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Carmen Viviano 2018-
2019



**EARLY FORD V-8
CLUB**

ON THE ROAD

ST. LOUIS R.G. #124

Sept. 2018 Volume 33 No. 9

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September 23 Meeting—1 PM



**RT Weiler's Restaurant
201 N. Main Street
St. Charles, MO 63301**

Hosted by Doug & Joni White



President's Message

By Bruce Williams



V8 Fans,

We just had a delightful August meeting at the Wildwood Pub and Grill. Thanks for handling the details Barb and Al! And I think that Carmen helped as well. Thanks to all of you and thanks to all the folks who came out. We had a lot of great food, followed by Barb's "Mississippi Mud" treats and almond poppyseed bread. Howard and Peggy drove their '36, and Howard shared how he recently spent a whole bunch of time refreshing all the vital fluids in his coupe. So it's now ready for many more miles of reliable driving pleasure. But Howard indicated what we all have discovered; the final step of any work on an old Ford these days is to take a few Tylenol to handle the aches and pains. I drove my '51 4-door and it was running so nicely, that I took it on another ride after I got home and finished my yardwork. I do like driving it so much... very smooth, peppy and comfortable. And the temperature gauge never climbs much past the half-way point.

It's hard to believe that Summer is almost over; where did the time go? And now the weather has started to get a bit cooler and soon the leaves will be turning. It's ideal weather for a drive of the ol' flathead. Please get your ride out and limbered up for a nice Fall drive. It won't be long before winter settles in, so drive 'em now while you can. I hope to have my '32 fixed (Howard, thanks for the tip on soldering the ignition resistor, seems like my symptoms could be what you described) and I want to get some more miles on it before inclement weather settles in. I also put a new battery in one of my Model A's a couple days ago so I can get it going. It's a race against time to get cars out before the winter weather hits, and it seems there just aren't enough weekends available.

The September meeting is hosted by Doug and Joni White, and it will be in Old Town St. Charles. That is such a neat area, with lots of historic sites to see. I sure hope you can make it, and maybe even drive a flathead. Please join the fun. The details are elsewhere in the newsletter.

That's all for now. See you next time.

Bruce

MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 2018 MEETING

President Bruce Williams called the meeting to order around 2pm. He did not have the list of August birthdays and anniversaries, so he asked if any were being celebrated. Barb and Al Hartnagel noted that they had just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. A round of applause ensued to recognize that big event. It was noted that there are no members with any new or updated health issues. The treasurer's report was reviewed, and the expenses since last time were noted. Up-coming events were discussed, and three specifics were reviewed 1) Doug White mentioned that they would be hosting the September meeting on the 23rd (see details elsewhere), 2) Bruce mentioned the Greentree Car Show on September 16th at Kirkwood Park, and 3) Bruce mentioned that he's looking into a possible garage tour as a Fall Tour option. Bruce noted that November and December meetings are still "open" with no hosts, so volunteers are requested. Bruce said he would contact Russell and Gayle to see if they planned to host the Christmas party again. Bruce brought up the topic of the national club working to promote new membership. He indicated that he will look into making up business cards that provide information about our club, which we could have handy to pass out at car shows or whenever we meet someone with an old Ford. Bruce also gave an update on the status of creating a web site for our club. Theresa has made one, but the question of whether to use "free" hosting approach or to pay a monthly \$12 fee for a more traditional web site was raised. Bruce will arrange for the Board of Directors to assess the issue for a final decision. Also raised was the suggestion to set aside club funds so that all the male members should have a brick at the V8 Museum in Auburn. Again, Bruce will take that issue up with the Board for a decision. Bruce drew a 50/50 ticket and Don Rogers won \$30 dollars. After that, the meeting adjourned.



Our hosts, Barb & Al Hartnagel



George, Vicki, and Sista



Bruce, Howard, Ron, Claudette, Charlie & Don

The Ford Centre - Minneapolis' Unique Model T Era Plant

By Bruce Williams



I frequently travel to Minneapolis on business, and a colleague of mine there who knew I liked old Fords told me about “the old Ford factory downtown” I said the one I knew was on the river and he said there was another, and it was “really tall”. That made no sense to me, so I had to google it to find out. So below is the story I found out...

As part of a major factory expansion over 100 years ago (that led to the construction of the St. Louis Ford plant on Forest Park Blvd), Ford built a unique assembly facility that was unlike all the other sites they built at that time. The Minneapolis plant was tall, in fact it was 10 stories. The other Ford factories at the time were only 5 stories (see the photo of the St. Louis plant, now reborn as apartments). The Minneapolis site was known as the Ford Centre, and many Model T's were assembled there from parts shipped from the Highland Park plant in Detroit. History seems to have lost why the Ford Centre needed to be so tall compared to other sites, but one can only imagine that it was designed to satisfy Henry Ford's demands for efficiency and access to convenient rail service.

Today, the Ford Centre sits adjacent to the Minnesota Twins' Target Field, in some of the most high-end downtown real estate in Minneapolis. Ford's next major round of expansion and modernization led to the construction of the newer assembly plant in St. Paul, right on the Mississippi, in order to satisfy Henry's desire to take advantage of cheap hydroelectric power. It opened in 1925. That is the one that I knew about, and it only recently closed in 2011. And what happened inside the Ford Centre for many years after that point in time isn't too clear. But the area where the plant and Target Field sits is called the “Warehouse District”, so one can assume that the building and its historic past were trampled on by being converted to a lowly storage building. Hopefully, they didn't dump old Chevy or Mopar parts there!

About 20 years after the St. Paul plant started up, the Ford Centre was sold to the Honeywell Corporation and they did manufacturing there. And in 1985, Honeywell sold it to a property developer, who made it into a sort of creative center for

artists, graphic designers and photographers. So the building had a bit of its class back as studios began filling its floors and creative types began to impart a “hip” vibe. That phase of the building’s life, the Ford Centre was a “scruffy but cool refuge” for the Twin Cities’ more bohemian residents.

Fast forward to a couple years ago, a top architectural firm was brought in and the building has been converted to “Class A” office space. It features a sculpture made from old Ford parts by the artist Marcia McEachron (I hope they didn’t use any NOS items). The architectural firm, which also did much of the Target Field work, now occupies several floors.



The St. Louis Ford Plant at 4100 Forest Park Blvd. It is typical of the Ford plants built in the early Model T era



An artist sketch of the Ford Centre around the time of its debut, 1914.



Target Field, left, butts up against historic Ford Centre, the larger red building.



On the Ford Centre's seventh floor, I caught a glimpse of the factory that once was ... and took in terrific views of today

An interesting quote from "TC Places" magazine 4/6/2010..."Walking past the building's old rail lines and loading docks, for instance, or riding its huge and groaning freight elevators. Or opening a clanging metal door onto a massive concrete stairway to be met by blinding sun and views of the changing city through 40 steel-sashed panes of wavy glass (with multiple coats of grime possibly dating to Edsel Ford's last visit in 1924).

And, especially, in certain corners of the Ford where you could get a glimpse of the old factory spaces that once were, all cement floors and pillars, walls of windows, dangling wires and cast-iron pipes ... stark, simple, light-filled, redolent of history, and strangely lovely. (It's not just us ... The friendly electrician I ran into on the gutted seventh floor was eager to wax historical. "Can't you just look out at this floor and imagine workers putting together Model T's?" he asked.

In any case, this classic Minneapolis building where Model Ts rolled out the door in 1914 is still standing even as everything in its immediate orbit has changed. For now, it's enough to know that the Ford Centre's funky, dirty-paned, charmingly unrestored historic self will be part of what baseball fans see, a century later, as they come to watch the Minnesota Twins hit it out of the park at the brand-new Target Field."

The good news is that a number of old Ford plants are being preserved and reborn with new and creative uses. It's great to see all facets of Ford history receiving well-deserved recognition.

VS Ford Foundation Museum Construction Update Sept. 2018





2019 Central National Meet **August 24-27, 2019 • Auburn, Indiana**

Auburn, Indiana—home to the 2009 and 2011 Central National Meets, will be home to the 2019 Central National Meet, hosted by RG 141 of Ohio; RG 56 of Indianapolis, IN; and RG 169 of Auburn, IN.

Come see all that Auburn has to offer, including a recreation of the iconic Ford Rotunda, now part of the Early Ford V-8 Museum. It will be filled with eighteen 1936 Fords, including the sensational 1936 Stainless Steel Ford Sedan.

Planned Activities Include:

- A Tour to Portland, Indiana, for the World's largest Gas Engine and Tractor show, with a swap meet
 - Visits to local Museums such as the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum, the National Auto & Truck Museum, the Hoosier Air Museum and others
 - A Swap Meet throughout the week
 - A People's Choice Raffle
 - National President's Meeting
 - Early Ford V-8 Foundation Museum Meeting
 - Owner's/Judges Meeting
 - Concourse Judging
 - Ladies Activity during the Concourse Judging
 - Awards Banquet

All events will be held at the Early Ford V-8 Museum, including the Concourse Show Field, Swap Meet, Welcome Party and Banquet as well as trailer parking. You will be able to tour the Museum any time during the Meet.

Registration Forms are available at 2019cnm.com

Set aside August 24-27, 2019 for this exciting Central National Meet!



Special thanks to this month's contributors!

Peggy Crawford: Photos

Barb Hartnagel: Recipe

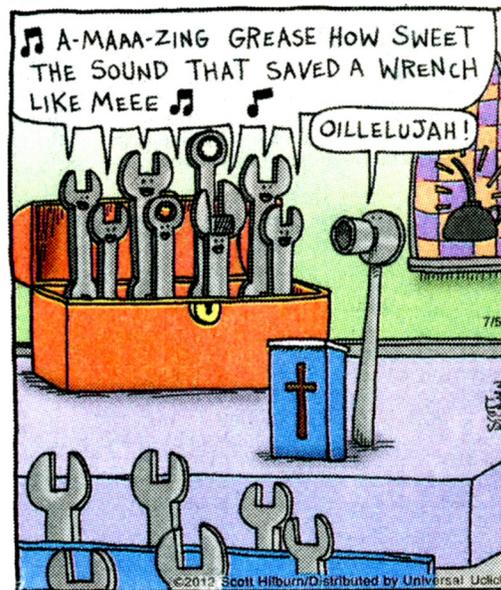
Don Rogers: Museum photos

Bruce Williams: Article

Mary Rogers

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THE ARGYLE SWEATER • By Scott Hilburn



Mississippi Mud Cake from Barb Hartnagel

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup oil
- 4 eggs
- 1 1/2 cup flour
- 1/3 cup cocoa
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 3 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1 small jar of marshmallow creme

Cream sugar & oil, add eggs & beat. Sift flour, cocoa & salt. Add to above mixture with vanilla & nuts. Bake 350 for 30 minutes in 9 X 13 greased pan. Remove from oven & cool for 10 minutes. Spread marshmallow crème over top of hot cake. Next prepare icing.



Icing

- 1 stick of butter
- 1/4 cup cocoa
- 1/4 cup of can evaporated milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 box powdered sugar
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans

Melt butter, stir in p. sugar & cocoa. Add vanilla ,milk & nuts. Spread over marshmallow crème. *Add icing while cake is still warm not hot.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

SEPT. 1 – Breakfast at 8 AM at Village Café,
6127 Ronald Reagan Dr., Lake St. Louis, MO
63367. Just off Hwy 64 at Hwy N across the
street from Walmart. 636-561-0235

EVERY WEDNESDAY – The ROMEOs meet at
Steak & Shake in the Hawk Ridge complex on
HWY N in Lake St. Louis at 11:30 AM

EVERY THURSDAY – The ROFers meet at Lion's
Choice 17294 Chesterfield Airport Rd.,
Chesterfield, MO 63005.at 11:00AM

SEPTEMBER 23rd MEETING — 1 PM

RT Weiler's Restaurant
201 N. Main Street St.
Charles, MO 63301

SEPT. BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

2 Carroll Anniversary (62nd)

4 Barbara Decker

7 Marty Canada

8 Larry Shepard

10 Christy Schulte (Brown)

14 Renaud Anniversary (61st)

19 Conrad Anniversary (11th)

21 Jack Stirnemann

24 Tom Drennan

25 Betty Henerey

26 Aumann Anniversary (54th)

27 Dick Davis

30 Larry Carroll



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