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**EARLY FORD V-8  
CLUB**

**ON THE ROAD**

**ST. LOUIS R.G. #124**

**October 2022**

**Volume 37 No. 10**

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**What a Deal!!! Two for the Price of One!!**

We are still looking for volunteers to host future 2022 meetings!

A special Thanks to Jerry and Judy Porthoff for hosting our September meeting at their lovely home. We had a great turnout..

Looking forward to October's meeting at the Cedar Lakes Cellers Winery. I hope to see you all there.

Only a few days till Hershey...the biggest antique car flea market in the world!!! (Hope it doesn't rain!!!)

Our condolences to the Toeniskoetter family on the recent loss of of Don, a long and valued member of our Regional Group. We will miss him greatly.

**THEY SAID A MASK  
AND GLOVES WERE  
ENOUGH TO GO TO  
THE GROCERY STORE**

**THEY LIED,  
EVERYBODY ELSE  
HAD CLOTHES ON**

## IF YOU HAVE NO BATH ROOM

Don't hunt  
for another  
house,  
but

**BUY  
A**



Portable, Self-Heating,  
Elegant Designs,  
Adapted to both City  
and Country Use.

**MOSELY**

Send 2c. for Illustrated  
Catalogue, showing 18  
styles of Tubs, Improved  
Water Heaters, etc.

**FOLDING  
BATH TUB**

**MOSELY FOLDING BATH TUB CO.,  
161 L. So. Canal Street, Chicago, Ills.**



# September Meeting Minutes ! By Gayle

V8 meeting minutes, 9/18/2022

We thanked Jerry and Judy Potthoff for hosting our meeting and providing sandwiches, cookies, and cakes.

Lee talked about the V8 Times July August issue that has 2 ½ pages of our club at the Transportation Museum. He also mentioned a couple of National V8 tours, one in Colorado and one in New Mexico. Nobody from our club planned to go to these. Owensville MO has a Fall Festival Car Show at the Catholic Church Sept 24.

Russell, Gayle, and Lee and Dr. Quick's family were at the V8 Foundation swap meet in Auburn IN Sept 1-3. Lee was a shopper and found the chrome trim piece he has been looking for. Russell and Gayle were vendors. Next Sunday Sept 25 is the St Charles Oktoberfest car show sponsored by Fast Lane. The Horseless Carriage Club sponsored a swap meet at the Sears parking lot in Chesterfield on Sept 18, but it was shutting down by noon (official times were 6:30am to 4pm).

We need October and November hosts for our next two meetings. November would be the second weekend (Nov 12). Maybe we can go to a winery. Cyrano's in Webster Groves is in an old De Soto dealership. Old car row is on Locust by SLU. Old dealers, including Studebaker, Packard, and Willys, were all along Locust Street. The Fountain serves "adult" ice cream in that area. The Sonic at Big Bend and Lindbergh has a car cruise every Friday.

We lost Don Toeniskoetter this month. Lee met our V8 Times editor this month at the Auburn swap meet. She also handles the Auburn Cord Duesenberg magazine and others as well. Jerry and Judy thanked us for coming to their house.

Soon we will be electing officers. We all need to think about holding any offices that need to be filled.



Thanks To Our Hosts....Jerry and Judy Potthorf



# October Meeting Details

When: Sunday October 16. 1:00 pm

Where: Cedar Lake Cellers Winery

11008 Schreckengast Rd.

Wright City, MO. 63390

**Special instructions:** Out reservations are under McDurmont  
For 4 picnic tables on the Winery fields.

Bring a jacket!!!







*In Loving Memory of*  
***Donald Albert Toeniskoetter***

**1937 – 2022**

Donald Albert Toeniskoetter, age 84, of Saint Peters, Missouri passed away on Thursday, September 1, 2022 in Saint Peters, Missouri. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri on October 17, 1937 to Albert and Louise Toeniskoetter (nee German).

Donald was in Machine Maintenance for Continental Bakery for 25 years and the owner of Mr. T's Chimney Sweep since 1976. He was married to his sweetheart, Shirley Toeniskoetter for 59 years. She was the light of his life.

Donald enjoyed restoring cars, his car clubs, and was known for being able to build and fix anything. Don loved his dog, Duffy, camping, trout fishing, and spending time with his family. Above all he was a devout Catholic.

Donald is survived by his , daughter, Patricia (Matthew) Rackovan and son, Thomas (Kathy) Toeniskoetter; sister, Estell LaVo; five grandchildren, Dan (Lauren) Rackovan, Ryan (Kara) Rackovan, Kristi (Josh) Kane, Joe (Cassidy) Toeniskoetter, Chelsea Rackovan; Three great-grandchildren, Cooper and Crew Kane, and Blair Rackovan; and many other family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Louise Toeniskoetter; father, Albert A. Toeniskoetter; three Brothers, Raymond, Robert, and John Toeniskoetter; and sister, Mary Kohl.

**Services & Gatherings**

**Visitation:**

Saturday, September 10, 2022 from 10:00am to 11:30am  
Newcomer Cremations, Funerals & Receptions  
837 Mid Rivers Mall Dr  
St Peters, MO 63376  
636-875-1200

[Directions & Map](#)

**Service:**

Saturday, September 10, 2022 at 11:30am  
Newcomer Cremations, Funerals & Receptions  
837 Mid Rivers Mall Dr  
St Peters, MO 63376  
636-875-1200

## The History of Ford in St. Louis

### 1945 thru 2006

### Part II



**Formal Dedication of St. Louis Assembly  
September 21, 1948**

Construction on the new plant, on Route 66 (now Lindbergh Blvd) near the Municipal Airport (Lambert Field). began on Feb 16, 1946 after wartime restrictions on commercial building was lifted. There was to be employment for approximately 3,000 persons at the new assembly plant, officials said. The new plant was a one-story building 1,500 feet long and 520 feet wide, containing 700,000 square feet of floor space. Company officials disclosed that they would immediately offer for sale the Hillcrest property. This property, owned by the company for several years, had been considered as a possible site for, the new plant.

The new St. Louis plant went into production in March 1948 as a Lincoln-Mercury Division plant, but it was not until September 21, 1948 that it was officially dedicated. Total production during 1949 was approx 66,000 passenger cars or an average daily output of 300 units. The St. Louis plant was one of four operated by the Lincoln-Mercury Division for the assembly of automobiles. Others were located in Detroit, Los Angeles, and Metuchen, N.J..

Cars produced in the St. Louis plant were distributed to about 750 dealers in 24 states by rail freight and by motor truck convoy. Working equipment and mechanical tooling in the St. Louis plant represented the latest knowledge in engineering, design, and production planning. Plant tours were conducted daily for visitors at the St. Louis plant.

Ford continued to produce Lincoln-Mercury vehicles at this facility until Jan 25, 1985 when the last Mercury Marquis was built. This ended a 37 year production span totaling 3.5 million units.



**Last Mercury Built in St. Louis**

On May 25, 1985, after a four month shut down, St. Louis Assembly proudly launched the Aerostar minivan. The Aerostar was a new breed of truck that was rapidly replacing the station wagon as the vehicle of choice for families and businesses alike. Building the uni-body Aerostar was a dramatic change from the Mercury days. Gone were the gatelines and hand welding guns. In their place were robots and the newest technology in automotive assembly.

In 1990 the All Wheel Drive Aerostar was awarded the Motor Trend "Truck of the Year"

award. Aerostars came off the line at the rate of 50 jobs per hour. With two shifts working 10 hours days each. 1,000 unites a day were produced.



**Plant Manager, Jeff Haller, Congratulates Owners of 5 millionth Unit Built in St. Louis**

1992 was a significant year for St. Louis employees. On July 7 the 5 millionth vehicle produced at our plant came off the end of the line. In August of that year, St. Louis Assembly was awarded Q-1 status by the company. This prestigious certification came about through the hard work and attention to detail from the men and women both hourly and salary.

In February 1993, Ford Motor Company announced that the St. Louis Assembly plant would start producing the Explorer Sport Utility Vehicle in January of 1995. At first, the plant was scheduled to shut down in August of 1994 for the expansion and retooling, but in April of that year, Ford asked if it was possible for us to continue to build the Aerostar and build the Explorer. The response was YES! So, in April of 1994, the 700,000 square foot expansion of St. Louis Assembly started.

During this three quarters of a billion dollar expansion, St. Louis continued to build the Aerostar. The challenge was to build a uni-body truck, the Aerostar, alongside a body on frame truck, the Explorer. This would be a first in the automotive world. Though many said it could

not be done, especially in the short time frame, the dedicated men and women of St. Louis Assembly made it happen.



**Explorer Launch, January 12, 1995**

On January 12, 1995, the Explorer was officially launched in St. Louis. This momentous occasion is yet another proud chapter in the plant's success. In August of this same year, the All Wheel Drive V-8 Explorer was introduced. One year later, the first right hand drive Explorer came off the line bound for export to one of the five countries we now ship our quality product.

As the plant continued to improve on the quality of the Explorer, time was running out for the Aerostar. Markets were changing and Ford decided to cease production of the Aerostar. The last Aerostar came off the line on August 22, 1997.

Over the twelve years, St. Louis had been the sole assembly plant producing this popular minivan. The last Aerostar brought the total number of Aerostars built to 2,029,577.

The Hazelwood plant continued to build the Ford Explorer and Mercury Mountaineer until 2006, when the plant was closed permanently. Three years later in 2009 the entire plant was demolished.

## ***R.I.P. Ford St. Louis***

## Future Events:

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1st**– Breakfast

636-398-5089 or raroark@att.net



## Upcoming Events:

The October 16<sup>th</sup> Club meeting will be held at 1pm at Cedar Lakes Cellars Winery, Wright City, MO.

Hershey Flea Market and Car Show Oct 3rd thru 7th, Hershey, PA.

2023 Grand National Meet will be held in Dearborn, MI June 11th thru 17th

## October

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4 Jim Hauschultz
- 10 Drennan Anniversary (2001)
- 23 Jan Conrad
- 26 Lee McDurmont
- 26 Grebing Anniversary (2001)
- 27 Doug White



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/>