



January 2018

# Spoken Wheels

## THE NEXT MEETING

**General Meeting - 7:00 PM**, Friday, January 26 at new location

### Program - The Santa Anita Depot at the Arboretum

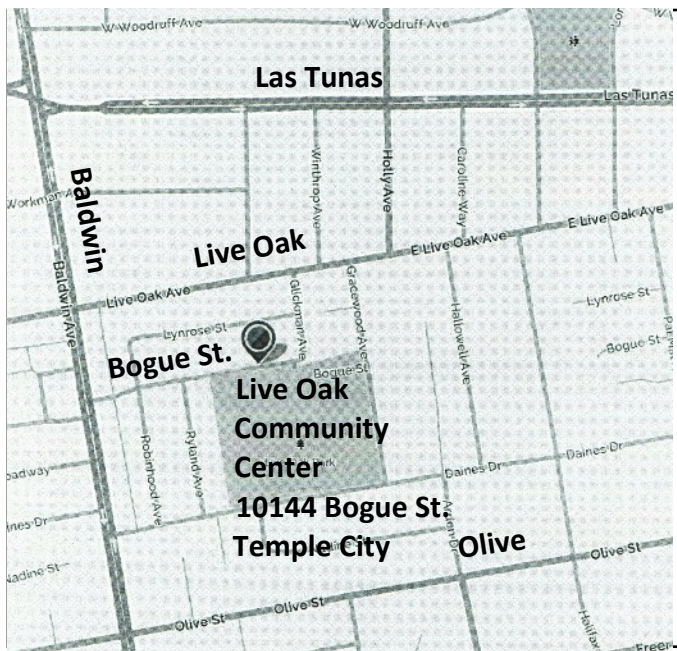
The program will be presented by Dale Carter who is a docent at the Santa Anita Depot at the Arboretum in Arcadia. He is also a participant with the History Preservation group at the Arboretum and a member of the Speaker's Bureau. He is an Arcadia Museum commissioner.

## NEWS BITS

### SAA's Meeting Time and Location Changed

Members are reminded that beginning with our January 26, 2018 meeting we will gather at Live Oak Community Center, 10144 Bogue St., Temple City. **Our start time will be 7:00 PM** rather than 7:30 PM. Mark your calendars and write yourself a note.

The new meeting place is not too far from our previous meeting place. Those using the 210 Freeway will find Baldwin Ave. an appropriate street to drive South to Bogue Street.



New Bits continued on page 3

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -

**BOB TRAVIS**

Let me begin by thanking the club for electing me President- again! The last time I was elected I began my term with a number of goals and objectives. By the time my term was over I discovered that none (well maybe one) of them had been accomplished, yet the club functioned just fine. So, I want you to know that there won't be anymore of that foolishness this time. It will be straight down the road, steady as she goes.

I wish to clear up a miss communication involving our support of the Greater San Gabriel Valley Airport annual fair held last November. We had 15 members bring their cars for display and we were under the impression that we were to receive a 50% discount on a breakfast meal at the airport restaurant . Well, that didn't happen! Just before the holidays I met with the airport manager and restaurant owner in an effort to learn what was the problem. It turns out that the discount was available only to those who participate in their regular Sunday of the month air/car show. After considerable discussion, the restaurant owner agreed to offer the discount to the 15 members who attended the fair at January's men's breakfast on a one time basis. I am happy to report that the restaurant owner honored his commitment and nine members enjoyed their meal with a 50% discount.

I am sorry to report that the popular seminars held after the men's breakfast will be suspended for a few months. The current contractor who is re-paving the runways has taken over the meeting room. It is estimated that it will be three to four months before the room is available to us again.

Until next time, keep up the good driving and let's "get on the road again".

### Are Your 2018 Dues Past Due?

Dues for 2018 were payable in December 2017 and became delinquent on January 1, 2018. Annual dues are \$30 per year. Send your checks to Sheri Johnson, 844 Diamond St, Monrovia, CA 91016.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### January

- 20 - Reed Auto Collection Tour, Sante Fe Springs  
26 - General Meeting, 7:00 PM  
Live Oak Community Center, Temple City

### February

- 12 - Ladies' Brunch, Annia's, San Gabriel Valley Airport, 11:00 AM  
14 - Board meeting, 7:00 PM  
Live Oak Community Center, Temple City  
15 - Men's Breakfast, Annia's, San Gabriel Valley Airport, 9:00 AM  
17 - William S. Hart Park & Museum, Santa Clarita, See page 3

### March

- 10 & 11 - Orange Empire Train Museum, Perris CA.  
Two day tour w/one overnight (a good one). See page 3  
17 - St Patricks Day Lunch w/ the SCRG MARC club, see page 4  
24 - Peterson Auto Museum, Details TBA

### May

- 20 - Quakes baseball game, Details TBA

## BIRTHDAYS & ANIVERESARIES

### February Birthdays

- 2 - Patty Lampassi  
5 - Keith Smith  
5 - Karen Blaylock  
8 - Myriam Davies  
16 - Nancy Sharpe  
21 - Lori Bonner  
21 - Beverly Kniest  
29 - Michael Srio

### February Anniversaries

- 10 - Patrick & Martha Utter  
14 - Brad & Vicky Balmont  
14 - Tony & Kathy Catroppa  
14 - Richard & Sharon Rhode  
24 - Carl & Sue Rogers  
25 - Mark & Lisa Henzel  
28 - Mel & Maria Foye

## NEW MEMBERS

There are no new members who joined in the last six months. So welcome everyone you don't know at the next meeting.

## INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS

- I talk to myself, because I sometimes need expert advice.
- I consider "In Style" to be the clothes that still fit.
- My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance for idiots that needs work.
- The biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
- These days, "on time" is when I get there.
- Lately, I've noticed people my age are so much older than me.
- Some days I have no idea what I'm doing out of bed.
- I thought growing old would take longer.

## 2018 OFFICERS, BOARD & CHAIRS

### OFFICERS

- President:**  
Bob Travis 626-574-0665  
**Vice President:**  
Tracy Butkus 626-279-9724  
**Secretary:**  
Elaine Perry 626-443-0638  
**Treasurer:**  
Sheri Johnson 626-446-3367  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Chuck Mauch 626-674-0660  
Carol Emanuelli 626-286-5267  
Jim Frick 626-303-5233  
Jim Kroeger 626-449-6917  
John McDannel 626-791-3221

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Activities:**  
Elaine Perry 626-443-0638  
**Advertising:**  
John Emanuelli 626-286-5267  
**Fashion: Coordinator:**  
Susan Homet 626-798-4964  
**Ladies' Day:**  
Open  
**Low End Boys:**  
Mickey Fruchter 626-797-2048  
**Membership:**  
Randy Harper 626-357-6442  
**Merchandise:**  
Joe Wilson 818-790-0995  
**Raffle - Ladies':**  
Bea Fruchter 626-797-2048

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS - Continued

- Raffle - Men's:**  
Don McBride 626-792-8652  
**Raffle - 50-25-25**  
Tom Johnson 626-446-3367  
**Refreshment Host:**  
Carol Emanuelli 626-286-5267  
**Refreshment Sign-ups:**  
Vicky Bartlett 626-799-6338  
**Restorer Articles:**  
Keith Smith 661-298-0625  
**Roster:**  
Joe Wilson 818-790-0995  
**Seminars:**  
Bob Travis 626-574-0665  
**Southern CA MAFCA Rep. (SCRG):**  
Marlin Perry 626-443-0638  
**Spoken Wheels:**  
Editor-Joe Wilson 818-790-0995  
Proofers - Olive Moore & Elaine Perry  
Mailers -Open  
**Sunshine Lady:**  
Diana Kincart 626-446-7876  
**Technical Director:**  
Chris Wickersham 626-639-3141  
**TourMeister:**  
Jim Kroeger 626-710-6592  
**Webmaster:**  
Eric Sandberg 818-330-9311  
**Youth Outreach:**  
Wilbert Smith Ph.D. 626-791-7636  
  
Santa Anita A's Mailing Address:  
PO Box 660904 Arcadia, CA 91066  
Web Site: [www.santaanitas.org](http://www.santaanitas.org)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Sunshine Lady** - Diana Kincart, Miss Sunbeam  
Get well cards sent to Mary McDannel, Pete Henderson, Gloria Henderson

**Cookie Bringers** - Vicky Bartlett, Head Cookie  
Bringers are Patty Lutz, Mickey Fruchter, Barbara Dawson, Nancy Stancil

### Photo Donors -

Vicky Bartlett, Wilbert Smith, Joe Wilson, John Emanuelli

### Model A Ford Club of America

Santa Anita A's is a chartered member of the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA). It is a California not-for-profit corporation and a national historical society dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Model A Ford vehicles as manufactured from 1928 through 1931. We encourage our SAA members to also participate in the MAFCA organization. Check out their web site. It contains a wide variety of information about the organization, activities, technical references and instructions on how to join the organization. ([www.mafca.com](http://www.mafca.com))

## MORE NEWS BITS

Continued from page 1

### Annual Club Auction at February meeting

Members are reminded that they should sort through their "stuff" in preparation for the annual club auction which will be held at the February meeting. Now is the time to start your spring cleaning. Pull out all those things you no longer use and put them in your "auction" pile.

### Club makes donations

At their January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting the board voted to award our guest speakers \$25 for their presentation at our general meetings. This will replace the past practice of giving them a SAA's coffee mug or wine glass.

The board approved a \$25 donation to the CCRG to support their auction in connection with the Jamboree to be held in Cambria in April. A number of SAA's members will be attending the event.

The board also approved a \$25 donation to the Diamond Tread Chapter, supporting their annual Henry Ford Picnic.

### 2018 Roster

Preparation of the 2018 club roster has begun. An email was sent to all members on January 14<sup>th</sup> requesting that they verify that the information under their name on the attached roster was correct and complete. If you have not responded to that email you are asked to do so quickly so that we may proceed to publish the new 2018 roster.

### Action Required by members without email

Members who do not have email, are asked to look at your 2017 copy of the roster and verify that your information is correct and complete. If it is not correct, please call Joe Wilson (818-790-0995) and report what changes need to be made. If you can not find your old roster, call Joe so he can read it to you. Please do this quickly so your update information can be included in the new roster.

The Roster will include all Club members who are current with their 2018 dues.

### Jay Leno will draw Winning ticket

The 1928 Model A Ford Phaeton being restored by the Pasadena High School is near completion and will soon be ready for delivery to the holder of the wining raffle ticket. Wilbert Smith has arranged for the wining raffle ticket to be drawn by Jay Leno at a special event now being organized; time and place to be announced.

Raffle tickets are still available. Contact Wilbert Smith.



## COMING EVENTS

### William S. Hart Museum Tour

Sat. Feb. 17

by Jim Kroeger

When we think of famous cowboys, names such as Gene Autry, Hopalong Cassidy and Tom Mix come to mind. You may add William S. Hart's name to that list as well. We will learn all about the man as we travel to his Horseshoe Ranch in Newhall on Saturday, February 17th.

Staring in over 70 films during the silent era from 1914-25, Hart became one of the most popular and successful actors in the world, on par with Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks. After retiring from the movies in 1925 he built a 10,000-square-foot, Spanish Colonial Revival mansion on a hilltop. It is now a museum containing his original furnishings from the period.

We will meet at the Kroeger home, located at 2669 E. Villa Street in Pasadena at 8:45 AM. This will be a 30 mile surface street tour going to the museum but you will have the option of returning via freeway or being led back on regular roads. Keeping with our western theme we will head over to nearby Dario's for some delicious Mexican cuisine at lunch. Sign up for the Hart Tour at the next general meeting or call Jim Kroeger at 626-710-6592.

### Orange Empire Railway Museum

Saturday and Sunday, March 10 and 11

Jim Kroeger

Many of us remember the "Big Red Cars" that traveled the rails of Los Angeles up until the 60's. These streetcars formed a massive transportation system that was the world's largest at the time.

The West's most prominent collection of trolleys and interurban cars will be our destination as we travel to the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris, California. This will be an overnight tour beginning on Saturday, March 10th and returning on Sunday March 11th, just as daylight savings time begins.

Aside from being able to ride the "Big Red Cars", the museum's steam locomotive will be in operation and we will have special behind-the-scenes access to barns not usually open to the public. Special parking will be provided for our Model A's and our overnight accommodations will be at the Red Lion Inn in Perris which is only a short distance from the museum.

This is a great opportunity for our members to experience a simple overnight tour. Currently we are asking those interested to sign up at the next general meeting in January. Once we know the size of our group we will let you know the cost and itinerary of the tour as details emerge. Please call Jim Kroeger at 626-710-6592 for more information. Hope to see you on tour.

## St. Patrick's Day Party

March 17

by Bob Moore

The San Gabriel Valley MARC has invited the Santa Anita A's to a St. Patrick's Day party on Saturday, March 17. The party will be at 12 noon at the Peppertree Restaurant, 1020 E. Rt. 66, Glendora. A traditional Irish lunch will include a salad, corned beef and cabbage, potatoes and cake for dessert. Nonalcoholic drinks are included. There will be music, singing, stories and games. The price for the lunch including tax and tip is \$14.50 per person. The restaurant wants to know the number attending by March 10, so please pay Sheri Johnson at either the January or February meeting or send her a check payable to the Santa Anita A's. Wear your green and bring your Irish spirit.

Drive your Model A especially if it is green or if it has black fenders. Join the group that will depart from the Duarte Walmart parking lot at 11:25 AM. Gather in the northwest corner of the lot closest to Mountain Avenue. All surface streets for the 8 ½ mile drive.



## PAST EVENTS

## Holiday Motor Excursion

Saturday, December 30

by Joe Wilson

The 62nd annual Holiday Motor Excursion, sponsored by the Horseless Carriage Society of Southern California was held at the Santa Anita Racetrack in Arcadia on Saturday December 30. This was the first time the event was held at this facility and it was well organized. It was a beautiful day which brought out a wide variety of interesting classic cars.

Following the show, cars 1932 and older were invited to participate in a driving tour which took them through San Marino and Pasadena. There was a donut rest stop at a park in Pasadena with some drivers reaching the final lunch destination, Clearman's restaurant.

Our Model A's were well represented with 26 SAA's club members on hand for the show, with some participating in the driving tour.



# John and Sue Chandler's 1931 Deluxe Roadster Named Jezibel - Part 1

by Doug Nielsen

*This story about the history of Sue and John Chandler's 1931 Deluxe Roadster was written by club member Doug Nielsen and was first published in the January 2002 issue of the Spoken Wheels. It is an interesting story in that it documents the history of his car "Jezibel" beginning in 1951. John was involved with the formation of MAFCA in 1956. John died in 2017 but his wife, Sue, still has Jezibel.*

When high school senior John Chandler drove over to Red Grow's Auto Sales lot in Glendale and enrolled in the newly formed chapter of the Model A Restorers Club in 1956, he could never have imagined that he would be one of three men in this group of 34 to fall in love with the same lady, Henry's lady, a sporty red and black 1931 Deluxe Roadster named Jezibel.

The Model A Ford Club of America was soon spawned by this group of men after breaking ties with MARC. The first issue of The Restorer was published as the May/June 1956 issue and included the photo duplicated here. John has the original in his scrapbook. The Restorer also included a "A column by members about their cars" called "my bAby. The first guest columnist was Red Grow who wrote about his 1930 Sport Coupe named Betsy.

The story of Jezibel starts in 1951 when Paul Peterson purchased the low mileage Roadster for \$400 from the original owners in Pomona. Wanting a "good as new" Roadster, Paul completely disassembled the A and thus began a four year restoration project.

Fellow MAFCA member and the first Tour Director, John Wedberg, writes that "Jezibel represents a tribute to two men: Henry Ford whose mechanical genius contrived the Model A and Paul Peterson who possessed another genius, that of his ability first and then the amazing perseverance and attention to detail which was centered on one objective: that of reconstruction to the last painstaking and accurate detail, an exact representation of the 1931 Deluxe Roadster.

Peterson used many NOS parts which could still be found in Ford dealers storage bins, but often involved hours of searching to find a single bolt or part needed to replace a worn one. Paul worked as a driver and chauffeur for William S. Paley, the CEO of CBS, who always felt safe



*John Chandler, a senior in high school (far left) participates in an early MAFCA event.*

when Paul was driving. For two years after he purchased the A he continued to work for Paley, working on the Roadster whenever he had time. He then decided to quit his job and devote full time to the restoration project for the next two years. He spent over \$3,700 on the project not counting his own labor, a cost of nearly ten times the original cost of the car. It had been Paul's dream that his Jezibel would be placed in the Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. Just as the meticulous restoration was finished, but before he could mount the wheels and drive Jezibel. Paul suffered a fatal heart attack and died in his sleep at the age of 47.

The second issue of The Restorer had allotted the space in the "my bAby" column for Peterson to tell his story about the restoration. His friend, John Wedberg gathered up the notes that Paul had written and used the column to pay tribute to this man who had a four year love affair with an A named Jezibel.

Wedberg wrote to the Ford Motor Company, Ford Times and the Ford Museum in an effort to get the car displayed in the Ford Museum Rotunda, even to have it donated and pay the cost to transport it there, but to no avail, an apparent corporate bungling by Ford Motor Company.

Paul Peterson's mother, Mamie Peterson of Waterloo, Iowa was the administrator of Paul's estate. With the turn down of the A by the Ford Museum, it was up to her to dispose of Jezibel. She wrote to John Wedberg that a certain Mr. Butler, an apparent west coast lawyer, had a buyer for the car for \$125, but told Wedberg that "Paul always improved any car he owned" and thought it may be worth more. It was obvious that she had no idea of its value.

An early pursuer of Jezibel was Red Grow. In May, 1956 he wrote a letter to Mamie Peterson wanting to buy the car. He also wrote a letter to a lady friend of Paul's and told her he wanted to buy the car. In the end, Wedberg got the car. On August 30, 1956 Mamie Peterson wrote a letter to Wedberg and thanked him for his check for the car and told him that if he gets more for it just keep it for his time and trouble. The final price was not noted.

John Wedberg saw to it that the little red roadster didn't sit in the garage. He toured and showed the car throughout Southern



*Jezibel, appeared on the cover of Motor Trend in August of 1962.*



*Jezibel shown at a MAFCA national restoration meet in San Francisco, 1967*

## ACCC Report

*Below are excerpts from the December 2017 newsletter published by the "Association of California Car Clubs" (ACCC) of which we are a member. The article directs your attention to the recently passed increase in the California gas tax and Vehicle Registration fees and invites you to let your Senator and assembly member know how you feel about these tax increases.*

### Gas Tax Increase

You are now paying the 12 cent increase in gas taxes. If you add in the hidden cap & trade gas tax as well as the 12 cent increase you are now paying over 71 cents per gallon in gas taxes. Isn't it peculiar that the state of California makes more money off a gallon of gas than the oil companies?

Assemblyman Travis Allen (R-Huntington Beach) spoke of developing a petition to repeal the gas tax and registration fees from bill SB1. He is doing just that and is seeking an initiative to repeal gas tax and vehicle fee increases signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown that will raise \$5.2 billion annually for road repairs and mass transit. Allen filed papers with the state attorney general to prepare a ballot title and summary so he can work to collect 365,000 signatures from registered voters in 150 days to put the measure on the ballot.

He noted that the bill signed by Gov. Jerry Brown raised taxes on a gallon of gas by 12 cents on Nov 1, while adding 20 cents per gallon to the tax on diesel. It also will create new vehicle registration fees based on the value of your vehicle.

"Jerry Brown's decision to push through the largest gas tax increase in California's history without the approval of voters demonstrated a complete disregard for ordinary Californians," Allen said. "This ballot initiative will correct Brown's failure and allow the people of California to decide for themselves if they want to raise their taxes." Others, including the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association have been discussing possible initiatives to repeal the gas tax. When Allen collects enough signatures, the initiative would be placed on the November 2018 ballot.

The gas tax and registration fee increases will be hard on low income Californians and folks on fixed incomes. In addition, the increase in the fuel taxes on diesel will cause the prices of everything to increase. Groceries, clothes and staple items will all cost every Californian more.

It has been reported that there is more than enough money to fix the roads and infrastructure provided that the money isn't diverted as it was in the past decade. Every Californian that drives a vehicle will be affected and every Californian needs to sign the petition! As you may

know Governor Brown signed this legislation April 28' and the bill became effective November 1, 2017.

Brown stated that the new law will cost Californians less than \$10.00 per month which is preposterous. We have done the math and the new law will cost the average Californian \$300.00 per year or more depending on miles driven; fuel economy; and the dollar value of the vehicle.

In addition, Brown basically bribed legislators with almost \$1 billion in pork for their pet projects which we feel may be illegal.

All in all if you consider the increases in fuel taxes and registration fees this new law is not affordable to lower income folks who are currently living pay check to pay check just to put food on the table and pay their bills.

The other down-side to this bill will be the increased costs in everything we buy at the store due to increase in diesel fuel tax and diesel sales taxes at the pump.

There's no doubt that this \$52 billion increase will be harmful to all who drive a car and it didn't have to happen. The problem in Sacramento is not the lack of funds. . . the problem is that our leadership in Sacramento have big-time problems managing the taxes we send them.

Let your Senator and Assembly member know how you feel regarding the new tax increase.

### Vehicle Registration Fee Increase

Vehicle registration (VR) renewals with fees due on or after January 1, 2018 will increase due to the new transportation improvement fee (TIF) which is based upon the current market value of the vehicle.

Vehicle Value Registration Fee Amount Increase:

Zero to \$4,999	\$25
\$5,000 to \$24,999	\$50
\$25,000 to \$34,999	\$100
\$35,000 to \$59,999	\$150
\$60,000 and higher	\$175

Vehicles exempt from registration fees are vehicles currently on planned nonoperational (PNO) status and vehicles with historical plates. Senate Bill (SB1) created the transportation improvement fee (TIF) under the State Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program to provide additional resources for the state to repair infrastructure and for road maintenance. The TIF is a new variable fee that will be assessed as part of the total VR fee on specified vehicles.

**Jim Constantian**

Jim Constantian has been a member of the Santa Anita A's since January, 1982 and bought his '30 Closed Cab Pickup on July 2, 1982 (the man has a remarkable memory for dates!). He bought the truck from a man named Bill Hawks, whom some of our real long-time members may recall. He paid \$4,500 for it (he has a remarkable memory of numbers too).

Jim's interest in the Model A stemmed from hearing his father's stories about his Model A, a 1929 Roadster which his parents bought him as a gift in 1929. His father had long gotten rid of the car before Jim was born, but talked about it a lot, kindling an interest in Jim which long-survived.

Jim has now owned that truck for 36 years. It's had lots of work done on it over the years and is still driven regularly by Jim.

Jim attended P.C.C. and took a two-year course in offset printing. He graduated with an A.A. degree and embarked on a printing career. He worked in various aspects of the printing field, including some part-time in recent years, until retiring for good in 2010.

Many of us have been entertained by Jim's non-Model A hobby: old records and record players. When I asked how he got into this field, Jim told an interesting story.

When he was about 12 years old, Jim's parents sent him to Camp Bluff Lake, a YMCA camp in the mountains. While there, Jim received a postcard from his dad saying he had found a dusty old wooden box on a trip to the incinerator. The box was filled with records from the 20's and Jim could have it when he got home. So, in about 1961 Jim's career as a phonograph and record collector began.

And what a career it has become! Jim currently owns about 100 phonograph machines! The oldest is an 1898 "Suitcase Home Edison Cylinder Phonograph." The others range in vintage up until about 1953.

If you have 100 phonographs, what do you play on them? Well, in Jim's case, you select from the over 40,000 recordings you own.

I will tell you, Jim has an almost photographic memory of songs, artists and recordings. To chat with him is to get an education in the early days of recordings.

He gives programs to historical societies, plays at parties and other events, and has even been our club's program a time or two. I, for one, would like to have him back and hear more of his fascinating stories.

The overall look of the fashions of our era has often been described as boyish. Probably the reason for this would have to do with the straight lines of the garments and the much shorter hair styles as well as the head-hugging cloche hats. The overall impression was of women on the move! Women had just gotten the right to vote, and were definitely on a roll.

The clothing was much less cumbersome and definitely much more comfortable to wear. Waistlines dropped and hemlines rose and a new straighter, much more athletic profile emerged. Clumsy, numerous buttons and lacing were replaced with hooks and eyes, snaps and a new type of closure, the zipper!

Another change was in the undergarments women were now able to wear. The earlier constrictive corsets and girdles were out! And in their place were now chemises, camisoles and new simple bras. The new look called for the flat, boyish chest. Ahh, the new era brought new styles and new comfort which women were thrilled to adopt!



## THE MODEL A STEERING GEAR

Is your Model A hard to steer? Does your Model A have excessive play in the steering and wants to wander from one side of the road to the other? If so, it may be time to take a look at the steering gear and consider options available to us today to correct or improve the steering of our cars.

Before you consider rebuilding or replacing the steering gear, be sure to perform a complete inspection of the other components that make up the steering system including the tie rod and drag link ends, steering arms, pitman arm, front spindle bolts (King Pins) and bushings, front radius rod ball and socket, wheel bearings, spring shackles and spring mounting. Just rebuilding or replacing the steering gear will not correct poor steering if other related components are worn out. Also, incorrect front wheel alignment can contribute to poor steering. Sometimes, a good adjustment of the tie rod ends and steering gear, an alignment of the front wheels and a complete lubrication of the steering and suspension components will greatly improve the steering of your Model A. But for this discussion, we will focus on the options we have as far as the steering gear is concerned.

If you are rebuilding the original Model A steering gear there are good reproduction parts available today to completely rebuild the steering gear. With good internal components it is possible to adjust the late "Gemmer" type two tooth steering gears so they have very little play in the straight ahead position without any tight spots or binding off center, the earlier seven tooth steering gears are a little more challenging. Some owners with earlier cars have replaced the older seven tooth steering gears with later two tooth "Gemmer" steering gears. If you still find your Model A hard to steer, a shorter pitman arm is available that will make the steering easier. A lot of owners have installed the shorter pitman arm on their street and tour cars with good results.

If you want to retain the appearance of the original Model A "Gemmer" type steering gear but want to have better and easier steering, the worm and sector from a 1932-34 Ford passenger car with 15:1 ratio will fit the two tooth Model A steering gear without modification. However a '32-'34 pitman arm must also be used as the later sector shaft is splined and the square Model A pitman arm opening will not fit. The design of the later worm and sector makes steering easier and more precise.

Another option is to install a Ford F100 steering gear that has been modified to fit the Model A. This steering gear will result in even easier steering and is a definite improvement over the original Model A steering gears. Many Model A owners have converted to F100 steering. A word of caution

however is to NOT use the shortened Model A pitman arm with the F-100 steering gear. This will result in very "slow" and vague steering. The stock length pitman arm with the F-100 steering will work just fine. For more information on the F-100 conversion, contact SAA's member Randy Gross. Randy can provide you with a complete rebuilt and modified F-100 steering gear that is ready to install in your Model A.



### TECH TIP

To insure easy steering and long life of the internal components, it is very important to keep the steering gear in your Model A full of lubricant. Ford specified using (600W) Gear lubricant in the steering gear. As originally designed, the Model A steering gear did not include a seal on the sector shaft and the steering gears tended to leak and lose the lubricant. To overcome this, some owners would fill the steering gears with chassis grease which would reduce leaks but grease is not a fluid and some steering gear components would not get properly lubricated. A good solution to a leaking steering gear is to use Penrite Steering Box Lube. This is a very heavy (1200W) lubricant that will "flow" and, in most cases, will not leak. Penrite is available from Restoration Supply in Escondido, CA. (800) 306-7008 [www.RestorationStuff.com](http://www.RestorationStuff.com).





The "Low End Boys" assisted Santa Anita A's Member, Thurston LeVay in removing his old battery and installing a new one in his Phaeton. We had a call a day later to come back and help get his car to run. It seemed that it would run for a few seconds and then die. We checked for spark and gas supply. It seemed that the gas lines were clear and we had spark. We taped the carburetor lightly with a hammer and it seems that the float was stuck. The last we saw Thurston he was driving his car for more gas. Thurston is very interested in selling his car.

The "Boys" worked on Barbara Bishops' car, as it would not start. With a little T.L.C. the car was running quite well. Then we had a call for help from Don Dawkins as he needed to get his car started and running. At last report it was in good running condition.

In between helping members with their cars, we have been helping with the Pasadena High School Model A Project getting it ready for the "Big Raffle". Also, when time permits, we have been helping Ronnie Valentine get his car on the road as well as work on Mickey's car.

Don't forget .... Call Mickey (626) 797-2048 if you are in need of help on your Model A. We will do our best to help you out.

### 1931 Roadster Named Jezibel - Continued from page 5

California, often competing in the same shows as Red Grow's Betsy. Jezibel sometimes bested the competition, even that of Betsy. (Perhaps Red had anticipated the competition and that's why he wanted to buy the car.) In 1957, Arcadia High senior John Chandler



attended the 2nd annual Model A Meet at Buena Vista Park in Burbank and saw Jezibel win the First Place Prize of the meet. He could only dream of owning this flashy roadster at that time, but it was a lady that he would not forget about.

During a photo session at the Bel Air Country Club while John W. was dusting off Jezibel, he heard a voice behind him say, "I used to have a car just like yours? Turning around he was very surprised to find Clark Gable admiring his car! Perhaps Gable drove down to the Club in his Duesenberg Convertible Coupe to reminisce about his early days with a more modest set of wheels.

To see the accomplishments of John W. and Jezibel you only need to turn to the early issues of The Restorer, where there are several stories of the results of showing the Model A. For example, in the Sept/Oct 1957 issue it is reported, "At the 2nd San Fernando Valley Concours, John Wedberg's Jezibel did Henry and the club proud. John took two trophies to add to his growing collection: Best of Class and Best American Car in the Show."

*Story to be continued in next issue*

### For Sale

#### Early 1928 Model A Phaeton

Previous restoration. Body in good condition. Top metal frame is new. New canvas top has been custom fitted. Rebuilt leakless water pump, rebuilt carburetor and distributor.

Complete wiring harness replaced. New 6 volt alternator. Headlights have halogen bulbs, taillights are LED's. "Mel Gross" overdrive provides 4<sup>th</sup> speed. Brakes are



adjusted. New white wall tires on black powder coated wheels. 1928 year of manufacture is registered with DMV plates. Rebuilt spare parts include carburetor, distributor and water pump.

Asking \$15,000 or make an offer.

Contact Thurston LeVay at 626-239-6789

### For Sale

#### 1930 Model A STD coupe

A good looking car featuring:

- \* Overdrive
- \* Lebaron Bonney interior
- \* Front tool box
- \* Temp. guage
- \* New battery
- \* Seat belts
- \* 6 volt alternator



Asking Price \$15,000


Contact: Bob Kincart

626-446-7876

Spoken Wheels is the monthly publication of the Santa Anita A's based in Arcadia, California. The organization is dedicated to the restoration, preservation and enjoyment of the Model A Ford. It is a chapter of the national organization, MAFCA (Model A Ford Club of America). Meetings are held on the last Friday of most months at the Live Oak Community Center, 10144 Bogue St., Temple City, California. Mailing address PO Box 660904, Arcadia., CA 91066. Website [www.santaanitaas.org](http://www.santaanitaas.org)

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## Here's Your Chance

The Pasadena High School Model A Club is offering you a chance to win the 1928 Ford Phaeton that they are restoring. A limited number of raffle tickets are being offered.

Get your ticket by contacting the "Up and Coming Foundation" 626-375-1367, Wilbert Smith 626-791-7636 or John Emanuelli 626-286-5267



## Don't Forget!

- Dues for 2018 are payable in December and will be past due on January 31.
- Our meeting place and start time has changed beginning with our January 26, 2018 meeting.
- Buy another raffle ticket for the Pasadena High School restored 1928 Model A Phaeton.
- Check out the up-coming tours. They provide the ability to get your car on the road with a lot of companionship and technical support during the tour.
- If you haven't already done so, please respond to the request for any corrections that need to be made under your name as it appears in the club roster.



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