

The Ford Script

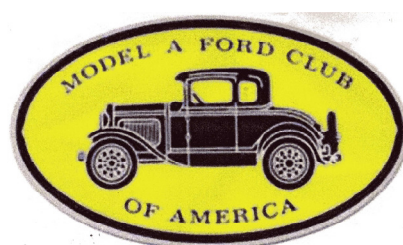
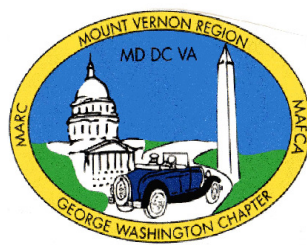
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No. 1



Mike French's 1929 Buffalo Model AA Fire Truck
(See p. 10 for story)



Dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Model A Fords

The Ford Script

Official publication of:
George Washington Chapter, Inc.
of the Model A Ford Club of America
and the Mount Vernon Region
of the Model A Restorers Club
3903 Old Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22030

Chapter meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month at the American Legion Hall, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean, Virginia. Social meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and the business meeting starts at 7:45. Members and guests are invited and encouraged to drive their antique cars to the meetings.

Chapter members are encouraged to belong to both MAFCA and MARC national clubs. The chapter Web page on the Internet may be accessed by:

www.gwcmodeleda.org
Web Master: Tom Frazier

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Copy for THE FORD SCRIPT should be e-mailed to the Editor to arrive by the first Wednesday of the month to: billhsims@gmail.com

FROM THE QUAIL'S PERSPECTIVE



January brings us a new year, a new Club President and our new electronic *Script*. I look forward to serving as the first woman president of the George Washington Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America/Mount Vernon Region of the Model A Restorers Club. Gil and I joined the club in 2002 and have always enjoyed the fellowship and activities that have given us the opportunity to meet new people and use our cars.

It seems that from my early childhood I was attracted to antique cars. Growing up in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, I spent endless hours playing in my great uncle's Model T that had long been abandoned in the woods of my grandparents' farm. Years later, while Gil and I were on our honeymoon, we discovered Renninger's Model A garage in Bird-in-Hand, Pennsylvania. We were fascinated by the Model As and parts he had for sale in his roadside showroom—which is still there today. We continue to visit Renninger's during our annual return visits to the Lancaster area. During those early years, we took our children to several Sully Car Shows and have a "ton" of pictures standing in front of the Model As. When Gil was thinking about retiring, we started researching the Internet for Model As. We found a Model A restorer in Manchester, New Hampshire, who had a low mileage '31 Roadster and had the resources to completely restore the car. A year later, after realizing the Roadster was not an ideal car for touring, we returned to our friend in Manchester to find us a Slant Windshield Town Sedan. This rewarding experience gave us a warm feeling about those in the hobby and we have never been disappointed.

Henry Ford is quoted as saying "*I consider women only a temporary factor in industry. Their real job in life is to get married, have a home and raise a family. I pay our women the same as men so they can dress attractively and get married.*" Now that I have done all of that, I am "geared up" to work with the Board as we plan the upcoming year.

Charlene Beckner

FROM THE EDITOR

This is the first official electronic issue of The Ford Script. The days of paper are gone forever. Even though I have tried to retain the look of the original, it will never be the same. However, I am still open to suggestions on how to improve this electronic Script. I will say that I've been forced by this change to explore the uncharted regions of my computer, and I've discovered all kinds of things I didn't know existed (even though they have no bearing on the publication of this newsletter). For the benefit of those who will be printing this newsletter out and keeping it and future copies in a binder, I'm including the month and date on the odd pages so if you are leafing through the binder in future looking for a certain issue, the date will be on more than the cover page. If I can't fit the page number, the date will appear on the even page backing it. This is also in case all your pages fall out, you can easily reorganized them. (Been there—done that.)

It's weird working for a new President after 4 years. At least I won't have to go tracking her down in Timbuktu if her column is ever late, like I had to do with Mr. Q. That man does lead a busy life. Later this year I'm going to publish the story of how he and Stan Johnson picked up his Victoria—driving 3,400 miles cross-country to Denver and back in 4 days.

REPORT FROM THE SMOKE-FREE ROOM



President Tom Quigley opened the meeting at his home in Fairfax, VA, at 6:00 PM. Other board members present at the meeting were: Paul Gauthier, Bill Worsham, Woody Williams, Charlene Beckner, Gil Beckner, Benny Leonard, Howard Minners, Jack Melnick, Tom Terko, Chuck Kunstbeck and newly elected Activities Chair Edna Cross and Assistant Editor Doug Tomb. Also present: Stan Johnson and Margi Melnick.

Reading of the November 17, 2010, meeting minutes, previously published in *The Script* were approved as published.

Annual Meet Chairman Bill Worsham reported that a Sully committee planning meeting is scheduled this month. He needs publicity and trophy volunteers.

Newly elected Assistant Editor Doug Tomb spoke briefly about *Script* advertising.

Treasurer Gil Beckner presented copies of the treasurer's report as of 12/30/2010. Gil said that the Elks' lodge has agreed to a credit of \$400 for the Christmas Party rental as a result of the loud music in the room above that kept our DJ from playing his music. Gil also presented the budget for 2011. After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the 2011 budget.

Activities Chair Charlene Beckner said that Clem's train day has been scheduled for February 20th. An application for the Cherry Blossom Parade has been submitted. Charlene also relayed a request from Susan O'Neale asking the club to provide a gift basket to raffle off at the upcoming Natchez Trace Tour. A motion was made, seconded and approved by the board members.

Vice President and Program Chair Jack Melnick provided an update on programs for January, February and March. January will be a Swap Meet. February will be Model A Advertising by Howard Minners. March will be Small Parts Day. Benny Leonard volunteered to hold Small Parts Day at his home in Fairfax due of George Merkel's illness.

Youth Development Chair Paul Gauthier reported that the scholarship application and requirements will be online and by hard copy, which he will provide.

Membership Chair Woody Williams reported briefly on the transmitting electronically of the membership roster and the *Script*. Woody has purchased a new printer for the club to print copies of the *Script* for mailing to those without e-mail.

The gavel was passed to our new incoming President, Charlene Beckner.

Notes: Someone is needed to take over bringing the drinks and snacks to our monthly club meetings.

Deadline for the *Script* articles is January 3, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.
Respectfully submitted Chuck Kunstbeck, Secretary

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON CHAPTER 25 YEARS AGO

1986. A new year began, with some changes. Assistant Editor Art Storer announced that he would do 6 Script issues in '86, with the other 6 to be done by editor Howard Minners. Another change was the institution of a "Message From the President" type column, without which we would be ineligible for a MARC Award of Excellence for our Ford Script. In addition, Don Temple would inaugurate a people-oriented column about members' activities, new members, and new arrivals (4 wheelers, that is). Members were asked to report in material for Don to include in his column.



A recap of the past year was described as "upbeat all the way"—increased membership, the unforgettable Brake Extravaganza Days, all the enjoyable monthly meetings, Gettysburg and Skyline Drive overnights, and the Christmas party at P. J. Skidoo's.

Some future programs were already in place and they were of the "how to fix it" type, about headlights, the transmission, paint, and distributor. A short tech tip article explained how fine valve grinding compound could be used to re-seat the gas shut-off valve so it wouldn't drip. This month Chuck Zierdt would host a carburetor day at his home in Rockville with the help of Art Storer, Walt Bratton, and Hank Marsh, food and drink included. (Of course)

Guess what was coming up in January '86, just as in THIS month? The Flea Market night. Members were asked to bring all those thought-I-needed-its and didn't-quite-fit-its and match them up with a few dollars. Old traditions are sometimes the best. (If it's a tradition, doesn't that imply it is old? Well, you get what I meant.) Sadly, recent GWC flea market meetings have had fewer and fewer original parts being offered up. Along that thread, this month back in 1986, not a thing was for sale in the Script's swap column. Only stuff that was wanted appeared. A bad omen, were we starting to run short of parts?

Dave Henderson

SUNSHINE REPORT—SURGERY FOR CLEM

Recently I have been troubled with episodes of stomach and shoulder pain, blurred vision and discomfort. After a series of tests, the Doctors determined my gallbladder is functioning at only 11% and should be removed. Surgery is scheduled for the afternoon of January 12, 2011. I'll be under for 45 minutes and in recovery for two hours. Same day in and out. Amazing what they can do today. Full recovery will take about a week. The only concern I have with the stitches is the effect on my thong line...

Not to worry.

Clem

WANTED—HELP AT THE GENERAL MEETING

One individual willing to purchase and set up sodas and snacks at monthly general meetings. Contact: Charlene Beckner, 703-791-3795; gbeckner@verizon.net

SEEN AT THE BROWN BAG SWAP AT THE DECEMBER MEETING



Tom Quigley displaying his treasure: "A Model A owner and a normal person live here"



Chuck Manns scrutinizing what he found in his brown bag of choice



Bill Shields displays some oversized Christmas boxers



Dave Henderson swipes a coveted prize from Jack Melnick



Laurel Gauthier wondering what she's won



Edna Cross and her Christmas doll



Tom Terko enjoying the festivities



Sharon Leonard admires her angel



Howard Minners goes home with a Christmas centerpiece



Betty McCormick models the notorious Christmas boxers



In a ceremony before the Brown Bag swap, Bill Worsham presented Tom Quigley with an award for his 4 years service as President of the George Washington Chapter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The year 2010 will close out near the budget of \$24,152. The Board approved the 2011 budget at \$22,451. The assumptions for this new budget were significantly rewritten with the advent of both the electronic *Script* and *Roster*. In prior year budgets, your dues covered only the cost of printing and distributing the *Script* and *Roster*. All other operating costs were financed from the proceeds of the Sully car show. For the first time, the Board was able to both reduce dues and redirect dues collections to other club operating costs. This change will further reduce the cost of tickets for club functions and increase (double) the scholarship pool. This redistribution was accomplished with a balanced budget in which all club receipts will continue to be reinvested in the membership. Our progress will be monitored closely and reported throughout the year at the monthly General membership meetings.

Your comments and input greatly influence the budget process, so please contact any of the Board members with your input.

Gil Beckner
Treasurer

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

GWC scholarship information, application forms and requirements can now be found on our web site. If you need a hard copy and can not print it from your computer, contact Paul Gauthier at gokie@cox.net or phone (703) 323-0009.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR JANUARY 2011

Club Member Dues are now Past Due.

Approximately one-third of our membership has paid their 2011 dues, which were due on January 1, 2011. The dues structure as presented and approved by the general membership in the October 2010 meeting is as follows: if the club has a current email address for you, then your dues will be \$20 and you will receive your Roster and monthly Scripts by email; if you do not have an email address, your dues will remain at \$30 and you will receive your Roster and monthly Scripts by US mail. There is no provision to opt out of receiving your Script and Roster by email if you already have an email address, so please do not send in \$30 requesting to continue to receive the Roster and Script by mail. Members overpaying their \$20 dues will have a refund of \$10 sent to them.

Dues checks, payable to the GWC, Inc. along with your Sully Sign-Up Sheet and any roster corrections should be sent to Woody Williams, Membership Chairman, 20779 LaPlume Place, Ashburn, VA, 20147.



SEEN AT THE CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY



Jim, Andy, Tom and Jack (?) enjoying the feast



Jim Cartmill sizing up the prize table



The incoming Board: Doug Tomb, Chuck Kunstbeck, Woody Williams, Gil Bechner, Benny Leonard, Bill Worsham, Tom Frazier, Charlene Bechner, Paul Gauthier, Jack Melnick, Bill Sims, and Edna Cross



Woody and Tom introducing new pres, Charlene Bechner



Prize Winner: Phil Roche

A FRENCH TWIST

It is often said that "Truth is stranger than fiction" and "only time will tell how one event influences another." If you believe these sayings, then I have a story to tell.

As I was growing up, my father, Willard French, told me, a number of times, about the day that he was blowing straw into the barn on the farm, and the barn caught fire. The barn was located in Pike, NY, about 7 miles from Bliss. When I bought my fire truck, from the Bliss Fire Department, I was speculating about whether or not it had responded to my father's barn fire. A number of people stated that it was unlikely that a truck would respond 7 miles, to another township, for mutual aid in those days.

I knew the barn had burned before I was born, but never knew the date of the fire. Imagine my emotions when I found this newspaper clipping from the Castilian, Thursday, Nov. 4, 1948.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLED TO FRENCH FARM NEAR PIKE

Castile Fire Department responded last Friday morning, Oct 28, to the Willard French farm on Route 19, north of Pike when fire of undetermined origin destroyed the large barn. Companies from Pike and Bliss also fought the blaze. The flames and embers did not [land] on the house. Other farm buildings were saved. Mr. French was blowing buckwheat straw into the barn, and the men were in the field for another load when the barn was discovered on fire.

According to the records that I have received, the only truck that Bliss had at that time was my 1929 Model AA Firetruck. It WAS at my Dad's barn fire.

Now the even more eerie, strange set of truths. If you believe that life starts at conception, I was there when it was being used to fight the fire.

My mother had told of the agony of watching the barn burn and of watching the firemen's desperate battle to save the house and other buildings. Yes, as she stood there listening to the roar of the 1929 Model AA engine in what is now MY firetruck, pumping water onto the fire, and watching the Bliss fire men use the truck and equipment to battle the blaze, my twin sister and I were snuggled inside her womb; six months prior to our birth.

Marty French

KITCH EISENMAN

December 16, 2010

Rest in Peace

She gladly opened up her home to
host our Club's Pig Pickin' for many years.

She will be missed.

ANNUAL WINTER FLEA MARKET AT JANUARY MEETING

The meeting on January 19th will once again give members a chance to exchange unneeded parts for needed parts. Members should bring in the parts and tools they no longer need and use the money gained from selling those to buy *other* parts and tools that the rest of the members have on display. The bonus of these swap meets is that there is plenty of time for Model A talk and asking questions about problems you might be having with your car. So bring your questions and your parts for a good, warm time in the middle of winter.

COMING EVENTS

Jan. 19 Club Flea Market (see above). No general meeting.

Feb. 16 GWC general meeting

Feb. 20 Train Day at the Clements. See next month's issue for details.

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale

Car trailer. Beige; V-nose, 22 ft. long, 7ft. 10" wide, 7ft 6" high inside; Torsion Suspension, 4 new tires & wheels; 4-wheel electric brakes; rear door ramp - cable assist; two 36" walk-in doors; one 48" left escape door; 16-ft awning; A/C on roof - 110 v.; 1 screen door/2 windows; electric lights/wired for 110 v.; 12 volt lights; insulated inside roof; 3 adjustable shelves in nose; 9" TV/refrigerator; 1 propane heater. If interested I can send pictures. \$3900.00. Call Ben McDonald at 540-292-1632

1931 Standard 4-door. In rough shape. Does have a good engine. Has some parts to go with it purchased from Walt's over the years. Needs a good tender lovin' care home. Asking \$5750. Call Nat Choate at 703-321-8671.

Wanted

I need a right side engine pan. If anyone has one, and it does not have to be perfect by any means, bring it to the January flea market and I might be able to make their day. Sewall Tyler

The George Washington Chapter Inc., Model A Club of America and the Mount Vernon Region of the Model A Restorers Club does not endorse or any way approve or disapprove the use of any person or enterprise that advertises or in any way is linked to the club web site or publication (e.g., the Script).

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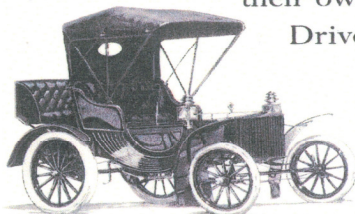
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