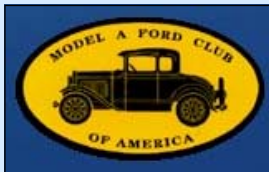


THE 4-BANGER

VOICE OF THE NAPER A's

THE 4-BANGER VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4 ★ WINTER, 2022

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



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Farewell, Fine Members!



Noel X. DeLessio passed away on November 21, 2021, at age 82 in his hometown of Naperville, Illinois.

He was born to Carmine and Grace DeLessio in New York, NY. Noel was graduated from Jamaica High School in New York and received his Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degrees from Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in Electrical Engineering. He married his Juylene in 1961.

Noel was a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army leading a research effort in plasma physics and as an electrical engineering Professor prior to beginning a long and

successful engineering career. He worked for 30 years for AT&T Bell Labs in research, exploratory and product development in defense, computer, and telecommunications.

Noel was a Donka board member and an active member of the Naperville and Joliet Model A Clubs. He drove a 1929 Fordor.

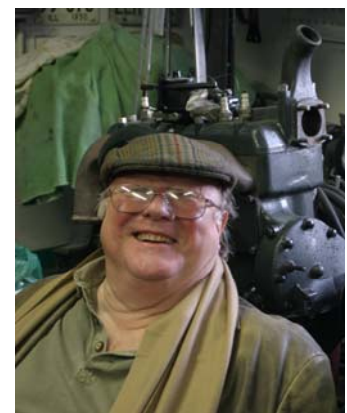
A lifelong adventurer, he was a sailor, a private pilot, a motorcyclist, an RV guy, a classic car maven, and a world traveler alongside his wife of 60 years, Juylene. He served as an AT&T Bell Labs Visiting Professor at North Carolina A&T State and as also as a loaned executive to Chicago State University.

Roderick F. Barton, age 83, living in Naperville, Illinois and Green Valley, Arizona, passed away peacefully on September 25, 2020, in Tucson. He was born on May 15, 1937, in Evesham, Worcestershire, England.

Roddy served once as President of the Naper A and had three Model A's,

including a 1929 Business Coupe, a 1931 Town Sedan, and a 1928 Roadster. He and his wife, Ann, joined in all Naper A's club activities, tours, and picnics.

He is remembered as a jolly fellow with a contagious sense of humor, always equipped with good stories and recollections... rendered with a charming Brit accent. He summoned a wealth of very revealing information on his British actors and actresses, could explain the vagaries of international monetary systems with ease, and held forth on Jaguar vs. Model A Ford technologies with aplomb...best of all over a pint or two of suds.



More on Page 3...



Ford Tri-Motor Time!



Story & Photos by Bob Fields

The local Model A club in Florida sent out its announcement that a Ford Tri-Motor airplane was making the rounds locally. It was a perfect excuse to take a day off from work to experience transcontinental flight as it was back in the Model “A” days, so I booked a seat!

The plane I experienced was a Liberty Ford Tri-Motor 5-AT-B. The flight we took was in Lakeland, Florida, on the 17th of February. The weather was perfect for a day in the air, and I was lucky to occupy the co-pilot seat and could listen in on the tower communications. The takeoff and flight was smooth and I enjoyed the ability to open the window and hang my elbow out in the passing breeze. The pilot was scheduled to land in back of a 767 and asked the tower for another lap around

to let the 767 pass in the landing lineup. What a great day to blow off work for a great aerial Ford adventure!

By the way, the Experimental Aircraft Association, which operates this Tri-Motor aircraft, has it on their schedule to return to Bolingbrook and offer rides here locally from June 2nd to June 5th.

The “Ford Tri-Motor Tour” recalls the energy, the passion, and the excitement of the Roaring 20’s when you fly aboard this old airplane. Known as the first real luxury



airliner, the Tri-Motor redefined world travel and the origin of commercial flight. All tour stops are hosted by EAA volunteers who are passionate about sharing the Ford Tri-Motor’s stories. Revenues from the Ford Tri-Motor Tour help cover maintenance and operations costs for the aircraft and will aid in keeping the “Tin Goose” flying for many more years to come.

Noel & Roddie Remembered

Continued from Page 1...



Roddie and Ann on a White Pines Tour.



On the road with the Naper A's Starved Rock Tour in 2016.



The Wednesday Colonial Lunch Crew has often included (left to right) Jerry Davis, Roddy Barton, Gar Williams, Noel DeLessio, Rick Burgermeister, and Lindy Williams.



"Let there be light!" was Noel's mantra, "50 CP at a time..."



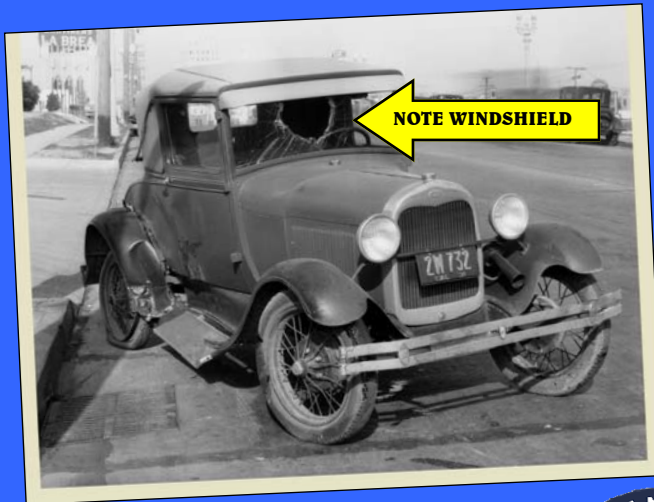
Noel lectured on Model A electrics back when the Naper A's met years ago at the Naperville City Hall.

Noel joined Dan Manola for presentations on rebuilding starters and generators at a Naper A's tech session in 2014.



A Traffic Accident Involving a Model A Ford vs. a Buick at Olympic Boulevard & South La Brea Avenue, in Los Angeles, California, in 1931

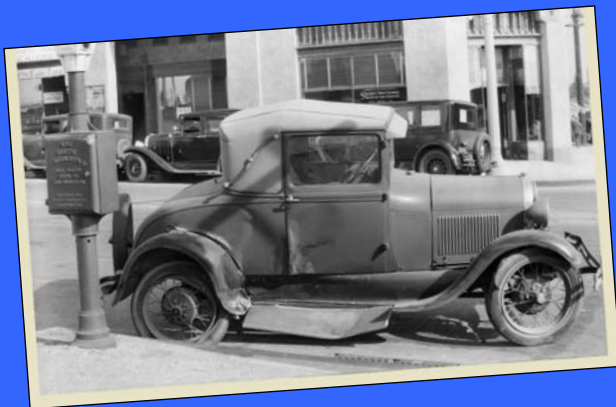
Story & Photos By John Emmering



11:52 AM: We were assigned to investigate an accident at Olympic & South La Brea.



The collision involved a Buick and a Ford Model "A" Sports Coupe



We observed the Ford's right rear fender was damaged along with the running board.



12:02 PM: We interviewed witnesses "Just the facts ma'am!"



After investigation the driver of the Buick was cited for 22100VC, an improper turn violation.

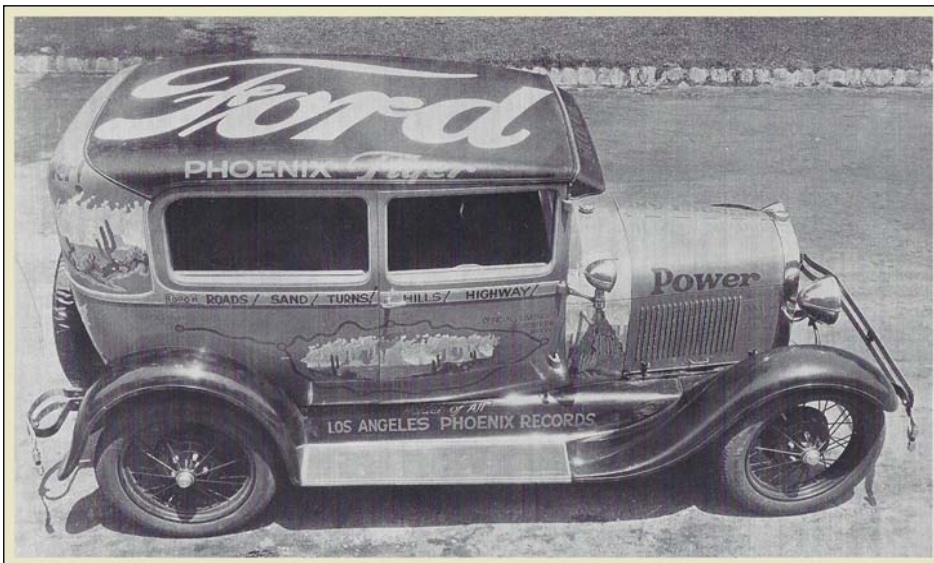


12:35 PM: A wrecker responded, towing the Ford from the scene. No further action was taken.

Fast Eddie Pullen Pushed His “Phoenix Flyer” Model “A” Ford Real Hard In Amazing L.A.-to-Phoenix run!

Story & Photos By John Emmering

Ford Motor company commissioned retired champion race car driver Eddie Pullen to demonstrate the superior qualities of their all-new 1928 Model “A” Ford soon after its introduction in a fantastic run across the desert from Los Angeles, California to Phoenix, Arizona *and back*.



Eddie took his stock 1928 Model “A” Tudor, motor serial #1283, dubbed it “The Phoenix Flyer” and dashed the 448 miles from L.A. to Phoenix in eight hours, fourteen minutes. Eddie’s Ford averaged a speed of 58¼ miles per hour and at times was reported to attain speeds as high as 76 mph. After refueling, his Model “A” made its return trip to Los Angeles in another eight hours and fifty minutes. Head winds going westward?



Fast Eddie Pullen

As if that wasn’t enough of a test for this Model “A”, once back in California Eddie took the 1928 Ford around a six-mile circle course on the Mojave Desert’s Muroc dry lake for 500 miles at an average speed of 62.51 mph.

Three years later, in 1931, Eddie made another Los Angeles to Phoenix and back run in that same Model “A”, cutting the trip by 2 hours and 24 minutes, thereby increasing his average speed to 61.03 mph. That “Phoenix Flyer” Model “A” now had 64,000 on it’s odometer.

Perhaps the additional break-in miles helped boost its later and higher speed capabilities?

Fast Eddie Pullen’s famous “Phoenix Flyer” was a stock 1928 Ford Model “A” Tudor.

JIM’S TECH TIP By Jim Cannon, MAFCA



I have helped several Model A owners with an unusual problem: For no reason at all, their distributor goes “out of time”. They lose power and have to limp home. They reset the timing and the car runs great again, but after a while the same thing happens and they have to limp home again. Gremlins? No.

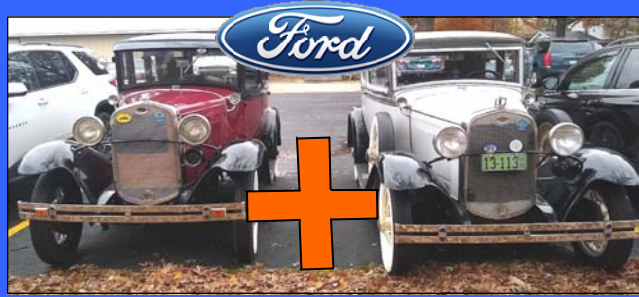
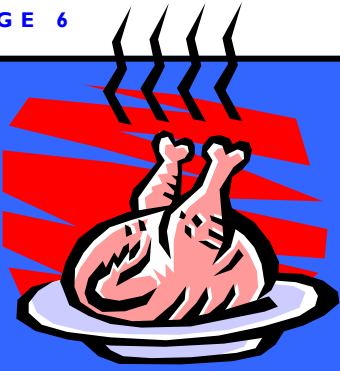
The problem is that the ignition cam screw may not be holding the cam down tightly to the distributor shaft. After a bit of driving, the cam rotates into an increasingly retarded position, so the engine loses power. In spite of getting out a screw driver and tightening that screw as much as possible, the cam still moves on them. Why is this? The screw they are using is too long for the hole that is drilled and tapped in the top of the distributor shaft! Some reproduction screws are just too long. Or the hole in their reproduction distributor shaft is too shallow. Or both! Whichever, the screw bottoms out in the hole and jams up tight before the cam is properly locked down on the shaft. So the cam moves.

The simple fix is to add a washer under the head of the cam screw. Now the cam locks down well before the screw bottoms out in the hole. Also inspect the underside of the cam; it should have ridges that help lock it down on the shaft. Once the screw is tight, put the rotor on the cam and gently try to turn it on the distributor shaft. It should not move.

MODEL A DAYS

The organizers of Model A Days have been busily planning the 2022 Model A Days event. Model A Days 2022 will take place over a period of two days (Friday through Saturday, September 16th-17th at the Gilmore Car Museum up in Hickory Corners, Michigan.

The theme of this year’s event is “Model A Trucks” and the program will include all types, including Panel Deliveries, Stake Beds, Deluxe Deliveries, and Pick-ups. There will be seminars, rides in Model A’s around the grounds, a great Swap Meet, and this year a tour to the “Air Zoo” Museum in Kalamazoo.



A'S

Illinois Region Turkey Dinner November 14, 2021 Elburn Lions Club

**TURKEY
TIME!**



Dan Pritchett's 1929
Model A Pickup



Dan and Melinda Pritchett once again hosted the annual Illinois Region Turkey Dinner held at the Elburn Lion's Club lodge on November 14th and drawing guests from several car clubs...including five area Model A Clubs, the Thunderbird Club, the Studebaker Drivers Club, and the Early Ford V8 Club. The

Naper A's were represented by (clockwise, from noon) Al and Diane Petrik, Ron Olsen and his daughter, Dana, Rich Volkmer and his guests, Mike Nelson and Dale Peters, and Robin and John Emmering.

MISCELLANEOUS
PARTS DEPT.

From BOB FIELDS

I was cleaning out an old Model A parts bin I had from a farmer in Wisconsin when I ran across these two pieces. Needless to say I don't think I will be using this fan or ignition switch anytime soon. I imagine it was probably out of necessity living on a farm in an age gone by. I thought you might get a laugh about it and wanted to pass it along.



Naper A's On The Road!

Marseilles Tour ☐ November 19, 2021

Photos & Story By BOB FIELDS

On a cloudy and crisp day of 40 degrees, we launched from the Home Depot in Naperville for our last Tour of the year. Seven Model A's and a '72 Chevy Camaro carried 10 people down the road. Even with the old Model A heater doing its best, I was cold and had to use a blanket on my legs. We traveled a total of 134 miles, round trip. We stopped at the Cafe in downtown Marseilles for great meals enjoyed by all. All in all, it was a great route and everyone made it back safely with no breakdowns. I think this success is due in part to our Safety Check every spring.



Manifold heaters mandatory, closed cars best bet for 40-degree cruising!

SWAP MEET

We attended the West Bend, Wisconsin, MAFCA Swap Meet on Sunday February 20th looking for certain items...Ron for wheels, Alan for a glass vase, and a radiator rock guard for Nick...but came away skunked. There were many purveyors but few Model A goods. The meet was very well attended, however, and Gene did buy a model airplane. Lindy found a few small spare parts, and Tom bought a couple new sockets to add to his tool box. It was mostly just a nice two-hour drive each way, enjoying good weather, great travel partners and a chance to break everyone out of our Winter cabin-fevers.



Naper A's Attendees at the February 20th MAFCA Milwaukee Swap Meet held at the Washington County Fairgrounds included Ron Olsen, Gene Egert, Lindy Williams, Tom Eklund, and Alan Petrik.



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



Hello my fellow Model A-er's! It's that time of year for this season's 4 Banger missive from your El Presidente.

This has been a slow Winter for me personally so far this year. Shoulder surgery back in December has unfortunately imposed limitations on what I can physically do.

The Club, however, has itself been doing quite well with its Zoom meetings and thus being able to include our out-of-state folks in the proceedings.

For locals not basking in the Florida sun, the Christmas Brunch was well received at a new venue in Warrentville, the Courtyard Banquet Hall. We had a total of 30 people attend. The

food was quite hearty and the conversation was even better. So we may have another Christmas Brunch there in Warrentville again the next time around.

Meanwhile, we must thank Alan Petrik for setting up a great schedule of events for 2022, it looks to be action-packed.

First and foremost, we have our Annual Spring Safety Check coming up real soon at Voegtle's Garage in Warrentville. You will want to attend this great event on April 30th at 8:30 AM to be sure that your Model A is up to snuff and totally roadworthy for the new driving season.

Also check your calendar for our other pending events. As always, we are open to new ideas

and fresh suggestions for Road trips and Tours as long as there's good food at the destination....

We have some members who are interested in rebuilding engines. As you may recall, we rebuilt one for Ed Danley. It has now been installed and runs just great according to Ed. More recently, we tore down his old engine only to discover that it is really not such a good candidate for a mechanic's rebuild.

On another topic, this year we will have available new shirts, thanks to Al Junco. Be sure watch for an order form in an E-mail coming out soon. There will be a large selection of T-shirts and polo shirts, with long and short sleeve options. So get your order in quickly.

The Club did sadly lose some valued members this past year who will be sorely missed. But we'll march on, keeping their spirit alive through Naper A's fund-raising for the Donka Foundation and the Lustgarten Pancreatic Cancer Walk.

So, I hope that your winterized Model A's are ready to come out of mothballs running great... and we'll be seeing you soon at the upcoming events.

Ido much appreciate all who help make this the great Club that it is. Now, let's see if we can get some more youth involved in the Ford Model A hobby!

All the Best,

Gene

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