

# *Old Pueblo A*

## *May 2020*



# *Tucson Chapter*

## **Model A Ford Club of America**



# OLD PUEBLO A



Official Monthly Publication  
Tucson Chapter, Model A Ford Club of America  
7060 E. 21st Street, Tucson, AZ 85710  
[www.tucsonmodelafordclub.org](http://www.tucsonmodelafordclub.org)

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### MEETINGS:

Regular meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7:30 PM.

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### MONTHLY OUTING:

Fourth Sunday of the month or as voted by the club membership

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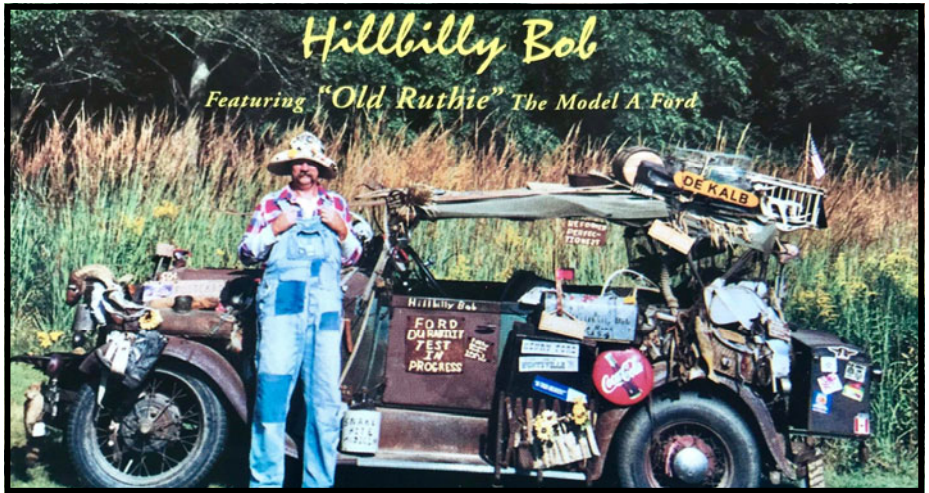
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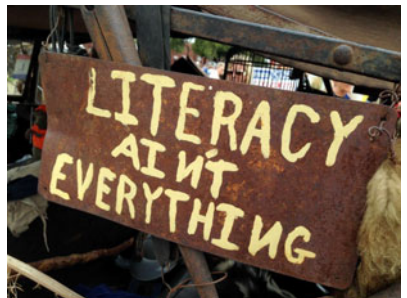
Unique Model A's often appear at larger car shows, which attract a lot of Model A owners. Such vehicles often include vintage police cars, hot rods (heresy!), tow trucks or delivery vans with commercial names and markings, and hillbilly cars covered with a variety of personal possessions as décor. One of the most famous in this latter category is Old Ruthie, proudly owned, driven and exhibited by Bob Hill, aka Hillbilly Bob.



Bob is a farmer and truck driver who lives on his family farm in Dysart, Iowa. He frequently travels, and appears in parades and county fairs throughout the Midwest (and sometimes beyond) with his 1929 Hillbilly Model A, Old Ruthie.



Bob found the car rusting in a farmer's field in the 1990's. Bob bought it from the farmer with the idea of restoring it, but he soon found that people liked the way it was. So he decided to decorate it as a hillbilly car and show it at fairs and parades.



(continued on next page)

# Hillbilly Bob



The décor was added piece-by-piece over time, and Bob still adds things from time to time. Items include various signs and sayings, bumper stickers, antlers, kitchen utensils and dishes, corn husks, brooms, flags, scooter, bicycle, and even a mail box so he can receive his mail on the road (not quite sure how that works with the Post Office).



Bob's agent still takes bookings for his appearances, and his contact information can be found on the internet. He's reported to have appeared in at least 38 states and Canada, although Arizona most likely isn't on the list.

# Prohibition in the Model A Era

Prohibition began with a U.S. Senate resolution in August 1917 and was ratified by the minimum of 36 states by January 1919, qualifying it as the 18th Amendment. A total of 45 states had ratified it by the following month, and Congress passed the enabling legislation (known as the Volstead Act) in October 1919. The 18th Amendment subsequently became effective on January 17, 1920. Interestingly, New Jersey became the 46th (and final) state to ratify it in March 1922, more than two years after it went into effect. The only two states which never ratified the amendment were Connecticut and Rhode Island.



Efforts to repeal the amendment began in the 1920's with the rise of illegal importation, transportation and underground sales of alcohol (bootlegging), and the subsequent street violence by gangsters protecting their criminal empires (mostly from each other). Another consequence of those activities was the widespread corruption of politicians and law enforcement officials, who often got a cut of the profits to look the other way. Chicago was particularly renowned in this regard.

After the Great Depression began in late 1929, public sentiment against Prohibition grew rapidly, with many seeing the 18th Amendment as a contributor to unemployment and a limiter of government revenue (due to the number of jobs and tax revenues which had been associated with the previously legal sales of alcohol). A growing number of people started calling for the repeal of the 18th Amendment, along with the election of FDR in 1932, as part of a "return to prosperity".

(continued on next page)

# Prohibition in the Model A Era

This was the time of the Model A era, when signs, placards and license plate attachments of all sizes and colors could be seen on the cars of the day. Some simply said “Repeal 18th Amendment”, while others added “for prosperity”. Some urged voters to repeal the amendment to



“Help the President with Law Enforcement”. Some of the original signs can still be found online for sale today, although they can be expensive because not many are available. More easily found (or custom ordered) and less expensive are modern reproductions, which still look good on Model A’s today.



In February 1933, Congress adopted a resolution proposing the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, which would repeal both the 18th Amendment and the Volstead Act.



In December 1933, Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment, achieving the necessary majority for repeal with immediate effect. Prohibition was finally over after nearly 14 years.

# EVENTS CALENDAR

Due to the current pandemic and associated social distancing, our club outings and monthly general meetings have been temporarily suspended.

We will resume our usual club activities as soon as the public health situation permits. Meanwhile, our monthly newsletter (the one you're reading now) will continue as usual with Model A articles, news and items of general interest to Model A club members.

Club announcements will appear in the newsletter and be sent out via email to all club members who have provided their email address. If you're not already receiving club announcements from Ray Feierstein via email and want to be included, please email Ray at [sanrays@msn.com](mailto:sanrays@msn.com) and ask to be added to the list.

## *In Memoriam*



Once again, we were saddened to learn of the passing of yet another one of our members, Jane Uhle, on April 16 at age 85. Jane and her husband Ron were long-time club members and were responsible for arranging our annual White Elephant Auction and Sale every February for many years. Sadly, Ron passed away barely 18 months ago, just a few months after their 62nd wedding anniversary.

Jane was born in St. Louis, Missouri on May 23, 1934. She graduated from Monmouth College in 1956, where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma and met Ron. Jane earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She used her degree to teach first grade and preschool, as well as becoming a homemaker. After living in seven different states, Ron and Jane finally moved to Tucson in 1994.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 400 E. University Blvd. in Tucson. Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Presbyterian Church.

# Slang from the Model A Era

Here are some common slang terms from the Model A Era. See if you can match them up with their meanings. Note: More than one term in column 1 can match the same meaning in column 2. Answers on next page.

Terms	Meanings
1. Cinder Dick	A. \$10 Bill
2. Buzzer	B. Eyeglasses
3. Bracelets	C. Saxophone
4. Can Opener	D. Small Handgun
5. Chicago Overcoat	E. Good or Fine
6. Cash	F. Bad Dancer
7. Cheaters	G. Coffin
8. Chicago Typewriter	H. Counterfeit Money
9. City Juice	I. Police Badge
10. Cement Mixer	J. Model T or Model A
11. Flat Tire	K. Back Seat of a Car
12. Fire Extinguisher	L. Tommy Gun
13. Flivver	M. Railroad Detective
14. Giggle Juice	N. Lawyer
15. Gumshoe	O. Illegal Liquor
16. Gobblepipe	P. A Kiss
17. Hooch	Q. Safecracker of Cheap Safes
18. Heater	R. Handcuffs
19. Honey Cooler	S. A Task That Yields No Results
20. Ice	T. Alcohol
21. Jake	U. A Dull or Boring Date
22. Lemon Squeezer	V. Water
23. Mouthpiece	W. Detective (Public or Private)
24. Sawbuck	X. Chaperone
25. Scratch	Y. Diamonds
26. Shamus	Z. Money
27. Struggle Buggy	AA. Private Detective
28. Sourdough	BB. Gun
29. Put or Tighten the Screws	CC. Apply Pressure to Someone
30. Whisper Sister	DD. Female Proprietor of a Speakeasy
31. Trip for Biscuits	



# Five States Abolished Speed Limits in 1929

(from *The Evening News*, San Jose, California, Wednesday, August 27, 1930)

Maximum speed limits were abolished in five states in 1929, while 12 stated raised the limit, with the objective of speeding up traffic, according to reports received by the California State Automobile Association. Kansas, Tennessee, Vermont and Wisconsin prescribe a speed that is "reasonable and proper". In effect, this means that speed is not to be considered prima facie evidence of reckless driving, and such cases will be considered on their merits.

With improved highways and added safety qualities in motor cars, the tendency throughout the country has been to speed up traffic, and each year finds the legislature of various states fostering proposals to abolish maximum speed laws.

## SPEED LIMITS INCREASED

States which increased their speed limits by action of the legislature during 1929 are: California, from 25 miles per hour to 40; Delaware, from 30 to 35; Illinois, from 35 to 45; Minnesota, from 35 to 45; Nebraska, from 35 to 45; Nevada, from 45 to 50; New Mexico, from 35 to 45; Ohio, from 35 to 45; Pennsylvania, from 35 to 40; South Dakota, from 25 to 40; Texas, from 35 to 45, and Virginia, from 35 to 45.

A total of 11 states do not prescribe maximum speed laws. These are: Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Tennessee, Vermont, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

The limits in other states range from 20 miles an hour in Massachusetts to 50 miles per hour in Nevada, with the majority of states placing the limit at between 35 and 45 miles an hour.

## Answers to Slang Quiz on Page 8

- |      |       |        |       |        |       |
|------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1. M | 7. B  | 13. J  | 19. P | 25. Z  | 31. S |
| 2. I | 8. L  | 14. T  | 20. Y | 26. AA |       |
| 3. R | 9. V  | 15. W  | 21. E | 27. K  |       |
| 4. Q | 10. F | 16. C  | 22. D | 28. H  |       |
| 5. G | 11. U | 17. O  | 23. N | 29. CC |       |
| 6. P | 12. X | 18. BB | 24. A | 30. DD |       |

# May



- May 4 – Scott Parsons
- May 6 – Frank Pyrdeck
- May 6 – Nancy Allen
- May 7 – Christy Strong
- May 10 – Tina Neal
- May 11 – John Greenawalt
- May 14 – Tom Wulff
- May 14 – Melanie Abel
- May 15 – Millie Burgheimer
- May 15 – Johnny Thompson
- May 16 – Mary Lou Young
- May 18 – Richard Held
- May 26 – Kathleen Magill
- May 26 – Tom Brixey
- May 27 – Kelly Findysz
- May 30 – Christina Reding
- May 31 – Dennis Cling
- May 31 – Ron Sotardi

## NEXT MEETING:

To be scheduled as soon as public health conditions permit. See page 7 for more information.



## Happy Anniversary



- May 1 – Jim & Rita Boaz
- May 10 – Johnny & Gay Thompson
- May 17 – Bill & Clanie Ellis
- May 19 – Don & Dorothy Nelson
- May 19 – Garrett & Amy Roberts
- May 21 – Paul & Lee Harper
- May 22 – Don & Teta Vagasky
- May 25 – John & Regina Lundberg
- May 28 – Rick & Brandy McLain
- May 28 – Don & Diane Johnson



# MAFCA NEWS

**May/June Restorer Magazine** — The May/June issue of *The Restorer* magazine was sent to the post office on April 30. We received word from our printer saying the post office was running a little slow during the corona slow down and there may be a little delay. The magazine is in the mail and should arrive soon.

**2020 National Awards Banquet** — The MAFCA Board of Directors this has decided to cancel this year's National Awards Banquet. Installation of officers will be held in MAFCA's La Habra, CA office instead. The reasons for this action include the unknowns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, risks of air travel, and the health of our members. The Cowtown A's in Fort Worth have agreed to host the event in 2021. By then we all hope this world-wide medical tragedy will be in our rear-view mirror.

## Jim's Technical Tip

by Jim Cannon,

### Coolant Level in the Model A

It is best to check the coolant level in your radiator when the engine is cold, before you set off on a drive. At this time (because coolant contracts when cold and expands when hot) the proper coolant level is about a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or so above the top of the tubes in the upper tank. The coolant should not be above the baffle in the upper tank when cold. That's too much and the excess will just be blown out later when the engine is hot and you are running down the road.

It's hard to see the coolant level when cold, because the baffle is in the way. Use a flashlight to look in through the filler neck, and to the left or right of the baffle, to see the coolant level. If you can't see the tubes through the coolant, use a disposable wooden stir stick (like the ones they put out at coffee shops to stir your coffee) as a dipstick in the filler neck. Go just to the side of the baffle until it touches the bottom of the upper tank. When you withdraw the stick, look for about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of coolant stain on the stick. Add some coolant if low.

When checking the coolant when the engine is hot, after you've driving for a time, you want to see the coolant very close to or slightly over the baffle. Only add coolant if you can't see any near the baffle in the upper tank, but don't overfill (or it will just blow it out).

Have a Model A Day!  
Jim

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IS OUT OF THIS WORLD



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# Authentic Model A Colors in a Spray Can

*Submitted by: William "Bill" Brum, Raynham, Massachusetts*

Achieving an authentic look is important to many of us who choose to restore our car back to its original condition. In the area of painting, it becomes difficult without the training and equipment of a professional. However, for small items such as interior trim and other metal components, spray cans are a viable option.

Once you have the paint code in hand (acquired from guidance in the **MAFCA Paint & Finish Guide** and the PPG or DuPont customer service group), your local distributor for such popular brands can provide the authentic colors in 12 oz. spray cans. Color matching can also be achieved by providing a good sample (I used the windshield visor) to be analyzed at your distributor by hand held color matching equipment.

The spray cans are typically a single component acrylic enamel providing ease of application, excellent shine and durability. Of course, good paint finish requires proper metal prep regardless of the spray equipment utilized.

The spray can shown below contains the popular Copra Drab for a 1930 coupe utilized to paint the dash panel depicted.



## TINY TIPS

### SECURING RADIATOR ORNAMENTS

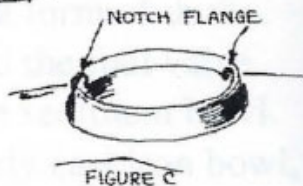
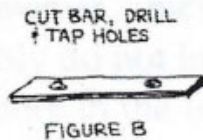
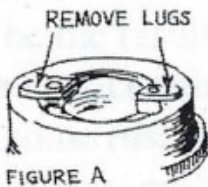
If a quail or other permanent base, flip-top radiator ornament fits loosely or is chipped, it may come off too easily. This procedure will remedy the situation and make the ornament solid - removable only with an Allen wrench. My quail used to fit so loosely that I removed it whenever I left the Ford unattended. Remove the brass lugs on the bottom of your cap. These are usually held on with Allen head screws. See figure A.

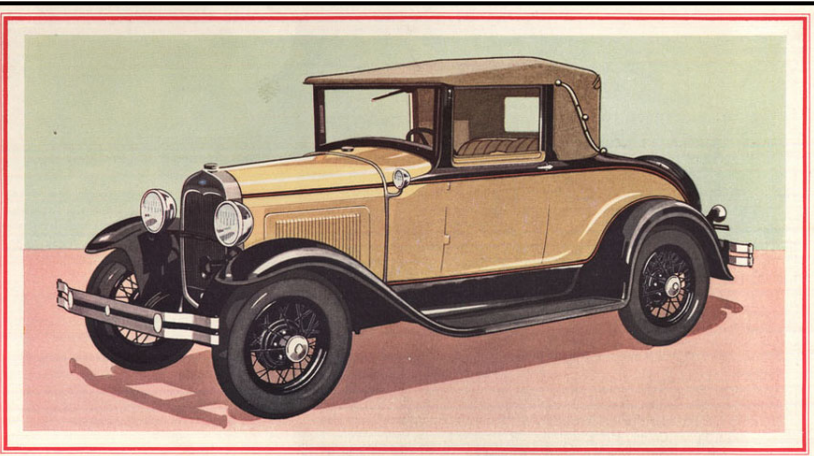
Cut a piece of metal bar with the same width as the removed lugs. The bar should be about the same thickness as the lugs. The length of the bar should be as long as possible within the diameter of the radiator neck under the flange. Test the cut bar for fit. It should have about 3/16" play on the ends. Drill and tap the bar to accommodate the Allen head screws. See Figure B.

Some of the material may have to be removed from the area of the lugs on the cap base. If so, file very carefully and remove only the necessary material for the bar to fit snugly. Notch the radiator neck flange with a small file (or a broken round file chucked in an electric drill) where the new bar will be when the cap is in place. File and fit until this notch is as deep as practical for your cap. See Figure C.

With the new locking bar loosely attached, put the cap on and tighten the Allen head screws. As the screws are tightened, the bar will be pulled up into the notches, holding the base firmly. The bar does cover part of the radiator opening, but it doesn't keep you from checking the coolant level nor does it interfere with the overflow tube.

*Submitted by Ron Harper, Corvallis, Oregon*





THE NEW CONVERTIBLE CABRIOLET

This new Ford Convertible Cabriolet is a particularly good choice for the woman motorist because it combines the smart, youthful style of the roadster and the snug, all-weather comfort of the coupe. The compact, landau top can be raised or lowered easily and quickly. The side windows are framed in bright metal. Wide, substantial rumble seat and cowl lights are included as standard equipment.

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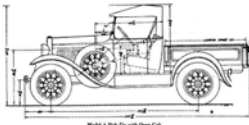
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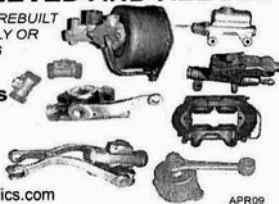
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