

The Running Board

December 2024

Vol. 22 No. 12

President's Memo

Hey Folks,

Winter has arrived, and the chill is definitely in the air! It's a great time to bundle up and enjoy the beauty of the season—maybe even take the Model A out for a crisp drive. As the year winds down, I want to remind you all about our upcoming potluck Christmas Party. It's a highlight of the season, and I'm looking forward to seeing what delicious dishes everyone brings. Let's come together to celebrate the holidays and another wonderful year as a club.

Stay warm and safe, and I'll see you at the party!

Warm Regards,

Spencer Pennington

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Mabank, Henderson Co., Texas

NAME AND PURPOSE

This club shall be known as the Cedar Creek Model A Ford Club, a non-profit organization, hereinafter referred to as the "Club."

The purpose shall be to maintain, preserve and restore the vehicle known as the Model A Ford (1928-1931) and all things pertaining to the Model A Ford, including literature, historical and technical information.

MEMBERSHIP

Application for membership shall be made in written form. Applications shall be filed with the Secretary and accompanied by dues for the current year.

RESTRICTIONS: All members of the Club shall be restricted to members of either the Model A Restorers Club or Model A Ford Club of America national clubs. Members may be accepted without ownership of a Model A Ford; however, no member shall be permitted to hold office unless said member has owned a Model A Ford within the six month period prior to the official election date.

DUES

The annual dues shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per year. Dues are for the calendar year. The annual dues shall include member and wife and shall be payable before February 1st. Any member may be suspended by the Treasurer for non-payment of dues at the expiration of thirty (30) days from February 1st.

MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the members of this Club shall be held on the first Tuesday of every month unless said day shall fall upon a legal holiday, in which case the meeting date shall be established by the Board of Directors.

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MARC



Website



A MAFCA Chapter



MAFFI

The Cedar Creek Model A Ford Club (CCMAFC) was formed in 2002 in Henderson Co., Texas. The club's meetings are held at the Dairy Queen in Seven Points, Henderson Co., Texas near Cedar Creek Lake.

Charter Members:

- John and Wanda Bell
- Jim Bellah – deceased
- Bill and Sue Capps
- O. V. and Lorene Cliver – deceased
- S. D. "Shorty" Johnson – deceased
- Olin Lewis – deceased
- Ola Powell – deceased
- Gene Tregre – deceased



MEETING MINUTES

Cedar Creek Model A Ford Club Monthly Meeting –November 5, 2024 Dairy Queen at Seven Points

Since Spencer Pennington was running late, Herman Dentler opened the meeting. He first led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and then a short prayer. He asked if everyone had read the minutes. Carolyn Vick accepted and Lynda Dentler seconded. Then Herman asked if everyone was in favor. Minutes were accepted.

Next was the financial report. Teena Shore accepted and was seconded by John Shore.

Larry Wagliardo was the birthday person. But Fredye Quain paid his \$1 since he was absent last month. We sang Happy Birthday to both of them.

NEW BUSINESS: Fredye Quain volunteered to cook the meat for the Christmas party. He suggested pulled pork and sausages. Everyone agree it sounded like a great idea. Lou Carpenter asked if we really needed coffee for the party. Jess Parker said his wife would definitely want coffee and several other people said they would like it too. Lou Carpenter agree to bring a small coffee pot with the coffee and creamer.

SUNSHINE REPORT: Lou Carpenter read the last text from Nancy Cheshire on Chuck Cheshire. He has been moved out of ICU to a room. He continues to make progress, but his blood sugar is still very high. Julia Waterman's caregiver is only staying 2 more weeks then she will be living by herself again. Barbara Quain had a successful back surgery. After several days in the hospital she was released. But a couple of days later Fredye found her unconscious and called an ambulance. She had surgery again to repair a bleeding ulcer. Now she is having trouble with one leg swelling.

MONTHLY LUNCH: Lou Carpenter asked if everyone would like to make the Bean and Burger in Mabank the location for lunch every month. A vote was taken and motion passed. So 1PM 3rd Tuesday each month we will



1. What auto company purchased the rights to the LeBaron name in 1953?
2. What early Ford V8 engine had the valves in the block and not in the heads?
3. What do Early VW or Corvair engines have in common?
4. What is a distributor contact called?
5. Which of the (Big 3) automakers produced the LEAST number of cars for the 1945 calendar year?
6. Why were nearly 4 million 1949-1969 Volkswagen recalled?
7. How many headlights did the 1960 Corvair have?
8. What exterior part did Ford offer as an option in 1952?
9. How were windshield wipers operated in 1916?
10. What country produced the early Volvo's?

Answers on last page.


meet at Bean and Burger.

DRIVING TOURS: Spencer Pennington says this is a good time of year to think about local driving tours. He named the Heritage Market in Kemp as an interesting small store to visit. They make their own baked goods and have outdoor furniture for sale in front the store.

RAFFLE: Lynda Dentler was our raffle winner this month. The raffle brought in \$55.

Lou Carpenter, Secretary/Treasurer

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Chuck Cheshire	12/4
Chuck Sportsman	12/5
Jerry Rogers	12/12
Della Powell	12/12
Teena Shore	12/29

From the Editor

Well, the weather has really had a roller coaster ride, but it feels more like December now. Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. It was different for us after hosting Thanksgiving for 37 years to be just Chuck and me, but we had quite a feast as family brought us goodies.

Sorry we will miss the Christmas party, but Chuck still has a long way to go to recover. Hope to see you in the New Year 2025.

Nancy Cheshire




Sunshine News

By Lou Carpenter

Barbara Quain and John and Teena Shore are doing well after their bouts of health problems.

Chuck Cheshire came home on November 21 after 3 weeks in the hospital. He still has a lot of recovery ahead, but thankfully he is cancer free.

Please keep us informed of your health concerns.



We Care!

May your life be filled with the blessings of Christmas and may it always be yours.

Merry Christmas



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Life is short. Eat the Christmas cookie.



Southern Living

November Lunch at Bean and Burger in Mabank - the location each month for lunch on the 3rd Tuesday at 1pm



Christmas Party—December 7, 2024 At Mabank Library



Fredye Quain is cooking the meat. Everyone needs to bring a potluck dish, unwrapped child's toy, and a white elephant gift for the exchange. We will have a short meeting at 11:30 am before we eat.

Remember it is also club dues' time—\$15.

Christmas is in the Air



Decorated trees date back to Germany in the Middle Ages, with German and other European settlers popularizing Christmas trees in America by the early 19th century



Early versions of this tradition, started in Germany in 1903 by publisher Gerhard Land, offered a way for children to count down to Christmas by opening one "door" or "window" a day to reveal a Bible passage, poem or small gift.



Wreaths have been around since the ancient Greek and Roman times, but they eventually took on Christian meaning, with the circular shape representing eternal life and the holly leaves and berries symbolic of Christ's crown of thorns and blood.



The first official Christmas card debuted in 1843 England with the message, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You." The idea of a mailed winter holiday greeting gradually caught on in both Britain and the U.S., with the Kansas City-based Hall Brothers (now Hallmark) creating a folded card sold with an envelope in 1915.



Hiding a green pickle ornament on the tree so that the first child to find it wins a gift, or gets to open the first present is an American tradition. The practice's origins are a bit murky but it likely it grew from a Woolworths marketing gimmick from the late 1800s.



The Christian 12 days of Christmas, which span the birth of Jesus and the visit of the Magi, actually take place December 25 to January 6. The earliest version of the poem-turned-song is thought to have been published in *Mirth With-out Mischief*, a children's book from 1780.

Fruits of the Great Depression—Christmas Memories

- found in *Wheeling the A* newsletter is the Wisconsin A's -

Merry Christmas... Here's your orange!

No joke. An orange was a pretty common Christmas gift during the Great Depression, according to the folks who lived through it.

And for those who may darkly mutter about Depression déjà vu, in light of the current economy, the kids of the 1930s say that when it comes to the holidays, we aren't even close... yet.

They were the children who waited for Santa during an era that started with the stock market crash on "Black Tuesday," October 29, 1929.

Over the next 10 Christmases, nearly 25 percent of the American labor force was unemployed. As the economy tanked, banks collapsed and factories shut down. Bread lines and soup kitchens for the impoverished became common. A popular song asking "Buddy can you spare a dime?" summed up the economic desperation. **"Everybody was poor. Nobody had money."**

Richard Grondin, 85, of Medina, grew up on an 80-acre Michigan farm during the Depression, and remembered getting an orange - along with a banana, nuts and candy - in his Christmas stocking.

"An orange was a big thing because you couldn't afford one during the year," he said.

In those days, most everything was homemade or homegrown, including Christmas gifts, according to Grondin. But he still fondly recalled the rare exceptions in a little red wagon and his first "store-bought" lunch bucket, which was "quite the novelty" at his one-room schoolhouse.

Plain Dealer File Photo

Some things about Christmas never change, regardless of the economy, as illustrated by children surrounding Santa in this Depression-era visit.

He and his eight siblings accepted the reality of Depression holidays. "We never felt any different from anybody else," Grondin said. "Everybody was poor. No-body had money. If you had food to eat and a place to sleep, you were thankful for that. "That's what's different from today," added Grondin, noting that such government support as Social Security and unemployment compensation didn't exist during the Depression.

"A lot of people are hurting now, lost their jobs, but there's still a little money floating around."

Just something to be looked at.

For Salvatore Calandra, 86, of Cleveland, Christmas during the Depression meant looking for his holiday presents in the stove. There was no fireplace.

"There'd always be a quarter at the bottom of the stocking, plus a tangerine and walnuts," he added. "We didn't have elaborate Christmases."

As for tinsel and toys, "We didn't know what those things were," he said. "You'd see them in the window of Higbee's or Sterling-Lindner. But they were just something to be looked at."

Ah, but those gaily bedecked downtown department store windows were a sight to behold, according to his wife, Marie, 86. "We always went downtown to see Santa Claus and look at all the windows," she said. "The displays were fantastic, wonderful."

The daughter of a shoe-repair shop owner said their Christmases were nothing extravagant. "But hey, we were lucky. We ate," she said. "We didn't have that much, but we were never deprived."

And she noted that if her parents ever heard any whining, they would have a ready response: You should be happy you got what you did. People are starving.

A special treat for the very youngest.

Thomas Ondrey/The Plain Dealer

Edward Ferreri remembers Depression-era Christmas presents that were mostly handmade or things to eat. "In those days you had to make do with everything you had," he said. "My grandmother made bed sheets and aprons out of flour sacks."

The Depression leveled the Christmas playing field for everyone.

"They were very rough times," said Clarence Jamison Sr., 90, of Shaker Heights, who would get through those days to become one of the famed Tuskegee



Christmas Memories continued:

Air-men during World War II.

He recalled that although his father had a job, the holiday was still tight for a family with six kids. He said his dad would always wait until late Christmas Eve to buy a Christmas tree because the prices were as drastically cut as the evergreens by then.

As for Christmas presents, "We'd usually get something very practical, like long underwear or a pair of shoes for the year," Jamison added. "Toys were a special treat reserved for only the very youngest." Nothing you could really play with Eugene Lyons, 86, of University Heights, said that as one of three children raised by a single mother during the Depression, "there wasn't much levity in that household." But there was always hope.

From her pay as a domestic worker, his mother gave her kids oranges, apples and nuts as gifts for the holiday. "No toys. Maybe a couple pairs of socks, but nothing you could really play with," Lyons said.

And no Christmas tree. "Oh no, no, no. We'd have burned that for heat in the potbellied stove," Lyons said with a chuckle.

Still, every year the kids "knew Christmas was coming, we'd get all excited, looking over the rooftops to see Santa," Lyons said. "We always hoped, but it just wasn't to be.

"You couldn't get angry about it," he added. "In your heart you knew the lady was doing the best she could, and she always made sure we had a decent dinner. She was a very strong woman, and we realized she was having a rough go. It'd just tear you apart, really.

"Cookies so hard . . . Edward Ferreri, 91, of East Cleveland, similarly recalled that the holiday reflected the times when it came to Christmas presents.

"Our family was never poor, but never rich, either," he said. "I never got a brand new bike. I got an old bike that had a broken front wheel, but I put new spokes in it and it ran for years."

His wife, Jeanne, 83, remembered that she had a Shirley Temple doll, modeled after the then-famous child actress, and said her mother made her sets of doll clothes for Christmas presents. Her husband's family had a Christmas tree decorated with candles they weren't allowed to light and hand-crafted paper decorations.

"Big dinners were a treat, so we'd go to Grandma's

house in Youngstown," he said. "She'd make these Italian cookies that were so hard you had to soak 'em for a while before you could chew 'em."

'Where's our dollar? Where's our dollar?'

A common Christmas Day routine during the Depression consisted of waking up, opening what presents there were, then going to church.

Afterward came Christmas dinner, either at home or at a relative's house, where the men played cards, the kids just played, and the women cooked -- usually chicken.

Fellow Precious Care resident Bertha Cann, 87, recalled, "We always had a [Christmas] tree, but there weren't a lot of clothes under it. My mother used to make them for us."

Sitting nearby, Janet Hirz, 84, formerly of Lakewood, remembered that every Christmas an uncle would visit and give each of the three kids in her family a dollar. One Christmas he didn't come, "and we all sat down and cried, 'Where's our dollar? Where's our dollar?'" But we still loved him anyway."

All of the Precious Care ladies said the economy has a long way to fall until it hit a Depression-level basement. "This generation doesn't know how fortunate they are, and I hope they never have to go through it," said Guerra.

"Oh, it's nowhere near," said Hirz. She frowned, sadly shook her head, and added, "But it could be."

Then suddenly she brightened, remembering a hard lesson learned from those bygone Depression Christ-mases. "Things don't make you happy," she said.

The ladies nodded. In looking back to those days after 70 years, what they remember best are the families, traditions and holiday gatherings, not the gifts, trees and tinsel.

They didn't have much back then, compared to the Christmas cornucopia of more recent decades.

But in some ways, maybe they had much more.



New Year's Eve Traditions Around the Globe

Here in the United States, we typically put some sparkle on, gather round to watch the ball drop, make some noise, and share a kiss at the stroke of midnight.

Some version of the famous ball has been dropped in Times Square in New York city on New Year's Eve since 1907, although the history of using a ball on a pole to notify ship captains of the time dates back to the 1800s.



In Japan, Buddhist temples **ring bells 108** times on New Year's Eve. This is because in Buddhism, it is believed that there are 108 types of earthly desires, and each strike of the bell will remove one desire. The tradition is called Joya no Kane. "Jo" means "to throw away the old and move on to the new" and "Ya" means "night," according to Japan Today.

In Brazil, celebrators often **wear white** and go to the beach to celebrate the new year. White clothing symbolizes peace and harmony and jumping over seven waves while giving gratitude for blessings they were given in the past year will bring good luck. When done, they don't turn their back on the sea until their feet are out of the water, so as not to receive bad luck.



Germans, along with some other Europeans, have had the tradition of watching the same black and white British comedy sketch from the 1960s, "**Dinner for One.**" It is about a butler serving his 90-year-old employer and her deceased imaginary guests, on New Year's Eve since 1972.

In Greece, families traditionally go to church on New Year's Day. After the service, they find an onion that they hang on the doors or in their homes as a symbol of good health, fertility, and longevity.

In the Philippines, celebrations feature round items, because it's believed that **roundness symbolizes prosperity**. Households pick 12 round fruits representing one for each month of the year. People also fill their pockets with coins, or leave them on tables to attract wealth, and **wear polka dots for good luck**.

In some Latin American countries, people walk or run an **empty suitcase** around the block to bring good luck and manifest more travel in the new year.

Danish people literally "**jump into the new year**, standing on chairs or couches to leap off when midnight hits. If you forget to jump at midnight, it's supposed to bring bad luck for the entire new year. So, leap into the New Year!

Spaniards celebrate the New Year by popping **12 grapes** in their mouth, one for each chime of the clock marking midnight, which is supposed to bring good luck for the year ahead. Revelers eat a traditional kind of thin-skinned, pale green grape, which is harvested late in November or December. The tradition dates back more than a century.

Technical Tips

TECHNICAL TALK: with Arlyn Biebgsof of the San Diego Model A Club

The Grease Fitting For the Rear Wheel Bearings



A grease fitting is located on the bottom side of each rear axle housing right next to the backing plate. Its intended purpose was to provide a means to pump

grease into each rear wheel bearing.

However, unless the rear axle assembly has been apart in the last 20 years and the inner seals were replaced and the grease paths with 80 plus years of "crud" accumulation was cleaned out there is little chance for grease to find its way to the rear wheel bearing from the grease fitting.

The inner grease seal is located just inboard from the grease fitting. Its outside diameter is pressed into the housing against a machined stop and the inner diameter seals around the axle shaft. There is a circular groove machined inside the axle housing just outboard of the seal that runs around the full circumference of the housing. The hole for the grease fitting is drilled into the center of the groove. You can reach your finger down inside the hub (when it is disassembled) and feel the circular groove and the hole for the grease fitting. Just past the groove you can feel the machined stop for the grease seal.

The circular groove is to allow grease being pumped in to travel around the full inside circumference of the bearing hub. The design intent was for the grease seal to prevent grease being pumped in through the fitting from migrating inward toward the differential and instead forcing it to travel outward toward the rear wheel bearing. There is a nominal 1/8" circular space between the axle shaft and the inside diameter of the bearing hub on

the axle housing. This allows grease being forced outward by the inner grease seal to travel inside the bearing hub around the axle shaft toward the wheel bearing.

The brake drum has a large grease seal installed such that it fits over the bearing hub on the axle housing. The taper in the drum holds the axle shaft in line. The grease pumped in through the grease fitting is blocked by both seals so that the only place it can go is into the wheel bearing.

Contrary to popular belief the inner grease seal in the axle housing is not there for the purpose of preventing oil from the differential from migrating out to the brake shoes; it is a grease seal, not an oil seal. The same seal that is used inside the axle housing is also used in the front of the torque tube behind the drive shaft roller bearing; its purpose is the same, to keep grease for the roller bearing and U-joint from migrating down the drive shaft toward the differential.

Quite often when disassembling a rear axle assembly where the inner grease seals failed years before there will be found a build up of grease around the circumference of the axle shaft that has been centrifuged to a very large diameter. It can extend six to ten inches long toward the differential; the length depending on how often the owner attempted to grease the rear wheel bearings.

In later years, after Model A production ceased, Ford discontinued providing grease fittings to grease the rear wheel bearings on their cars. Instead it was recommended that the bearings be packed with grease before the drum is installed.

This same modern day practice should be employed with the Model A. Grease the rear wheel bearings by removing the brake drums and packing the wheel bearings by hand. Repack the bearings each time the brake shoes are inspected or replace instead of relying on the rear wheel grease fittings.

MYSTERY PART:



Photo courtesy of Snyder's
Antique Auto Parts

What is it?

Do you Know?

For "Bragging Rights",

Send an Email to anbieb@san.rr.com

Did You Know?



This is the brake
pedal shaft collar.

The Texas Tour of 2025 Will be held in Giddings Texas. Hosts will be the Lone Star Model A Club
However, Motel reservations cannot be made until this November

GIDDY-UP TO GIDDINGS



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Reservations begin November 1st.



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Reservations begin November 1st.



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June 12-15, 2025**



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Registration, Hospitality, Silent Auction & Events will be at
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Giddings, Texas June 14, 2025

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Model A Ford Enthusiasts: First, the Model A Ford Foundations Trustees and Advisors wish everyone a wonderful holiday season! It's always a magical time of year, but especially this year with the museum expansion in progress.

The trusses are up for the expansion. The walls for the expansion are expected to be up the week of November 18th --- as long as the weather cooperates. You can actually watch the construction if you go to maffi.org and click on the Camera icon, and then click on Expansion. And right around December 23, the back wall of the museum will need to be opened up to connect the existing building and the expansion. This means moving all the displays at the back of the museum and covering all the museum artifacts with plastic. During this phase of the construction, the museum will be closed for safety reasons. (The closure is just temporary, so call ahead if you plan to visit in December or January to be certain the museum is back open).

Give yourself and your car a gift this holiday season: Have your car's picture and your name engraved on a plaque that will be the archway from the existing museum to the expansion. Be a part of the history of the museum! Just contact Val Maron at 847-951-5858 or TheMyAProgram@gmail.com. For \$200, a donor will receive a plaque mounted on a museum wall segregated by year (1928, 1929, 1930, 1931) showing their vehicle, name, home area and vehicle body style.


--Cindy Ellenbecker, Secretary, Maffi Board of Trustees



2024

Event Calendar

DEC 7, 2024 Christmas Party at the Mabank Library

JAN 7, 2025 1st Meeting of 2025—Happy New Year





Why do birds fly south for Christmas?

Because it's too far to walk.



What is a Christmas Tree's favorite candy?



Orna - mints

1. Chrysler Corp. 2. Flathead V-8 3. Air-cooled engines 4. Points 5. Chrysler 6. Wiper arm failure 7. Four 8. Fender skirts 9. Hand operated 10. Sweden

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