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Unintended consequences

by Emeric Howell

That day in March 1985 started off the same as many days had before — nothing notable; nothing remarkable that would set it aside from any other day. The plan was to meet my car buddies for breakfast and go to the Kyana swap meet at the fairgrounds.

I went, not because I loved cars, but because I had nothing better to do. You see, all of my buddies were into the '60s muscle cars. Saying I had zero interest in those cars is an understatement.

It turns out this day was not like all the others. This day, a single Polaroid picture of an old car, thumbtacked to a trailer, would put a sparkle in my eye and the desire in me to own an antique car!

On Monday, I called about the car and went to see it that evening. It was in the back corner with everything in the garage piled against it. I could only stick my head in the passenger window, and look under it between the fender and wheel. After a couple of days of thinking, I called the owner back and closed the deal.

The car wasn't much to look at, painted dark green with a brush — with paint probably from the hardware store — and a homemade interior sewn by the previous owner's wife. But to me, the "A" was my pride and joy! I drove it nearly every day,



Looking back (literally and figuratively), 1985 and 2015.

and would take it apart one thing at a time to clean, repair, paint and assemble.

In August of that year, I became a member of the Falls City Model "A" Club. I have met multitudes of Model A people — many who have become good friends. Several were great mentors who helped me know what it takes to do an authentic and quality restoration that I could be proud of.

When I made the decision to do a full frame-off restoration, I was not aware what a large the task I had embarked on. It took me one day to take the car apart — and five years to put it back together! My brother Brian and I had to learn to repair metal, do body work and paint. Plus, the research and networking to know right from wrong was a huge task in itself.

My 1930 Town Sedan's restoration was completed in the spring of 1993. My first show was an AACA meet in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where I won

a first junior award!

A couple of years back, I joined the Central Kentucky Model A Club. It seemed like the natural thing to do since I have so many friends in CKMARC and enjoy touring with them.

My Model "A" journey began 30 years ago on that unnotable, unremarkable day in 1985. I never dreamed for a moment that little old Model "A" would have lit such a fire in me. I'm looking forward to many more years of touring with old friends — and all the new friends I will make along the way!



Emeric and his 1930 Town Sedan in 1985.

March tour to Natural Bridge

With cold temperatures and a chance of snow predicted for **Vickie and David Caudill's** March 28 tour to Natural Bridge State Park, many club members decided to drive modern. Several diehards braved the chilly day, however, and cranked up their Model A Fords.

Driving through the Red River Gorge, it was encouraging to see the hiking trailhead parking lots overflowing with cars and hikers. With the trees still bare, boulders the size of 1931 Fords were visible along the creek banks. Even in a modern car, the twisty road to the lodge was a visual treat.

Natural Bridge's dining room view, combined with good company and an "all you can eat" buffet, made for a superb Saturday. — **Kim Hollis**

June 6 tour to feature three covered bridges

Note: Save this info. The next issue of *Checkmark* will be published after the June 6 event.

The June 6 tour to Fleming County will start from McDonald's at the intersection of New Circle Road (Route 4) and Russell Cave Road in Lexington. Be prepared to leave at 9 a.m.

We will stop at McDonald's in Paris for others to meet with the group, and then travel Route 68 through Blue Licks to McDonald's in Flemingsburg. After a brief rest, we will drive to the Goddard covered bridge prior to lunch in Flemingsburg at Double S Entertainment, 150 Foster Street (off East Water Street).

After lunch, we will visit the Ringos Mills and Hillsboro covered bridges before returning home through Owingsville, Mt. Sterling and Winchester.

Carl and Ramona Goodwin are our guides for this scenic adventure.

Travel details for May tour

The tour to eastern Kentucky is May 15-17. On Friday, May 15, those who wish to depart from Lexington should plan to meet McDonald's on Winchester Road at I-75, and be prepared to leave at 8:30 a.m. **Delmer and Linda Dalton** will lead.

Bruce and Linda Bailey will lead another group, departing from McDonald's in Lancaster at 7:45 a.m.

Everyone will converge at 9:30 at the Dairy Queen in Clay City, and will travel together from there.

Recent restorations

Nancy Butler and **Barbara Tearney** are recovering from recent hip replacement surgery. We look forward to seeing them both on the road again soon.

For sale

Modern shock kit for Model A Ford — shocks, all brackets and hardware. No modifications to your car required. No holes to drill; uses the existing holes.

\$250.00 firm.

Frank Rice

(502) 834-9895

or frnkrc34@gmail.com

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*Above: Polly and Fred Tuttle in their 1931 Tudor.
Below: On the road again — leaving Lincoln birthplace.*



Abraham Lincoln birthplace near Hodgenville.

Barren River and Bardstown weekend

Maybe it was the fact Mother Nature behaved herself and supplied beautiful weather, or the fact **Linda and Bruce Bailey** and **Martha and Jerry Baker** had planned a relaxing tour. Either way, club members enjoyed their April 17-19 weekend touring Hodgenville, Glasgow, Glendale, Elizabethtown and Bardstown.

Friday was spent touring Hodgenville, the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. After an educational visit to the downtown Lincoln Museum, the club drove a short distance to the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. Adventurous members climbed the 56 steps to view the replica cabin of Abe's birthplace.

Friday ended at Barren River Lake State Park Lodge. Piling our buffet diner plates high, the club filled a private dining room. After dinner, club members revealed their hidden acting talents with a fun game of charades.

Redbuds were in full bloom during Saturday's drive to Glendale. Model As filled the quaint street in front of the Whistle Stop, our lunch destination. An afternoon visit to Swope's Antique Automotive Museum in Elizabethtown

ended with a heartwarming story told by Mr. Swope.

As the weekend progressed, Model As multiplied like rabbits. By mid tour, we were up to 26 Model As. Backroad locals stopped their riding lawn mowers and waved to the mile-long caravan.

At mid afternoon, we were instructed to pay close attention to our directions. Filled with unmarked roads, Bourbon country was evident when we passed one of Jim Beam's distilleries. Perched on a hill, Heaven Hill's rick houses welcomed us to Bardstown, our home for Saturday night.

After a steak dinner, all were invited to take part in a "meet and greet." While sharing our stories, it became clear that it's the friendships that make up the club; the cars are just a form of transportation.

A visit to the Bardstown Civil War Museum was arranged for Sunday morning. After lunch, participants traveled home their separate ways.

The winter had been long and brutal; April's tour was exactly what was needed to set the pace for the 2015 touring season. — **Kim Hollis**

For sale



1928 Ford Model A Tudor. Motor and transmission have been rebuilt. New starter, battery and radiator. Tires have less than 500 miles on them. Asking \$11,500. Great driver. Car located in Lexington, Ky.

Glenn Schmuck

859-223-7809 home — 859-940-8750 cell

dodge8965@windstream.net



1929 Tudor, dark blue, ready for touring with Mitchell overdrive, cast iron drums, H/C head, 60 amp alt, battery disconnect, automatic advance, leakless pump, halogen bulbs, turn signals, adj. driver seat, stainless muffler and bumpers, Firestone tires, trunk. Very good Model A in every aspect. Health forces sale. \$17,000 firm.

Wayne Godbey

Stanford, Ky.

(606) 365-9482 or (859) 583-9215.

1930 Model A tudor sedan. Good body and drive train. Can drive anywhere. Asking \$12,000.

Randy Brackett

502-695-8372

after 5:30 p.m.



'MARC' your calendar

- ✓ **May 15-17** — Tour to Jenny Wiley State Park and Pikeville-area attractions (**David and Vickie Caudill**). More information on page 2.
- ✓ **June 6** — Fleming County covered bridge tour with lunch in Flemingsburg (**Carl and Ramona Goodwin**). More information on page 2.
- ✓ **June 21-26** — MARC National Meet in Niagara Falls, Canada (**Burt and Rita Nation; Delmer and Linda Dalton**).

- ✓ **July 18** — Annual CKMARC car display at Keeneland Concours d' Elegance.
- ✓ **Aug. 15** — Mystery tour (**Burt and Rita Nation**).
- ✓ **Sept. 11 – 13** — "Drive Your Model A" Day in the Land Between the Lakes area (**Charlie and Susan Armstrong**). See registration form in the March issue of *Checkmark*.
- ✓ **Oct. 23-25** — Tour to Memory Lane in Rogersville, Tenn. (**John and Karen**

Blair; Bill and Judi Bates).

- ✓ **Nov. 14** — Tater Knob Pottery; lunch in Berea (**Kristin and Kenny Brake**).
- ✓ **Dec. 12** — CKMARC holiday potluck luncheon and election of officers at Southern Heights Baptist Church in Lexington.
- ✓ **Jan. 23, 2016** — Winter potluck gathering at the Rabbit Run Recreation Center in Lexington (**Delmer and Linda Dalton**).