

# Checkmark

## Model A Fords are a favorite at Keeneland show



Most of our members would rather spend the day driving their car than showing it but Keeneland is an exception. Technically it is more of a club display since our cars weren't being judged and it provides a good opportunity to promote the Model A as an excellent choice to those who may be interested in acquiring an antique automobile. Since all profit made at the event goes to Kentucky Children's Hospital our club is partially fulfilling it's responsibility as a nonprofit charitable organization by participating.

Our group was parked in a shady area next to the main entrance, which provided the opportunity to watch the other cars that arrived throughout the day. As usual, our club had one of the larger displays of cars and drew a lot of interest from the crowd. Interested spectators were invited to get behind the wheel to have their picture made and children were encouraged to try out the ahooga horn. Hopefully some

good memories were created and people realized there were some old cars you could actually touch and no one would mind.

If you missed this event, hopefully you will get another chance next year, however the club will be returning to Keeneland on October 17th when the horses will be getting all the attention.

This has been a great summer for touring and it isn't over. On August the 15th Darrell and Joan Webb will

lead us on a scenic drive to Nonesuch, KY to visit one of the state's best known antique shops, Irish Acres. The Glitz Restaurant, located on the grounds, has earned an outstanding reputation and arrangements are being made for our group to try it out. The details of the tour are on page three.

In September many of our members are participating in a week of Model A touring lead by Todd and Michelle Brown through the countryside of Northern Michigan. If that is more touring than you can manage there will be an opportunity to get together once again September 19th at the William Whitley House Park in Lincoln County for the annual Model A & T Day.

Don't miss out on all these great tours. Remember these events are for the people not the cars, so don't let the lack of an operating Model A prevent you from participating.

*Above: Carl Goodwin's Fordor was one of the many Model A Fords on display at Keeneland. Below: Chris Mills, Delmer Dalton, Alice Mills and Bob Lykins enjoy the day watching the Fords go by.*



# Dillinger's footsteps parallel family ties

by Jeff Rhoads

**O**n March 3, 1934, gangster John Dillinger escaped from the jail in Crown Point, Indiana — bluffing his way to freedom, legend says, with a fake gun carved from wood and blackened with shoe polish.

At the same time, a salesman for Quaker State Oil Company who had accepted a job transfer led a three-vehicle caravan from Crown Point, bound for California. The salesman was driving a Chrysler roadster; his wife piloted a Franklin sedan. The third vehicle was a truck with a driver, a couple of pleasure horses the salesman owned, and a man named Guy, who was employed as caretaker for the horses.

Taking a southern route to avoid potential bad weather in the Rocky Mountains, the group headed for Texas to follow the Rio Grande River westward.

It was at a small diner somewhere in the Lone Star State that they learned of Dillinger's escape from the town they had left. Outside the diner, they found the Texas Rangers (who had noticed the Indiana license plates) searching their vehicles for evidence of the outlaw. Not surprisingly, however, the Rangers came up empty-handed; the innocent caravan had no gangster ties.

Some residents of Crown Point theorized that Dillinger and his cronies had issued threats toward the twin daughters of the town's sheriff — one Lillian Holley — and the sheriff had arranged Dillinger's escape in exchange for the girls' safety. Whatever the case, the twins were subsequently seen happily riding their bicycles around town, apparently without concern of harm.

Many decades later, a lad in his late teens worked long hours in his grandparents' garage, deep in the throes of a body-off, frame-up restoration of a 1930 Ford Model A Town Sedan. To keep him company, the boy's grandfather would sit in a folding chair and relate stories about his experiences

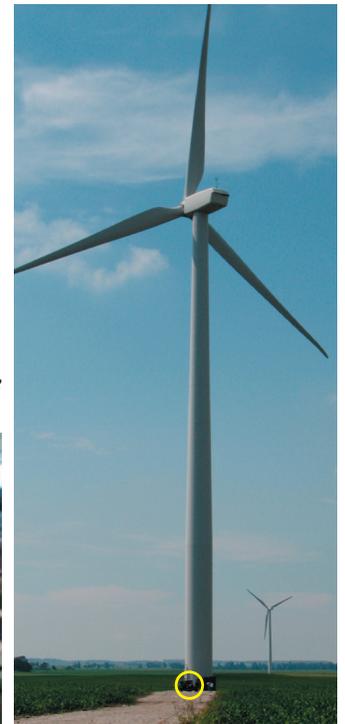


*Above: Thursday night's river cruise offered a spectacular view of the Chicago skyline and an informative lesson on the city's architectural history. Below: Mike Mills took photos as Chris enjoyed the boat ride.*



*Right: A Model A Ford (circled in yellow) looks like a toy next to one of the hundreds of wind turbines in Benton County, Indiana. This diversion on the way to Merrillville was a big hit with the CKMARC members who made the trip.*

*Below: The group visited a dairy operation that milks 30,000 cows three times a day on these "dairy-go-rounds." The experience is sure to instill a new appreciation for the efforts of our bovine friends when we partake of Dairy Queen fare.*



and adventures, including some about Crown Point and John Dillinger.

The grandfather, of course, was Guy, the horseman — more specifically, Guy Rhoads. The grandson, as you might have guessed, was me.

That was more than three decades ago. Grandpa has been gone many years, but his voice still echoes in my mind. Driving that same Model A reminds me of those stories and the special times we shared.

When I discovered that the 2009 MARC National Meet in Merrillville was virtually next door to Crown Point, there was never any doubt about my attendance — or about which car I would drive there.



*Burt Nation, right, befriended an 87-year-old man from Ohio who owns 43 Model A Fords. Relaxing in the background are Darrell Webb, John Yates and Delmer Dalton.*



*My dad, who was 11 at his time the family lived in Crown Point, remembered watching workmen "harvest" ice from the lake in the infield of the old harness racing track at the fairgrounds. They used a Model T engine, mounted on skids and tied to a rope, to power a circular saw blade for cutting the ice into blocks. An occasional slip-up while criss-crossing the ice made it necessary to retrieve the rig from the bottom of the lake. The photo above shows my '30 Town Sedan next to the lake; the grandstand is in the background.*



## Get to know Steve Brandenburg

What happens when you mix a love for old cars with a talent for woodworking. In Steve Brandenburg's case you get a unique woody panel truck. Steve can make about anything from wood and this truck is an excellent example. The carved wood side moldings are a perfect match with those on the steel cowl and the pinstripe is made from a dark wood inlay. While keeping the look of an original he added some features to make his truck more user friendly, like adding roll up windows in the future. Steve hasn't completed the truck yet but it was far enough along to bring to Keeneland for our July display. It was a big hit with the Model A folks and everyone else.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

We have a great tour coming up August 15th to Irish Acres Antiques and the Glitz Restaurant. To get a group rate for our meal we need to know who will be attending. Please call Darrell Webb at 859-887-3882 and let him know you are coming. We hear the food is outstanding, the three course meal including tax and tip is \$25. If that sounds like more lunch than you want there is also a sandwich shop nearby. Darrell plans on leading us from the **McDonald's at Palomar Center (Man-o-War/Harrodsburg Rd) around 9:00.** Join us for a fun day.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

The orders for T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets and name tags are in. Carl will have the merchandise at the August tour for pickup. He ordered a few extra shirts in case someone forgot to make an order. The items are of good quality and price, the extras will sell fast. Any profit goes to support our club.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

We send our most sincere condolences to Barbara and David Estes on the recent loss of Barbara's mother, Charlotte Mae Bemis Zweifel.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Thanks to Jeff Rhoads for the excellent article on the MARC National Meet. I hope to see more articles from our members.

## MODEL A FORD MARKET

### Model A Ford related items for Sale:

**'31 Deluxe Roadster** maroon and black, red wheels, white wall tires, Labaron Bonney leather interior. \$24,000 Ken Fey 502-935-1828, Louisville.

**16' Box Trailer** \$2000, Howard Griffin, 502-241-0409, Louisville.

**Model A Parts** New rear fenders 30-31 sedan \$500, 1940 Black & Decker valve grinding equipment, works well, several attachments \$150, Beige powder coated 19" rims \$225 for set of 5, Brake reinforcement bands \$100 will install for \$25. Bill Goetz, 859-312-3145, Lexington.

### Vintage clothing; How to look the part on a budget

Many folks enjoy collecting clothing to match the era of their Model A, in fact this part of our hobby plays an important role at the national meets. If you're not in to that but would like to occasionally wear something that to the casual observer appears to be from the same era as your car, it isn't difficult or very expensive to do. Fashion designers continue to look back to the thirties and forties for inspiration and you can often find new outfits that have the look of that period. You won't win any awards at the fashion shows, but you can look like you just arrived from the thirties in your Model A. The dress will be less expensive and can be worn on other occasions.

1930



### Tech Tip: Getting Hitched in a Model A

Although not recommended, it is possible to tow a very light weight trailer with a Model A in good running condition. If you don't have the skills or equipment to make your own hitch you may want to consider using a Reese Towpower 88001 Hitch Receiver, \$113.37. It is a class II hitch capable of supporting much more than the A can pull. It is designed to adjust to over fifty different cars but the Model A is not one of them, so be prepared to drill a few additional holes in the hitch to allow it to bolt up to the rear bumper arms, replacing the existing cross brace. Its multi-use design provides more material than you need for a Model A so you will need to cut away some material to make an attractive fit. The receiver fits perfectly under a 19" wheel. A drill press, power metal saw and a helper will make the job much easier.





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