

International Model A Ford Victoria Association

Model A Ford Club of America - Model A Restorers Club
Founded 1986 - Frisco, Texas

May, 1997
Volume 12, Issue 2

President:
Editor:
Publishers:

Charlie Viosca
Tom Endy
Bob & Karyn Sitter



The Lone Victoria!

Model A Ford Victoria Association

Membership Roster, May 1997

U.S. Residents:

Anderson, Robert, Christi	942 32nd St. S.W.	Wyoming,	MI	49509	616-532-2003
Anderson, Jerome,	3722 Peninsula Dr.	Muskegon,	MI	49444	616-739-7903
Antognoli, Ted,	1722 S. Claremont	Fresno,	CA	93727	209-251-4330
Arroyo, Mike,	9176 Tangerine St.	San Ramon,	CA	94583	510-828-4573
Augustine, Richard, Cheryl	924 Wolverine	Monroe,	MI	48161	313-242-4534
Barrett, Richard,	21 Hallmont Circle	Penfield,	NY	14526	716-377-4379
Bauman, Carlton, Edie	1337 Cavanagh St. SE	Kentwood,	MI	49508	616-455-9326
Behm, Ronald, Dawn	14250 152nd Ave.	Grand Haven,	MI	49417	616-842-2264
Bengel, Jerry, Marlys	2596 Warrego Way	Sacramento,	CA	95826	916-362-3183
Berry, Gordon, Glennys	120 N. Quidnessett Rd.	N. Kingstown,	RI	02852	401-885-1653
Bewley, Thomas, Donna May	16557 21st N.E.	Shoreline,	WA	98115	206-365-4956
Bidonde, Robert, Kathryn	65 Tompkins St.	East Northport,	NY	11731	516-757-1920
Bird, Robert, Louise	128 Knox Rd. 480N	Maquon,	IL	61458	309-875-3342
Bond, William, Katherine	1040 Old Squaw Pass	Evergreen,	CO	80439	303-670-3283
Bradsher, Floyd, Shirley	740 Charlie Monk Rd.	Hurdle Mills,	NC	27541	919-364-2655
Brennan, Myron, Eunice	59 Cromwell Dr.	Yarmouth Port,	MA	02675	508-362-4946
Brutcher, John,	167 St. RTE. 48	Phoenix,	NY	13135	315-652-7455
Bryson, Maj. Steven, Deette	CMR 412, Box 604	Unit #20105, HHC 16th,	CSG	AP0, AE	09165
Buice, Maron, Jo Ann	5877 Hill Side Farm Rd.	Buford,	GA	30518	404-945-9261
Burgess, Lee,	10136 NE 116 Pl.	Kirkland,	WA	98033	206-821-9233
Cannon, Steve, Classic Wood Mfg	1006 N. Raleigh St.	Greensboro,	NC	27405	919-691-1344
Caporelli, Ralph,	17 Stoneham Rd.	Worcester,	MA	01604	508-752-4243
Carey, Ray, Virginia	133 Boulder Dr.	Lincolnton,	NC	28092	704-732-1849
Carrion, Al, Lenore	11240 Graton Rd.	Sebastopol,	CA	95472	707-823-2657
Cassin, Fred,	15 Park Circle Dr.	Fairport,	NY	14450	716-223-1641
Chaney, Michael, Linda	1228 Ranch Rd.	McPherson,	KS	67460	316-241-5982
Cilker, Bill, Liz	524 Vista Ridge Dr.	Milpitas,	CA	95035	
Clarke, Albert, Sheila	Ernst Rd.	Wilton,	NY	12866	518-587-0092
Cognato, Frank, Ann	P.O. Box 1195	Ross,	CA	94957	415-461-5133
Coleman, Robert, Yvonne	1675 Wappoo Rd.	Charleston,	SC	29407	803-766-9471
Cross, Norman, Dorothy	17690 Ravenna Ave.	Burton,	OH	44021	216-834-8514
Crum, Christopher, Karen	2406 Sandringham Rd.	Sacramento,	CA	95825	916-481-4881
Crum, Don, Bonnie	567 Vinewood Ave.	Talmadge,	OH	44278	330-633-0280
Deemer, Ralph,	712 Bowling Green Ct.	Virginia Beach,	VA	23452	757-340-6818
Dinius, George, Sally	811 59th St. NW	Bradenton,	FL	34209	813-794-0502
Dresser, Robert, Peg	4932 Geraldine Ave.	Richmond Hts,	OH	44143	216-381-6918
DeCarli, Richard, Rosemarie	P.O. Box 377	Petaluma,	CA	94953	707-765-1932
Eason, Harold, Diann	680 Poppy Way	Broomfield,	CO	80020	303-465-1478
Endy, Tom,	5881 Iroquois Rd.	Westminster,	CA	92683	714-897-5861
Frazee, John, Dianne	2410 Appian Rd.	Carlsbad,	CA	92008	619-729-4865
Gajewski, Don, Laverne	2017 Inverness Dr.	Carrollton,	TX	75007	214-242-4093
Garrison, Wayne, Bessie	431 Terrace Rd.	Lincoln,	NE	68505	402-489-1705
Gill, Roger, Judy	3301 E. 231st St.	Chicago Hts,	IL	60411	
Gosa, Dale, Lois	4146 Habana Ave.	Jacksonville,	FL	32217	904-731-0367
Greany, Ed, Robin	1742 Spring Lane	Corona,	CA	91720	909-735-4153
Greenhalgh, Jack, Delia	140 Andrew Ln.	Reno,	NV	89511	702-894-0365
Griffith, Roger,	1430 Cypress	Tracy,	CA	95376	209-836-2432
Hamada, Yuke, Yonki	15270 E. Mountain View	Kingsbury,	CA	93631	
Hammermeister, Leonard, Shirley	3116 Connecticut	Burton,	MI	48519	810-742-0719
Harris, Charles, Marjorie	P.O. Box 562	Winnsboro,	LA	71295	318-435-5150
Harry, Bill, Millie	8175 W. Evans Dr.	Rogue River,	OR	97537	541-582-8903
Hauff, Donald, Karen	4880 Roundtree Dr.	Campbell,	CA	95008	408-379-0440
Hazard, P.R.,	2862 McCloud River Ln	Ontario,	CA	91761	909-947-2682
Heitzenrader, Albert, Roma	P.O. Box 417	Western,	NE	68464	402-433-4101
Higgs, Dale,	8 Walnut St.	Forestville,	NY	14062	716-965-4332
Hildwein, Ed, Joan	214 Hearthstone Dr.	Boise,	ID	83702	208-342-3418
Hitchcock, Robert, Marilyn	17118 E. Strack	Spring,	TX	77379	

Hudson, Orlando, Beth	1835 S. Pointer Dr.	Sarasota,	FL	34231	941-924-4748
Icenhower, John, Jana	1613 Ryan Rd.	Sulphur Springs,	TX	75482	903-885-6748
Ierardi, Philip,	12 Roclare Ln.	St. Louis,	MO	63131	314-692-2123
Ingwersen, Doc, Darlene	7626 Fostoria St.	Downey,	CA	90241	310-928-4132
Jackson, Archie, Alice	Rt 20 East	Galena,	IL	61036	815-777-2117
Johnson, Arthur, Laura	Rt. 1, Box 693	Roland,	OK	74954	918-427-6619
Jurgensen, Gary, Mary Ann	W. 4220 Sutherland Pl.	Spokane,	WA	99208	509-327-8422
Kissel, William, Doreen	524 Eldoro	Arlington,	TX	76006	817-274-7206
Korkoski, Lee,	P.O. Box 368	Apache,	OK	73006	405-588-2338
Kraus, Fred, Laurel	P.O. Box 7647	Round Lake Bch,	IL	60073	
Lane, Michael, Sr, Judith	10807 Sebring Dr.	Richmond,	VA	23233	804-747-0934
Lee, John, Kay	222 Elgin	Washington,	IL	61571	309-444-9840
Lewis, Marshall,	P.O. Box 146	Empire,	CA	95319	209-523-4576
Mandere, Eugene, Carol	1662 Nora Way	San Jose,	CA	95124	408-267-3915
Manninen, Ken, Nancy	903 Elm St.	Hancock,	MI	49930	906-482-6527
Maurantonio, Vito,	450 Meadowridge Rd.	Watsonville,	CA	95076	408-724-9488
McAdams, Don, Nancy	2527 Broussard St.	Baton Rouge,	LA	70808	504-383-7510
McCart, Victor, Charlotte	P.O. Box 198	Garden City,	KS	67846	316-275-9110
McElroy, Bill,	2649 Stewart Dr.	Rittman,	OH	44270	216-336-3443
McGeary, Jim,	25726 Oceanwood Dr.	Dana Point,	CA	92629	714-496-8561
McIntosh, Ron, Carolyn	936 Main St.	Morro Bay,	CA	93442	805-772-5000
Miller, Ken, Irma	40 Oakmont Ln.	Greenville,	TN	37743	423-638-4383
Miller, Roger,	9036 N.W. 37th St.	Polk City,	IA	50226	515-965-5727
Miller, Paul, Mary Martha	50 Level Rd.	Collegeville,	PA	19426	215-489-2083
Morley, Lloyd, Marjaret	4429 Francis Yonge Way	Hollywood,	SC	29449	803-556-0952
Nanney, Jack, Reba	60 Sherry Lane	Ashville,	NC	28806	704-683-0424
Norman, Frederick, Sharon	6355 Ward Rd. Suite 200	Arvada,	CO	80004	303-424-8354
Northcraft, Martin, Zola	1340 N.E. Seavy Ave.	Corvallis,	OR	97330	503-752-1927
Novak, Gene, Patricia	12695 W.Portage Rvr S.Rd.	Oak Harbor,	OH	43449	
O'Leary, Gregory, Kathy	1912 H St.	Eureka,	CA	95501	707-442-3213
Pape, Marshall, Susie	790 Turner Rd.	Williamson,	GA	30292	770-228-7677
Parker, Alfred,	7521 Walnut	Hammond,	IN	46324	219-844-2293
Peace, Wm, Bernadine	P.O. Box 55	Comfort,	TX	78013	512-995-2477
Peloquin, Donald, Joan	805 Alpine Dr.	Southbridge,	MA	01550	
Penty, Thomas, Grace	7484 Katesbridge Court	Dublin,	OH	43017	614-889-9768
Peters, Walter, Doris	9995 Sunnyview N.E.	Salem,	OR	97301	503-399-7931
Petithomme, Bob, Celia	5403 Columbia Dr. N.	Fresno,	CA	93727	209-251-3562
Plaggenborg, Joop, Marlies	30 Riverview Dr.	Ashland,	MA	01721	508-881-8751
Quaranta, Vito, Ethylmn	8570 S.E. 72nd	Mercer Island,	WA	98040	206-232-3000
Ramberg, Anders, Melissa	8960 168th Ave. NW	Ramsey,	MN	55303	612-441-9065
Ramsey, Walter, Donna	745 Hilltop Ave.	Kent,	WA	98031	206-852-3228
Reed, Kim,	2720 SE 17th St.	Ocala,	FL	34471	352-288-6785
Reger, Dr. Roy,	11684 East Bayand Dr.	Aurora,	CO	80012	303-343-3331
Repnik, Kerry, Karen	Box 376	Yukon,	PA	15698	412-722-3504
Reynolds, Wm (Col.), Rebecca	3 Northwest Rd.	Randolph AFB,	TX	78148	210-566-2343
Rios, John,	2303 Royal Acres Dr.	Denton,	TX	76201	817-387-1155
Robbins, David, Maureen	32 Overlook Dr.	Westfield,	MA	01085	413-562-9238
Roberts, Elmer, Betty	313 Hemlock Park Ln.	Aberdeen,	WA	98520	360-532-9300
Rogers, M. Jerry, Emily	2036 Clarksdale	Dallas,	TX	75228	214-321-5698
Rohde, Sherwin, Juanita	528 Sandler Dr. NE	Albuquerque,	NM	87123	505-299-0077
Ross, Don, Irene	544 East Ave. J-1	Lancaster,	CA	93535	805-942-6924
Rothery, Fred, Delight	495 Mountain Rd.	Wilbraham,	MA	01095	413-596-6007
Russell, Ray, Rudell	11501 FM 1467E	Blanket,	TX	76432	817-842-5591
Ryan, Steven, Sue	4950 Briarwood Dr.	Macungie,	PA	18062	215-398-8423
Sapp, Walter, Carol	19840 Coshocton Rd.	Mt. Vernon,	OH	43050	614-397-9791
Schoelen, James, Elizabeth	2014 Beech St.	Fernandina Bch,	FL	32034	904-261-0854
Schultz, Russell,	1834 Calavaras Dr.	El Dorado Hills,	CA	95762	916-933-9657
Schwartzter, Thomas, Joyce	1726 Beckley Dr.	New Cumberland,	PA	17070	717-774-4565
Scott, Michael, Elaine	9908 Drury Ln.	Westchestor,	IL	60154	708-343-6425
Seay, Speedy, Jill	2413 Millwood Rd.	Virginia Beach,	VA	23454	757-481-6394
Secker, Fred, Betty	6628 Velasco	Dallas,	TX	75214	214-827-2132
Severson, Dale, Doris	P.O. Box 44	Dallas,	WI	54733	715-837-1268
Sherwood, Robert	3102 SE Spyglass Dr.	Vancouver,	WA	98684	206-892-3206
Simmons, Jack, Joyce	7321 Nada St.	Downey,	CA	90242	562-928-7422
Slack, Glenn, Shirley	1853 S.E. Anspach St.	Milwaukie,	OR	97267	503-654-8044

Smith, Douglas, Ellen	RR 124 NW 72nd Pl.	Ankeny,	IA	50021	
Smith, Ernie, Wilma	8745 Greenwood	Munster,	IN	46321	219-838-9048
Smith, Walter, Juanita	5785 S. County Rd. A	Superior,	WI	54880	715-399-8440
Sperr, Jack, Carol	4074 Ibex NE	Salem,	OR	97305	503-393-7185
Steed, Paul, Diane	18081 Hallsworth Circle	Villa Park,	CA	92667	714-289-0931
Stewart, Jackie, Nina	12811 El Dorado Dr.	Universal City,	TX	78148	210-659-0253
Sunstrom, Alan,	1546 Pitney Lane	Upper Lake,	CA	95485	707-275-2298
Swacina, D.C., Henrietta	1109 Henryetta St.	Springdale,	AR	72762	501-756-3576
Taylor, Gene, Mazelle	26561 Martin Branch Rd.	Madison,	AL	35758	205-232-9000
Taylor, Winfred,	5204 Simmons Rd.	Lumberton,	NC	28358	910-739-7350
Ulmer, Bill, Katie	1838 Poston Dr.	Panama City,	FL	32404	
Viosca, Charlie, Felicia	11084 Windjammer	Frisco,	TX	75034	972-625-2922
Wagner, Dr. William, Anne	408 W. Goodwin Ave.	Victoria,	TX	77901	512-572-0924
Webb, Jeff, Mary	3853 Myrtle Ave.	Long Beach,	CA	90807	310-427-5793
Wilgus, David, Christine	P.O. Box 763	Hebron,	IN	46341	219-477-4089
Young, Frank, Joan	962 S. Bundy Dr.	Los Angeles,	CA	90049	213-207-0653
Young, Tim,	962 Bundy Dr.	Los Angeles,	CA	90049	213-207-0653
Zigler, David,	310 Jamboree	Manchester,	MO	63021	314-394-7131

Foreign Residents:

Chaikoff, Richard, Joan	3 Hallfield Rd.	Etobicoke, Ontario	Canada	M9B 5W5	416-621-6644
Gough, Sid, Audrey	Box 25	Irricana, Alberta,	Canada	TOM-1B0	403-935-4216
Hessels, Everett, Cheryl	P.O. Box 181	Blyth, Ontario,	Canada	NOM-1H0	519-523-4337
Midlane, Bruce, Margaret	10311 Shell Rd.	Richmond, BC.	Canada	V7A 3W5	604-271-5991
Robinson, Warren, Helen	1717 Evergreen Hill S.W.	Calgary,	Alberta	T2Y 3B6	403-201-3135
Thomason, Derek, Judy	R.D.I., Richmond	Nelson,	New Zealand	0544	03-544-7826

A Stamp of Approval!

by William J. Wagner, M.D.

I love postage stamps, and I like to collect them. Numerous old cars have been depicted on U. S. postage stamps, but no Model A Fords have appeared. It is time that the Model A Ford had it's rightful place in history on board a stamp. And it should certainly be a Victoria. The way to make it happen is to have a write in campaign, and there is just the place that letters may be sent.

Stamp Management

U.S. Postal Service

475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.

Room 5301

Washington D.C. 20260

Write them a letter and tell them about the history of the Model A Ford. The 70th anniversary is coming up next year. It's time for a stamp. ☺

Editor's Note!

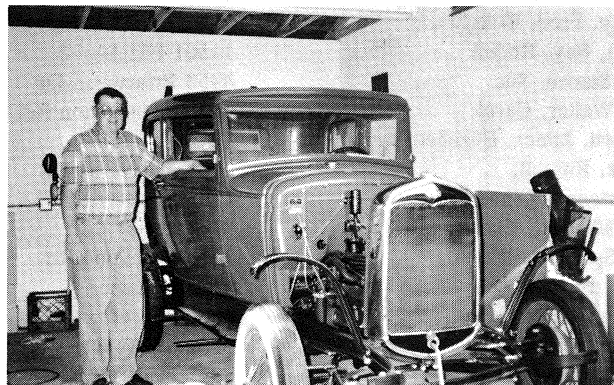
I had a tough time deciphering your letter Doc. Now I know how the guy down at the pharmacy feels. I hope the stamp gets well. ☺

A MARC Membership!

The Model A Restorers Club has initiated a campaign to increase it's membership. The plan is for existing MARC members to sponsor new members. There is a reward incentive. Be a MARC Member Getter! See page 8. ☺

The Dinius Victoria!

George & Sally Dinius of Bradenton, Florida sends us a picture of their Steelback Victoria, which appears to be close to the completion of restoration. For the folks who may be color blind, the car is painted green on green. George purposely cropped the lower portion of the picture so no one would know that both front tires are flat. ☺





Charlie Says!

by Charlie Viosca

We Have Not Folded!

For some reason, several Victoria Association members were under the impression that we were folding, out of business, Kaput! I presume this was because a while back, I was asking for help in doing the newsletter. I am happy to say that the Victoria Association is still in business and is going stronger than ever. I have received a lot of help. Tom Endy is our newsletter editor, Kay Lee does our membership index, and Bob Bidonde keeps up our Model A Ford Victoria data sheets. I have also had a lot of help from John Icenhower who took over as treasurer. Starting next year, the membership dues will be sent direct to John. This will be published in the newsletter when we announce the dues are due for 1998.

Back Issues!

A number of members have requested back issues of the Victoria Association newsletters. We have made up 25 copies of all of the past newsletters. These copies come as a set with an up to date index. It also includes a listing of all Model A Ford Victoria's that we know of. The listing is referred to as the "Data Sheet". The complete package sells for \$30.00, and may be obtained by sending a check to John Icenhower. (Complete sets only).

John Icenhower
1313 Ryan Rd.
Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

Shades of The Victoria!

The Victoria Association has one Model A Ford Victoria rear window shade for sale. The price is \$40.00 and includes shipping. This is the last shade left over from our last weaving order. There will be no more. The first person to send me a check will receive the shade. All other checks received after that will be returned.

Patches of The Victoria!

The Victoria Association has sew-on patches with the name of the association and a likeness of the car. Cost is \$4.00 and includes postage. Send a check to Charlie Viosca.

Charlie Viosca
11084 Windjammer
Frisco, Texas 75034

About The Victoria Itself!

The Victoria Association is seeking volunteers to help in updating information about the Model A Ford Victoria. What we want to do is to go through all of the back issues of the newsletters and categorize all of the technical information that has previously been published into an indexed document or series of documents. Each topic, such as seats, windows, paint and odd features of the car could then be published under it's own heading. We also hope to make the documents available to the MARC\MAFCA Judging Standards Committee. We will furnish the back issues free to any member who will volunteer to help with the project. If we can get enough volunteers, one person would only have to sort the articles for one subject. Please let me hear from you folks, this could be a worthwhile project.

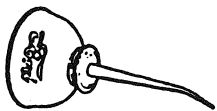
A Fourth Issue!

For the past few years we have been publishing three newsletters per year, one each in January, May and October. This year I have suggested that we publish a fourth newsletter to come out in August. This newsletter will feature a number of articles that were published in the Orange County Model A Ford Club newsletter, the *Distributor*. A column appeared each month titled "Properly Oiled" by Ben Hadd. The collection of articles has been compiled into a single book. Some of the articles have previously appeared in the Victoria Association newsletters. I thought it would be appropriate to publish an extra newsletter this year to feature more of these articles. ☺

On The Cover!

The lone Victoria. Once again I am forced to use a picture of my own car for the front cover. I encourage the membership to submit photos of their Model A Ford Victoria to be used as a front cover picture. Try to be creative, shoot a picture at an artistic angle. If you have a Victoria that is in the restoration process, or is in a shabby state prior to starting, click off some pictures and send them in. Submit your photos to Charlie Viosca or myself. If you want the photos returned, put your name and address on the back. Also include some information about the car's history, etc, whatever you want. I will run all photos received in the newsletter. ☺

Editor



Properly Oiled!

by Ben Hadd

About Face!

The Model A Ford is probably the most widely documented automobile in the world. Volumes have been written describing the most minute detail of finished parts and assembly instructions. Unfortunately not all of it is correct! Take the simple matter of the direction that the speedometer drive gear, part number A17285, is supposed to face. Having just finished rebuilding the differential assembly for a fellow club member, I went about the task of installing the roller bearing, spacer, speedometer drive gear and snap ring in the front of the torque tube. I wasn't sure of the sequence of the assembly or the direction that the drive gear was supposed to face. It didn't seem like a big problem, it was probably documented in dozens of places.

Bratton's Antique Auto!

The first place I went looking was in Walt Bratton's parts catalog, since it includes numerous assembly sequences. I found it on page 25 of the 1996 catalog and it clearly shows that the collar on one end of the drive gear faces aft, as in toward the rear of the car, where the back bumper is located. Fortified with this profound knowledge, I installed the assembly and called it a done deal.

Volumes of Documentation!

Later that evening I was looking over the various articles that I have filed away under differential rebuilding and I came across an article that appeared in the 1995 January/February Restorer, written by Dr. Jack Richard. At the end of the article on page 14 he states, "Install the speedometer drive gear with the groove in the gear facing forward". Assuming what he is calling a groove is what I am calling a collar, and his description of "forward", is where the front bumper is located, it is exactly opposite of what Walt Bratton says is correct. I searched further! The next article I found was from How to Restore Your Model A, 2nd Edition, Volume 2, 1975. On page 14, in an article written by Merle Smith, there is a photo illustration clearly showing the collar (or groove) on the speedometer drive gear facing forward, toward the front of the car, where the front bumper should be. By now I was convinced that Walt had a back bumper installed on the front of his Model A Ford. Researching further, I discovered an article in the

Restorer's Model A Shop Manual 1985, by Jim Schild. On page 68\69 he states, "Be sure the gear end of the speedometer drive gear is toward the rear". In analyzing this statement I concluded that the gear end is on the opposite end from where the collar (or groove) is located. That being the case it would mean that the collar (or groove) is supposed to face forward, toward what ever kind of bumper is installed on the front of the car. Now there was no question about it, it was a three to one bet that Walt had his bumpers mixed up. But, I kept on researching! In the 1989 Birdhaven parts catalog I found an assembly diagram on page 16 and it shows the speedometer drive gear collar (or groove) facing toward the rear just like Walt Bratton's diagram. Could there be some collusion here between parts suppliers? Perhaps the S.E.C. should look into this for a possible violation of anti-trust laws!

What's it All Mean?

By now I was thoroughly confused. I asked several club members which way they thought the gear faced. Lucky for me the gear can only face two ways or I would have had a different explanation for as many people that I asked. I even looked in the MARC\MAFCA Judging Standards, but they are wisely silent on the matter. What was needed was some official documentation from Old Henry Ford himself.

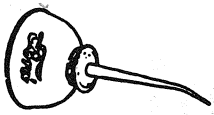
The Model A Ford Service Bulletins!

On page 415 I found an article describing the change made to the speedometer "driven" gear because of the wheel size change in 1930 and it includes a diagram that shows what I would accept as the correct way the drive gear is supposed to face. And it shows the collar (or groove) definitely facing aft, toward the rear of the car, where the rear bumper is located. My apologies to Walt for doubting him for a moment.

A Moot Point!

Turns out you can only get the gear on the drive shaft in one direction. The six little "grabbers" on the inside diameter of the gear preclude the gear from going on the drive shaft spline in any direction but with the collar facing aft, toward the rear of the car, where Walt Bratton has the correct back bumper installed. ☺





Properly Oiled!

by Ben Hadd

Sparks For The Novice!

There's probably a lot of novice Model A's out there who don't really know what the spark advance lever on a Model A Ford is all about, and are afraid to ask. I can remember when I was a young teenager back in the early 1950's when my friend Skeeter and I acquired a Model A Ford. It didn't take us long to figure out that one of the levers under the steering wheel was a throttle, but it took us a while before we determined that the other one wasn't the turn signals. By asking some of the old guys in the neighborhood we learned that it was a spark advance. We were both smart enough to know that a car needed a spark at the spark plug, but we couldn't see where one was needed under the steering wheel. We didn't have the foggiest idea where we were supposed to position the lever. The car seemed to run okay no matter what position we put it in. Trying to do things the right way, like most teenagers, we thought we would ask our High School auto shop teacher, Mr. White, where the lever should be positioned. Mr. White was not only trained in auto mechanics, but he also drove a Model A Ford as his transportation car. Mr. White gave us a lengthy explanation of the purpose of the spark control lever. He described the power curve of the engine and how it related to the ratio of the advance of the spark. He drew a graph on the blackboard and plotted the points in degrees where the firing of the spark plug correlated to the position of the piston prior to it's top-dead-center point for a number of different speeds. As we were leaving with this new world of profound knowledge, which I was still trying to sort out, I asked Skeeter if he knew where we were supposed to put the spark advance lever. "Yeah!" he said, "somewhere in the middle". It has taken a number of years and the wisdom and experience that comes with it for me to learn where the spark advance lever should be positioned on a Model A Ford. The actual physical positioning of the lever has everything to do with how the points and timing were set when the distributor was last serviced. No two Model A's will be exactly alike. It is safe to say that you should always start a Model A Ford with the lever in the fully retarded position (push the lever all the way up).

When driving the car the lever should be advanced (pull the lever downward) to suit the driving condition. The faster you go the more advance you need. If you are climbing a steep hill and you hear the engine pinging, retard the spark slightly by moving the lever up a couple of notches until the pinging stops. In most driving conditions, with a reasonably adjusted distributor, you should have the lever somewhere between half and full down on the lever travel. Pay attention to how the engine sounds and how the car is responding to the accelerator as you drive. With experience you will be able to sense where you should have the lever positioned for each driving condition. One thing you don't want to do is drive around with the spark fully retarded (the lever all the way up). You will very quickly overheat the engine. To illustrate the point, my current Model A Ford is a strong runner and has been driven in temperatures above 110° without overheating. On a recent winter tour, we left our hotel one morning at 7 A.M. with an outside temperature of around 45°. I was wearing a pair of heavy gloves as we pulled out of the parking lot. I thought I had pulled the lever to a position a little more than half way down, which was nominal for normal driving. But fumbling around with the heavy gloves on, I had actually pulled the lever down to only about a quarter of the way. We were headed out over Highway 46 from Paso Robles toward the I-5 highway in the San Joaquin Valley. We had been cruising along at about 55 MPH (in overdrive) for about 20 miles when we came to a long downgrade where our speed increased. My Model A Ford immediately boiled over, spewing water out the top of the radiator. I quickly checked the spark advance and found it was too much retarded. By moving the lever down to more than half way the engine quickly cooled down. The outside temperature was still in the forties. If all of this has you confused, and you still don't know where you're supposed to position the spark advance lever on a Model A Ford, take Skeeter's advice and pull the handle down to somewhere in the middle. ©

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Model "A" Restorers Club

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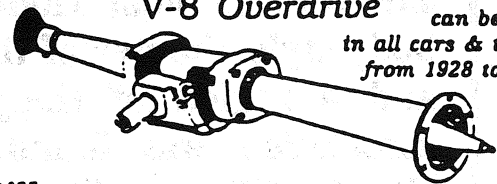
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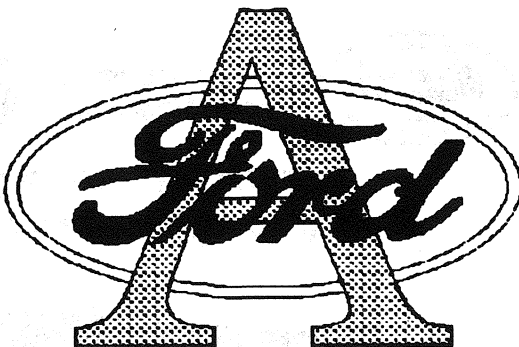
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