

The Monthly Newsletter of Queen City Model A Club, Charlotte NC

Dedicated to the Restoration and Preservation of the Model A Ford and we like to drive them too.

Our Website is queencitymodelaclub.com

January, 2024

The Prez Sez, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. First, I want to thank all of you for entrusting me to lead our club during the next year. I am truly honored and promise to do my best to make 2024 a fun and enjoyable Model A Year.



By now you elected officers and board have already met and laid out a plan of activities for 2024. Take a look at the yearly calendar! WOW! When you see an activity with HOST? It means we need someone to lead this activity. Please consider taking the initiative to lead a club activity (we will help you).

There are two calendar items I would like to point out. First, On Jan 27th we will have a shop day at Jim Townsend's shop. We will start up a 1930 Fordor that has been sitting for years. Come have some fun! There might be some smoke and maybe acorns out the exhaust. Secondly, the MARC National Meet is July 15-17 in our back yard (Asheville, NC). This will be my first National Meet and I am excited to see what all happens. Will you join me? See you down the road, Troy

QCMAC OFFICERS

President

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QCMAC 2024 CALENDAR

April 4 th -7 th Charlotte Auto Fair 14 th QCMAC Car Show @ White Home Host – Jim T. & Rhea F. 15 th General Meeting @ Showmars Host – Bertha & John Haack	August 19th General Meeting @ Showmars Host 28th- 29th Mountain Tour Blowing Rock Host – Jim Townsend	7th Harvey Hood Memorial Christmas Parade Tour 7th Denver NC Parade 9th Christmas Party @ Johns Restaurant 6:00pm
March 15th Yellow Deli Tour Host - Ron & Joanne Bryant 18th General Meeting @ Sports Page Host- Heather and Jon Fowler	July 15th-19th Marc National Meet in Asheville 15th General Meeting @ Marc National Meet.	Movember 9th Veterans Day Tour Host – Kalei U. 19th General Meeting @ Sports Page Host -
Rebruary 8th Key West Tour Meeting @ Sports Page 6:00 pm 19th General Meeting @ John's Restaurant Host – Carrie & Glen Swann	June 1 ¹⁴ -2 ¹¹⁴ Augusta Ga Tour Host -? 1 ¹⁴ -14 th Key West Tour Host - Troy D. & Kalei U. 17 th General Meeting @ John's Restaurant Host -	October 21st General Meeting @ Showmars Host – Jim & Laura Silver ??th - ??th Mystery Tour Host - ??
January 11th Key West Tour Meeting @ Sports Page 6:00 pm 15th General Meeting @ Golden Corral Host – Brad & Jane Fisher 27th Shop Time @ Townsend Shop 10:00 am Host – Jim Townsend	May 18th Landsford Canal Tour Host – Carrie and Glen 20th General Meeting @ Golden Corral Host – Sandeep & Tom Berry	September 5th-7th Charlotte Auto Fair 16th General Meeting @ Golden Corral Host – Geoffrey & Clare Leek ??th Murray Mill Tour Host – Carrie & Glen S.

REV 2 12/20/2023

Meeting Place addresses:

Golden Corral – 11025 E. Independence Blvd., Matthews, NC John's Restaurant – 2002 Westinghouse Blvd, Charlotte, NC Sports Page – 8400 Bellhaven Blvd., Charlotte, NC Showmars – 7260 Hwy 73, Unit 119, Denver, NC 28037

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Meeting was held at John's Restaurant December 20th, 2023,

With 8 in attendance.

2023 Review & Thanks

- Troy mentioned that 2023 went very well and we all agreed. Jim Townsend mentioned that we grew from about 40 members to 60 members, but that we typically lose a few members at the turn of the New Year, seasonally speaking. We have 5 potential new members from the North side of town (that includes John Strickland, Doug Lintz, Gene Fletcher, Danny & Rob). They are interested in doing tours with us.
- We need to honor the work that the 2023 board has done by conducting a "Pass the Gavel" ceremony at the January meeting. The 2023 board includes Kalei Unea, Troy Dalsing, Carrie Swann, John Haack, Ron Bryant, Jim Townsend and Sandeep Berry. Special mention goes to Kalei for leading the club out of the Pandemic (no small Feat).

<u>Action Items:</u> 1. Conduct the "Passing of the Gavel" ceremony at the January meeting (special Mention should go to Kalei for leading our club out of the pandemic).

2023 Club Evaluation in 5 Areas

Meetings:

- Ron recently suggested that we could make the meetings more interesting, and Kalei made some changes to make the meetings more compelling for the membership. The new board will make a special effort to keep meetings engaging. Mixers and Ice Breakers were suggested.
 - MARC needs to recognize our new members and our growing membership and understand that our honorary members are typically people that can no longer participate in club activities because of their health or the passing of a spouse.
 - We all agreed that we need to get to know new members. The board will make a special effort to get to know them and make them feel welcome in the club. The board also needs to encourage the membership to introduce themselves to people they don't know.
 - The board will communicate with meeting hosts to greet people as they enter the meeting room and welcome them and specially make the new member feel welcome.
 - The board needs to delegate someone to interview new members and see if they will have their picture taken and put this information in the Newsletter. Pictures are the key factor in recognizing someone.
 - We did a good job in 2023 in encouraging women to get involved in the club. The board agreed that it will continue to foster this participation and attempt to design tours and meetings to be welcoming to our female members; as Kalei said "this is not a man's club". The board will continue to encourage our female members to get together in gatherings outside the auspices of the club. We will continue to think of club as a good time to date our "significant other".
 - To promote this, the board will wear period costumes at the January meeting and we will encourage the wearing of period costumes on tour.
 - Some members have a hard time hearing during the meetings. We will provide the microphone and speaker to meetings for people speaking to be heard more clearly (Troy). Excess chatter during meetings should be kept to am minim.
 - At future XMAS meeting, the board will try to have a projector to shoot pictures on the wall highlight all the fun we had that year (Sandeep?)

- To help make meetings more interesting, we will play period music as we gather and will provide a microphone for people speaking and to be heard more clearly (Troy) Some members have a hard time hearing what is being said.

Action Items:

- 1- The board will make a special effort to get to know new members and make them fell welcome. The board will also encourage the membership to introduce themselves to people they don't know.
- 2- The board will communicate with meeting hosts to greet people as they enter the meeting room with special attention being paid to welcoming people they don't know. Troy will write up the duties and responsibilities of the host.
- **3-** The board will delegate someone to interview new members and see if they will have their picture taken and put this information in the Newsletter (this may possibly be the apprentice to Jim on the Newsletter)
- **4-** The board will wear period costumes at the January meeting, and we will promote the wearing of this attire on tour.
- 5- At the XMAS meeting, we will try to have pictures of our actives for the 2024 projected upon a screen to highlight the fun we have had for the year (Sandeep?)
 - 6- To help make meetings more interesting, we will play period music as we gather (Troy?)

Tours

- We have gotten great feedback on our tours in 2023, so we will strive to provide the club with more wonderful chances to get together and tour our As in 2024. Mountain tours have been our most popular events and attendance tailed off a little on our beach tours.
- We want to keep our mid-week breakfast socials to drive our Model As and spend quality time together as we have gotten good feedback from these gatherings too.
- We would like to do another Mystery Tour this year and we need someone to host this event. We had rave reviews on the one we did last year.

Action Item: 1 - We need a host for the Mystery Tour immediately, so planning for it can start ASAP.

• Newsletter

- Jim Townsend has done a great job! Most clubs use publisher software, but Jim has his system down to a science and can incorporate articles and photos. Some National criticisms we have received concern not having an Editor's page, that we lack a Youth Publication and a National Club Application. Jim has addresses MARC's concerns on all of these issues by accomplishing what National wants.
- Jim needs to hand responsibility for the newsletter to someone else (could this person interview new members?). He has offered to train someone- we just need an interested party to step forward. (Would someone be intrested an apprenticeship?).

Action Item:

1. We need someone to eventually take over the production fo the Newsletter. They can apprentice with Jim to learn how to do this. Possibly, this person could interview the new members and put an article about them in the Newsletter along with their picture.

Online Presence

- Sandeep has done a fantastic job with this! We believe much of our growth has come from folks responding to our Website and Instagram presence.
- It helps to be able to post our Newsletter on the Website and it is important that we continue to do that.

Membership

- John Haack is doing a good job of plugging our new members into our system and notifying Nationals with our membership count and encouraging them to join MARC.
- Troy is sending a note to potential new members after John notifies him when someone expresses interest in joining QCMAC. Along with the note he sends them a most recent copy of our Newsletter and invites them to join the club.

Calendar

- After a lengthy discussion, we have decided to keep our meetings on the third Monday of every month. Brad Fisher will reserve our meeting places for us for 2024.
- We need a host for our Mystery Tour in October. This needs to happen <u>soon</u> so there is enough time to prepare for it. We are moving the Mystery Tour to October to have enough time for a host to prepare for it and we cancel the beach tour.
- Jim Townsend will host a tour to Blowing Rock in August.
- Ron & JoAnne Bryant will host a Yellow Deli Tour in March.
- We need a host to bring day trippers for the Key West tour back from Augusta, Ga.
- The club will not have a host for our general meeting in Asheville when we are at the MARC meet. We do not plan on having the prize giveaway nor the 50/50 raffle.
 - Anytime we spend money, we need board approval beforehand.
 - We discussed whether we should spend some of the \$6,000 in our bank account to further the Model A hobby. Troy said he had some ideas on this and will get back to the board on that.

Action Item: 1. Brad Fisher will reserve our meeting places for 2024.

- 2. We need a host to bring our Key West tour day trippers back from Augusta, Ga.
- 3. Requests to spend club money should get board approval before the money is spent.

These minutes were recorded by Brad Fisher, VP and reviewed by Carrie Swann, Secretary.

Christmas Dinner

By Jim Townsend

We had 54 members make reservations for the Annual Christmas Dinner celebrated this year at John's Restaurant on December 11. This is the meeting where we traditionally "pass the gavel" to the newly elected president and his supporting officers. Unfortunately, both Troy Dalsing, president elect and Kalei Unea, outgoing president were home with Covid. So, that formality will occur at the January meeting. Brad Fisher, Vice President elect and Carrie Swann, secretary took charge of the festivities.

Troy had arranged a game of sorts that created better interaction between attendees. Each member was presented with a snack bag upon arriving. In the bags were small, insignificant Model A parts and the instructions in the bag said to consult with others to help identify the part, then find another member with a mating part and then find something new about that person to share with others. Ill admit I'm not a parlor game person but this was a good conversation mixer.

We were led in a blessing by Glenn Swann, had dinner and then had our normal White Elephant Gift Exchange. All present seemed to enjoy the evening and the company of others.







Jerry LaQuerre got a walking Cane with a horn



Jane Fisher helps Kevin Heimbaugh with his ear rings

Jim and Dwight stole these signs

The 2023 Harvey Hood Memorial Christmas Parade Tour



We had 10 model As and two Hot Rods plus Jean Hood's Turquoise Pontiac and 29 people attend the Richburg and Fort Lawn Parades this year. Kathy Faris drove her roadster to lead the way. It is notable to also say this was her first tour and she did it at the front of the pack. Way to go Kathy!!!

John and Bertha probably win the award for the most decorated Model A. The trunk is literally full of wrapped presents.

The group had lunch ar The Front Porch restaurant in Richburg between the two parades which were about 12 miles apart.







Clouds and Sunshine

Keep the members below in your special prayers

Danny Foster as he does treatment for his shoulder

Dave Frintner and Dawn. Dave's health has deteriorated to the point that he has been moved into Hospice care.

Carl Adams as his parkinson's disease limits his mobility.

Wayne and Barbara Helderman both with health problems.

Ron and JoAnn Bryant both with health problems.

Jim Townsend as he receives cancer treatments

The family of Eric Peterson who passed December 16.





We'd most certainly like to wish You a very Happy Birthday!

January Birthdays	
Kalei Unea	1-6
Frank Gerosa	1-19
Ola Mae Matthews	1-30
Lynne Stoll	1-30

<u>Editor's Note:</u> Being on the receiving end of your prayers and notes is a meaningful experience that I find a little humbling. The special cares offered by both Clare and Bertha go beyond what someone may class as a job. It is an expression of love as are the multiple notes and comments I get on a daily basis. Thank you for being the caring club you are. It makes a difference.

QCMAC Financial

December 2023 Review of QCMAC Checkbook

Beg	inning Balance as of December 1, 2023	\$6,691.67
Inco	ome:	
	December 50/50; \$100 plus \$96 donation	\$196.00
	Dues Renewals 7 x 25	\$175.00
	Total:	\$7,062.67
Exp	enses:	
	table decorations	\$156.00
	Christmas Dinner	\$940.01
	Ending Balance as of December 31, 2023	\$5,966.66

John Haack commented with this submission that 19 club members as of December 15 had not submitted their dues for 2024. The By-Laws of QCMAC state that names of members not paying by December 31 will be

removed from the roster. Are Your Dues Past Due?



Tech Talk - Steering

By Jim Townsend

Who among us has never complained about poor steering in our Model A Fords? Winter is upon us and now may be the time to do something about it. The problem is that it is not something solved with a quick fix. We're driving cars nearly 100 years old and steering wasn't great when new plus wear and poor maintenance since has caused deterioration. So where to start?

What makes it hard to steer? Simple things like low tire pressure, worn tires and a lack of oil in the steering gear make it worse but the root cause is more often wear. The balls on the steering arms wear into an oval shape. Replacing these arms and rebuilding the drag link and tie rod ends will help. I find many Pitman arms loose on the steering gear causing play at the steering wheel. The Pitman arm ball is also subject to wear and should be replaced when oval. Consider using a replacement shorter arm which will ease steering effort at the steering wheel. King pins and the thrust bearings wear and create steering resistance. Les Andrews gives good guidance as to how to properly install and adjust king pins. Parts to accomplish these jobs are not terribly high.

What causes so much play in the steering wheel? All of the above wear can influence play but if you've gone through that and satisfied with what you've done, try adjusting the play out of the steering gear if you have a two tooth steering box (1930-1931). Again, Les Andrews' book will lead you through the steps. Assuming the play is still excessive, your problem is likely wear at the steering worm and steering sector gear. The cure for that is to remove the steering column, replace the worm, sector and sector bearings. More than likely, the tapered roller bearings guiding the worm are in good condition. Consider replacing or modifying the sector housing to gain a modern oil seal. The worm gear, sector gear and housing are relatively expensive but the outcome will be worth it.

What causes the dreaded "Death Wobble"? Much of the wear discussed above plus a loose fit of the ball at the end of the front radius rod. I haven't mentioned yet "tow in" but after you get your wear eliminated, take the time to check and adjust the toe in – the intentional misalignment of the front wheels so that they very slightly steer toward each other. Again, consult Les Andrews' book for directions.

Proper repairs to your steering will make your outings much more stress free.

Christmas Legends

THERE is no holiday in the whole year around which so many traditions and legends cluster as Christmas. But, while Christmas, St. Nicholas, Santa Claus, are happily discussed for weeks by every child in Christendom, and while every family is anticipating the Christmas tree, the hanging of stockings, decorations of holly and greenery, putting a candle in the window and burning a Yule log, few children know the origin of these customs.

The smallest child knows that Christmas is celebrated as the birthday of Christ. Yet there is not historical record that December 25 was the actual date of the birth of Christ. Historians and astronomers agree that it was about the time of the winter solstice when the days were the shortest in the year—near December 21. The early Christmas celebrations were not confined to one day. There was rejoicing from December 16 to January 6. The latter date is now known as Twelfth-night.

It was not until the reign of the Christian emperor,

Constantine, in the fourth century, that the observance of Christmas became an established custom, since the early Christians considered the observance of birthdays a pagan custom. The exchange of Christmas gifts has come gradually a beautiful, unself-



ish custom in commemoration of the greatest gift of all time to the world — the Christ Child. The giving of gifts also has a religious significance grounded on the act of the Persian Magi in laying gold, frankincense, and myrrh before the Babe in the manger.

- Farm Journal, December 1925

Model A TAXICAB

At the Christmas Dinner, I was given a stack of old MARC and MAFCA magazines. One Restorer dated May-June of 1967 had an in depth report on Model A Taxicabs. What follows is a synopsis I thought some may enjoy. Jim Townsend

"In every town and city the need for taxicabs is growing. This is due not alone to the natural increase in the traveling public but also to the fact that time-saving demands of the present day have made this method of transportation very important"

....December 1928

On December 4, 1928, production of the Model A taxicab was announced. Ford set the cost of the cab at \$800 FOB Detroit. First shipments



were painted Balsam Green below the belt, upper bodies were medium Cream. Sales Department released the following information.

The driver's seat is fully enclosed. It is separated from the passenger compartment by metal and glass partitions. The passenger compartment is trimmed with gray imitation leather with seat cushions and back upholstered in gray velour. It will accommodate three persons comfortably. In an offset in the partition on the right side of the passenger compartment, a folding auxiliary seat is located. This faces backward, and likewise is trimmed in gray velour.

Our production calls for substantial quanities of this unit, so let's accumulate a large number of immediate orders.

Production never reached "substantial quantities". Records show approximately 4,500 cabs were made domestically in '28 and '29 but in the depression years of '30 and '31, production was a mere 280 with production stopping in early '30. Dealers were advised that the \$800 price was subject to their normal 20% dealer discount. Front and rear bumpers were not included as standard equipment.

Some of the 1928-29 configuration cabs were still in inventory in late '31. Prices for the taxi were reduced in September '30 to \$725 for one or in lots of 2 to 50 for \$598.13. The cab body less the chassis was sold for \$465 FOB Detroit.

The heavy service of cabs caused Ford to use AA clutches and heavier bearings and gears in the transmissions. A 4.75/21 tire was used in lieu of the standard 4.50/21 and the recommended pressure was 40 vs the standard 35 psi. Shipping weight of the Model A taxicab was 2,500 pounds. Accessories for the cab were available from many auto parts manufacturers and specialty houses. There were the usual taxi running lights and illuminated body signs reading "vacant" or 'For Hire" or just "taxi". Taximeters, an outstanding feature on the car and a must for any present day taxi owner, were made by Olmer, US, and the Pittsburgh Taximeter Company. Body makers also entered the competition for taxi fleet business by offering special bodies of bigger load capacity, accomplished in some cases by extending the standard Ford chassis.

In this 1967 article, MAFCA only recognized one restored Model A Taxicab to be in existence,

that one then owned by a Charlie Adams of East Point Georgia (Photo on top of article).. This low survival recognizes first, the low production numbers and secondly the harsh treatment of cabs in general. There was a second cab shown owned by Dr. James Lyon of Sterling Illinois. It was an original body that had never been installed onto a chassis. Left in dealer inventory, it had been robbed of a few parts but otherwise was complete with original factory paint under a layer of dust. The intent was to build this car after completing a restoration of a Model T for Dr Lyon's son.

While the Town Sedan was the basic body for the cab, other bodies were later adapted to meet demand when production stopped. This may be the rarest of all models of the A.







Henry the Farmboy

Compiled by Danny Enos, Cuesta Crankers Model A Club, San Luis Obispo, CA

The Two Edsels



If you remember from issue #5, it was Christmas Eve and Clara Ford was busy preparing dinner for the next day for themselves and her parents when Henry walked into their kitchen and asked for help starting his newly constructed experimental internal combustion engine. He clamped the oily device to the sink and connected its crude spark plug to their home's electrical supply. She set aside her cooking, dripped fuel into the fuel intake, turned a valve as instructed, and with a couple turns of the flywheel the engine sprang to life. All this took place without complaint from Clara, and with a six

week old baby in the house. Her understanding was not lost on Henry.

The child in the house that day was Henry and Clara Ford's only child, and was born on November 6, 1893. They named him Edsel.

They named the boy after Edsel Ruddiman. He was Henry's best friend in school and eventually became a member of the family through the marriage of his brother James to Henry's younger sister Margaret. Margaret Ford Ruddiman became a significant contributor to the history of the Ford legacy. Friend Edsel Ruddiman had been one of the cleverest boys in the one-room schoolhouse that he and Henry attended in Dearborn. Henry was not as good a student as the older Edsel and seems to have hero-whorshipped him a little bit. Edsel Ruddiman went on to college and became a well-paid chemist-pharmacist in his own right. Certainly by the time Henry's son was born in 1893, one would have to say that "Dr." Edsel Ruddiman was more of a success than Henry at that point. However, we all know who ended up having the greater effect on mankind.

Little Edsel Ford's birth was an easy one. Dr. David O'Donnell assisted in the birth. The young doctor was just setting up practice after medical school. He didn't have enough money yet for a horse and carriage, so he rode to the Ford home on a bicycle with his doctor's bag tied in front.

A few years later Clara went into the hospital for a major operation, which is said to have been a hysterectomy. The details can never be known as the Ford's grandson, Henry Ford II, had his grandparents' medical records destroyed. Two things, however, are certain. Henry Ford, reasonably or not, held a grudge against doctors from that day forward, and he and Clara had no more children.

Homemade Pressure Test Tool

It's common to find blown head gaskets, cracked cylinder heads and cracked engine blocks in cars from the 1920s and 1930s.

To discover a leak in an engine, you can pressure test it by making a simple device. Use an old spark plug that will fit the engine in question. Remove the insulator, leaving only the metal section. Weld or braze a male air hose fitting to the remaining part of the spark plug. (The air passageway must be clear...through both spark plug and the adapter hose fitting.)

Install your new tool into the suspect cylinder and attach your air compressor hose to the adapter. Using at least 100 psi at the new tool, look into the radiator inlet for bubbles in the coolant. You can do this at each cylinder until you discover your leak. Remember to watch for external leaks as well.

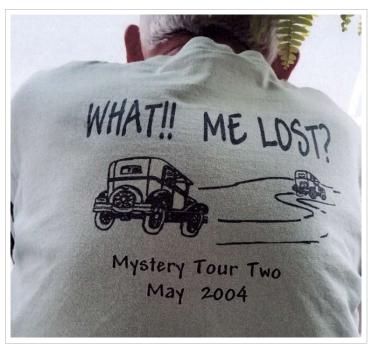
This tech tip comes to you from Bill Artzberger of Pittsburgh, PA and the Model A Ford Club of New Jersey

Fashion Page



Recent Happenings

You may recall from last months letter that Jerry Widner won AACA The Spirit of the Hobby Award when showing his A at the prestigious Hilton Head Island Motoring Festival and Concours in November. Here is a shot of the crystal trophy he has since received.





This is a reminder that 2024 is a new year and our leaders are planning exciting events for us. Don't get lost by not joining in and having fun with other club members. Claude Palmer models the shirt here.

Here is a shot of the Fordor we will start in Jim's shop on Jan 27th. It is one of 6 complete cars Troy Dalsing recently purchased from the family of past QCMAC member Yates Gilbert. The word "Complete" is something of a stretch as all are in need of major repair. Troy quickly sold another Fordor and a Beverly Hillbilly style truck leaving him with this Fordor, a Phaeton, a roadster a Cabriolet and a rolling chassis. Time will tell what he does with this batch. Rumor mill fresh out is that son Jon may wish to have the Cabriolet to drive on QCMAC tours.



The body of the Depot Hack project is progressing. Shown here are the seat boxes in place on the completed floor framing with the steering installed. The station Wagon style sides will be built onto this structure. My son may have to eat his words. When he saw the pile of parts we started with, he called it "Mission Impossible."





The engine has been assembled with new Babbit, new valves and lifters, new rods, pistons and rings. The model T transmission becomes a unit with the engine and is to be built on the flywheel end. New member, Model T guru and friend John Strickland will be guiding me on that work.

Impossible means you haven't found a solution yet.

Henry Ford

When all seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.

Henry Ford

For Sale and Wanted



Zenith Carburetors - Cleaned, jets calibrated, and painted. New parts installed as needed. Perfect for touring or showing in touring class judging.

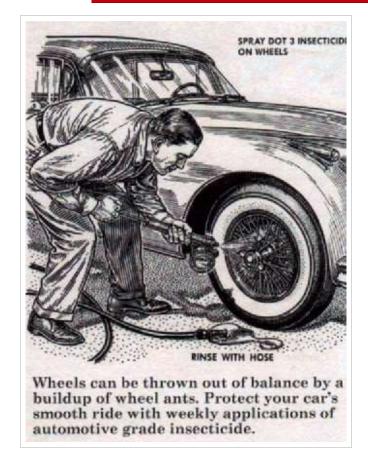
\$125 with exchange of rebuildable Zenith \$200 without exchange

Contact Jim Townsend 828/964-3425 or townsendj@comporium.net

According to the BMI chart at the Doctor's office, I'm too short.

Isn't it a bit ironic that the colors red, white and blue stand for freedom - - until they are flashing behind you.

This is an actual tech tip used in the 50's. I guess some people will believe anything they read.



National Club Information

Model A Restorer's Club (MARC)

Dues are \$50.00 per calendar year. This includes a subscription to the *Model A News* magazine.



Send to: MARC, 6721 Merriman Road, Garden City, MI 48135

"MARC" membership is required of all members" Membership Application is online @

Website: www.modelarestorers.org

Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA)

Dues are \$50 per year which includes a subscription to: The Restorer magazine.

Send to: MAFCA

250 South Cypress Street La Habra, CA 90631



Website: www.mafca.com

Model A Ford Foundation Inc (MAFFI)

Dues are \$25 per year which includes a subscription to: The Preserver Quarterly newsletter



Send to: 28 Peotone, IL 60468-0028

Application is online @ Website www.maffi.org

You may join any of the above national clubs on line or download the application forms to join. When you join QCMAC, you MUST also join MARC and furnish your MARC membership number when renewing your membership to QCMAC.

Food For Thought

A man was driving his Model A Ford down a neighborhood street, going a bit fast partly due to his stunning newly rebuilt four banger. He was watching for kids and slowed when he thought he saw something. As he passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the door.

The angry driver jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him against a parked car. "Just what the heck are you doing?" That is a classic car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. The boy hung his head saying, "Please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do. I threw the brick because no one else would stop." Now, with tears running down his face and off his chin, the young boy pointed to a spot just around the parked car. It's my brother, he said "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheel chair and I can't lift him."

Now sobbing, the boy asked the man, would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into his wheelchair, then took out an old ragged handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay.

"Thank you and may God bless you" the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home. The damage was very noticeable, but the man never bothered to repair the dented door. He keeps it there to remind him of this message. "Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!"

God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It's our choice to listen or not.