

The Victoria Bustle

International Model A Ford

Victoria Association

Founded 1986

Model A Ford Club of America – Model A Restorers Club

July 2024

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Victoria Barn Find or Family Heirloom?

A Message from The Victoria Association President

I had been getting ready to attend the MAFCA National Meet in Ruidoso and I planned to put off writing my President's message until I returned. It is amazing how fast the best laid plans can change. Due to 2 forest fires around Ruidoso, the Meet was canceled, and Ruidoso was evacuated. Monday (6/17) I was packing for the trip, and Wednesday evening I was unpacking. I was really looking forward to the Victoria Association gathering and meeting some of the VA members. The Victoria Association had a very good gathering two years ago in Kerrville, TX



Victoria Association gathering in Kerrville, TX

I really feel sorry for the committee that was formed to put on the National Meet. They worked their tails off to put together a great National Meet, only to have to cancel it at the very last minute due to intentionally set forest fires. (If you do not know about the fires, look up Ruidoso fires on the internet) I want to thank the host committee from the bottom of my heart for all the work they did to put together the Meet !!!

I plan on hosting a Victoria Association gathering at the next MAFCA meet.

Board meeting. On June 13, the VA board held its quarterly board meeting and among meeting items that were discussed was setting up some type of online method to store all of the VA data, possibly creating a Facebook page, and how to handle reimbursement checks over \$100, since our board members live all over the US. Ed Greany (Membership) presented a detailed report of the Association membership.

1st VA letter. One of the Victoria Association's long-time member, Sid Gough, sent me a copy of a September 12th, 1985, and a November 19, 1985, letter from Charlie Viosca, the Victoria Association's founder. In the September 12th letter Charlie states that there are 12 members of the Victoria Association. These letters are the earliest correspondence of Victoria Association. Sid was one of the original 12 members.

New VA Secretary Needed

The Victoria Association Is looking for a member who would be willing to join the board of directors as the Secretary. Below are the general responsibilities of the Secretary from the By-laws.

SECRETARY. The secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the members of the Board of Directors. This may be by copies of the E-mail meetings. The secretary must be the custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the corporation and see that the

seal of the corporation is affixed to all documents, the execution of which on behalf of the corporation under its seal is duly authorized in accordance with provisions of these By-laws; keep a register of the post office address of each member which shall be furnished to the secretary by such member; and in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the Board of Directors.

At this time the board meets 4 times per year over Zoom. The Victoria Association by-laws require that we have a Secretary. Please let me know if you are interested in joining the Victoria Association board and take on the important position of Secretary.

MARC 2025 National Meet

The VA board would like to hold a Victoria Association gathering at the 2025 MARC meet. We need someone to be the host for the meeting. What I did at Kerrville gathering was to introduce myself and tell the gathering about the Victoria Association and my Victoria. Then I asked each person in attendance to tell us their name and tell us about their Victoria. Usually, the meetings last for about 1 to 1-1/2 hours. Afterward I had everyone gather with as many Victorias as possible for a picture. Please reach out to me (wcilkerjr@comcast.net) if you are willing to be the host for the meeting. I will work with MARC to get a room and time slot, but we need to have a host before I can do that.

Bustle Editor, Dean Larson

I hope all of our members will consider receiving their bustle via email in the future. You can request the electronic version by letting us know via an email or through your renewal postcard response next year. As of this writing we have requests for 53 emailed copies.

I have taken on the responsibility of keeping in contact with the Model A Ford Youth Scholarship program. I received this from Anne Neely-Beck. Seven scholarships were awarded this spring thanks to many generous contributions.

Many thanks to all the clubs who have supported the scholarship fund. We the Model A Youth Scholarship Fund could not have done it without you. This year (2024) we gave away seven scholarships. Isaac Sheu-California, Nicholas Collins-Florida, Linnea Hahne-Michigan, Kaeden James Wagenaar-Illinois, Emma Jane Yuhas-New York, Talia Warner-California, and Juliane Becker-Massachusetts.

All of this was possible because you cared and made the scholarship program a priority. Now the cycle begins again. Any month of 2025 has been designated as "Scholarship Month." The Scholarship Fund is asking for your continued support and is asking each club to have "Dollars for Scholars" in any month of 2025. That means at your monthly meeting everyone in the club gives a dollar to the MAYSF, then your treasurer writes a check for the amount and sends it to the MAYSF.

Let's raise the bar one more notch by making 2025 "Dollars for Scholars" the best year yet by raising dollars to educate our scholars.

Please mail checks to: Jo Johnson

375 High Head Road

Harpswell, ME 04079

Dollars for Scholars



Membership Chairman Ed Greany's Message,

As always, let us know if you have a change of address or email address. This will help the Editor get you your newsletter to you without delay.

Both Model A Restorers Club and the Model A Ford Club of America asked the Victoria Association to encourage their members to have membership in either or both national clubs. The national club needs the membership, and they have benefits that the members can use. So, if you are not a member of one of the national clubs, please join. Also, I encourage Victoria Association members to join their local Model A clubs.

How I found my Model A Ford Victoria

Ron Hodgins is one of our newest members. He sent the story below and some pictures of his Victoria along with his membership application. His Victoria Leatherback is featured on the cover of this issue of the Bustle. After reading Ron's story, you can decide....Barn Find or Family Heirloom!

My Victoria by Ron Hodgins

My Victoria was bought from Robert L. Morse, Leake County Supervisor about 1958 by my father, Hubert Hodgins. The last time it was driven was when my dad drove it to the Neshoba County Fair in 1973, 50 years ago this year and it has been stored since. We just decided to get it out and get it running. It saw its first light of day June 8th of 2023. With the help of my friend Billy "Red" Watts, we got it started for a quick trip around the backyard on June 17th, just a bit over one week!

I started fixing her up by buying tires, a water pump, new coil and ignition parts. I told Red that the goal was to have it ready for this year's Fair as the world's best 93-year-old barn find. Red thought it might be possible. I had the rims sandblasted, painted and new tires mounted. The seats and door panels still have the original green mohair upholstery. The car was painted black about 65 years ago over the original Brewster Green and Black. The original apple green pinstripe is still on the tank.



We plan to continue mechanical improvements as needed. It may never be painted but will remain as an excellent example of a factory original classic Ford.

Editor's note: If you would like to share your story, send it along with a picture or two and it will appear in a future issue of The Bustle!

Technical Talk with Chuck Christensen

This is a reprint of an article written by Bob Bidonde for the Bustle. If you are a LONG TIME member, you may recognize it as it was published many years ago.

Misconceptions About The 190A: By Bob Bidonde

Not Correct: Original buyers had a choice between the Leather-Back and Steel-Back Victoria body styles. Contrary to what has been previously published, the data in the table of Surviving Model "A" Ford 190A Victoria Coupes implies that the Ford Motor Company did not offer buyers a choice between the Leather-Back and the Steel-Back.

The Leather-Back was the first production body style, and it appears that the changeover to the Steel-Back started at various Ford branch assembly plants in early 1931. However, it is possible that a few Ford branch assembly plants may have had Leather-Backs and Steel-Backs at the same time during the changeover period enabling some salespeople to offer a choice. The specific changeover date by the Murray Corporation is unknown.

Not Correct: All Victorias should have quarter window shades. The Chicago Branch Service Letter of 4-3-31 and the Indianapolis Branch Service Letter of March 13, 1931 state that the quarter window shades were no longer being supplied as standard equipment in Victorias and Town Sedans. The Indianapolis Branch Service Letter of March 13, 1931 also states that the tassel on the rear window curtain was replaced with a tab.

Maybe Not Correct: All Victorias should have pin stripes on the gas tank. The Indianapolis Branch Service Letter of March 13, 1931 states that the pin stripe on the cowl tank finish panel is no longer being applied. If the pin stripe was applied by the branches, then its application was inconsistent because it appears that not all branches received a similar letter. If the pin stripe was applied by the Murray Corporation, then all Victorias would lack the pin stripe on the gas tank about March 1931 and subsequent production.

Not Correct: All Victorias should have sun visors. The Chicago Branch Service Letter of February 27, 1931 and the Indianapolis Branch Service Letter of March 13, 1931 indicate that the right (passenger's) sun visor was discontinued as standard equipment in the Victoria, but it would be available for dealer installation. Similarly, the Indianapolis Branch, in its letter of April 3, 1931, states that the right visor would be made available to dealers for installation.

Subsequently, the Chicago Branch Service Letter of April 10, 1931 states that the right sun visor was reinstated. Then on April 27, 1931 the Indianapolis Branch informed its dealers via a service letter that the right visor was reinstated in production in the 160D Town Sedan, the 160C Deluxe Fordor and the 190A Victoria.

Not Correct: Briggs built Victoria bodies. All of the surviving Victorias on record were made by the Murray Corporation of America in Detroit, Michigan. There are no confirmed production Victorias made by Briggs or by any other body manufacturer. Evidence that disassembled Victorias were shipped from the United States to Ford branches in other countries is in a photograph that can be seen on Page 27 of the November - December 1992 Issue of the Restorer. Thus, a reasonable conjecture is that all 190A Victorias were built by Murray including those that were assembled at Ford branches outside of the United States.

Correct: All Victorias should have the same type of locks. The Indianapolis Branch Service Letter of November 26, 1930 informed its dealer's that a new series of locks requiring only one key had been adopted on the Victoria using Key Series A-1301 to A-1550. Lock Set A-11569 included one ignition lock with the conduit plus one extra lock cylinder (for the passenger's door).

If you have new questions you would like help with, you can reach me at **chuckret95@gmail.com**.

Ads/For Sale and Wanted

Passenger door window regulator in superb condition \$70.

Drivers' door window much used, some repair. Free.

Original post latch. Excellent condition. \$ 20.

All plus Shipping. Contact Howard Kriebel at: sauenohr1@gmail.com

Victoria Leatherback Serial # 4301070. Well restored Original with 10 k miles. Engine has a counterbalanced crankshaft, Brumfield 5.6 Head, Mitchel Overdrive with Mitchel synchronized 2nd and 3rd gear transmission. Black body, Apple Green Wheels and Tan Lebaron Top and Mohair Interior.

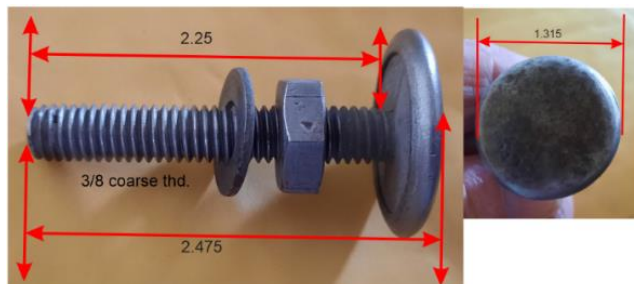
Correct luggage rack. \$20,500. Contact Howard Kriebel at: sauenohr1@gmail.com

Wanted

An original Victoria rear window blind roller in good usable condition. The roller is 26, 3/8" in length. Ideally with fabric intact or remnants of it still attached. If you can help find this part, you can contact Richard Morse at ironmountain1969@gmail.com

Front seat, rear support studs

On the Vintage Ford Forum (6/18), a new Victoria owner ask about the 4 front seat rear support studs. His Victoria came with the wrong studs. He is looking for the four studs. For the VA members information, the same studs were used with both styles of the front seats throughout production. Here is a picture of a stud with measurements.




Victoria front seats, rear support adjustable stud

If you happen to have 4 of the studs and are willing to sell them, please contact the poster on Vintage Ford Forum.

Ford Barn Victoria Items for sale

Occasionally items can be found that could be used for our Victoria's. If you haven't joined this community of passionate Ford hobbyists yet, look them up! Seat bracket and rear valance are still being advertised. See last issue of Bustle or visit the Ford Barn. See new examples below.

oldbird55 Member Join Date: Mar 2013 Location: e tenn Posts: 66	1931 vicky City: Maryville State: tn Price: 25000 Washington Blue 12 volts tan top tan interior everything new or rebuilt New Mell Gross brakes & drums 631 275 3661
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Timothy Hughes Junior Member Join Date: Jun 2024 Location: California Posts: 9	30-31 Victoria new oak top bows City: CONCORD State: ca Price: 50.00 30-31 new oak top bows for a Victoria Attached Thumbnails 
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Victoria Association Services

The Association has a Technical Director, Chuck Christenson, who is willing to answer your questions on the Model A and the Victoria. You will find his email address on the front cover of the Bustle.

We also have paper and digital window patterns for the Victoria. Please let Chuck know if you would like to use them.

Bob Bidonde is now using the registry of Victorias to assign Body numbers to members' Victorias that do not have one. If you need a body number for your Victoria, please contact Bob at modela1931@aol.com.



International Model A Ford
Victoria Association

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First Class Mail

To:

The International Model A Ford Victoria Association is a body style chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA) and a region of the Model A Restorers Club (MARC). The association was founded in 1986 at Frisco, Texas by Charlie Viosca. The purpose of the association is to aid the membership in the authentic restoration of the Model A Ford A-190 Victoria body style. To achieve the purpose this quarterly newsletter is published for the association membership. The intent is to furnish accurate and complete information concerning the Model A Ford Victoria body style. Permission to reprint from this publication is expressly given provided acknowledgement and credit is given to the author and to the publication and no changes are made to the original article.