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Gayle Roark

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Don Rogers

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2022-2024

Peggy Crawford

2022-2024

George Ball

2024-2026

David Diehl

2024-2026

Don Taylor

2024-2026



**EARLY FORD V-8
CLUB**

ON THE ROAD

ST. LOUIS R.G. #124

January 2024

Volume 39 No. 1

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**A Fresh Shipment
Of 1950 Fords**

Jan 2004 President's Message

By Bruce Williams

The Christmas Party has come and gone, and thanks to Russell and Gayle for again opening their awesome garage to our group. It was a great turnout, and all had much fun. The food was excellent and bountiful, as always. And in spite of “downsizing” his collection, Russell had lots to see in his fleet. It seemed that Russell’s new tractor was getting a lot of attention!



The McDurmonts are hosting the January meeting... thanks Laura and Lee for so eagerly stepping up! And there are lots of open months available to host a meeting. Please don't be shy to host a meeting. There are a lot of easy ways to host, and you'll be stepping up to help the club.

VERY IMPORTANT... it's dues time. So if you haven't already paid, please send your \$20 annual dues (check payable to “StL Region #124 Early Ford V8 Club”) to:

Theresa Williams- Treasurer

1487 Wilton Lane

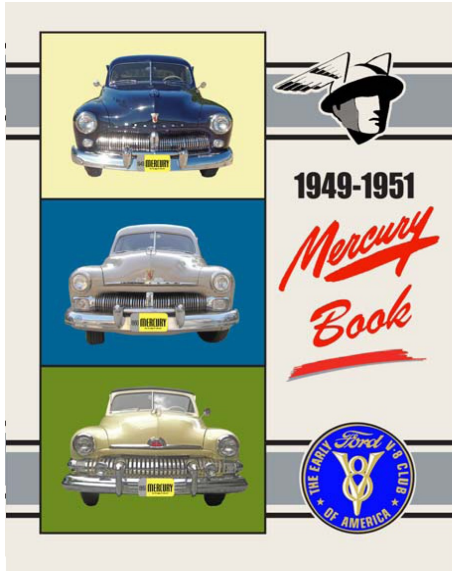
Kirkwood, MO 63122

That's it for the “money” part of this message. So please have a wonderful holiday season and a fantastic New Year. And be sure to join us in all up-coming V8 events. There will be lots of fun activities in 2024.

Thanks,

Bruce

What a great December Christmas party at the Roark's last month. There were almost 30 people in attendance. We all did our best to leave no scraps of food for dessert. Five members have signed up for next year already so the year is getting off to great start. Don't forget to read about the Jan meeting hosted by the McDurmonts and R.S.V.P. before Jan 18th. The long awaited 1949-51 Mercury Book is finally completed and shipping to our anxious customers. See details below:



ANNOUNCING

The 1949-1951 Mercury Book
 Authored by Gene Napoliello
 Former 1949-1951 Advisor

The long awaited and latest book in the Early Ford V-8 Club series. Over 400 fact filled pages in a 8 1/2 by 11 spiral bound format with illustrations, statistics, paint samples and upholstery covering the most recognized body styles of Mercury. Seven chapters covering exterior, interior, chassis, engine, accessories and a special chapter on Station Wagons. Eleven part Ap-

pendix covering tools, detailed specifications, literature, upholstery and trim, installation guides and templates. Orders are being taken now for delivery before Christmas.

The 1949-1951 Mercury Book - - - - - Quantity _____ Shipping* _____ Total \$ _____
 @ \$60.00

All Funds in US\$

* USA Shipping Cost 1 Book \$7 2 Books \$14 3 Books \$16
 * CANADA Shipping Cost 1 Book \$25 2 Books \$46 3 Books \$55
 * Other Countries Shipping Cost 1 Book \$33 2 Books \$67 3 Books \$90

Method of Payment (circle) Check Money Order Master-Card Visa

Card # _____ Exp. Date ___/___/___

Signature _____

PLEASE PRINT Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

To order, complete the form with payment choice, and send it to:

EARLY FORD V-8 CLUB
 c/o Dave Rasmussen
 1116 Austin Way
 Napa, CA 94558

December Meeting Minutes

Dec 10, 2023 by Gayle Roark

Bruce opened the meeting and thanked Russell and Gayle Roark for hosting. He thanked everyone for their dues, and if everyone who has not sent their dues yet can send to Theresa Williams.

We introduced guests Dave and Lynn Busekrus, Mike and Susan Montigne, and Kevin Huber. Regarding members welfare, George Ball did not attend because he had fallen and his face was still a little banged up. Howard Crawford is home from the hospital, on antibiotics until things clear up, and will have his gall bladder removed. Russell and Gayle visited the Hartnagels in their assisted living apartment.

We have our officers covered, as most agreed to take on the same jobs next year. We have our three directors, George Ball, Dave Diehl, and Don Taylor.

Don Rogers asked for help with articles for the newsletter next year. Regular contributors today are Jim Gosnell, Diane Huber, and Bruce Williams. He also talked about the new Mercury book covering years 1949 – 1951. It is 400 pages and available from the V8 national club. He brought a copy for viewing.

Bruce passed around the sign up sheet for next year's meetings. Laura McDermont volunteered to take January.

If you notice your name is not in the roster, it is because you didn't pay dues yet. Be sure to do that before the next roster is published.

Attendees: Roarks, Hubers (Mike, Diane, Kevin), Bruce Williams, Maxine Carroll, David Diehl, Charlie Walters, Potthoffs, Ron Dunker and Sista, Conrads, Don Rogers, Schmids, Terry Hagan, McDurmonts, Kerperiens (Dave, Tosha, Drew and Bel), Montignes, Busekrus

December Meeting Photos

Photos by Gayle Roark and Judy Potthoff



January Meeting Notice



January 21st, 2023 at 1:00 P.M

Hosted by Laura and Lee McDurmont

At Wildwood Pub and Grill

17253 New College Avenue

Wildwood, MO 63011

Please **RSVP** before **January 18th** to:

636-532-5636 or

email to: mcdurmill@gmail.com. or email to:

Laura.mcdurmont@gmail.com.

2024 Calendar of Events R.G. 124

Month	Date	Event	Time	Hosts
January	21		1:00 PM	McDurmonts
Feburary	18		1:00 PM	
March	17		1:00 PM	
April	21		1:00 PM	
May	19		1:00 PM	Roarks
June	16		1:00 PM	Williams
July	21		1:00 PM	Diehls
August	18		1:00 PM	
September	15		1:00 PM	
October	20		1:00 PM	Potthoffs
November	17		1:00 PM	
December	15		1:00 PM	

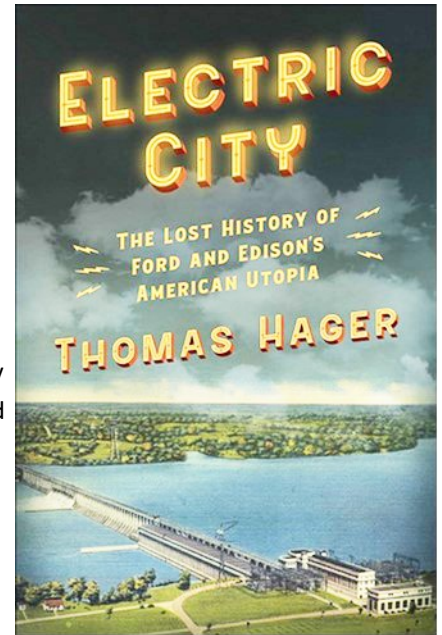
Electric City- The Lost History of Ford and Edison’s American Utopia

By Thomas Hager

Reviewed by Bruce Williams

This book goes into fascinating detail of the little-known story of how Henry Ford tried to buy a dam and two nitrate factories in Muscle Shoals, Alabama in the early 1920’s. The dam and factories were built to provide a key ingredient for explosives during WW1. But the war ended before the massive projects were completed. Some local politicians and entrepreneurs had the idea of selling the facilities to Henry Ford as a way of ensuring completion, and to drive an economic boom in that very poor part of the country. Ford visited several times (to much fanfare) and indeed made an offer, with the promise of providing very cheap fertilizer to local farmers, along with cheap electricity. In reality, Ford’s motives weren’t so altruistic, as he hoped to get the massive project at pennies on the dollar and he wanted to instead build an enormous factory installation based on the cheap electricity from multiple dams along the Tennessee River. Add to the mix a large quantity of land speculators who followed Ford’s promise of economic growth, and there were the makings of a large land swindle. Soon the federal government stepped in, and a Senator from Nebraska fought Ford’s efforts. He triggered many hearings and battles, and Ford refused to change his story or sweeten his offer. All the while, speculators bought land around the dam, laid out plats of new residential communities, and sold lots to eager locals. Eventually, Ford gave up on the idea and moved on to other initiatives, but the government finished the dam, now known as Wilson Dam. Ultimately, when Franklin Roosevelt became President, he created the Tennessee Valley Authority to oversee the operation of the dam (and the construction of many others). The TVA was chartered with economic development in the area, and their accomplishments were a major success story. Ford’s promise of a Utopian city with cheap energy, cheap agricultural chemicals, and an economy of thousands of great jobs did not happen through Ford’s actions, but was in large measure ultimately realized. The book does a great job of telling the story and giving the reader a sense of the key characters involved.

Theresa and I recently took a drive to New Orleans, and we made an overnight stop at Muscle Shoals. Included are a picture of the spectacular Wilson Dam (nearly a mile in length), and note the street signs in one of the older neighborhoods we explored. It was “Ford Country” that never happened.



Wilson Dam



All Roads Lead to Ford

Blast From The Past !!



Future Events:

SATURDAY, Cancelled for the season

Breakfast 314-578-3275 or
raroark@att.net



Upcoming Events:

January 21th McDurmont's
Wildwood Pub

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Carolyn Aumann
- 8 Laura McDurmont
- 8 Tosha Kerperien
- 28 Joy Drennan



Don Rogers, Editor
 The Early Ford V-8 Club of America
 St. Louis Regional Group #124
 422 Gunnison Gorge Dr
 Wildwood, MO 63011-1738

1ST CLASS
 MAIL

St. Louis R.G. Web Site

<https://stlv8club.org/>