

Early Ford V-8 Club of America

June 2020

Road

Website: www.nirgv8.org

Chatter

Northern Illinois Regional Group #8 Volume 54 Issue #6

Ron Blum's
1940 Ford
Deluxe pg. 6



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MEETINGS

7:30 pm on the third
Tuesday of the month at
the Wheeling Township
Service Center, 1616 N.
Arlington Heights Road,
Arlington Heights, IL

NEWSLETTER

Send submissions to
Editor, 3890 Woodlake
Drive, Hanover Park, IL
60133

or e-mail
[Shoeboxford.john
@gmail.com](mailto:Shoeboxford.john@gmail.com)
or call
331-425-1187

Publishing deadline is the
25th of the month.

Road Chatter is published
monthly by NIRG.

Other Early Ford V-8 Regional
newsletters are welcome to use
material from the Road Chatter,
provided that Road Chatter is
credited as the source.

A Word From NIRG President Ron Steck

President's message



Once again, I hope this finds you all healthy and in good spirits. It appears that as our region enters Phase III of "Opening Illinois" this month we can try to get back to living a more normal life like we are used to with the loosening of some restrictions. In case we don't reach Phase IV by July 26, which would allow 50 people to gather for our picnic, we are working on an alternate date of August 16th, if the July date doesn't work out. We will keep everyone posted as the time draws nearer and should be able to announce the date next month,

We also wish to commemorate "Drive your Ford V-8 Day" on Saturday, June 20th. Since it is impossible to hold a large event like we did last year we are suggesting that members take a solo trip with family to an interesting place. Take a few photos and write a brief description of the activity and send them off to our editor John Emmering so he can feature them in the July Road Chatter and possibly send some to the V-8 Times. For those who would like to take a small group trip, John has offered to lead a group on a drive out to Lowden State Park in Oregon, IL. See the announcement on page 13.

I hope that you all had a great Memorial Day weekend. As you know many car events have been canceled so far this year. We are hoping to see a few car shows open up in the near future. It would be nice if we can get our club members to go to some of these and just have a little together time once again. We also would like to see our members meetings at the Wheeling Township Service Center resume in August if that becomes possible. Take care and I hope to see you soon.

Ron

In Memoriam

Bill Grams, co-founder of the Volo Auto Museum and former NIRG member, passed away Tuesday May 12 at age 77. Bill was a well known figure in the collector car community. A memorial reception is planned for a later date.

Early Ford V-8 Law Enforcement Legacy



By
John Emmering

"Basket Case" 1949 Ford Washington State Patrol Car Restored and Back on the Road

An advertisement caught the eye of Jim Ritter, president of the newly established Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum, back in 2013, as he scanned Craigslist. The ad read, "For sale, 1949 Ford four-door sedan, former Washington State Patrol car." Always looking for additions to his museum's police car collection, Jim responded to the advertisement, calling the owner and requesting a time to look the car over.

Soon Jim headed out to Westport, Washington, the vehicle's location, on the state's Pacific Coast. Upon arrival the Ford's owner, Ralph Voorhis explained to Jim that he had purchased the car four years earlier as a father and son project and hauled it home. After disassembling much of the car, he lost enthusiasm and the project fell idle. Now that he and his family were moving soon to Hawaii, Ralph needed to sell the Ford.

Ralph's garage door rolled open and Jim got a look at the old patrol car. Extremely worn and forlorn looking, Jim looked past the cracked glass, dents and surface rust. His eyes were drawn to the black and white paint job and the original Washington State Patrol emblem decals on the front doors. This 1949 Ford standard edition Fordor was a genuine Washington State Highway Patrol car. Jim immediately felt the car needed to be restored and added to the Seattle Police Museum's patrol car collection. After some negotiation with Ralph, Jim purchased the Ford for \$600.00 on behalf of the Seattle Police Museum. Jim soon returned with a few museum volunteers and a flat-bed trailer. The 1949 Ford and buckets of parts and hardware were loaded up for the long trip to the museum's shop in Ellensburg, Washington, 200 miles east.



1949 Ford unveiled May 2019



Retired Trooper Fred Shenk, 93, was guest of honor



(Continued on page 4.)

The Restoration Process.....



The Shoebox on arrival



The V-8 Engine was pulled

Restoration Work on the 1949 Ford patrol car soon began in earnest. With volunteers offering their various skills the work progressed. The flathead V-8 engine was pulled and an engine in better shape was obtained from a 1950 Ford parts car and sent off to the rebuilders. The hood, trunk lid and doors came off and the interior was stripped out. Metal flooring was taken from the parts car replacing the rusted-out floorboards on the '49. The rocker panels were replaced, and patch panels were welded into place where needed. The bumpers and grill were removed and later replaced and NOS side stainless strips were obtained. The pitted chrome components such as the hood ornament and trunk handle and hinges were re-plated to look new.

With a new coat of black and white paint, a new interior kit, floor and trunk mats and new tires installed, the 1949 Ford Fordor Police Car looks much as it must have back in 1948 when it was first placed into service.

Looking back on the process, Jim Ritter commented "It was in amazingly good shape considering that it was a 64-year-old vehicle". Jim went on "Most police agencies that restore old cars, they are simply civilian versions they've mocked up to look like police cars. This is actually an original."

Finally the 1949 Ford Standard Fordor patrol car was unveiled to the public in May 2019, six years after the restoration began. It was the most extensive restoration the Seattle Police Museum ever attempted. Washington State Patrol Chief, John R. Batiste was on hand for the event. The guest of honor however was retired Washington State Trooper Fred Schenk, age 93, who had served as a Washington State Trooper and State Patrol Sergeant from 1947-1976.

Trooper Schenk recalled being issued a new 1949 Ford patrol car after his 1947 Ford panel truck patrol vehicle was replaced. The retired Trooper recalled making runs in his overdrive equipped 1949 Ford patrol car at over 100 miles per hour. He also remembered how the car would slide on icy mountain roads during winter months. The 1949 Fords were in use from 1948-1952 and were sold at auction after being taken out of service. Service stickers found on this Ford indicate that the patrol car was used in the Ellensburg area, where the restoration was done.

The Washington State Patrol has an interesting history which goes back further than most State Police agencies. The agency was founded June 8, 1921 as the Washington State Highway Patrol. Six highway patrolmen were hired and they were issued Indian motorcycles. With limited police powers, the patrolmen were sent out onto state highways to enforce traffic laws and ensure driver safety.

Motorcycle patrol proved dangerous. In 1923 Patrolman Vernon Fortin became the first officer killed in the line of duty when his police motorcycle collided with another patrolman's motorcycle as they proceeded to a traffic detail. Motorcycle accidents took the life of a patrolman in 1926, two in 1929 and one in 1930.

In 1927 a Model "T" Ford panel truck was acquired by the Highway Patrol and it's driver was assigned to patrol the mountain highway at Snoqualmie Pass. In the years ahead the agency would often utilize Ford panel trucks on patrol, affording lots of storage space for equipment and room to safely transport prisoners and arrestees.

With the dawning of the 1930's the Washington Legislature responded to the brand new challenges that decade brought by reorganizing the state police agency, renaming it "The Washington State Patrol" in 1933. Officers were given full police powers throughout the state and took on a higher profile. In 1937 the patrolmen were given new blue uniforms and bow ties, which were not blown about on motorcycle duty.

The Washington State Patrol relied on Ford V-8s for patrol purposes during the nineteen thirties and forties. The department favored two passenger coupes and panel trucks. Vehicles received two way radios in 1943. A transition was made to four door sedans in 1948 when the new 1949 Ford models became available and this body style has been used ever since.

Back in 1963 the Washington State Patrol began calling their officers "Troopers". Over the years the State Patrol has distinguished itself in many areas. The restored 1949 Ford patrol car is a great remembrance of the Washington State Patrol's proud history. The car continues in circulation appearing at multiple events. The vintage patrol car was recently showcased at the Lemay America's Car Museum, in Tacoma, offering an insight to younger generations of an earlier era.

Ford V-8s on Patrol



Trooper Fred Schenk with his 1949 Ford



1939 Washington State Patrol Fleet



Panel Trucks & Coupes were used before 1949



Ron Blum's 1940 Deluxe Fordor "Snowbird" Ford

At eighty years old our 1940 Ford Deluxe Fordor is looking great and has been a lot of fun for our family over the years. I do not know how many owners our car has had, but I know the first owner of my 1940 Ford Fordor was a woman who lived in Wichita Kansas. I know this because to this day, the tax stamp she had to buy after purchasing the car in 1940 is still attached to my sun visor.

The car was purchased in California by the company where I was employed. The company president and I loved old cars, so in 1993, we bought the car from someone in the Golden State. The president always went to Florida during the winter months and the car was shipped to Ft. Lauderdale and back home to Palatine in the spring. After a couple of years his interest in the car fell off and it became my responsibility. I then took care of maintenance, repairs, and storage in winter for the 1940 Ford. After a few more years, after I had a considerable financial investment in the car, it was transferred into my name.

When the original 01A V-8 engine grew tired, I replaced it with a freshly rebuilt 1945 Flat-head V-8 from Motor City Flathead in Dundee, Michigan. The car originally was Sahara Sand, but was painted Garnet Maroon in 1995. I knew nothing about the 1940 Ford Deluxe's stock configuration, so when the car was painted, the dash and window trims were also painted red instead of the correct wood grain colors. At my wife Arlene's suggestion,

our car quickly took on the nickname of "Humphrey" after the famous actor Humphrey Bogart of that era.

While our 1940 Ford Deluxe Fordor has generally been reliable we have had an occasional problem. During one trip to the Rockford Airport with the club years back, the car blew a head gasket on the highway. Thankfully, fellow member Lloyd Duzell was along, and he gave me some copper solution for the gasket to get me back home. Later that year, Lloyd and I installed a completely new wiring harness for the Ford. Driving the 1940 Ford to the Detroit National meet in 2005, one of my water pumps sprang a leak at the last toll booth in Illinois. I had to be towed home where I picked up my modern car to rejoin the group in Detroit.

The car was used in a few weddings, including our granddaughter Erin's in 2014, which the photographers loved. Our 1940 Ford was also used in the 2006 Clint Eastwood movie "Flags of our Fathers". Having our car as part of that film was a great experience. Our Deluxe Fordor has won many trophies but the one I remember most was at a car show at Gary Lang Chevrolet, up in McHenry. Fords were a rarity at that show. Much to my surprise "Humphrey" won best in show over all those Chevrolets. It turned out that the owner of the dealership was the sole judge for the best in show award and his first car happened to have been a 1940 Ford.

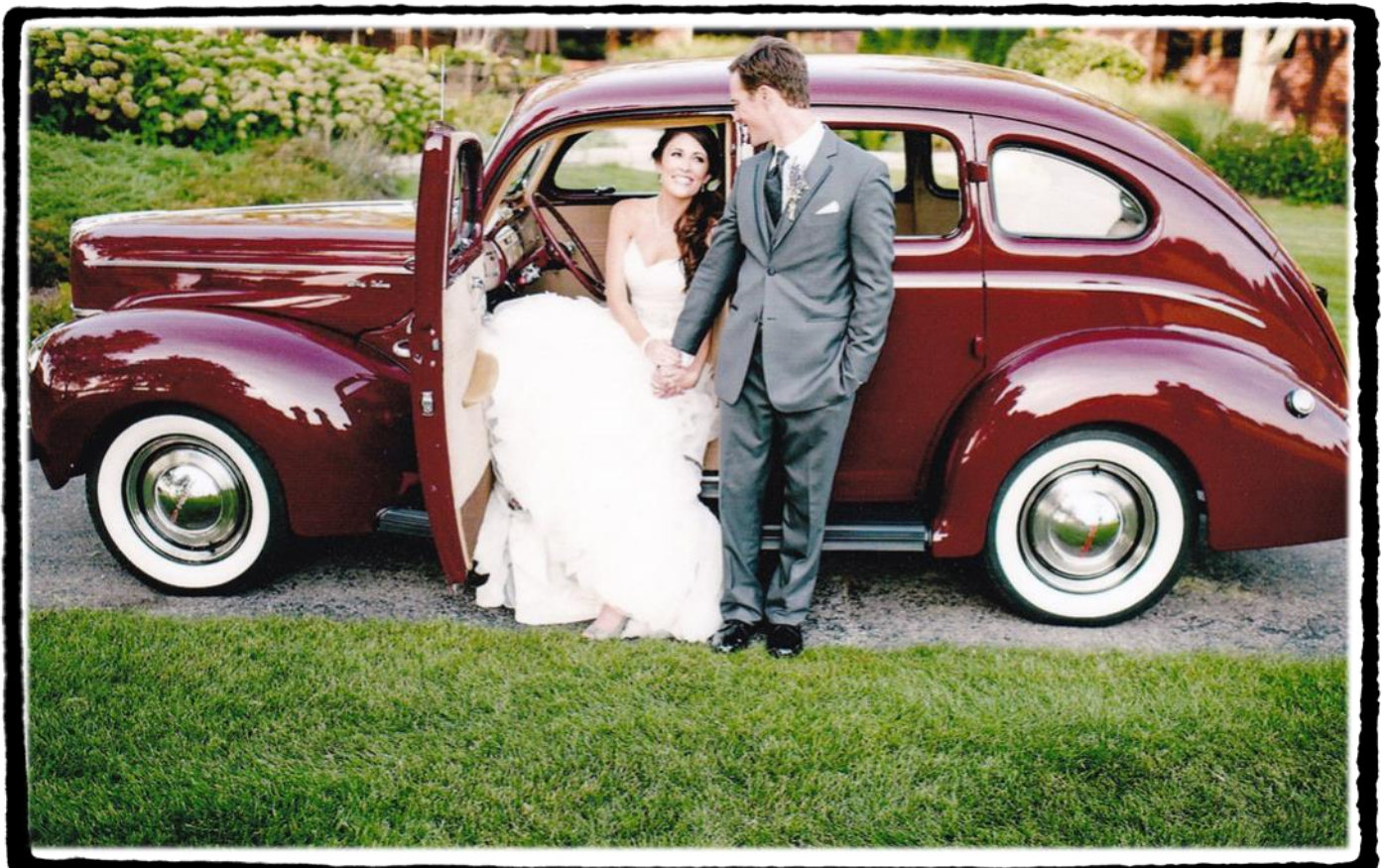


**Ron's 1940 Ford on location for
"Flags of our Fathers"**



**Arlene Blum behind the wheel of "Humphrey" in it's
original Sahara Sand color.**

In the fall of last year, 2019, I lost my heated garage space due to the owner selling his condominium. So, I put my car in my sister's heated garage, a few buildings away in the same complex as she moved to an assisted living home. But then, her condo was sold in early January and I had to move out, so there were spaces in my sister's new garage, and I brought it there for storage. Well you can guess the rest of the story.....her assisted living complex is on lockdown and I cannot get my car out. They won't let me in. So unfortunately our 1940 Ford "Humphrey" is quarantined until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.



The bride and groom are Ron and Arlene's granddaughter Erin and her husband Tim Macasek



2020 National News

Early Ford V-8 Club of America



BUSTED!



I bought the Woodie at our spring Annual Car Show and Swap Meet in 2008.

Knowing that my wife would not be too happy about bringing home another “old car”, I decided to keep it a secret. Maybe not one of my best moves.

I’m fortunate to have a large barn and at that time - plenty of space.

Karen rarely goes out to the barn. I could go as far as saying she never goes out to the barn. So, who’s going to see a Woodie in the barn? Perfect camouflage or so I thought.

Well, it lasted about three months. One nice summer day, I decided to take it out for a spin.

You guessed it, BUSTED.

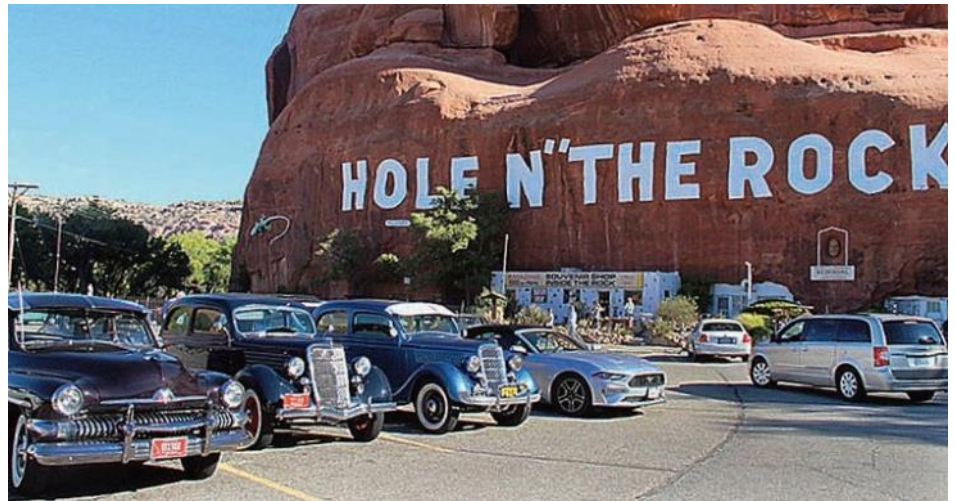
I got the “look” and three words ...” Don’t Tell me”.

Well after a bit of negotiating, (it cost me a new bathroom), she mildly warmed up to it. The good news, twelve years later, I still have them both – the Woody and my wife that is. The really good news, is that I have space for one more. I know, I know, I’m living on the edge.

Kit Tucker

PAST-TIMES

Geralyn Miller, Editor
New England RG #5



V-8s on the 2019 National Parks Tour.
Complete story in the May/June V-8 TIMES.

2020 Membership Drive

Given the magnitude of “Stay-at-Home” orders issued by states across the nation, the Early Ford V-8 Club Officers and Directors regret to announce the postponement of the 2020 Membership Drive. Considerations driving this decision include

- Inability of club members to meet in groups for planning and implementing crucial Drive details
- Cancellation of all meetings, shows and outings eliminate the primary attraction for prospective members
- Impacts of social-distancing restrict opportunities for club members to recruit neighbors, friends and new acquaintances
- Effective recruitment requires face-to-face contact, not the impersonal phone call affording an easy “No thanks.”

Chances for implementing a successful Drive with significant membership growth will remain impacted by current Covid-19 conditions for an unknown number of months.

The National Club Officers and Directors will announce in November plans for the 2021 Membership Drive.

The future 2021 Drive will be a motivator to bring back members with new memberships, enthusiasm and fresh ideas. Be thinking now of ways to use the 2021 Spring Drive to the benefit of your Club

Raffle Car Update



Due to the cancellation of the Eastern National Meet in Morgantown, Pennsylvania in June, National Capital RG #36’s raffle of a 1957 Mercury Montclair has moved to the Early Ford V-8 Museum. Proceeds from the raffle will still benefit the Museum, but now the Museum will run the raffle.

All tickets already sold have been entered into the drawing.

Tickets are \$10 each, 6 for \$50 and 15 for \$100. To purchase tickets using a credit card, call 260-927-8022, or send a check payable to the **Early Ford V-8 Museum, P.O. Box 284, Auburn, IN 46706**. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the stubs sent to you.

The drawing date has been moved to Sept. 5, 2020.

License #145296

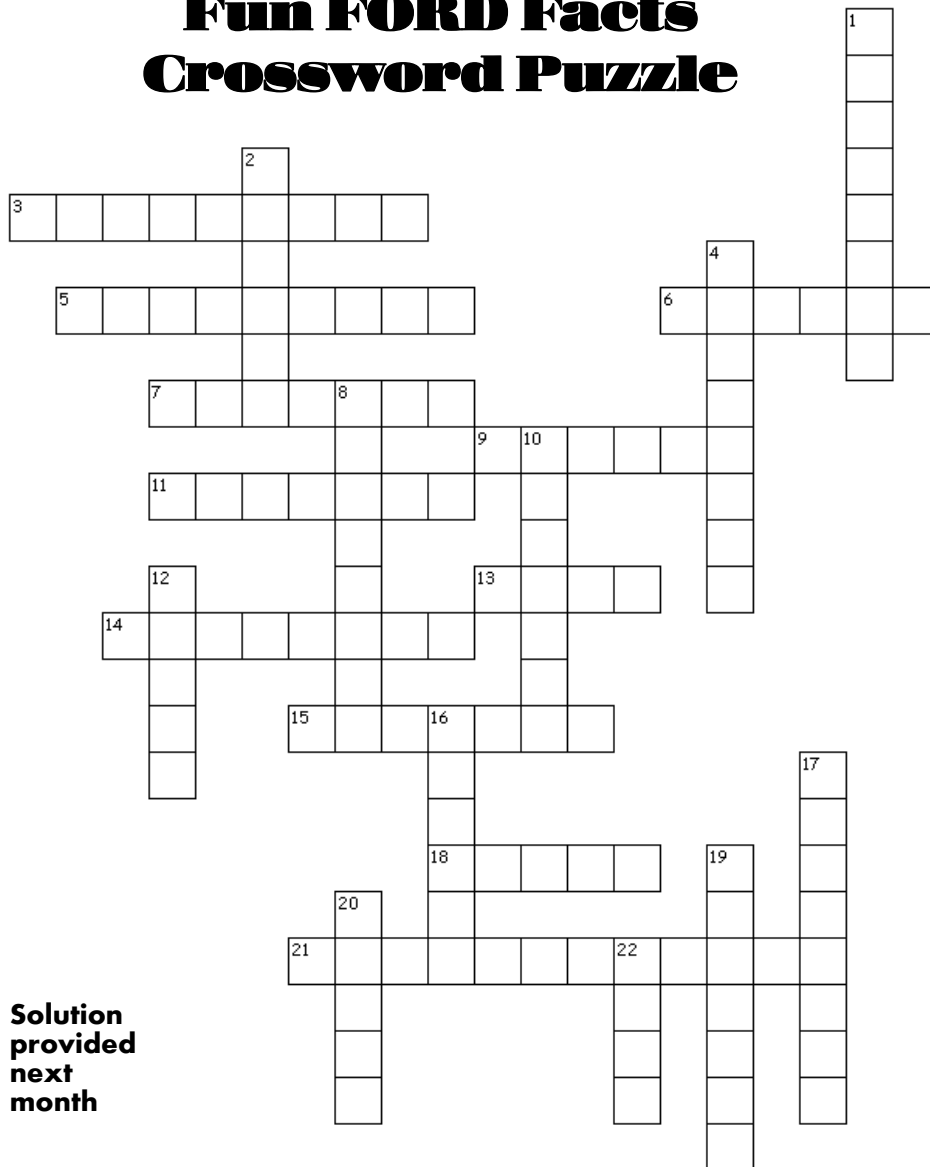
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Fun FORD Facts Crossword Puzzle



**Solution
provided
next
month**

Across

3. Pilot who gave Henry his first plane ride
5. Torque Tube replaced by this type drive
6. Endearing name for Model "T"
7. Ford's 60 HP was said to be
9. Less expensive trim level for 1951 Ford
11. Ford grandson who ran Continental Division
13. Ford's first plant on this Avenue
14. Most Model T's made in this Park
15. This upgraded Ford ran like Hermes
18. More practical than a rumble seat
21. Big post war Lincoln

Down

1. Gear splitter named after explorer
2. Greek god of the west wind
4. Second Ford plant on this Detroit Avenue
8. Henry's Dearborn Mansion
10. Edsel's wife
12. Horsepower of the 1932 Model "B" Ford
16. Highest trim level for 1949 Ford
17. Ford Executive called "Cast Iron Charlie"
19. Ford building at the Century of Progress
20. Brothers that owned Ford stock
22. Premier model of the smaller 1951 Lincoln



10 Years Ago This Month – June 2010

Eighteen members attended the June 15 monthly meeting at Ed Fontana's garage in Schiller Park. Ed & Roni provided salad, pizza, cake, coffee, and soft drinks. On June 22-27, three NIRG members, along with long-distance members Rick Claybaugh and Joe Baughn, attended the Eastern National Meet in Concord, North Carolina. Most people remember the terribly oppressive heat at the meet and fighting the nuns for cocktails. Also memorable are two other items: Joe Kozmic won a Dearborn Award for his '53 Mercury and John & Este Scheve joined the NIRG at the meet! Future members Eric & Cheryl Kozmic joined "Pops" at the meet.

20 Years Ago This Month – June 2000

Ron Dopke attended the Eastern National Meet in Charlotte, NC, June 7-10. Lloyd and Gladys Duzell hosted a breakfast, garage tour, and lunch June 18. An incredible 86 people (including about 45 NIRG members) and 30 classic cars participated. After breakfast at the Duzell's, the tour went to visit Jack & Ann Bowser's and Jim & Gail Manz's collections. Afterwards, lunch was served back at the Duzell's.

30 Years Ago This Month – June 1990

At the June 19 monthly meeting it was reported that long-time members Chester & Harriet Lawrence were enjoying their new home in Southern Illinois where the "living was easy and the fishing was good." Six V-8 couples toured to the Eastern National Meet in Charlotte, NC, June 25-July 2, led by John Witthoeft. Lloyd Duzell, Joe Kozmic, and Ralph Morey brought home trophies.

40 Years Ago This Month – June 1980

New member Mike Heatherly, who joined at our table at the June 8 DuPage County show/swap meet, attended the June 10 monthly meeting. Road Chatter Editor Diane Wrobel appealed for Tech Tips for the newsletter. Hmmm, now there's an idea! A large group of V-8ers participated in a joint tour to the Quad Cities, hosted by the Quad Cities group. It was an action-packed weekend, including car games. A trophy won by Tom O'Donnell is still kicking about our club today (our old hard luck trophy).

45 Years Ago This Month – June 1975

Eleven Early V-8s were shown at the Rolling Meadows Shopping Center Show June 8. The January 10 monthly meeting was well-attended by 31 members, spouses, and guests; ten of those 31 are still members today! Alan Wall reported that 25 of the 30 rooms blocked for the Peoria Central National Meet in August had been booked.

BLAST FROM THE Past



FUN NIRC ACTIVITIES FROM YEARS GONE BY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



April	May	June	July
All April Events were CANCELLED due to COVID-19. Future events are tentative.	17 Rosehill Cemetery Tour CANCELLED 19 No Members Meeting	15-18 Eastern National Meet CANCELLED 16 No Members Meeting 20 Drive Your V-8 Day	9 Board Meeting 21 No Meeting 26 Tentative Date for Annual Picnic
August	September	October	November
8 Friendly Ford Car Show, Roselle? 16 Alternate date for Annual Picnic. 18 Member's Meeting	15 Member's Meeting 20-24 Western National Meet, Colorado	2-4 Lake Geneva Poker Rally, Delevan WI 8 Board Meeting 20 Member's Meeting	14 Veteran's Day Lunch 15 MARC Turkey Dinner, Elburn IL 17 Pizza Meeting

Happy Birthday

GAIL LEICHT (6/1)
 THOMAS MYERS (6/4)
 JOHN SLOBODNIK (6/4)
 BOB MILLER (6/5)
 DELICE SERRITELLA (6/7)
 JUDY BUSCAGLIA (6/10)
 RON STECK (6/10)
 MARISA CLAYBAUGH (6/19)
 SAM DIX (6/28)
 JOHN KRENGER (6/29)
 ELAINE BRAUN (6/30)
 JANET LEVINE (6/30)

Happy Anniversary

ROBERT & GINNY MAGNUSSON (6/5)
 THOMAS & JUDY MYERS (6/8)
 DICK & LINDA LIVINGSTON (6/12)
 LIN & PAT STACEY (6/14)
 RICK & MARISA CLAYBAUGH (6/15)
 SAM & JANIS DIX (6/18)
 PAUL & JANET LEVINE (6/22)
 RON & COLLEEN STECK (6/24)
 ALAN & LOIS WALL (6/27)



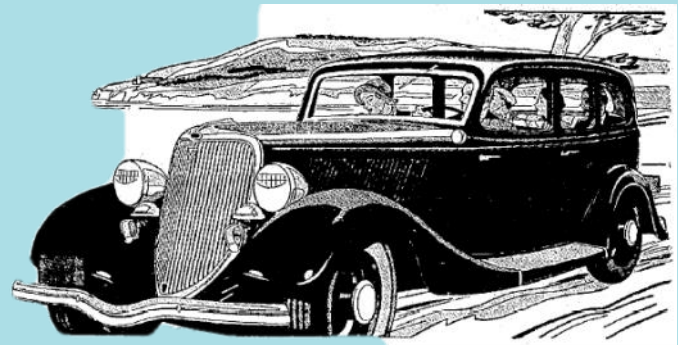
NOTICE: June Members Meeting
scheduled for Tuesday June 16th has been

CANCELLED

Our meetings can not be held until Phase Four of the "Open Illinois" plan is achieved. Wheeling Township's Meeting Rooms will be closed at least through July. Please watch future issues of Road Chatter and Email announcements for more current information as things develop.

SATURDAY JUNE 20TH IS DRIVE YOUR FORD V-8 DAY

Since we are still not cleared for a large group club activity, those individual members who would like to commemorate "Drive Your Ford V-8 Day" might take a drive in their Ford V-8 to a place of interest like an open public forest preserve or park. Perhaps you can



take a few pictures and send the photos and a short write-up to our editors in an email to Shoeboxford.john@gmail.com and we can include them in the July Road Chatter. We may be able to share some of these with the V-8 Time also.

For those who would like to participate in a small group *Drive Your V-8 Day* activity on Saturday June 20, John Emmering plans to drive out to the Lowden State Park in Oregon, IL where the giant Blackhawk Statue is on display. The group will meet at 9:00 am at the McDonalds at 3900 E. Main St., St. Charles (Rt.64 & Kautz Rd.) and continue 60 miles west to Lowden State Park. Contact John if you would like to go at 331-425-1187, or by email. If there are over ten participants we will split up into smaller groups.

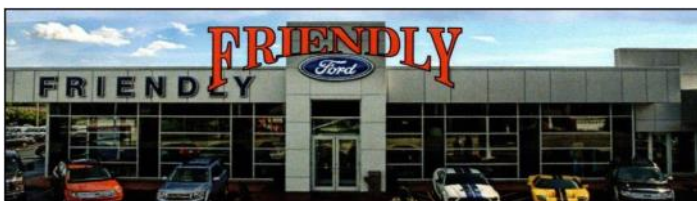
Re-open Illinois Guidelines for gatherings and travel

- PHASE 1: Essential gatherings of ten persons or fewer. Non-essential travel discouraged.
- PHASE 2: Essential gatherings of ten persons or fewer. Non-essential travel discouraged.
- PHASE 3: All gatherings of 10 or fewer allowed. All travel allowed following CDC guidelines.
- PHASE 4: Gatherings of 50 people or less allowed and all travel both following CDC guidelines.
- PHASE 5: All gatherings open, travel under CDC guidelines.



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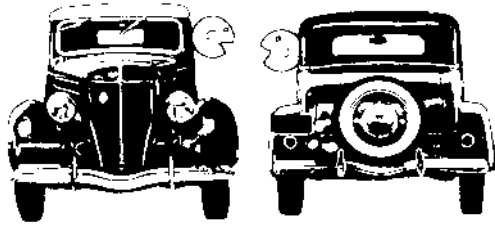
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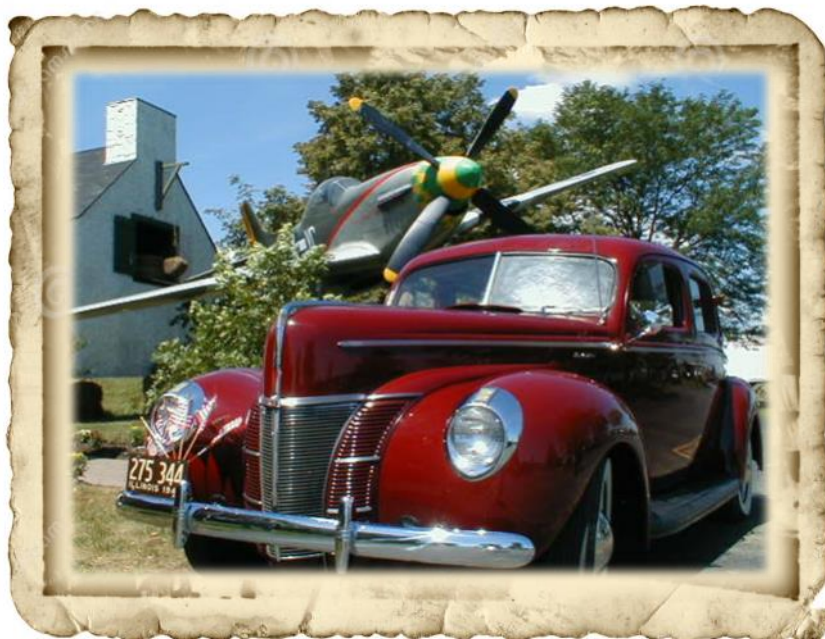


Photo of the Month

“Humphrey” the 1940 Ford Deluxe Fordor Sedan
owned by Ron & Arlene Blum is the featured car for June.