

Harbor Area MARC / MAFCA

Torrance, California

May 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Business Meeting:

- The next regular **May** club business meeting will be **Friday, May 29th** at the Waleria Clubhouse at 7:30PM. Come by a little early and socialize with your friends.

- Model A parts are traded and sold before and after the meeting at the Table Top swap meet on a table in the back of the room.

Next Tours and Events:

- The **May** tour will be to the Huntington Library. This will be a great tour. Details on page 7.

- Looking ahead to **June**, we will be doing a tour of the San Antonio Winery in Los Angeles.

Next Board Meeting:

- **Note the change:** The **May** board meeting will be at the home of Drain and Doris Marshall, 5153 Willow Wood Rd., Rolling Hills Est. CA 90274. Ph: 310-378-5061. The time is 6PM. All are welcome.

Technical Seminar

- Safety seminar meeting at Dick and Ursi's **Saturday, April 25th**. Pot luck and business meeting event. We will conduct a Safety Inspection of your cars. Inspections start at 9AM. Don't forget its pot luck!

- Also, Bobby D. has completed the new Hubley track and will unveil it at this meeting. Bring your Hubleys!



Nubble Light at Cape Neddick (York), ME

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*Notes
from the
President*
By Steve Preston



Reflections of Bob Moser

My first memory of Bob Moser was when my Dad and I were working on the Cabriolet that Bill and Gloria Younkin now own. I was 13 or 14 and Bob had one of his 2 Model A Parts stores...and of course we needed parts! I remember him being particularly kind and helpful. Because my Dad was not a "joiner," we didn't belong to a club and depended on the help of friends like Bob for information.

Fast forward 40+ years and there was Bob again, at a meeting of our very own Harbor Model A club! It was a treat to meet him again and to have my memories of Bob as a kind and helpful friend reinforced. Because of age and ill health, he wasn't able to come to many meetings. But his heart was always with us. And he remained a kind and helpful friend.

Talking to Bob's daughter Sharon the other day, she said what she most wished was that her Dad could have known of all the friends he had. None of us are surprised at that, are we? She told me that the store I remembered was one of 2 that Bob had owned himself, and that he had run a store in Hollywood for another friend for a while, too. I am sure he befriended lots of folks during those years.

Sharon told me of her childhood memories of H-MARC and of members whose names are now fond memories on tours all over So. Cal. And, she said her Dad loved this club.

Bob is gone now, along with so many of our friends of "The Greatest Generation." And, we will miss him. But, as long as we can, we will honor him. He was, I believe, a charter member of 51 years of the club and was our president in 1960 then again in 1980-81. He was a man of integrity and humor who could be counted on to help a club member or some random Model A guy and his young son who just wanted to get their Cabriolet on the road.

Bob, we honor your friendship and service to Harbor Area Model A Club and to the Model A community in general. And we will miss your serving heart.

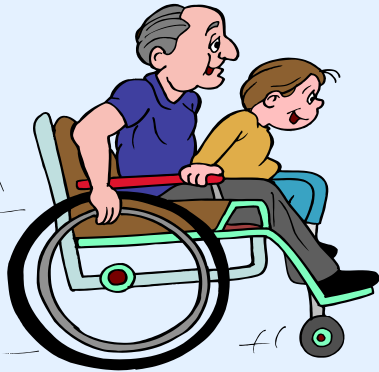
Blessings!!



Sunshine Secretary's Report . . . By Doris Marshall



- **Paul Larquier** is getting around very well now. We have seen him and **Rhoda** at the Hot 'n Tot a couple times. Great to see you, Paul.



- **Jeff Webb** needs our thoughts and prayers. He is limited in what he can do and is having a rough time. **Jeanne** is doing her best to keep healthy herself and also keep an eye on Jeff. We miss you both.

- Our thoughts are with **Gloria Younkin**. Her brother in Iowa is very sick and she has gone back to visit a couple times.

- **Doris Marshall** took a tumble on her front porch, bumped her head and broke her left wrist. She is wearing a nice blue cast on her arm. The doctors took MRIs and Xrays of her head. They didn't find anything. She is in some pain but is managing it OK. Enough tip-toeing

around in the dark, Doris. No more broken things, OK?

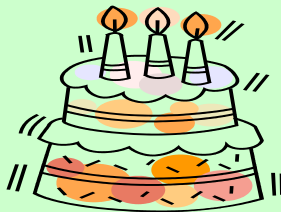
- **Conrad Garcia** lives in San Luis, Colorado. They had a big snowstorm with only 30 feet visibility. He was rear-ended by a Semi truck and his car, a PT Cruiser, was totaled. (Good that it wasn't a Model A). He is a bit sore, but otherwise okay.

Weekly Family Food Festivities:

Many of the Harbor members meet at the **Hot 'n Tot** restaurant each **Monday** at about 5PM for dinner. Drain Marshall likes to call it 'Spaghetti Night' because the Monday night dinner special is all you can eat spaghetti with a salad at \$5.75. Join us for dinner. The Hot 'n Tot is located at 2347 Pacific Coast Highway in Lomita, CA. It's about a half mile east of Crenshaw Blvd., north side.

May Birthdays

- 4 Leonard Funk
- 20 Dolores Strosnider



May Anniversaries

- 5 Liz & Dan Fitzgerald
- 7 Noelle & Terry Marshall
- 20 Darlene & Leonard Funk
- 23 Ellen Peterson & Bill Newell

Editor's Corner by Dick Wyckoff

I am always looking for interesting Model A related articles. An article on how you got your car, or what it looked like before and after it was restored. If you have an item for sale, let me know. I will put it in the 'Wheels and Deals' section. The newsletter is distributed to many other clubs locally and other parts of the country.

Also, if you would like to receive the HarborLight by email, also let me know. The club saves one dollar each month per email subscriber. I have a distribution now of 30 people from the Harbor club and 14 other clubs. This is over \$350 per year savings. AND it is in color! You can print it out if you want or save it in your computer files. Just let me know your email address.

Thanks, and remember 'Keep the shiny side up'!

Orange County Club's Pancake Breakfast by Dick Wyckoff



Meeting at Mills at daybreak

After meeting at Mills at the break of day, 22 cars from the Harbor Model A Club left for Orange County to attend the famous pancake breakfast hosted by our friends in the

Orange County Model A Club. The 45 minute freeway drive was without mishap and we all arrived in good shape. **Joe and Linda Freitag** drove their newly acquired '30 Cabriolet and **Art Wagner** showed off his '29 Tudor machine. We joined 1000 other Model A fans from many Southern California clubs. All in all, there were about 250 Model As with 50 others, such as Model Ts and early Fords. The weather was a little overcast and cool but the food was hot and plentiful.

According to our membership chair **Ursi Schmidt**, we had 63 Harbor members present. Some, of course, hold memberships in others clubs, but we still count them!

After inspecting all the cars and the 91 prizes, every-

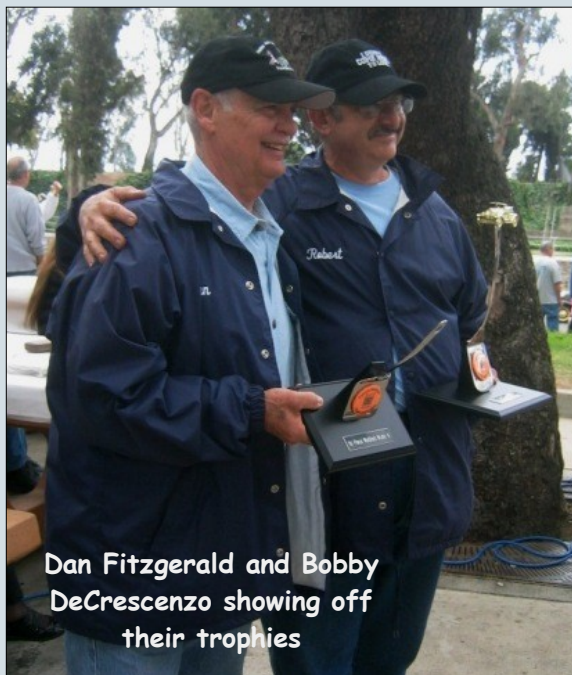


one waited for the raffle to begin and the car prizes to be awarded.

Harbor members either have a lot of luck or spend a lot of money. We did well in both the raffle and the car prizes. **Dan and Liz Fitzgerald** won the 'Best modified' Model A award in their '30 custom bodied Speedster. **Steve Newton** won best '30 sedan with his 'Police' car. AND our own **Bobby DeCrescenzo** won 'Best of show' with his '30 Sedan. Congratulations to all of you. Our President (and minister) **Steve Preston** secretly took a day off work and enjoyed winning four raffle prizes. (Old joke.... So who's he going to tell?) **Al Avoian**, **Marty Murphy**, **Bobby D** all won two prizes. **Nita Stonehocker** won one. Not a bad showing.

When the affair broke up about noon, many went to the local antique stores and food establishments.

A great day for all and a great big THANK YOU to the Orange County club for hosting the picnic. See you again next year!



Dan Fitzgerald and Bobby DeCrescenzo showing off their trophies



Technical Talk with Dick Lusk



A Letter to the Tech Guy

Dear Tech Director:

Does octane rating of gasoline cause the valves to burn in my Model A Ford?

Drain Marshall

Dear Drain:

Octane rating of gasoline does not cause the valves to burn. That rating is just a measure of its anti-knock quality. However the formulation of gasoline can burn valves. Let me explain:

Transportation fuels that are refined from petroleum oil have changed greatly over the years. This may cause a problem in vintage automobiles. The composition of fuel affects all aspects of the vintage engine such as compression ratio, displacement, operating temperatures, horsepower, torque characteristics and metallurgy.

Over the years, as refining technology has improved, "mogas" has evolved into "gasoline," from leaded, to unleaded, then reformulated, and now ultra-reformulated ethanol blend. The result is a very clean burning, low residue fuel that "by name only" resembles original gasoline from early refinery "stills". The problem arises when vintage engines use this new fuel. It may cause valve seat recession, fuel line aging, and improper carburetor jettings. Of these three, the primary concern is valve seat receding. Fuel lines can be upgraded to resist the reformulated fuels, carburetor can be rejetted, but valve seat recession must be addressed with additives and/or machine shop procedures.

Early gasoline was the light distillate boiling off a vat of crude oil. Essentially, it was called "straight run" gasoline. It would perform adequately in spark ignition engines with low compression ratios and rpm limits. During the mid 1920's, research was conducted on the addition of Tetraethyl Lead, (known as TEL), to straight-run gasoline, in order to allow a wide benefit of performance increases in gasoline engine design and output. By the 1970's, residual lead particles from gasoline became an environmental concern, and plans were made to reduce and then eliminate the lead content of gasoline. With the reduction of the lead content and further advances in fuel refining technology, it is now possible to make very high octane and low emission "gasoline" without the use of TEL.

The problems with older engines using newer fuel were first noticeable in the early 90' with hot-rodders and muscle car performances. When rebuilding and restoring these powerful, large displacement engines, machine shops noticed that valve seats were receding into the cylinder head. The only fix in was the installation of hardened valve seats and tougher valves. By the late 90's, petroleum companies had formulated aftermarket additives and sold "lead substitute" that could be added to each tank of fuel in vehicles that were originally designed for leaded fuel. This eliminated the valve seat problem.

In engines with mechanical valve clearances (as opposed to hydraulic lifters) adjustments need to be monitored for intake and especially exhaust valve clearances. If an older engine has been driven frequently with reformulated gasoline, there is a chance that valve seat receding has occurred. This can be seen by changes in the valve lash clearance. Valve seat receding is common even on modern engines, given enough time and operation.

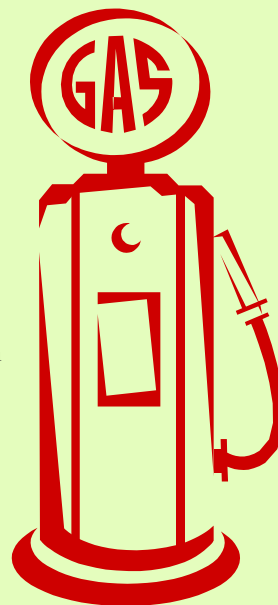
It is important that whenever possible, the valve clearance must be adjusted to maintain optimum gap to ensure that the valves close completely. Valve seats that have started to recede can result in too tight gap settings. That affects the ability of the valve to seat properly on the seat. When the valve does not seat properly, heat from combustion is not transferred to the cylinder head. This can result in a burned valve. Typically only the exhaust valve is affected, as the intake valve is cooled by the incoming fuel/air charge.

Unless you want to remove the cylinder head for machine shop work, keep a close eye on valve lifter clearances and use "lead substitute" additive with each tank of gasoline. This will ensure further longevity and proper operation of your vintage engine.

Happy trails!

Your Tech- and Safety Director

Dick Lusk



Ursi's Uptown Lowdown



By Ursula Schmidt
Membership Chair



Moser, Ralph Robert "Bob" Moser, born June 23, 1917, passed away peacefully on April 2, 2009, at the home of his son in Lake Forest at the age of 91.

Bob, as he was known to his family and friends, was born in Beaver, Oklahoma and was raised in Wichita, Kansas where he met his wife of 64 years, Gloria Ratcliff who preceded him in passing in 2002. Bob lived with his son the last 3 years, was a prior resident of Hemet, California for 21 years retiring from Miller-Jones Mortuary. He came to California to Torrance where he resided 32 years.



Bob joined the Navy in 1943 and the Kansas State Guard 1944-1945. He was in automotive sales for 40 years and owned two Model-A parts stores. Bob was a 56-year Member of the Masonic Lodge and Past President of the Ramona Shrine Club. He was also a member of the Wichita Antique Auto Club, Harbor Area Model-A Club, Queen Mary Model-A Club and the Hemet Cruising A's Club and a member of the Hemet Elks. Bob's love of old cars brought him much happiness and many long time friends. He restored a Model A Ford and sold it to his friend, Don Laughlin, which is now on display at the Riverside Casino in Laughlin, Nevada. This was just one of many old cars he owned and restored.

Bob is survived by his daughter, Sharon Erbe and son, Rickey Moser; grandchildren, Brett Williams, Amber Amneus, Tanya Uzan, Jason Moser, Jared Moser, Jordan Moser and six great-grandchildren.

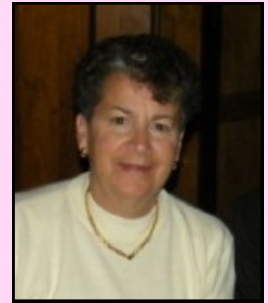
A memorial service celebrating his life will be held on April 10, 2009, 4:00pm. in Hemet at Miller-Jones Mortuary, in Memory of a man who for nearly 92 years dearly loved his family, enjoyed many, many friends, weathered challenges with a smile, and lived life to the fullest to the end; he will be deeply missed by all.

Bob will rest next to his wife at Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, California

2009 Membership Roster info:

- Phonebooks/rosters are available and are available at all get-togethers. The first booklet is free, additional copies are \$2. They are also available free of charge through e-mail. Club members that don't attend events can request a phonebook/roster by mail.
- Please call Ursula at (310) 539-5391 to place the order.

TERRIFIC TOURS by Pat Yacklon, Tour Director



This has been a lot of fun planning the tours. We normally all leave at the same time out of Mill's parking lot in Torrance. Since there are some people who want to travel on their own, please wait for me to signal to "start your engines". This will take some of the anxiety out of when we are leaving. I give an approximate time of when we are to leave and we'll get better at staying close to that time.

I have been enjoying the sites that I have chosen and others have been telling me that they have really enjoyed our tours so far. And that makes this girl very happy.



Frank Young and Pat Yacklon
at the Will Rogers Park tour

Our next three tours are:

Saturday, May 16th, Huntington Library in San Marino

We will meet at Mill's at 9:00 AM and leave at 9:30 AM.

It has been recently renovated with new exhibits and California's first Chinese garden.

The cost for adults is \$20 and \$15 for seniors. Ages 12-18 is \$10. Ages 5-11 is \$6

After the tour we will be dining at a nearby Sizzler restaurant.

Saturday, June 20th, San Antonio Winery in Los Angeles

July 10th-12th, Wings and Wheels in Solvang, CA

Here are some touring safety reminders.

1. Please keep enough space between you and the "A" in front of you so that other cars can pass between you, especially at on and off ramps.
 2. If you have a problem, flash your headlights.
- Please bring your walkie-talkie and/or cell phone if you have one.

Our cell phone will be on one hour before each tour: **310-245-1996**

An Invitation for a Visit

This morning I had a phone call from Don Ratzlaff, from the Orange County Model A Club. (714)-529-5062.

He invited the Harbor MARC Club and the Screenland A's to join their tour to the

El Segundo Auto Museum. There will be a Mequires wax demonstration.

The museum is at 610 Lairport St, one block east of Sepulveda and just a 1/2 block north of Mariposa.

Date: **Saturday, May 9th**, meet in the museum's parking lot at 10:00AM.

Ursi

Excerpts from Harbor Board Meeting Notes:

March 27th, 2009 Business meeting: President **Steve Preston** called the meeting to order at 7:35PM with **Monty Bates** leading the salute to the flag. Seven past presidents were recognized. Previous meeting minutes were approved. Harborlight editor **Dick Wyckoff** requested people to get their newsletter by email saving the club a lot of money. Membership chair **Ursi Schmidt** will have the new rosters available next week. 15 year membership pins to the **Ragons**. Five year pins to the **Piersons**. Tech and Safety guru **Dick Lusk** reported on our trip to Brassworks. The April meeting will be at Dick and Ursi's home. It will be a pot luck, safety, business and new Hubley racetrack meeting. Safety starts a 9AM. Sunshine chair **Doris Marshall** reported on several members either getting better or about the same. **Art and Daffy Wagner** are celebrating 55 years of wedded bliss. Tour Director Pat is ill so Sue reported on the pancake breakfast and the upcoming Will Rogers park tour. No progress on the website by webmaster. **Elaine Pisu** has a mini-tour to visit model train friends in the So Bay. Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM for 'White Elephant' sale. **Bill Newell**, auctioneer. Submitted: **Jan Wyckoff** - Sec'y.

April 7th, 2009 Board meeting: President **Steve Preston** opened the meeting at 6PM at the home of the **Art and Daffy Wagner**. Mentioned thanks for our raffle item from OC Model A Club. Told the board of the passing of one of our original founding members and 2nd president, **Bob Moser** at age 91. Minutes of last meeting approved. VP Bill not present. Some discussion about additional raffle items donated by club members would add variety. **Drain Marshall** reports that we have 15 advertisers in the Harborlight. Newsletter editor requesting articles on car restorations and 'car of the month' was suggested too. Historian **Sue Hankins** will show a video of recent activities at the next meeting. Member Chair **Ursi Schmidt** has new rosters for sale for \$2. Safety Chair **Dick Lusk** is getting ready for the big meeting at his house April 25th. Sunshine Chair **Doris Marshall** has a cast on her left wrist. She broke it tripping at her house. **Jeff Webb** not doing well. **Pat Yacklon** having breathing difficulties. **Gloria Younkin** has made a couple trips to Iowa to comfort her sick brother. Tour Director **Pat Yacklon** told the plans for the Will Rogers park visit. June 20 tour to San Antonio Winery. Old Business: President Steve mentioned \$1 million insurance available for board members from MAFCA for \$50 a year. Board approved purchase. New Business: Drain mentioned that **Dave Pierson** has space at the Torrance airport that could support a swap meet. Drain and Dick W to look into having a swap meet there instead of a garage sale on October 24th. Drain thought we should have the White Elephant sale every year. June and August board meetings will be at SNAX restaurant in Torrance. We love to eat! Next board meeting changed to the Marshall's home, May 5th. Submitted: **Jan Wyckoff**, Sec'y.

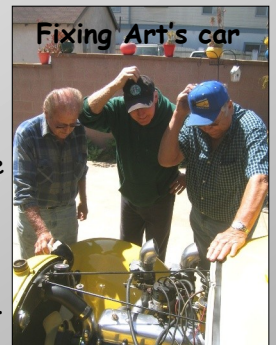
More Fun Tours and Other Happenings



Bill Newell

The March business meeting was heavily attended in anticipation of the 'White Elephant' sale. After business was attended to, **Bill Newell**, our auctioneer, took control and auctioned many treasures to the excited crowd. With the help of **Mike 'Vanna' Wright**, Bill sold off all the items brought by the members. The club received \$234.40 for their efforts.

In an effort to expand the knowledge of our members, **Elaine Pisu** hosted a mini tour to another preservation hobby, antique model trains. Through her connections locally, we got to visit two collections in Lomita. The 'engineers' have hundreds of antique model trains going back to the 20's all set up on tracks and working. Thanks Elaine! Lunch at Hof's Hut was enjoyable, too. **Drain Marshall, Dick Lusk, Dick Wyckoff, and Mirco Pisu** descended on **Art Wagner's** home after lunch and helped Art fix the clutch problem in his Sedan. A little interference in the clutch linkage was the culprit.

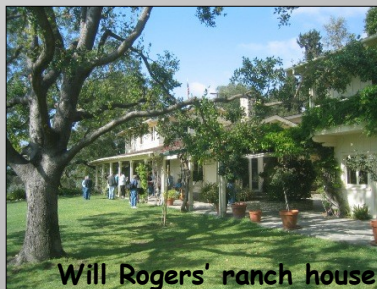


Fixing Art's car

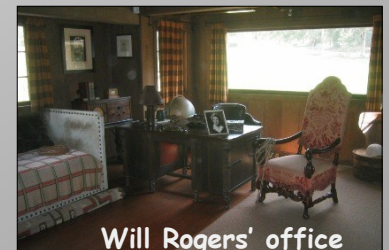


As at Will Rogers park

Pat Yacklon's tour to Will Rogers State Park was restaurant at 8:30AM with 12 Model As and The route took us up Sunset Blvd from the ocean park ranger and given parking all together right near the ranch house. Several tours of the facilities covered the colorful life of Will Rogers. It is thought that he received the first Model A directly from Henry Ford late in 1927. He lived in this area for about 12 years before he died in a plane crash in 1935. Our picnic lunches were enjoyed nearby as we watched many people looking at our cars.



Will Rogers' ranch house



Will Rogers' office

well attended. We left Mills headed up to Pacific Palisades. to the park. We were met by a

Long Distance Events 2009

May 1-3, 2009. Central California Regional Group Jamboree. Porterville Holiday Inn Express. Hosts: Happy Honkers.

May 22-25, 2009. Northern California Regional Group Roundup. Lake Tahoe CA.
Hosts: Spark 'N As. More info: www.sparknas.org

June 14-19, 2009. Breckenridge, Colorado. The Colorado High Country Tour.
Hosts: Model A Ford Club of Colorado.

June 21-26, 2009. MARC National Meet, Merrillville, Indiana.

July 10-12, 2009 Wings and Wheels in Solvang, CA. More info to follow. !40 miles each way, scenic overnight tour.

July 19-24, 2009. Northwest Regional Group Meet. Cottage Grove, Oregon.
Hosts: McKenzie A's of Eugene, OR.

September 11-13, 2009. Quincy, California. 'Roundup at the Ranch'. In California's gold country.
Hosts: Feather River As. Info: FeatherRiverAs@earthlink.net.

October 4th, 2009. Southern California Region presents Ford Fun Day '09.
Hosted by the Santa Anita As. This is at the Santa Fe Dam, 15501 Arrow Hwy, Irwindale, CA.

October 11th, 2009. Bakersfield Model A club picnic at Frazier Park. 90 miles each way, fun tour.

2009 Treasure Hunter's Calendar

• **Sunday, June 14th, 2009.** 39th Annual Antique Nationals at Fontana. Nostalgia drag race and car show. Auto Club Raceway at Fontana, 9300 Cherry Ave, Fontana, CA 92335. Gate opens at 8AM. Admission: Adults \$25, Children under 12 free. INFO: Ron at 661/255-1931.

• **Saturday, June 27th, 2009.** 4th Annual Orange County A and T Club Parts Exchange and Car Show. El Dorado High School, 1651 Valencia Ave, Placentia, CA. 6AM to 2PM. More info: Ron Eliot 714/542-0905.

• **Saturday-Sunday, July 11th & 12th.** 42nd Annual Riverside-Corona Model T Ford Club swap meet. Saturday 11AM to 6PM. Sunday 6AM to 2PM. Take 91 Fwy to 215 Fwy exit Columbia Ave. Go west to Main St. Turn right on Placentia Ln. Watch for sign on right.

• **Sunday, August 23rd, 2009.** San Fernando Valley Model A and T Clubs Parts Exchange. San Antonio Boys Home, 21000 Plummer St., Chatsworth, CA. A good collection of original stuff.



Wheels & Deals:

For Sale:

- '30-'31 **Cabriolet (68B)** top hardware. Triple hinges, Landau irons, upper and lower Landau pivot hardware, and more. All original. Fair prices. Contact Dick at 310-322-8863. Located in El Segundo, CA.
- **Model A Zenith Carbs** - For rebuilding. 2 complete carbs. \$35.00 each or B/O. 562-428-3451.
- '28/29 **AA Disc rims**. These are the split rims with lock rings, lug nuts and center cones. \$500 Contact Ted Dalton at 562-494-1648. Located in Long Beach CA.
- '28/29 **Light switch/horn rod** 45 3/4". Straight with a little pitting on switch chrome. \$20. Contact Ted Dalton at 562-494-1648.
- Aftermarket **Model A horns**. Look like original but are not. Cost is a fair and equitable donation to Harbor A club. Contact Ted in Long Beach at 562-494-1648.
- '30/31 **Victoria body**. Complete with original glass, cranks, window frames. All parts are disassembled. No seats, fenders or splash aprons. Rust free. \$7000. Contact Ted in Long Beach at 562- 494-1648.

Wanted:

- Used greeting cards (complete cards please). We will recycle them.
Ursi (310) 539-5391 and Doris (310) 378-5061.



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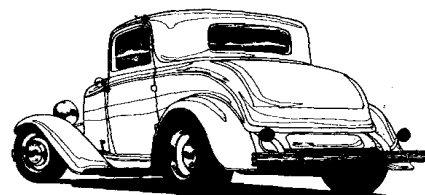
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The Harbor Area A's meet monthly on the last Friday of every month at the Walteria Park Clubhouse, located at 3855 W. 242nd St. in Torrance, California. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. (The park is located about 1-1/2 blocks west of Hawthorne Blvd. and 1 block south of Pacific Coast Hwy.) We'd like to invite all interested parties, even if they don't own a Model A Ford, to come and join us. Our goal is to educate the public about Model A's and have fun while doing it.

Board of Directors:

President:

Steve Preston (562) 428-3451

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Memorial Day 2009
Let us not forget