

NIRG Members come out for the *Annual Club Picnic* SEE PG. 6

Early Ford V-8 Club of America September 2021

# Road

Website: [www.nirgv8.org](http://www.nirgv8.org)

# Chatter

Northern Illinois Regional Group #8 VOL. 55 Issue #9

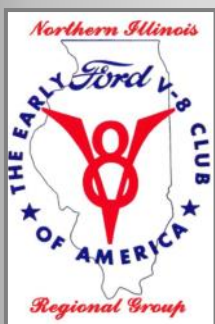
**John Judge's**

## **1951 FORD VICTORIA**

**SEE PG. 4**



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**1946 Ford Coupe was used by  
perpetrators of the 1963 LAPD  
"Onion Field" Cop Killing**

**SEE PG. 8**

## 2021 OFFICERS

Ron Steck *President*  
John Scheve *VP*  
Gary Osborne *Secretary*  
Ron Blum *Treasurer*

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Scott Gilday  
Pat Maroney  
George Zulas

### Tour Chair Persons

Gary Osborne  
Pat Maroney

### Membership Chairman

Ken Bounds

### Health & Welfare

Phyllis Madrigali

### Newsletter Printing by

Solid Impressions

### Newsletter Editors

John & Robin Emmering

## 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  
[Shoebxford.john  
@gmail.com](mailto:Shoebxford.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*

It appears we are finally going to be able to have our first meeting in a year and a half on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at our normal meeting place, the Wheeling Township Service Center in Arlington Heights. I am looking forward to seeing many of you that we have not been able to see during this past year and a half at our meeting. We had our picnic Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup> and had about 25 people with the wives and other family members included. It was good to see many of those who we have not been able to see in some time. Some of you have been going to car shows during this time as I have as well. Hopefully you have been able to go to a few of these yourselves.



After a period of uncertainty about hotel accommodations, **Ken Bounds announced that the Lake Geneva Poker Rally will be held as scheduled September 24-26 leaving at 9:30 from Palatine & Arlington Heights Roads.** Give Ken a call for information. We will need some members to step up and volunteer to be either officers or board members for 2022. This coming year we have several who are leaving their position or moving away and need to fill those positions. We will have nominations in the October meeting and elections in the November meeting. Please consider helping your club by joining our other board members and officers as they plan events and lead our regional group. The position of treasurer and secretary are both going to be vacant. Also, we will need a couple of new board members. The officers and board now meet for planning sessions quarterly rather than every month making serving on the board a little more convenient than in the past. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Tuesday September 21st meeting.

*Ron*

## Monthly Meetings have returned!

Get back in the Groove!  
Let's have a BIG showing



**Tuesday September 21, 2021 7:30 pm  
Wheeling Township Service Center**



# 30th Annual VINTAGE TRANSPORT EXTRAVAGANZA

Although not an organized club activity, five Early Ford V-8s owned by NIRG members were displayed Sunday August 1st at the Vintage Transport Meet at the Illinois Railway Museum in Union.



John Judge's '51 Victoria



Dan Pudelek's '50 Crestliner



Robin remembers Riverview



John aboard locomotive



Ron kicks back to enjoy lunch



Roger Obecný's '40 Deluxe



John Emmering's '51 Custom



Ron Steck's '41 Woodie Wagon



# 1951 FORD VICTORIA

By John Emmering

70<sup>TH</sup>  
YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY

It was a double whammy in 1951 when Ford Motor Company stunned the industry with the introduction of both the Fordomatic transmission, and their new “hardtop” model, the Ford Victoria.

General Motors Chevrolet Division had one upped Ford in 1949 when they unveiled their Styleline Deluxe Belaire, a pillarless model that became popular with the public. Chevrolet beat Ford to the punch once again in 1950 with the introduction of the “Power Glide” transmission which was the first automatic transmission in a low priced car. Ford had played catch up however and brought in their own “Fordomatic” automatic transmission supplied by Borg-Warner for the 1951 model year and also unveiled the Victoria model January 28, 1951.

The Ford Crestliner temporarily filled the gap the absence of a hardtop created when Ford engineers discovered that the 1949-50 Tudors and coupes structurally required their pillars. There was no need to fear though as the company had acquired the services of accomplished automobile designer Gordon Buehrig in 1949 and gave him the project.

Buehrig gained recognition during his time with the Auburn Automobile Company for his unique design for the Cord Automobile among other design achievements. Buehrig solved the dilemma of developing a hardtop model by using a convertible body with a permanent metal roof welded in. The car was dubbed the Victoria, reviving a model name used on a line Ford cars from 1931 to 1934.





Without a doubt the new Victoria models were an immediate hit with automobile customers. The “all purpose touring car” as some dubbed it had much to offer with it’s standard V-8 engine, excellent styling and choice of manual three speed transmission, optional overdrive, or “Fordomatic Drive” transmission. Priced at \$2,060, which was just \$146 more than the six-cylinder Chevrolet Belaire, the Victoria took over the market beating out Belaire sales. Ford turned out 110,286 Victoria cars and sidelined its Crestliner model, turning out only 8,703 1951 units.



There is an interesting story behind the Victoria that John learned from the seller. It seems the Victoria was purchased new by a young man in 1951 who lived with his mother in Oswego, Illinois. The car was apparently his pride and joy. When the young man was drafted into the Army for service in the Korean Conflict, he stored the Victoria in his mother’s garage.

Our Northern Illinois Regional Group is fortunate to have a great example of Ford Motor Company’s innovative Victoria in our midst with the beautifully restored 1951 Ford Victoria owned by our long-time member John Judge. In attractive Hawaiian Bronze with a Sandpiper Tan roof, John’s car is equipped with Fordomatic Drive, revealed by the emblem on the trunk. The car is decked out with dual accessory spotlights and back up lights also.

It was over thirty years ago, back in the 1980’s that John came to purchase the Victoria. A newspaper ad offering a “1951 Ford Victoria with automatic transmission” for sale caught his eye. As he had been looking for a Victoria equipped with Fordomatic Drive he followed up. Impressed by the very original low mileage Victoria John made the purchase.

The young man was tragically killed in action in Korea and his mother did not have the heart to sell the car. She kept it for many years undisturbed in her garage, finally selling it to her neighbor. The neighbor offered the car for sale a while later and the car was purchased by a car enthusiast in the Chicago area. As the story goes the new owner’s wife felt he had too many collector cars and demanded that he sell the Victoria. John purchased the car from the advertisement this gentleman placed.

When John took his Victoria to a body shop in Chicago for painting, it was discovered that in the years the car sat in the damp garage rust had developed from the inside out. The sheet metal on the bottoms of the doors and the floor had to be replaced. When the work was completed John was pleased with the results. With John facing health challenges, the Victoria had been in storage for five years. However its now back in service with a new carburetor and fuel pump. We are all glad to see John back on the road on activities with his great Victoria.



John Judge in his ‘51 Victoria on a recent tour



The Fordomatic Drive badge is displayed on trunk





## Eleven Ford V-8s displayed as Members, Family and Friends gather for Annual NIRG Picnic by John Emmering

The weather could not been any better as members, family and friends of our Northern Illinois Regional Group gathered for the annual picnic. The scene of the picnic once again this year was the Culver's Restaurant on Route 64 in St. Charles, where we held last years event. Staking claim to the east side of the Culver's parking lot, our president, Ron Steck arrived early in his 1941 Ford Woody along with John Emmering in his 1949 Ford Custom Fordor. The pair placed chairs between their parked Ford V-8s to save spots for club members cars which would arrive shortly.

Soon the pair were joined by Ken Bounds in his 1951 Mercury Sport Coupe, Tom Buscaglia in his 1951 Ford Custom Tudor, Jay Hinshaw in his 1937 Ford Tudor, John Judge in his 1948 Lincoln Continental Convertible, Pat Maroney driving his 1953 Ford Crestline Victoria, Roger Obecny in his 1940 Ford Deluxe Tudor, Tom & Madeleine O'Donnell in their 1940 Mercury Sedan Coupe, and Joe & Delice Serritella in their 1941 Ford Super Deluxe Coupe. Joe and Delice enjoyed their final outing with their 1941 Ford Coupe, since they recently sold it to their neighbor Vicky Beck. Vicky let them take it out one more time. Vicky attended the picnic also and as a new Ford V-8 owner was encouraged by the members present to join the EFV8CA and our regional group.

Among the arriving cars there was quite a bit of interest in Pat Maroney's 1953 Ford which has not been displayed at too many events. John Judge's "resto-mod" 1948 Lincoln Continental Convertible made it's debut at this years' picnic and drew attention of the members. As the event began to unfold Ron & Arlene Blum, John & Este Scheve, and John Slobodnik with son John Jr., arrived in modern vehicles. Robin Emmering and Dee Maroney also joined the event in their modern cars.

When lunchtime rolled around picnic goers filed into Culver's Restaurant to order their favorite items from the Culver's menu generally topped off by an ice-cream sundae. Most picnic goers choose to remain inside the airconditioned confines of the restaurant to enjoy their meals. Our regional group picked up the tab for the meals and desert

After lunch most attendees gathered their chairs out onto the grassy area next to the parking lot had a chance to converse. Terry Elliott with his friend Amy drove up in his 1950 Ford Custom Fordor. Members enjoyed looking over Terry's ongoing restoration and viewing his progress he has made. While the picnic was less elaborate than what the group has traditionally conducted in years past, those in attendance had an enjoyable time.











The maroon 1946 Ford Coupe cruised slowing through the streets of Hollywood on Saturday evening March 9, 1963 as the occupants scanned the storefronts looking for a vulnerable location to ply their trade of armed robbery. Ex-convict Gregory Powell, 30 was behind the wheel of the Ford with recent parolee Jimmy Lee Smith, 32, known as “Jimmy Youngblood”, his passenger. Smith, who was recently released from Folsom Prison, served most of his adult life in various correctional institutions for numerous thefts. However, he had never pulled an armed robbery or carried a gun until he paired with Greg Powell. Barely two weeks earlier Jimmy Smith, fresh from Folsom, had met Powell, who befriended

## **Traffic Stop of a 1946 Ford Coupe by Los Angeles Police Officers ends in Cop Killing in a Bakersfield Onion Field**

**By John Emmering**



him, staking him with cash and suggesting they do some “jobs” together. With no other prospects Smith agreed and found himself involved with four robberies with Powell during their nine-day long partnership.

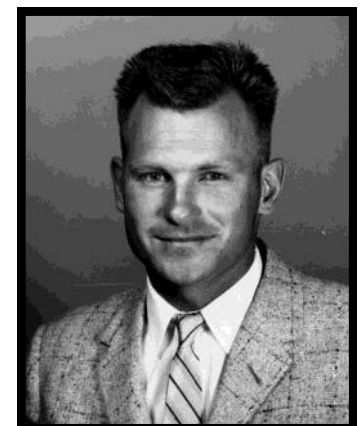
On a trip the criminals made to Boulder City Nevada, Powell had purchased a gun for Smith and bought the 1946 Ford from an individual for \$125.00. On Saturday March 9, 1963, the pair, along with Powell’s girlfriend Maxine returned to California where they first had met and rented a motel room in Bakersfield. Leaving Maxine behind that evening the robbers headed out in the Ford Coupe for Los Angeles to pull a few more robberies to enhance their finances. Arriving in the Hollywood section of the city where our story began, as Jimmy rode in the Ford the thought rushed through his mind that this would be his last robbery. He planned to steal the Ford Coupe from Powell when he had a chance and ditch his partner, who he correctly believed was too violent and mentally unstable.



Officer Ian Campbell

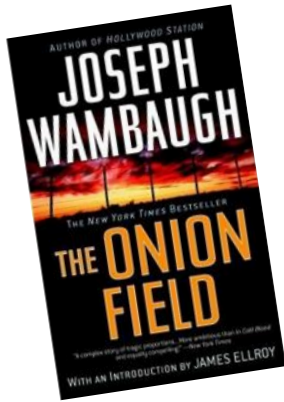


Bakersfield Onion Field Crime Scene

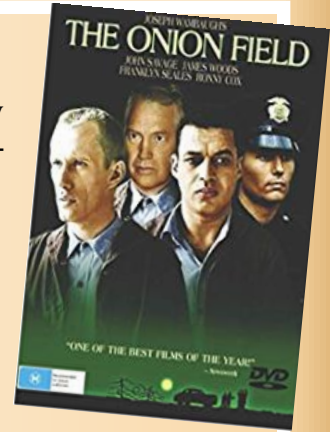


Officer Karl Hettinger





Two other partners were also cruising the dark streets of Hollywood that evening, these in a plain looking unmarked 1963 Plymouth sedan. They were Officer Ian Campbell, 31 and Officer Carl Hettinger, 28, both members of the Los Angeles Police Department. The partners coincidentally also had only been paired for nine days, assigned to a plain clothes “Felony Car” scouting for serious crimes. Campbell, of Scottish descent was an avid bagpiper. He had once prepared to be a physician, however left his pre-med program, and married his wife



Adah a former showgirl. The couple had two young daughters. Hettinger, recently married, had studied agriculture but left college also to join the LAPD a few years earlier.

Both officers took notice of the maroon 1946 Ford Coupe as it headed down Hollywood Avenue toward Gower Street in Hollywood. The two occupants of the 16 year old Ford which bore Nevada plates, looked like movie hoodlums in their leather jackets and caps, not like your average tourists. With a burned out license plate light as reason for the stop the officers pulled the Ford V-8 to the curb. When the officers confronted the pair, Powell quickly stepped from the Ford placing his revolver in Campbell’s back. Campbell pled with his partner Carl Hettinger to obey Powell’s order to give his gun to Jimmy Smith which he reluctantly did.

Forcing Officer Campbell to drive the ‘46 Ford, Powell sat up front with Smith covering Officer Hettinger in the back seat of the coupe. Powell directed Campbell to drive to the outskirts of Bakersfield, where he was told to head down a dirt road through an onion field where the officers were ordered out of the car. Mistakenly believing that he had already committed a capital offense, Powell shot Campbell in the face, killing him. Hettinger broke away and ran evading Powell as he pursued him. Smith likely shot four rounds into Campbell’s chest and then took off in the Ford leaving Powell, who then stole a 1957 Plymouth from a nearby trailer court. Powell however was quickly spotted and arrested by the California Highway Patrol in the stolen car. Powell gave up Smith as his accomplice and he was arrested.

Convicted of murder, both Powell and Smith originally were sentenced to death, however court decisions vacated their death penalties. Officer Hettinger, not injured by bullets, felt guilt for giving up his gun, suffered emotional illness leading to kleptomania and his termination from the LAPD. Joseph Wambaugh immortalized the story in his book and movie “The Onion Field”, influencing the parole board to deny Powell’s parole. Jimmy Lee Smith was paroled in 1982 despite public outrage, but was constantly in and out of prison until his death in 2007, at age 76. Powell continued to pay for his crime until his 2012 death at 79 while imprisoned.



Adah Campbell at Ian's funeral



Jimmy Smith & Gregory Powell





### **10 Years Ago This Month – September 2011**

The weekend of September 23-25, 20 members driving six Early V-8's and some modern cars participated in the 4th Annual Poker Rally in the Lake Geneva area. This was Millie Novak's first outing with the group. A new addition to the rally this year was car games. Everyone had a great time and Barb Slobodnik was the surprise winner in "plumb bob." Dick Alfini was the grand prize winner of the rally with Judy Buscaglia taking the low hand. The group generously donated \$600 to the Corinne Kreissl fund.

### **20 Years Ago This Month – September 2001**

The mood was somber at the September 18 monthly meeting as President Ken Bounds talked about the tragic events of September 11. There was a discussion about raising the dues \$5 to cover increasing costs. George Cech said "Why not raise the dues \$10 to \$35?" and made a motion which was seconded and passed. Twenty couples participated in the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Geneva Classic Car Rally tour September 28-30 with the group donating \$720 to the Corinne Kreissl fund.

### **30 Years Ago This Month – September 1991**

Thirteen members toured to the Chicago Car Exchange in Lake Bluff September 15. Tour Chairman Dick Alfini, who had organized the tour, was disappointed that only 6 members continued on to the Lynfred Winery and none continued to the Lone Tree Restaurant. At least four members and spouses participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Geneva Classic Car Rally September 28-29. Sadly no report was written for the Road Chatter.

### **40 Years Ago This Month – September 1981**

The September Road Chatter contained a flyer for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Geneva Classic Car Rally September 27; we don't know if anyone participated. At the September 8 meeting Charles Kaiser showed films he had taken of the '75 & '76 picnics. A large group of NIRG members participated in a tour to the Woodside Dude Ranch September 25-27 in Mauston, WI, organized by Bob & Ginger Tessarola. Ginger's humorous review of the event for the Road Chatter was a real hoot.

### **45 Years Ago This Month – September 1976**

At the September meeting it was decided that the "Christmas Party" would be changed to an Installation Dinner held in January because of hectic schedules in December. Len Vinyard was planning the first one for January 22. On September 25 & 26, 28 V-8ers and family participated in the infamous "joint tour" with the Peoria Group at Starved Rock State Park. Infamous because the Peoria Group did not show up.



# Aloha and Ahui Ho

In the Hawaiian language, Aloha has several meanings, including a greeting (hello) and a farewell (goodbye). Ahui ho means "until we meet again."

These are pertinent this month as we say goodbye (for now) to Joe and Delice Serritella. Joe and Delice joined our group in 2006 and Joe has faithfully served as our Treasurer for the last 13 years! After wintering in Arizona for several years, Joe and Delice have sold their Oakbrook home and in August made Phoenix their permanent home. Joe has sold all of his antique vehicles; we anticipate the new owner of his 1941 Ford Coupe, Vicky Beck, will become a member of the Early Ford V-8 Club of America and our regional group.



Until we meet again is appropriate - we anticipate that Joe and Delice will spend at least a portion of future summers in the area. We thank Joe for his years of service to the club, his frequent tech talks, and his assistance to members with service on the electrical components of their vehicles. Thanks to both Joe and Delice for their participation in many tours and club events. With Joe's relocation, the board felt it was in the best interests to have a Treasurer closer to home. Ron Blum has graciously agreed to serve as Treasurer during a transition period. Thanks Ron!

*Ken Bounds*



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## ***Veteran's Day Luncheon*** **11:00 Saturday November 13th, 2021**



**Join your Fellow V-Sers at a *NEW LOCATION***

**The Patio**  
**2780 S. Highland Avenue**  
**Lombard, IL 60148**

Contact Este Scheve to confirm your attendance at 630-567-1775 or  
email [teamscheve@comcast.net](mailto:teamscheve@comcast.net)



## **DuPage County Sheriff's Office** **CAR SHOW**



**\$20 Entrance Fee Benefitting**  
**Special Olympics Illinois**

**Saturday October 2, 2021**  
**11am-3pm**

**Event will be held at the DuPage County Sheriff's Office**  
**501 N. County Farm Road Wheaton, IL**

For more info contact John Emmering by email: [shoeboxford.john@gmail.com](mailto:shoeboxford.john@gmail.com)

**OCTOBER 1952      FORD TIMES      AUGUST 1951**



***"I don't care what your speedometer says--  
When I go over fifty, my hat flies off!"***



***"Ahhh-h-h! Country air after a rain! Boy, if  
we could only bottle it, eh, George?"***

# UPCOMING



Mark Your Calendars

# EVENTS



July	August	September	October
<b>24</b> Fords & Friends "Duals Night" at Warrenville Culver's With Model A Club 5:00-8:00 pm	<b>15</b> NIRG Annual Picnic 10:00 am at the St. Charles Culver's on Route 64.	<b>21</b> Member's Meeting <b>7:30 pm</b> <b>24-26</b> Lake Geneva Poker Rally	<b>2</b> DuPage Sheriff Car Show for Special Olympics <b>19</b> Member's Meeting <b>7:30 pm</b>
November	December	January	February
<b>13</b> Veteran's Day Lunch Patio Restaurant Lombard 11:00 am <b>14</b> M.A.R.C. Turkey Dinner, Elburn, IL <b>16</b> Member's Meeting	<b>21</b> No Member's Meeting this month Christmas Luncheon At Chessie's Restaurant Date to be announced		



Arlene Blum	(9/05)
Linda Livingston	(9/14)
Scott Gilday	(9/17)
Gladys Duzell	(9/21)
Lois Wall	(9/21)
Doug Leicht	(9/25)




Gary & Dawn Osborne	(9/08)
Bob & Rhonda Miller	(9/11)
Ron & Arlene Blum	(9/12)
Ed & Diane Crane	(9/24)
Dan & Diane Pudelek	(9/30)





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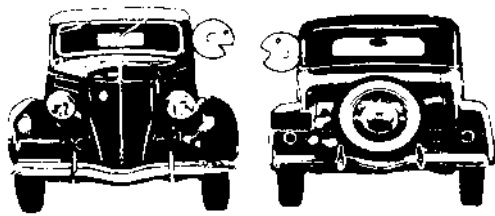
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**Road Chatter**  
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### **Photo of the Month**

Our annual Regional Group Picnic, held on the grounds of the Culver's Restaurant in St. Charles saw 11 Early Ford V-8 era cars brought out by our members. The nice weather and comfortable temperatures helped make the picnic an enjoyable event.