



the TRAVELER



Volume 21-10

October 2024

P.O. Box 812, Cantonment, FL 32533

Model A Days at The Gilmore Museum



Hope and I travelled to Hickory Corners, Michigan to attend Model A Days at The Gilmore Museum. We took advantage of the on-site camping to make the most of our time there. There were plenty of restaurants and of course Walmart and Tractor Supply as well. On Friday we

woke up to a cool foggy morning and after a short walk, we were in Model A heaven. There were plenty of A's on display and a few for sale. I ventured over to the swap meet where Bratton's and The Carb Shed were set up with merchandise. There were many private vendors with tables, trailers, and blankets

loaded with parts for sale. From the vendor area, I could see the Model A Museum expansion was underway and the ground had been cleared and survey posts in place.

We then turned our attention to the several buildings full

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Our Club



GCMAC Officers	Name	Phone	Email
President	Allen Braddy	678-499-3370	alnbraddy@yahoo.com
Vice President	Martha Fuller	251-602-1931	waltermern@aol.com
Secretary	Elizabeth Witherington	251-648-9844	mrs.witherington@att.net
Treasurer	Becky Baisden	850-384-5717	beckyb0814@att.net
Newsletter Editor	Charlotte Dahlenburg	256-783-2261	realracegril1@gmail.com
National Rep	Allen Braddy	678-499-3370	alnbraddy@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Becky Baisden	850-384-5717	beckyb0814@att.net
Event Coordinator	Allen Braddy	678-499-3370	alnbraddy@yahoo.com

October Birthdays

- 3 Michele Gray
- 8 Yvonne Quinlan
- 9 Tom Frazier
- 9 Terry Collins
- 10 Michelle Collins
- 15 Debbie Fowler
- 16 C.J. Baisden
- 16 Betty Fortner
- 17 Scott Baisden



Anniversaries

- 12 Dick & Gerry Fischlein



Message from ...

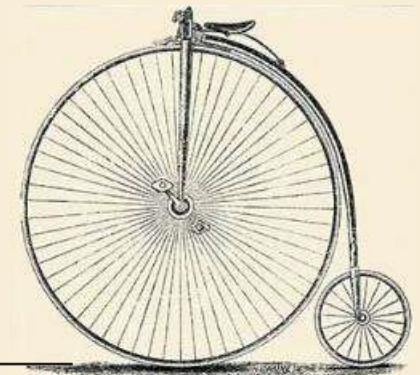
Reprinted from Hagerty's.

Once your car collectors club has been organized, you want to make it go and grow. Good communications, timely publicity and signing up new members are key elements that keep a club active and strong.

To keep your collector car club going, members must be informed about what the club is doing and when club events are scheduled. The best way to do this is through the club newsletter. It must also be professional and correct. (We've got this part covered)

Club newsletters don't have to be fancy to be effective. It's the content that's most important. Essential items found in many club newsletters are: a calendar of events; club-related, or general collector car, news; the club's last meeting highlights; announcements and notices; a column written by the club president; opinions, tech-tips, and other member activities written by members; future meeting schedule; special offers to club members; a Member of the Month feature; and classified ads listing collector cars and parts for sale by members.

Promotional opportunities for your collector car club can basically be broken down into 10 categories: 1) press releases in



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of historic automobiles on display. The vehicles ranged from horseless carriages, Model T's, Model A's, Cords, vintage motorcycles, authentic Shell station, Pink Cadillac's, and modern specialty cars. These



displays alone were worth the visit. On Friday afternoon, a youth group worked to start their Model A project car. The group consisted of one young



lady and several young men. The crowd roared when the motor fired. Then it was time to attend the unveiling of the fully restored Model A bus being gifted to the Gilmore for tour rides. It took about 45 minutes for the speakers to thank everyone who provided financial or physical support and words of encouragement



supporting the project. The crowd again came to life as the bus rounded the corner and came into view. After a ceremonial ride with dignitaries, the crowd was invited to take a spin. There was a donation



box onboard and the Model A community was showing the love. A bus booth was offering commemorative t-shirts as well.

On Saturday morning we toured the Model T driving experience and vintage motorcycle barns and then headed over to watch a Model



A pickup came to life after sitting 40 years. As expected, the crowd again roared when the motor fired and a little dust flew out of the tailpipe. We then headed over to take our turn riding the new bus and enjoyed a leisurely trip around the three miles of pavement on the property. All in all, it was a great trip and we enjoyed conversing with other Model A enthusiasts from around the country. If you go, plan on at least two days to see everything and to enjoy a meal in the authentic diner.

- Scott Lunsford



Club Happenings



5 members attended the meeting on September 21

Meeting Minutes:

September 21, 2024

Opened at 11am with Allen Braddy, Mac & Kathy McNamara in attendance.

Talked about the PowerPoint presentation requirements for NAB2025. Need photos of region and talking points. The Logo Design for NAB2025, and talked about altering it afterwards to include the Blue Angels flying formation to make it our new club logo.

Mike & Debbie Fowler arrived at 1123.

We addressed upcoming events and requests given to the club.

Discussed radiator caps.

Discussed inviting students to learn and participate in engine repair and rebuilding Model A's. Including the future

of Model A interest.

Inviting Montgomery to assist in NAB with no available contacts so Allen will look into meeting with New Orleans A's after the first of the year once we know where we need support.

Mentioned local and National dues coming up.

Talked about the corrections Mike presented to the Club By-laws.

Possibly adding a haunted tour to the NAB2025 events.

Debbie Fowler motioned to close the meeting and Kathy McNamara seconded.

Becky made mention that the August minutes listed the meeting to be held the third Thursday of the Month and it should have read the Third

Saturday of the Month

August 17 Minutes GCMAC

Allen Braddy opened the meeting and thanked all in attendance.

Pam talked about the Christmas Dinner at Ivy's Restaurant. You will need to pick your dish by November 22. Information will be in the next newsletter.

Name tags were discussed. Dallas tags and other ideas were brought up

Wesley Chalk sold his car and is home on hospice

Daddy-Daughter Date night event will happen again this year with better organization.

North Alabama Club is hosting a tour in October. See newsletter for info and registration form.

Financial report was given.

It was discussed that 5 people are serving in all the positions in the club and the need for the jobs to be spread around.

Mike Fowler is heading the bi-laws committee and looking for volunteers. The issue of the dues inconsistencies needs addressing. There are other concerns that needs to be addressed. The club voted to have Mike handle the committee.

Newsletter classified ads are open to everyone. Ads can be

for cars, parts or help needed.

When the subject line of your email is For Members Only please do not share that email. You will get a second email without the financial or other personal information to share with other groups, clubs or friends and family.

A motion was made to participate in the Pensacola Veterans Day Parade, November 11 with the club paying the \$50 entry fee.

An overview of the status of the National Awards Banquet was given. Working on the Hotel with two different hotels that are trying to get our business. Call for volunteers for the many committees needed to host this event.

The Women's page in the newsletter needs recipes, hints & tips, sewing help and what-ers.

National Dues for youth is \$5 a year.

Motion to Close the meeting was made.



Monroeville's Old Tymers' Antique Tractor & Car Show

We have Model A, AA, and Model T standing tall representing.

Allen brought home some bling. 1st place Model A's in the Old Tymers' Festival.



Monroeville's Old Tymers' Antique Tractor & Car Show
Saturday September 14, 2024

VETERANS PARK 2197 South Mt. Pleasant Ave., Monroeville, AL 36460

ANTIQUE FARM EQUIPMENT FEATURED BY MONROE COUNTY & BALDWIN COUNTY ANTIQUE TRACTOR CLUBS
 Learning Resource Centers

Food Vendors • Live Entertainment by Radio Renaissance • Funnel Cakes
 Old Fashioned Homemade Ice Cream
 Boiled Peanuts

Model T, Model A, Street Rod, Jeeps, Rat Rod, Pickup Truck, Mustang, VW, Open Class, Tractors & Motorcycles

\$25 Entry Fee • \$15 for additional entries
 7 a.m.-8 a.m. Tractor Registration
 9 a.m.-10 a.m. Car Registrations
 1 p.m. Judging Begins
 2 p.m. Trophies Awarded

SOUTHERN FARM SUPPLY | AG CREDIT | O'Reilly | LEE MOTOR CO. | SOUTH ALABAMA TRACTOR AND HARVESTOR

Farmalls • John Deere • Case • Ford • Kubota • International Harvester



We did ride around some. Finally burned enough gas out of the tank to put a new float kit on the gas gauge.

Ron and Bunny



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local media; 2) press releases in hobby media; 3) club brochures; 4) club website; 5) booths at car shows and swap meets; 6) bulletin boards, 7) speaker opportunities; 8) public service announcements, 9) vendor resources; and 10) advertising.

Send a press release to local radio, TV and newspaper media when your collector car club makes news, whether it's a charitable donation or a classic car show. Make sure the information in your release tells who, what, when, where and why. The press release should have the club emblem on it to make it official. And don't confuse a press release

with a free advertisement. Some media will not allow contact information.

Club brochures given to members to place on collector cars around town are a great way to promote your club. Most enthusiasts keep a sharp eye out for cars like their own and seem to have a sixth sense when it comes to spotting collector cars hidden away. The brochure should be colorful, state the purpose of the club and let people know how to join. It's essential to have a membership form inside the brochure.

Booths at car shows or swap meets are often available to clubs free of charge. Check with the promoters of collector

car events in your area and make sure your club has representatives at every show. Try to send different people to different events so no one gets overworked. Show reps should wear club shirts or jackets, and carry leftover newsletters and club brochures with membership forms inside. Free food or beverages will attract people to your booth.

Members, these are the things we must spend some time considering to help grow. Please bring your ideas to the club meeting or email me.

Allen Braddy

The Model A Ford Club of America MAFCA

Serving Model A Ford owners since 1955



Our award winning magazine "The Restorer"

MAFCA is dedicated to the restoration, preservation and enjoyment of the Ford Model A and AA cars and trucks, as manufactured from 1928 through 1931. We are an active, family-friendly organization whose members share a passion for these historic vehicles, plus other aspects of life in that era, such as fashions.

MAFCA is a not-for-profit corporation with members and local affiliated chapters all over the globe. This makes us the largest car club in the world dedicated to one make of automobile. We hope you enjoy looking through our site, and we invite you to join us!

Membership in Model A Ford Club of America is encouraged. MAFCA Dues are \$50.00 and should be mailed to: MAFCA Headquarters, 250 South Cypress, LaHabra, CA 90631-5586 For more info visit: <https://www.mafca.com/>



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Entertainment

Email to
Joe Allen Braddy
alnbraddy
@yahoo.com

Submission
date is the
20th of each
month

Car Shows, Events, Cruise Ins & More

Model A Facebook:

Private, by invitation only, Facebook group, "Todays Model A." This is for members-only to communicate within the group, ask questions, make suggestions or complain about how annoying your event coordinator is. So if you're interested in joining the group, Please contact Scott.

Club Activities:

October

5 8:30 am

Pensacola Breakfast. Golden Corral 2260 Langley Ave.

19 11am

Monthly Club Meeting/Lunch Buffet at Magnolia Blossom Cafe 22667 AL 59 Robertsdale

December

7 1-3pm

Club Christmas Lunch & Board Election

18427 Pennsylvania St.
Robertsdale, AL 36567

See newsletter for RSVP and meal selection

Model A Activities:

November

3 8-1 pm

Dayton Buckeye Model A Ford Club Swap Meet – Troy, Ohio
Miami County Fairgrounds Duke-Lungard Building, Troy, OH.

Welcome. Dec 11-14

National Awards Banquet Salt Lake City, Utah

Local and Regional, Activities:

October

4-5 4th Bama Coast Cruisin at Orange Beach Freedom Fest,

The Wharf, 4671 Wharf Pkwy W., Orange Beach, AL.

6-13 28th Cruisin The Coast, Mississippi Gulf Coast, Cruise \$75 Early Reg. Ends August 15
26 Daddy Daughter Date Night 2024 - 2pm Northridge Church on 9 Mile Rd.

26, 2pm - 4pm

Trinitas Christian School Daddy / Daughter Date night

Northridge Church
2075 E 9 Mile Rd
Pensacola, FL 32514
Please RSVP if you can attend

November

2 9am - 2pm

Rotary car Show. Eastgate Plaza 7135 N 9th Ave,
Pensacola, FL 32504

Please RSVP for this event



Help Wanted

Car Shows? Car Events?

**Email to Allen Braddy
alnbraddy@yahoo.com**

2024 Florida Model A Day Event October 4-6

In Florida
Admission is free with a
Model A or Model T including
passengers.

Friday starts with music and
Hors d'Oeuvres

Saturday includes classes,
history, trivia, lunch, and
evening wrap of with 50/50

Quiz Time!

Read the newsletter to find the answers to the following questions.

- 1. Where are the wood ecalators located?**
A. Washington DC B. New York City C. Dallas, Texas
- 2. How many photos are printed in Scott Lunsford's story?**
A. 9 B. 8 C. 12
- 3. When is our Christmas Dinner?**
A. Dec 7. B. Nov 28. C. Dec 13

1 B, 2 B, 3 A.



Gulf Coast Model A



Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 7 • 1 - 3:pm

Ivey's Fine Dining

18427 Pennsylvania St, Robertsdale, AL • 251-947-400

\$22.95

per person plus tax and gratuity

Email your RSVP and menu choice to nancyjpampel@gmail.com

SALAD

Garden Salad with Choice of dressing

SHRIMP & GRIT CAKES

Sautéed shrimp in brown sauce over fried grit cakes sautéed pork & mushrooms

VEGETARIAN STIR FRY

Stir fried mixed vegetable with rice cakes

Entries

FILLET OF CATFISH

Fresh 5 oz fillet of catfish sautéed in olive oil, served with Ivey's shrimp and crab sauce over rice

GRILLED CHICKEN

6 oz boneless, chicken breast grilled to perfection and served over linguine with Parmesan cream sauce

DESSERT

New Orleans bread pudding with bourbon sauce

BEVERAGES

Coffee or Tea



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MODEL A TOURING CLUB OF NORTH ALABAMA 5TH ANNUAL FALL TOUR

2024

Check In, Thursday October 31st

Tour Dates, Nov, 1st & 2nd

Directions To Motel, Hwy 59 To Exit 181, Hwy 77 South,

Coming from The South, Right On Hwy 77 S, .03 Miles To Motel

Coming from The North, Right On Hwy 77 S, .07 Miles To Motel

Quality Inn

1612 W Grand Ave (Hwy 77)

Gadsden, Al. 35904

When Booking Reservation, Use Group Name & Account No.

Group Name

Model A Touring Club

Group Account No. 4879493

Ph- 256-442-7913

\$65 Per Night + Tax

Check In Thursday Oct.31st

Plenty Of Trailer Parking On Premise

Thursday Evening We Have A Banquet Room Reserved At The Western Sizzlin, Not Far From The Motel, From The Motel Turn Right (South) On Hwy 77S, Cross Steele Station Rd. 209 N Grand Ave/Hwy 77, It's On The Left. We Will Meet At 6:00.

Friday Evening You Will Be On Your Own, You Will Have Many Restaurants To Choose From.

Saturday Evening Will Be Our Farewell Dinner At The Rainbow City Community Center, 3702 Rainbow Dr., Rainbow City, 35906. This Is Behind The Fire Dept. & Library.

Complete Info will Be In Tour Packet To Be Picked Up When Checking In



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MODEL A TOURING CLUB OF NORTH ALABAMA 5TH ANNUAL FALL TOUR

Having Based our Tour out of Ft. Payne 4 years, it's time to move on to new territory. We are Basing this years Tour out of the Gadsden area, There is plenty of new area to explore, lot's of good eating places and a great Motel with Trailer parking. The last couple years we have been Blessed with perfect weather and beautiful Fall Colors, hopefully this year will be a repeat

Name, Print _____

Additional Attending, Print _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Touring Car _____ Tag No. _____

Insurance Company _____

Registration Fee \$15.00 _____ Farewell Dinner \$15.00 Per Person _____ Total _____

Make Check Payable To:
MATCNA, 665 Randolph Rd., Hokes Bluff, Al. 35903

MATCNA SIGN UP & RENEWAL RATE \$15.00

For Those who have not been to one of our Fall Tours, we do tour the Mt. Ranges in the area, lot's of up and down Curvy Model A roads, a car in good mechanical condition with good Breaks will be required

Additional Informational will be provided in the Touring Packet
For more Info, feel free to call me or John (JL) Armstrong anytime,

Dan Nelson 256-490-4360

JL Armstrong 256-390-1231



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Let the **LADIES** do it!

Time management: a 1928 Homemaking Routine

June 27 , 2024 Reprinted from ahousewifewrites.com

You'd never think that women a hundred years ago would have a problem fitting everything into their day. Really, how hard could it have been? They didn't have to find time to update social media, manage digital coupons, schlep children to sporting practices, or watch a single tv show. But they did struggle, which shows that even without modern distractions, this housewifery thing isn't all cupcakes and rainbows.

Trying to "do it all"

One woman in 1928 wrote about her struggle to establish a well-rounded routine. As a new housewife, she tried to be a perfect housekeeper, cleaning all day, every day, obsessed with mopping her floors and



1928 HOME MAKING

polishing the stove. "Clean corners are the earmarks of a good housekeeper" was her favorite motto. But she could never "do it all" and eventually, after the birth of her third child, found herself worn out and discouraged. "Somehow I woke to the realization that one woman can't do everything there is to be done in her home."

Choosing a Priority

This is when Mrs. 1928 hired a maid and nanny and all was once again well in her world, right? I'm afraid not. She decided to prioritize what was most important to her. "Clean babies must come before clean windows," she wrote. She chose to focus on people instead of things, and essential things over optional things.

Because we can't fit in everything, we have to narrow down our list of essentials until they reach a point that they are manageable. This isn't always easy and sometimes it takes a strong mind to move something from the essential list to the optional one, but as she put it, "there's always a way out."

Incidentally, every profession

includes prioritizing. It's just that when your work is your home, it's always there. You can't close the shop, pull the shades, and walk away without a thought after a long day. Your work is all around you—in the same rooms where you sleep, eat, and relax. And sometimes your work seeks you out at odd hours, toddling into your bedroom, waking you up in the middle of the night.

Her Simple Homemaking Routine

Mrs. 1928 came up with a way to simplify and improve her homemaking routine:

She scheduled one big task daily, like washing or baking. Focusing on one goal meant that she could be more efficient by not constantly changing directions.

She scheduled daily rest periods.

She maintained three lists, one of daily work involving the children, one of daily housework, and one for weekly tasks.

She noted that by planning out her week, she was able to accomplish all the different jobs she needed to do within the week. Not only did she find time for all the essentials, but also for rest, and extras, like reading and letter-writing.

Her conclusion: "And best of all—it worked!"

Tech Tips

Broken Bell Housing

By Tom Endy

A fellow Model A'er came over the other day with a bell housing that was cracked right above the clutch throw-out bearing access window. He wanted to buy a rebuilt bell housing from me. He had built a pedal shaft pusher-outer tool similar to the one I have and had used the bell housing tool article I had written a number of years ago.

The fellow had managed to get the pedal shaft pin out, but when he applied his pusher-outer tool to push the pedal shaft out, instead of it coming out easy it would not budge and the force applied cracked the housing.

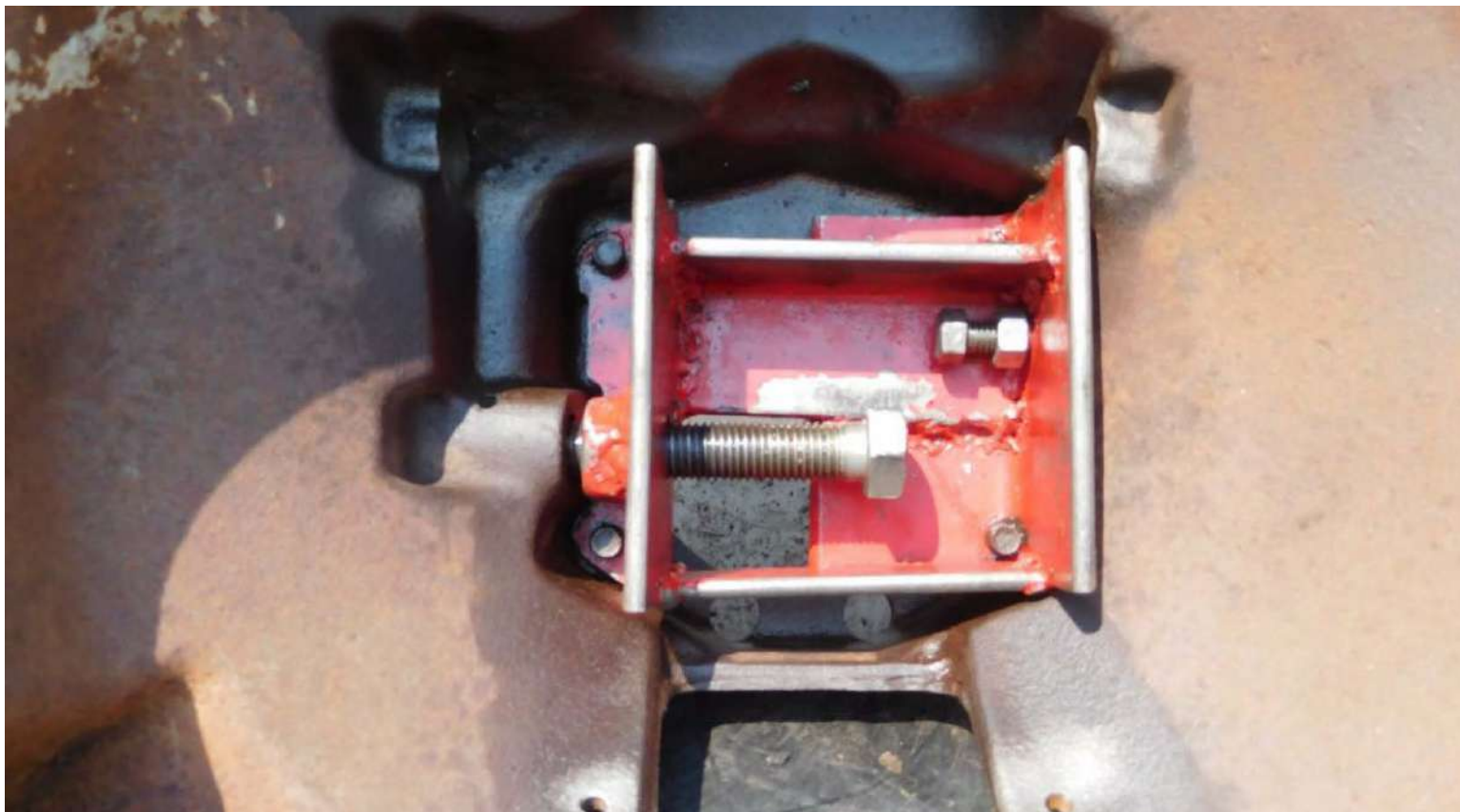
I tried to use my bell housing pedal shaft pusher-outer tool to push the shaft out as it is more robust than the one he had built. The pedal shaft would not budge. At first I thought it may have been tack-welded in place. However it appears that some mis-guided person had applied lock-tight when installing the replacement pedal shaft. This

made it impossible for the pedal shaft to be pushed out and the force applied had cracked the housing.

This is the first time in several hundred bell housing restorations that I have seen a problem such as this. Pedal shafts go in tight and there is no reason to ever apply lock-tight to the shaft. Had heat been applied to the shaft, had it been known that lock-tight had been applied, it would have unlocked it.

The moral to this story:

Never, never apply lock-tight to a new pedal shaft installation!



Era Fashions



How to Look Like a Model A Era Man with Very Little Effort

By Sharon Johnson

Your wife is all decked out in her era fashion outfit and she's looking at you like, "get with the program". What does she want? You've got on black pants and a white shirt and even put on a tie and she still isn't satisfied. Well here's where I can help....

All you need to do to make this outfit look like the Model A era is to add a few accessories. Here are a few examples that will make her think you are a fashionista of Model A era fashions.

If you are wearing trousers and a long sleeved shirt, roll up the sleeves on your shirt; add a bowtie and a straw boater.



They are usually easy to find at a costume shop. You are now dressed for a summer outing.

If you are wearing black pants and a shirt, put a vest on and wear a cap.



If you are wearing a suit, a fedora (shown on the left) or a homburg (shown on the right) would be a nice touch.



Shown below is a picture showing the different styles of ties available during the Model A era.

Hope these tips help you and will encourage you to start dressing like the Model A era.



Email
Submissions to
realracegrill1
@gmail.com

Classifieds

Submission
date is the
20th of each
month

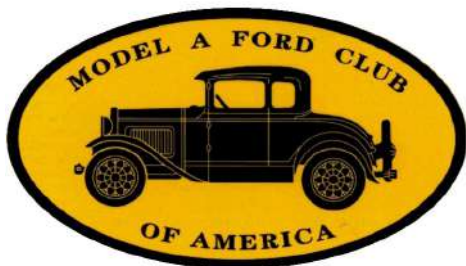
Have parts or a car you want to sell? Need a certain part for your restoration? Submit your ad and we'll run it in the newsletter for approximately 3 months. Email your ad with photos to Charlotte at realracegrill1@gmail.com



Early 28 Sport Coupe left hand brake red steering wheel, owned since 1964. It was active in GCMAC for many years when my parents were alive. A mature restoration 20+ years

ago by club members. Good engine. Sound mechanically. Needs exhaust. 12 volt conversion. Drives well. Needs paint. Interior good. Extra parts go with it. Video of car running and driving. Looks better in pics than in person. Needs a good new home. if interested call 251-979-1329

leave message and I'll return call. Come take a look. Asking \$7500.00
Lee Stepney
Magnolia Springs
251-979-1329



**For sale Tune Master older Gauge set 7 meters
\$150 • Larry Nelson • 251323-8050**



Era Photos



Take Me Out To The Ball Game

Left: 5-17-28 Democrats and Republicans will Battle for Baseball Honors. Representative Thomas S. McMillan, South Carolina, captain of the Democratis nine who will defend their base is show connecting with a fast one during a work out of both teams on a sand lot near the Capitol Building at Washington, D.C. Representative McMillan played for five years with the Charleston, S,C, baseball club and was leading hinter of the League for three years.



Below: 3-1-28 High school girls turn out for early practice. Gertrude Neubeck, baseman and Lillian at the Mcfarland Junior High School





Why Everyone Wants to Ride Macy's 100-year-old Wooden Escalators

Reprinted from thomasnet.com written by Stephanie Nikolopoulos

In New York City, we don't dream of riding atop floats. We dream of the honor of struggling to hold onto a giant balloon at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade — without getting knocked over.

As with many events this year, the 2020 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will look a little different: the number of parade participants has been cut by 75%, with balloon handlers replaced by "specially-designed vehicles driving in precision."

There is at least one miracle on 34th Street, though, and you can ride it just about any time you're in the area: Macy's vintage wooden escalators.

Macy's Becomes the World's Biggest, Most Powerful Department Store

While today it's primarily known for selling both affordable and high-end fashion labels, Macy's started out as a dry goods store. Rowland H. Macy opened the New York City flagship at 14th Street and Sixth Avenue (close to where the Metronome we divulged the secrets of currently is) in 1858. It grew into a department store, and by 1877 was occupying the ground floor of 11 buildings all next to each other.

In 1902, it moved into its iconic home in Herald Square. By 1924, it had extended to 7th Avenue and become the world's largest store. In fact, at 2.2 million square feet, it reigned as the largest department





the holiday shopping season, Macy's not only switched to a promotional Thanksgiving Day festivity but merchandiser Fred Lazarus asked President Franklin Roosevelt to move Thanksgiving up a week early.

The retail giant convinced America in 1939 to permanently change the date of Thanksgiving.

The World's First Escalators

Not surprisingly, it was around the time that Macy's became the world's largest store that it unveiled its escalators. These days, we may be sending astronauts to the moon and have the World Wide Web at our fingertips, but I grew up with a yiyia (Greek for grandmother) who was hesitant around escalators because back home in her village in the Peloponneses there wasn't indoor plumbing let alone escalators. It may be difficult to believe, but escalators weren't a standard

staple of department stores back in the Roaring Twenties. Riding the escalator was as novel then as riding these still-in-existence vintage ones are today.

That's not to say Macy's had the first-ever escalator. Ancient Egyptians used escalators to build the pyramids, using wheels that rolled to transport materials. The first modern escalator, which used steam to propel a staircase, was patented by Jesse Reno in 1859 and created in 1859. It wasn't for conveniently getting up mall steps, though. It was a Coney Island amusement park ride (albeit tamer than this beast).

Then, in 1897, Charles Seeberger reinvented the wheel, so to speak, and redesigned the escalator. Partnering with the Otis Elevator Company, they manufactured the world's first commercial escalator two years later. This Seeberger-

Otis escalator earned top prize at the world's fair in Paris the following year for this wooden marvel of a moving staircase.

With David Lindquist at the helm, the engineers at Otis, which had by then bought both Reno and Seeberger's patent rights, merged their designs and continued to innovate. Their newly designed creation of the 1920s had level steps with cleats.

Until the 1950s, Otis owned the market. The very word "escalator" was trademarked to them. It was their escalators that went into Macy's.

The Otis Elevator Company began building the escalators for Macy's in the 1920s and completed them in the 1930s. All in all, 40 Type L Escalators were created for the department store.

They employed the same wood that's normally used for hardwood floors: ash and oak. In fact, according to the New York Times, the treads, even including the large one-and-a-half-wide cleats, "were milled from single pieces of ash."

For years, the wooden moving stairs transported shoppers up, up, up into retail heaven. Then, in the 1990s, modifications began. 19 of the Otis escalators were outfitted with new metal treads.

More recently, in 2015, the Macy's flagship completed a major \$400 million renovation. Any time someone caught wind of the four-year project, they pleaded for the wooden escalators to remain in place.

You know the old saying that



they don't make 'em like they used to? Well, it turns out that these century-old escalators still pass construction code compliance... Though, after some fingers lost to the mouths of the escalators, they have added automated switches that respond to unusual movements from riders.

With the elevators up to code, Macy's granted New Yorkers' wishes to preserve the wooden Otis escalators at least on the top floors of Herald Square, replacing the others with contemporary metal ones.

"They're iconic to our brand," said Alan Westenberger, Macy's director of facilities.

These days, screw heads make it easy to notice which escalators feature replacement cleats, but some of the originals still do exist. This is thanks to the workers who over the many years of Macy's history have salvaged escalator parts from one that has since been taken out to later use for repairs to those that still exist.

Of course, the underlying machinery itself has been completely replaced.

The Art of "Handrailfanning" at Macy's

In a city that always seems to be under construction, with new skyscrapers constantly

redefining the skyline and friends often leaving for the greener pastures known as the suburbs, New Yorkers want to grasp hold of the handrails of its treasured past. There's an entire population of people who come to the Macy's flagship in Herald Square specifically to see the escalators.

"I pop in every once in a while not to shop, but just to ride them. I love them," said one Reddit user.

Another said: "One of my favorite New York things."

Forgotten New York devoted an entire post to "handrailfanning," which is pretty much what it sounds like: being a fan of the wooden escalators.

If you want to get in on the action, look for the interior escalators on certain floors, like the one going from the 8th to the 9th floor.

Just maybe avoid Macy's on Black Friday.



ABOUT THE GULF COAST MODEL 'A' CLUB

The Traveler newsletter is published for the membership and friends of the Gulf Coast Model 'A' Club. Outings are held monthly at various locations and times. Views expressed in the Traveler are not necessarily those of the Club Officers or MAFCA. Club membership is \$25.00 per year and can be mailed to Becky Baisden at:

GCMAC,
PO Box 812
Cantonment, FL 32533
Club dues are \$25 per year for individuals or families. We currently have a membership of 40+ families. We believe in doing maintenance on the cars, educating ourselves on the Model 'A', fellowship with other members, showing the cars, driving the cars locally and

on tours and having a great time seeing and driving Model 'A' Fords. We have fun and would welcome you as a member whether you own a Model A or not. Come join with us in a wonderful hobby that is historical and worthwhile. You will meet friendly people who are in love with the Model 'A' and love to drive, show and talk about these interesting cars.



THE TRAVELER

Monthly publication of the Gulf Coast Model 'A' Club - Southern Alabama to the Florida Panhandle

