parts Swap

Admission: \$5
per-person

Sunday, March 18th, 2018 From 7:00am 'til 1pm

Tommy's Deli Open for Coffee, Donuts & Lunch

Friendly Ford, Roselle IL 60172

333 E. Irving Park Rd. between Roselle & Medinah Rd. Just South of 390 Expy.

Plenty of
Free
Parking

TOMMY'S Deli and Food Emporium

All Makes and All Models



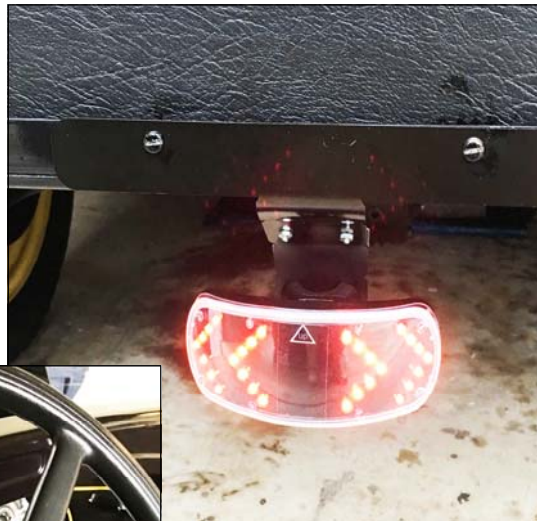
www.illinoisregionmarc.com

Call Mark Maron 847-302-7900 mark@maron.com for information/Larry Rust for Reservations 847-404-9233 larust@msn.com

Wireless Turn Signals for Model A's

By Alan Petrik

My cost was \$150.00 (plus shipping fees of \$12.00) from Egypt Garage and I ordered an alternate mounting bracket for an extra \$15.00 to get their



Wireless Turn Signals outfit. The kit comes complete with batteries and some needed allen wrenches. And is designed to hang under the license plate, but I wanted it in the center of the car under my trunk.

Therefore, I fitted the two brackets into one and recessed the signal box below my luggage rack in the center. See the photos, this turns out to be a very simple and fast installation.

The unit has an on and off switch to conserve battery life. It affords right, left and emergency signal flashing with an audible tone to keep your attention. Once past the cost, in 30 minutes I had some nice safety improvements made to our car, sparing other types of kits and all that wiring work. Quite a cool and simple safety addition!

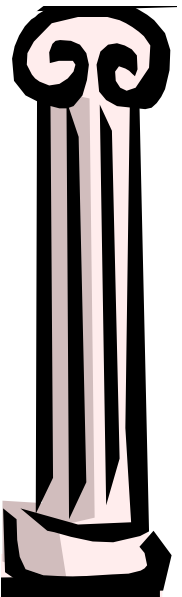
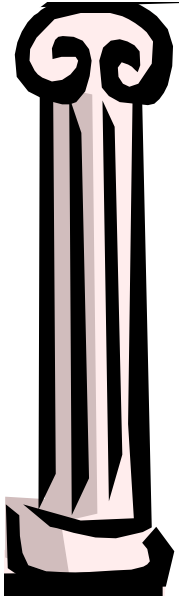
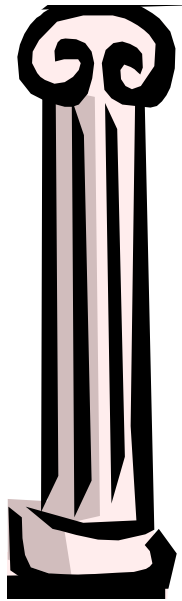
During last year's Model A Day at The Gilmore, I began service as the President of the Foundation. This is truly an honor, and in speaking for both myself and your board of directors, I would like to reaffirm our commitment to continue to make our Foundation and Museum a great experience for our hobbyists and to be good stewards of our assets. Through the efforts of many people over much time, we now have one of the finest car Museums anywhere, which both tells the story of the Model A and the era and preserves Model A vehicles and artifacts for generations to come.

Addressing floor space, this is an area where we pay special attention. Currently, in our Museum, we have a special display which includes the Russian built GAZ engine, an interactive exhibit that demonstrates the method of starting a Model A engine, a right-hand-drive Phaeton built in England, a Model A school bus exhibit, an oil tanker and wrecker, a postal vehicle, an airplane, Thomas Edison's personal car, and assorted Model A vehicles of virtually every year and body style as well as exhibits of era fashions and memorabilia. That's a lot to showcase. Visitor feedback continues to tell us we have one of the best collections and displays at The Gilmore.

If you haven't been to our Museum, do consider a visit. You won't be disappointed! If you been here before, come again. We are constantly changing displays and providing lots of new information we think you will enjoy. Your ideas and suggestions to improve our Museum and experience for our visitors is always welcome.

Best regards,

John Begg, MAFFI President



NAPIER A's TOOLS. BOOKS. & VIDEO LIBRARY



Tools, equipment, and videos are available on loan for the use by any club member free of charge! If you need something, just contact Lindy Williams at 630/420-0433.

- ☐ Brake shoe rivet tool
- ☐ Helicoil for head studs
- ☐ Carburetor jet tester
- ☐ 1/2" reamer for distributor
- ☐ Clutch disk alignment tool
- ☐ King pin reamer
- ☐ Crankshaft nut socket wrenches
- ☐ Pedal bushing reamer
- ☐ Socket wrench for main bearing bolts
- ☐ steering wheel/fan pulley puller
- ☐ Frame spreader
- ☐ Pinion gear puller
- ☐ Gas gauge tools
- ☐ Spring Shackle bushing tools
- ☐ Generator/Starter armature out-of-round tool
- ☐ Shift lever spring tool
- ☐ Hydraulic body and frame pump
- ☐ Cotter pin holder
- ☐ Magnetic crack detector
- ☐ Hinge pin remover
- ☐ Rear axle seal installer
- ☐ Engine turning tool, flywheel end
- ☐ Rear spring spreader
- ☐ Frame rivet tool
- ☐ Socket wrench for windshield wiper motor
- ☐ Head puller/engine lifter
- ☐ Timing gear nut wrench
- ☐ Eye bolts and chain for engine
- ☐ Torque wrench
- ☐ Hub puller
- ☐ Valve guide remover

- ☐ Valve spring compressor
- ☐ Engine stand
- ☐ Brake shoe centering tool
- ☐ Front spring spreader
- ☐ Steering ball plug tool
- ☐ Flywheel/housing checker
- ☐ Wheel stud swedging tool
- ☐ Engine hoist
- ☐ Brake pedal adjusting tool
- ☐ Coil polarity tester
- ☐ Coil voltage tester
- ☐ Distributor puller
- ☐ Steering wheel puller

BOOKS

- ☐ Model A service bulletins
- ☐ Model A shop Manual (Jim Schild)

MOVIES (DVD and VHS)

- ☐ Carburetor rebuilding
- ☐ Rebuilding shock absorbers
- ☐ Distributor rebuilding
- ☐ Install turn signal
- ☐ Generator rebuilding
- ☐ Rebuild two-tooth steering
- ☐ Horn rebuilding
- ☐ Model A keys and locks
- ☐ Overheating
- ☐ Tour of Lebaron factory
- ☐ Brake rebuilding
- ☐ Autumn trails
- ☐ Timing the ignition
- ☐ Story of Henry Ford
- ☐ Roadside trouble shooting
- ☐ Transmission Rebuilding



Naper A's 2017 Christmas Dinner

MANY THANKS TO
PAM EKLUND FOR
TAKING ALL THESE
GREAT PICTURES!

BOHEMIAN CRYSTAL RESTAURANT □ WESTMONT, ILLINOIS □ DECEMBER 3, 2017

The dinner and camaraderie was excellent as usual, with a sumptuous feast of roast beef, two kinds of pork, and veal and all the potatoes, gravy, dumplings, and trimmings enjoyed by all. 33 members and guests spent a very enjoyable evening over the excellent food and copious beverages. Jerry Davis donated roses for the Ladies, Ron Olson ran another one of his inventive car games, and Alan Petrik, Pete Pope, and Cheryl Egert all contributed door prizes. Lindy gave a report on members' yearly mileages and the top three drivers were recognized. All in all, the event capped a busy, productive year!



WHAT WORKS & WHAT DOESN'T...



Installing fresh rubber windshield gaskets may eventually keep the rain off your lap, but they can give you indigestion during the process. The product they sell nowadays seems to have a larger round knob on it than the old channel wants to accept. Tackling this problem, I naturally asked around, and one Model A friend

suggested stretching the material to give it a narrower cross-section. So, I heated up the coil of rubber first in scalding-hot water, then hung it up overnight to stretch out weighted with some old sash weights. **THIS DIDN'T**

WORK. The rubber still wouldn't fit into the windshield channel.

Next up, I reasoned that trimming the profile length-wise might do the trick. So I rigged up a vise to pinch the rubber between two metal yardsticks with help from some spring clamps. Then I went at the knob with a belt sander. **THIS DIDN'T WORK, EITHER.** The belt sander just wouldn't remove enough material.

Finally, I left the yardstick setup in place and rounded up a small wood plane. Adjusting the blade pretty shallow, I started making real progress. **THIS METHOD WORKED JUST GREAT!** It was now possible to shave off nice long strips of scrap rubber and get the profile down to a size that could be worked into the windshield track nice and snug. As always, it is prudent to practice on a small scrap before going at it full steam ahead. As you can see from the scrap pile, quite a bit of material needed removal.



UPCOMING 2018 EVENT...

Model "A" Day In Sharon - First Sunday in June!

Every year on the first Sunday in June, the spirit of the 1920's and 1930's lives again in the small town of Sharon, Wisconsin, as Model A's line the main street. People dressed as period gangsters and flappers promenade in front of the well-preserved facades of local businesses displaying the architecture of a different time. Within the setting of these historic buildings, the Model A's and people in period attire look quite at home.



Model A Day is one of several events put forth by Historic Downtown Sharon, and organization that brings to life the history that surrounds us and thus allows us to get in touch with our past for a moment. The illusion of stepping back in time is further supported by costumed residents roaming the town, time-period entertainments, and, of course, those delicious foods we have been eating for as long as anyone can remember. Whether a new face or old friend, Sharon, Wisconsin, beckons on the first Sunday in June!

- ★ Date: Sunday June 3rd, 2018
- ★ Time: Between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM
- ★ Location: Downtown Main Street
- ★ Go: Join the Naper A's Caravan Tour That Day Heading To Sharon!

MODEL A INTRODUCTION

Continued from Page 1...

The positive announcement of a new Ford model on the way was tempered by the reality that Ford automobile production would cease for almost six months and therefore no new cars would be available in Ford dealership showrooms for the public to purchase. Production workers and dealers had to suffer through that drought and make do as best they could. Ford area sales managers visited their local dealers to encourage them to get by during the interim period with used car sales, service work, and elimination of non-productive employees (notably including unskilled relatives).

Retooling of the River Rouge plant moved along smartly and components for the new automobile were produced on an accelerating schedule. Then, on October 20, 1927, Henry Ford hand-stamped Model "A" engine number one, and the engine was installed into a Tudor sedan for a ten-day testing period. Finally, on Tuesday November 1, 1927, regular production on the Model "A" Ford began. The assembly line began moving initially at a snail's pace with only about 20 cars assembled daily. As the bugs were worked out and production workers fell into the rhythm of assembling the new model, the production rate did gradually

increase until brand new Fords were once again flying off the assembly line in large numbers.

Intricate plans for unveiling the new Ford Model "A" had been prepared by the Ford Motor Company advertising division to create the greatest impact. Late in November of 1927, all Ford dealers received a 26-page packet containing signs with illustrations of the new Fords depicting all of their features and a set of detailed instructions on how to conduct the unveiling of the new 1928 Model "A" Ford.

In perhaps the biggest event since Lindbergh landed in Paris earlier that year, the unveiling of the Ford Model "A" literally took America by storm. That well-choreographed Friday, December 2, 1927, début attracted over 10 million people into Ford dealerships as well as public showings in exhibition halls and hotels. According to reliable Ford Motor Company sources, 10% of the U.S. population viewed the new Ford Model "A." In our own Chicago area, over 500,000 people viewed the new Ford. It was said that 400,000 orders were received for new Model "A" cars during the historic debut. Yet Ford Motor Company had its work cut out for them producing the vehicles for delivery during 1928.

The first Model "A", a Tudor, was presented as a gift to Thomas Edison, who requested

that it be changed into a phaeton, because he preferred open cars. Noted humorist Will Rodgers also received one of the earliest Model "A" Fords. The popular song "Henry Made a Lady out of Lizzie" by Walter O'Keefe was inspired by the new Model "A," and that popular tune subsequently swept the country during 1928.



Henry and Edsel Ford at the New York City debut of the Ford Model A, standing in front of a Briggs-bodied Ford model.

The introduction of the Model "A" Ford in December of 1927 began a love affair with the car that not only endured through its production life but also survived long afterward . . . indeed, right down to our present day.

From its initial inception as an affordable automobile for daily transportation to its current status as a very desirable vintage collector's item, the Model "A" Ford has maintained its vast and enduring popularity. This fact allows us all to continue enjoying this remarkable rolling milestone as our beloved Model "A" Ford turns the ripe old age of 90.

Many thanks to John Emmering for penning this insightful piece on the debut of the Model "A" Ford.



Henry Ford stamping Model A Engine #1

ORGANIZE YOUR MODEL A FILES!

By Rich Volkmer

If you're like me, you have probably accumulated a vast assortment of Model A information as time has gone by. When you're working on your car, you may go on-line to download a tech article on some specific topic, or tear an article out of a magazine.

Then there are the handouts that accumulate from attending tech sessions, some instruction sheets that come with parts you buy, and maybe pictures taken at car shows or swap meets. Pretty soon, the stack can get to be two or three inches high.

Even if you keep all that stuff in one place, it soon becomes difficult to locate the reference you want to access (when you most need it) and you may have to go through the whole pile to find a single sheet that you just know is in there somewhere.

Here's a great Winter evening project: ORGANIZE THOSE MODEL A FILES! It only took me a couple hours and I have every confidence that the effort will pay big dividends in saved time in the future.

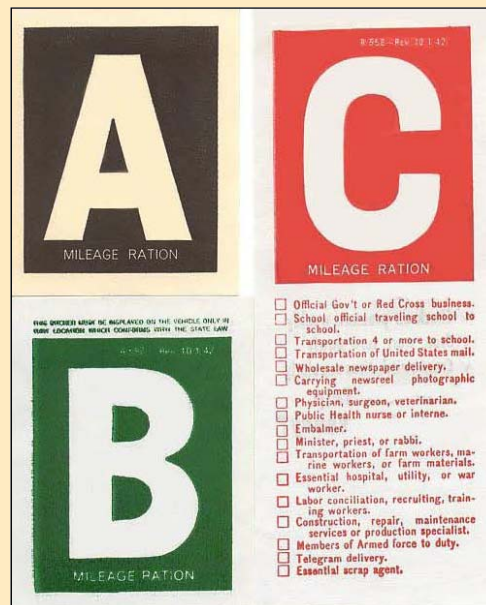
I began by outlining a set of categories that would help break down my pile into a set of small piles:

- ☐ REGISTRATION
- ☐ INDEXES
- ☐ HISTORY
- ☐ ENGINE
- ☐ CHASSIS
- ☐ BODY
- ☐ MAINTENANCE
- ☐ BRAKES
- ☐ ELECTRICAL
- ☐ WIPERS
- ☐ HORN
- ☐ SPEEDOMETER
- ☐ TOOLS
- ☐ PICTURES



I keep license plate registration records and a copy of the title in the first section and indexes for my "Technically Speaking" and "How To Restore Your Model A" books in the second section. The History section includes all sorts of articles on Model A history, production records, original specifications, and the like. The rest of the categories are pretty well self explanatory.

To contain all these sections, I salvaged an old accordion file, trimmed it down to the size I needed, and made a set of labels on the computer. In no time, it was all stuffed in there and now all I have to do is reach inside to find saved information on the category needed... without going through the entire collection.



The first commodity to be controlled during WWII was gasoline. The stickers above were required posting on one's windshield.

As time went by, bacon, butter and sugar were also rationed. This was

followed by successive rationing schemes for meat, tea, jam, biscuits, breakfast cereals, cheese, eggs, lard, milk, and canned and dried fruit. While fresh vegetables and fruit were not rationed, supplies were limited. Many people grew their own vegetables, greatly encouraged by the "dig for victory" motivational campaign in ubiquitous Victory Gardens.

To Save Tires Drive Under 35

- ✓ Share your car
- ✓ Check air pressure weekly
- ✓ Stop, start, turn slowly
- ✓ Cross-switch tires regularly

Is This Trip
Really Necessary?

IDLING CURES SUGGESTED BY MAFCA

If you just can't seem to make your Model A idle properly (ta-puck-a-ta, puck-a-ta, puck-a-ta) like they are famous for, check the following:

1. Are your valves in good condition? No burned exhaust valves? Compression good?
2. Is the carburetor okay? Has it been checked out?
3. Is the distributor okay? New condenser, etc.?
4. No excess play in the distributor linkage?
5. Do you have Champion 3X spark plugs? Are they fairly new plugs?
6. Is the spark plug gap 0.035" to 0.040"?
7. Look for possible leaks in the intake system like manifold gaskets, cracked intake manifold, faulty windshield wiper hose and fittings.
8. Check for manifold leaks by spraying a very light liquid like WD-40 along the manifold to block gasket while the engine is idling. Does it slow down? If it does your manifold gaskets might be leaking. The gaskets could be improperly installed or the manifold surfaces could be warped.



GENE, DAN, & LINDY WORKING ON THE NEW ENGINE.

Hope everyone is having a great Winter, north or south! The cars are all tucked away now for Winter, with antifreeze, fuel stabilizer, and the battery on trickle charge or in a warm spot.

We really enjoyed this past Christmas Party on December 3rd and the election of Officers, returning to office the slate of myself as President, Tom Eklund as Vice President, Lindy Williams as Treasurer, and Nick Mazzarella a Secretary. The Party was well attended, with 31 members and 2 guests. I want to thank Allen Petrik for all his donated gift baskets and Tom and Pam Eklund for their assorted gifts. My Cheryl also donated gifts of hair care products. All these items were raffled off. The club contributed a nice mounted panoramic Safety Check event photo as well, taken last year in front of Voegtli's Garage by Ray McMahon's daughter, Megan.

There was some discussion of trying another venue for Xmas party and so we are taking suggestions. Mileage awards were handed out to Jim Weaver for first place with 1863 miles, Gene Egert with second place with 1787 miles, and Tom Eklund with 1469 miles for third. The club gave

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

out roses to Lady A's, donated by Jerry Davis.

Donka donations were at a record high of \$495.00 and the club kicked in \$5.00 to make an even \$500.00 gifting to Donka.

Now on to a great tech secession hosted on December 16th by yours truly. It featured the removal of our old Model A engine from our 1930 Tudor (which was getting tired and leaking its body fluids) and replacement with a fresh mill. With the help of Lindy Williams and Dan Manola, we had overhauled the new engine, including a valve job, checking all the babbitt bearings, and setting all clearances on the crankshaft and the connecting rods. On the old engine, the pistons and rings were pretty well worn out but she still ran great until last year, when it began to blow by a lot of oil. So it was high time for the new mill.

As word got out that I was looking for another engine, Ken Lang mentioned to Gar Williams that he was giving away an engine. Bingo! As luck would have it, I was in business. Many thanks to Ken for such a wonderful gift. Lindy and I wasted no time taking the engine down for inspection. Turns out engine was in great shape, mostly just needing a valve job and rings. With the help of Dan Manola and his great collection of specialty tools, we ground the valve seats and refaced the valves with his great wealth of knowledge. Lindy and I plasti-gauged all the babbitts for proper clearances. We installed new rings and then re-

assembled the engine. So, in December the Naper A's all gathered for the Tech Session at my garage in West Chicago to remove and re-install the two engines. It all went great, with 8 to 12 people coming and going in the four hours it took. I had the engine ready to pull at start time, and that process took about half an hour. We removed the pressure plate and installed it on the new rebuilt engine with a new clutch plate. Then, we hooked up the lift again and installed the new engine into place. It was like a well-oiled machine, everyone working in harmony with some guidance. This was all captured on a GoPro camera in time lapse mode, cutting the time down from four hours to seven minutes. This fun little "Keystone Kops" video can be seen on the Club's web site.

The job was completed in subsequent weeks with help from my son, Jimmy, taking a while due to the onset of cold weather. Good to know, however, the car fired right up on the first crank when everything was finally ready, and we ran her in for about 30 minutes. Several days later, we started it up again when the road was dry and took her out for a road test. Again, it ran great!

Many thanks to all who helped on this great project. We'll have another tech session to tear down my original engine, watch for a date to come. Also, remember that May 19th will be the Club's annual Safety Check at Voegtli's Garage in Warrenville. Use that opportunity to catch your small problems before they turn into large ones!

NEW LAPEL PIN



New for the 2017 Model A Day at the Model A Museum was the offering of a lapel pin showing the featured vehicle, a 1931 AA Standdrive Milk Truck owned by Roger and DeeDee Kauffman. Prior to Roger's passing he was well known as the Technical Chairman for MARC and wrote the "Technical Questions" column for the *Model A News*. DeeDee generously loaned this wonderful vehicle to the museum. To honor Roger and to start a new tradition, the pin was created. This pin is offered in a limited quantity and can be ordered for \$7 each (shipping included).

Send your order to:

Suzan O'Neale
477 Beaver Pond Way
Mineral, VA 23117

Please specifying the quantity desired and include a check payable to MAFFI. There will be a different pin in 2018, so watch out for it and visit the Museum to purchase your limited edition pin. More information will follow....

USED CAR DEPARTMENT

FOUND ON HEMMINGS WEB SITE: 1931 MODEL "A" TOWN SEDAN

200 cid L-Head in-line 4
Zenith Carburetor/40 bhp
3-Speed Manual Transmission
Four-Wheel Mechanical
Brakes

Location: Tyrone, Georgia 30290
Condition: Excellent
Exterior: Green
Interior: Brown

Slant windshield, paint spectacular, interior very nice, runs and drives great. Car has dual side mounts with chrome tire covers, whitewall tires, trim rings, dual mirrors, a drivers side spotlight, luggage rack, stone guards, and a Flying Quail radiator mascot.

Tommy's Antiques and Collectibles
(770-634-6113)

\$24,500.00

