

Chapter Coordinator Newsletter – May 2010

Chapters are continuing to send in their mileage to millionmiles@mafca.com. The miles are adding up as members continue to drive their A's. Remember, it is better to drive your Model A than leave it in a garage. Let's make this a Model A driving year as we reach a million miles...and more.

Chapter newsletters have a wealth of information. In a recent issue of the **Heart of America Model A Ford Club's** newsletter I found a photo of the Russell Stover Corporation's official Model A. The caption included, "How many of you knew this car existed"? I knew Sees Candy Company had Model A's but I didn't know about the Russell Stover Model A. Take a look. You can see it on Flickr at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/8492055@N08/3586919009/>.

A recent issue of *The Desert A*, the publication of the **Model A Restorers Club of Arizona**, talked about the idea of approaching the East Valley Institute of Technology to see if they would be interested in starting a program to restore Model As and other old cars. The chapter is also thinking of donating an A for them to restore. Another idea was to try and get some of their cars over to various high schools for kids to take a look at. They want to get kids and families interested in the hobby. Wonderful ideas.

My husband and I enjoy going to Phoenix for spring training. We plan to go again next April to see our home team the Brewers as well as a nearby rival the Cubs play. The Model A Restorers Club of Arizona also had an article about the Wrigley Mansion in Phoenix, which was built between 1929 and 1931 by William Wrigley, the father of chewing gum. It is close to the Biltmore Hotel, which Wrigley owned. I look forward to visiting the mansion when we are in Phoenix. Wrigley was quoted as saying, "Even in a little thing like a stock of gum quality is important. Wrigley's philosophy was: To be Always pleasant—Always patient—Always on time—Never to argue. He was a wise man.

I found a very interesting tidbit in the Hagerty Magazine. Hagerty wants to have their employees better understand the hobby they serve. So, the company gave them a project car to restore. The car they decided was a 1930 Ford Model A Roadster. It was purchased from a client in northern Michigan. During Michigan's long winter, the Hagerty employees – volunteers drawn primarily from Sales and Service Departments – worked on the old Ford learning various restoration skills. Hagerty promises announce the car's progress with the completed Model A to become part of the Hagerty collection.

Coffee drinkers will enjoy this. Redline Coffee has a line of coffees that came about from their Motorsports Enthusiasts Club. You can choose from some flavors like Open Throttle, Double Clutch and Downshift if you prefer decaf.

Cruisin' A's had a wonderful article titled "Alice Ramsey's Historic Cross-Country Drive" in a recent issue of their newsletter. It told about 22-year old Alice who, in 1909, made history as the first woman to drive across the United States. On June 9th, Alice started from 1930 Broadway in New York in a 1909 Maxwell DA. After the photographers snapped their pictures, Alice kissed her husband goodbye and cranked the motor to start the car's engine. Joining Alice were her two sister-in-laws and a 16-year

old friend. The article goes into detail about the trip, which ended on August 10, 1909. The trip took 59 days and they covered 3,800 miles. Alice continued her love of driving all through her life and in 1960 received the titles of “Woman Motorist of the Century” from the American Automobile Association and “First Lady of Automobile Travel” from the Automobile Manufacturers Association. In 2000, Alice became the first woman to be inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame. You can check out the entire article from the Smithsonian website. Ladies, get into those A’s and start driving. It’s not that difficult and lots of fun.

On the subject of driving, I sincerely hope seat belts have been installed in your Model A’s. If you haven’t, go to http://www.mafca.com/seat_belts.html. I did. It shows photos of the car after an accident on a rural road. All four people in the car were wearing seatbelts. They were injured but survived. I doubt the outcome would be the same had they not been wearing seatbelts. As much as we love our Model A’s, they can be replaced but people cannot. Chapters please discuss this topic with your members and encourage their use of seatbelts. Installing seat belts WILL save lives.

The Model A Ford Club of Great Britain had a recap of a recent Trial. This is not one of your Sunday afternoon tours. Trials are held off-road where mud lives, leaving deep ruts that are not necessarily Model A friendly. The Model A’s traveled through countryside that required more bouncing for some and easier for other drivers. The Trial included flat sections followed by 90-degree turns and fast uphill sections. There were large rocks and tree roots to avoid. The photos were amazing. An earlier Trial had a new competitor with a Model A freshly imported from America.

I was reading the automotive section of my local newspaper this morning when I noticed a headline that caught my eye immediately. It read: *Today’s automakers focus on women as consumers*. The article included a Ford ad from 1949 with the caption that times and attitudes have changed since this ad. My first thought was that the ad they chose for this article did not focus on men as consumers and didn’t seem to go with the article’s theme. My next thought was that the writer was obviously very young and didn’t do much research. There are numerous Model A ads that are geared to the woman driver. I decided not to write a letter to the editor pointing this out because the article did have some interesting points. The most interesting came from Ford researchers who queried women as to the features they want on their vehicles. The top four features were: Run-flat tires (57%), Rain sensing wipers (44%), auto part assist (32% and tire pressure monitoring system (18%). Model A’s didn’t have any of these features but the Model A did get women driving.

Shade Tree A’s mentioned artist George Shumate and referred to a new print that featured a Model A Pickup. I was interested, as we own a pickup. So, I search and found the website of the artist (www.georgeshumate.com). There are six prints that feature Model A’s and they are all wonderful. What was even better was reading about the artist and about his interest in Model A’s. I am deciding which print to add to our home. Check out his work and perhaps you will also be finding wall space in your home for one of the prints.

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2010 Chapter Coordinator***