

# Harbor Area Model 'A' Club

Dedicated to preserving and driving the 1928-1931 Model 'A' Ford since 1957  
Torrance, California

## April 2018



Abandoned A's from years past.  
Where are they now?



### Upcoming Business Meetings

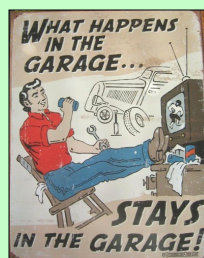
The March meeting will be the Safety Inspection meeting **Saturday March 31st (note change)** at Dennis

Simpson's home in Redondo Beach.

The **April** business meeting will be back at Waltheria Clubhouse on Friday, April 27th

Meeting starts at 7:30PM.

Come a little early an help set up and meet your Model A friends.



### Technical Activities

The big upcoming technical event is the combined **Safety inspection/business meeting**. Date: March 31st, Time: 9:30AM. It will be at Dennis Simpson's home, 2402 Burritt Ave., Redondo Beach. Pot Luck event.

A-L Side dish/salad and M-Z main dish  
**Al's Garage, 907 Van Ness, Torrance CA**  
Every Saturday 10-12. Come on by



### Next Board Meeting

The **April** Board meeting is **Tuesday, April 3rd, 2018** at 7PM. It will be at Torrance Memorial Hospital, West wing. Exact room TBD.

We will be planning upcoming events. All are welcome.

### Tours

**April 22 (Sunday)**

Orange County Pancake Breakfast. More to come

Rain cancelled our Malibu tour. We will re-schedule it for May or June.



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Please visit our awesome website  
Check it out:  
**[www.HarborAreaModelAClub.com](http://www.HarborAreaModelAClub.com)**



**Tim's Team Talk**  
**A Note from our President**  
**Tim Harrison**



**A View From the Slow Lane**

On any given Saturday you can find a group of like-minded guys just messing around with old cars.

All members can get a hands-on experience at Al's Garage and you don't even need to bring a car. There are always jobs to do and Cliff LeFall, our Technical Director, will guide and instruct you on various tasks and the tools and parts needed.

People come with problems and needs for their cars. We have many hands and a full set of tools to accomplish your individual projects. Bobby DeCrescenzo our Tools Manager has over 30 specialized tools which the club will loan at a nominal deposit.

We have part catalogs from many vendors to order the right part at the best price and quality.

Coffee and donuts are available. (A donation to the kitty is appreciated) Also available are the usual suspects to assist, advise and supervise with as many as 20 showing up on any Saturday. Most importantly is our Shop Forman, Al Avoian, who opens his shop doors to us.

Saturdays are always better when you start at Al's Garage at 10 a.m. till noon. Hope to see you all there!

*Tim*



**Sunshine Corner**

*Theresa LeFall & Doris Marshall*

**Rhoda Larquier** is in the Sunrise care facility. Cards to her at her home would be appreciated. She is a long time member and needs our support.



**Passing of member Paul Larquier Jr.**

Although not an active member, Paul comes from a family of Model A enthusiasts who have been members for a long time. He passed away after a long battle with cancer. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. May he rest in peace. . . . .



## April Birthdays

- 1 James Walker
- 7 Walt Hibbard
- 12 Carol Olsen
- 14 Drain Marshall
- 15 Larry Sterling
- 19 Kathy Valot



## April Anniversaries

- 28 Larry & Patti Migliazzo



### Editor's Corner By Dick Wyckoff

The recent rains have put a damper on some tour plans we had made. Luckily, we are not in the flood and mud zones 30 miles north.

Looking ahead, Jan and I are in good health and are signed up for the MAFCA National convention in Reno, NV the end of June. Looking forward to that. Always a good time.



#### **Commentary:**

We editors are always looking for new and informative material for our newsletters. This info comes from several sources, such as seminars, submitted articles, other newsletters, the web (i.e.: Fordbarn.com), and our own experiences. When we use articles from these other sources, it is only right that we properly give credit to the originator. Recently, I used a technical article from another newsletter and unknown to me, the original author's name had been deleted and another name was inserted. I got a call from a friend of mine and the original author, Tom Endy, and he was upset at the changes. Tom has written many technical articles (one is in the latest Restorer). I explained the situation and I said I would voice my concern and hope editors would do the right thing and give credit where credit is due.

**Dick**



Long time club member downsizing his inventory. Selling recently restored (2015) late '31 **AA Stake Bed truck**. Solid roof, indented firewall. Runs great. New tires. 4-speed trans. Lots of extra parts. 12 volts, LED tail-lights. Current registration.

Asking \$25,000 OBO. Located in Torrance, CA.  
If interested, contact : Al Avoian at 310-328-3350.



### MAFFI Minute

#### You asked and we listened!

As many of you know we have a suggestion box at the Model A Museum. For the last few years we have gotten several requests for more interactive displays. At Model A Day 2017 we introduced, "How to Start a Model A". It has become very popular for young and old alike, for those who remember when, for those who have no idea and everyone in between. Thanks to Joe Hornacek and Ken Ehrenhofer for making this happen.

Please pencil in the 2018 Model A Day on September 15<sup>th</sup> in your calendar and make your plans now to attend. You won't be sorry!

We also added a PayPal button to our webpage which makes it much easier to order merchandise, pay for MAFFI Membership and order memorial bricks. If you haven't visited our website, <http://www.maffi.org/index.htm> recently, you may not know about this feature.



### Saturday Morning Coffee Gathering

If you are looking for a little tire-kicking adventure on **Saturday** mornings between 7 and 9AM, check out the Caffeine Cruisers at the corner of Artesia Blvd. and Hawthorne, in Torrance, CA. Several of the Harbor Model A club members and other car enthusiasts of all car types meet to talk cars. There are some very nice autos and some nice people there, too! The address is 17400 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance CA. Come on by, have a cup of Starbucks, and get your weekend started in true So. California style.



### Ruby's "Cruise at the Beach"

Just in! Thanks to Bruce Montgomery for the info:  
The 2018 Ruby's night will start on **Friday April 20th, 2018**, 4:00 to 8:00 PM.  
It will continue every Friday night until October 26th, 2018.

**Ruby's Diner** 245 N. Harbor Drive in Redondo Beach (by the pier) will host a weekly gathering of fun cars all summer long. This event brings many cars of all types. Classics, Concours, hot rods, antiques, sports cars, motorcycles, and Model A's. Many Harbor Club members show their cars and enjoy a great meal in the diner. Check it out. There is a nice drawing and trophies are awarded each week.

Parking is free to participating cars.  
Hope to see you there.



### Monday Supper at Hof's Hut

We have been meeting for dinner on Monday at Hof's Hut on 237th and Crenshaw for a while now. The food is good and the staff takes good care of us. Come on by and join in the festivities. Time: about 5PM.

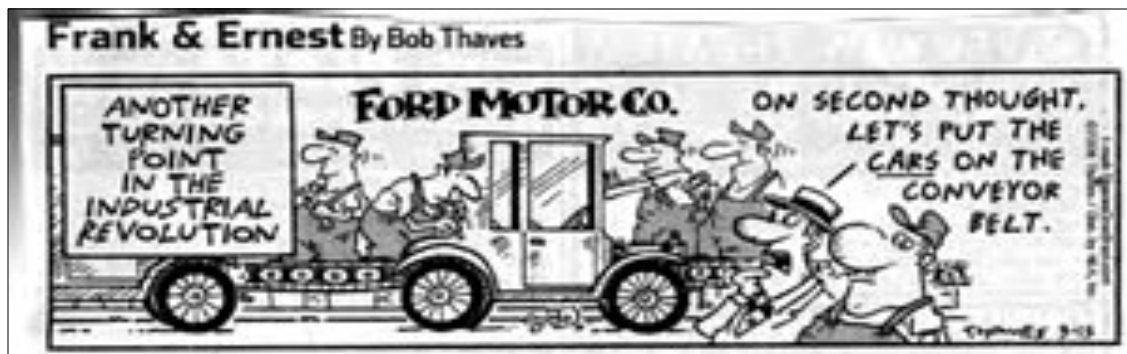


### 2018 Membership, Roster and Club Merchandise Items

Gloria and Jim have a selection of new **Club merchandise**. We have hats, shirts, patches, t-shirts and we have added 60th anniversary items. More to come.

The **2018 Harbor phonebooks/rosters** will be available March/April. The first booklet is free to members. Additional copies are \$1.50 They are also available free of charge through e-mail. Club members that don't attend events can request a phonebook/roster by mail. Contact **Ursi Schmidt** at 310-539-5391. Make sure Ursi has your latest info.

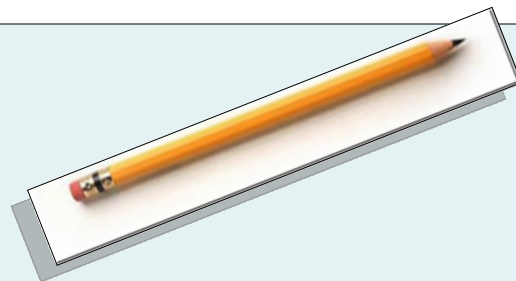
**Just a note:** We regularly update the roster. If you have any address changes, phone number changes or email changes, let Ursi know. Let Dick Wyckoff know, too. He'll put the info in the **HarborLight**.





## HARBOR AREA MODEL 'A' CLUB MEETING

February 23, 2018  
Walteria Clubhouse



**PRESIDENT:** Tim Harrison—called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG:** Jack Gordinier—led the flag salute

**RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS:** Dick Wyckoff, Doris & Drain Marshall, Monty Bates & Tim Harrison

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Dick Wyckoff moved that the Minutes be approved as printed in the HarborLight. The motion was seconded by Wayne Sterling

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Dennis Simpson—All is well & busy selling tickets for the opportunity drawing. Dennis "spruced up" the "Hard Luck Award" currently held by Drain Marshall.

**TREASURER:** Daffy Wagner—The club currently up to date and fine. Monty submitted \$43 from can returns and \$71 has been earned from can recycling this year

**HARBORLIGHT EDITOR:** Dick Wyckoff—Encouraged receiving the HarborLight by email where you can see it in color. If it is mailed, you receive it in "living" black and white. This month's emailed edition includes the new club tri-fold. This is his 11<sup>th</sup> year as HarborLight editor. When he began 11 years ago, he was mailing to 121 members. Now 10 years later only 32 have to be mailed. This is a considerable savings to the club. The cost per mailing is \$1.50 per issue. Dick reminded all you "junk-yard dogs" about Qualcomm open Saturday from 8-5 and Sunday for half the day. Articles for the next issue of the HarborLight are due by 3/24.

**WEBMASTER:** Sue Hankins—let us know she would not be at meeting. She is off traveling and having fun. Sue is going to show Elaine how to update our website with pictures, etc. Dennis said Sue had updated the National Website with our latest pictures and it looks great.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Ursi Schmidt—38 members here at the meeting. She distributed membership awards to Drain & Doris Marshall for 25 years, Gary Guttormson for 15 years, Monty & Donnis Bates 10 years. We had two guests: Rob Hernandez—he has a '30 Coupe and Bill Keely—he has a '31 pickup

**MEMBERSHIP DRAWING:**—Pat Harrison won the women's prize and Bruce Montgomery won the men's

**TECHNICAL & SAFETY:** Cliff LeFall—Not here tonight. The shop will be open Saturday, 2/24 (black car day).

**SERGEANT AT ARMS** (badge money): Jack Gordinier—collected \$5

**SUNSHINE:** Doris Marshall & Theresa LeFall—Theresa not here tonight. Doris reported that Rhoda suffering from kidney stones, Bobby & Phyllis have recovered from the flu, Mirco is recovering and receiving physical therapy after surgery on his knee, Donnis had successful cataract surgery on her right eye but after cataract surgery on her left eye she has developed a blister on her cornea, Elaine is receiving physical therapy after discovering she has a herniated disk (she says it seems to be working).

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:** Birthdays: 3 Dianne Runyon, 4 Mary Ann Friedrich, 4 Bruce Montgomery, 8 Richard Parrish, 12 Margaret Gott, 24 Jay Skinner, 25 Diana Murphy, 25 Jack Goldberg,

28 Jim Perreten, 31 Al Avoian Anniversaries: 7 Dick & Jan Wyckoff, 7 Tim & Pat Harrison, 10 Monty & Donnis Bates, 20 Art & Daffy Wagner (64 years), 24 Ted & Janice Dalton

**TOOLS COORDINATOR:** Bobby DeCrescenzo—No tools loaned out right now. A complete list of the Club's tools was in the February issue of the HarborLight. Bobby did get an inquiry about a drum puller and yes the Club does have one.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Weeg Thompson—Ursi Schmidt and Walt and Carla Hibbard brought the refreshments this evening.

**CLOCK PRIZE:** Joan Gordinier—winner of our clock prize is Phyllis DeCrescenzo

**ADVERTISING:** Jim Huizdos—is continuing to work on renewals. Got a new advertiser—South Bay Garage Doors

**MERCHANDISE:** Gloria Younkin—no new merchandise. Drive and Dine hats are  $\frac{1}{2}$  price

**TOURS:** Elaine Pisu—Malibu driving tour will be March 10 (unless rain then postponed until the 17<sup>th</sup>). Meet at Harbor Freight at 8:45 leave at 9:00. We will tour the Santa Monica mountains and stop for a picnic lunch (bring your own or there is a Subway close by). There will be no freeway driving. Sign up and put your phone number.

CCRG April 8-10 in Cambria. Many are going up on Saturday. Elaine will work on tours in the area.

April 15 at Knott's Berry Farm is Fabulous Ford--90 year birthday. Fill out and submit registration. We will be having a Knott's chicken dinner.

This year's Orange County 57<sup>th</sup> annual pancake breakfast will be on April 22. Sign up.

The trip to Solvang will be July 13-15. Let Elaine know if you have any ideas.

If you sign up for a tour and are unable to attend, please let Elaine know so they don't wait for you.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Weeg announced that we will be seeing "Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike" a laugh out loud comedy this year while in Solvang (details will be coming)

Our annual picnic will be on September 8, 2018, at Torrance Park (more info to follow)

**REFRESHMENTS HOSTED BY:** Ursi Schmidt and Carla Hibbard

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:** will be combined with the Safety Inspection on March 31, at Dennis & Linda Simpson's. There will be no meeting on the March 23.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** March 6 at 7pm at Torrance Memorial Hospital, West Wing

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Elaine moved that the meeting be adjourned; it was seconded by Daffy. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm for refreshments

*Respectfully submitted: Pat Harrison, Secretary*

### It Stalls at a Stop

by Tom Endy

This is a common complaint often heard from Model A owners. My experience has been that it has to do with the Zenith carburetor. On most forums numerous theories are offered; many of them contradictory.

Every once in a while I encounter a Zenith that defies being fixed so that it does not stall at a stop. It can be very frustrating. However, I think I may have hit upon the problem.

I recall attending a Zenith seminar years ago at a MAFA meet conducted by Herman Reise, who was an old fellow since passed away, that knew quite a bit about Zenith carburetor restoration. He made a statement that stuck in my mind. He said that "there hasn't been a decent throttle plate produced in 50 years". Unfortunately he did not elaborate.

Occasionally I find a throttle plate where someone has filed a groove in it right where it approaches the hole in the throat of the carburetor for the idle circuit. I have never figured out why this is done. I think that doing this would upset the flow of the proper amount of air to the idle circuit.

Snyder's Model A catalog has an interesting statement concerning the reproduction throttle plate they offer. "Made of brass as original with correct angles on the edges. USA".

Recently I was rebuilding two Zeniths that road tested perfectly until I came to a stop, then the engine stalled. Nothing I did to the Zeniths resolved the problem. The float level was set to different heights a number of times, the throttle shaft was replaced, the throttle bosses re-bushed, the float replaced. The float valve was replaced with a Viton tip. Flow tested jets installed. All the passage ways were open. It was then I began to think about the throttle plate itself.

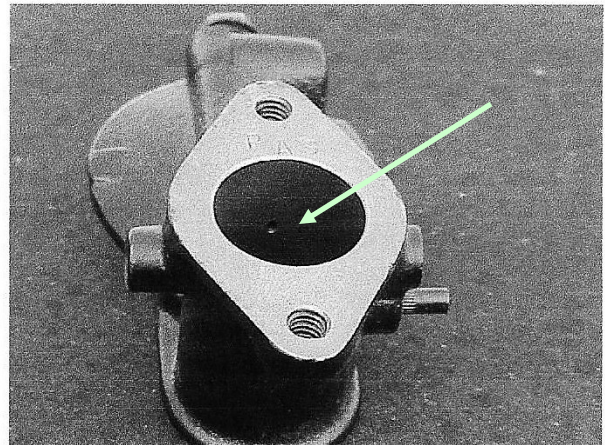
If the throttle plate does not close on the idle circuit hole in the throat properly it could adversely affect the flow of air to the idle circuit and the transfer from run to idle would be disrupted.

Maybe old Herman was on to something. Maybe back in the J.C. Whitney days the Model A Kingdom was flooded with throttle plates with the angles not ground correctly, that has continued to the present day.

I ordered two throttle plates from Snyder and installed them in the two Zeniths that both stalled when coming to a stop. **Problem resolved!**

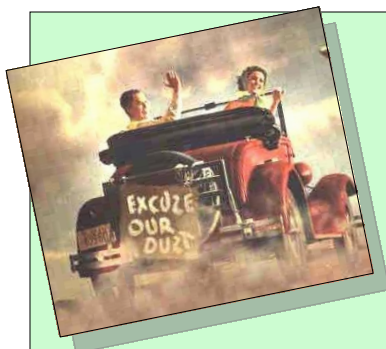
This was quite a revelation. It could be that there is a multitude of incorrectly ground throttle plates floating around, or it could be that some of the originals that have survived have become worn such that they do not close on the idle hole properly.

Whatever is the case, when rebuilding a Zenith I will be installing new throttle plates from Snyder. I suspect some of the other better suppliers, such as Bratton's, are offering the same throttle plate. However they don't say so in their catalog.



The small hole in the throat of the upper casting allows air to flow into the idle circuit when the throttle is closed. The throttle plate closes such that half of the hole just peeks above the closed throttle plate.





**Touring with Elaine**  
By Elaine Pisu, Tour Director



**March Showers brings April Tours!!**

As you know we will have our safety check on **Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>** at the home of Dennis and Linda Simpson. Their address is 2402 Burritt Ave., Redondo Beach (near Northrup-Grumman). This is a **pot luck** affair, so A-L to bring side dish/salad and M-Z to bring a main dish.

Don't forget. . . Ruby's car show in Redondo starts on **Friday, April 20th**. Yeh!

Unfortunately March rain cancelled our Malibu tour but we will try and get it rescheduled for later this year.

April is going to be a BUSY month for the Harbor A's. On **April 8-10** several of us will be going to **CCRG** in Cambria. This is such a beautiful part of our California Coast that I'm sure we will have a great time. Please let me know if you are going and would like to caravan up to Cambria.

On **April 15<sup>th</sup>** in celebration of 90 years of Model A's we are going to participate in the Fabulous Fords Forever Car Show at Knotts Berry Farm. If you are planning to bring your car we are going to meet at Harbor Freight at **7:30 and leave at 7:45**. Be sure you bring a chair so that we can hang out together. The show is from 10-3 and is free to spectators. So if you don't want to show your car please come out and support the 90 years of Model A's. Spectators can park for free at the Sears (8150 La Palma Ave Buena Park, CA.) After the show we are going to go have Chicken Dinner at Knotts. Hope you can join us.

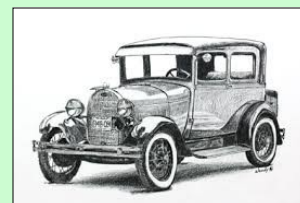
On **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** we will meet at Harbor Freight at **6:45** and leave at **7:00** for the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake Breakfast in the City of Orange at Hart Park. It's always a wonderful event and we look forward to another wonderful time. Breakfast is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children.

**May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>** will be the Edelbrock show at 510 Madrid St Torrance from 9AM - 4PM

**May 12** will be the Culver City Car Show from 9AM - 4PM, Vets Park Culver Blvd and Overland.

**June 10<sup>th</sup>** will be the Henry Ford Picnic at Heritage Park in Santa Fe Springs

*Elaine*



**Other Car Events of Interest for 2018**

**April 8-10 (Sun-Tues) - CCRG** Cambria Pines Lodge in Cambria CA. 805-927-4200

**April 13-14 (Fri-Sat) - Bakersfield Swap Meet.** Kern County Fairgrounds 1142 South 'P' St. Ming St. off-ramp

**May 12 (Sat) - Antique Nationals.** Auto Club Dragway 9300 Cherry Ave., Fontana CA. Opens at 8AM

**July 21 (Sat) - Long Beach Model T Club Swap Meet.** Long Beach Vet Stadium. Info: Jeff Hood 562-597-5936



Gary Karr's December 1927 chassis



Mark William's January 1930 Chassis

### Restorations in progress at the San Diego swap meet

**The Model A Ford Club of America**  
2019 National Tour, October 7-11, 2019

**MAFCA CANYONLANDS 2019 NATIONAL TOUR**

This hub & spoke tour will be based out of spectacular Kanab Utah in the center of Utah's stunning Red Rock Country. Daily drives to the Grand Canyon, Zion and Bryce National Parks and other sites being planned. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see these sites from inside your Model A.

Watch for more information in The Restorer Magazine.

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<http://www.ncrgmafca.com/2018MAFCAConvention/2018index.html>

### Update on Space Telescope

Last year the Harbor Club visited Northrup-Grumman in Redondo Beach to see the partial final integration/assembly of the James Webb Space Telescope. This fascinating tour was arranged by Joe Freitag. Joe passed this article on to keep those of us that are interested up-to-date.

### Technical Issues "Likely" To Delay James Webb Space Telescope Launch.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/28) reports that technical issues will "likely delay the launch" of NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), which is currently expected to launch in June 2019. A Government Accountability Office (GAO) report released Wednesday found that a delay in the mission is likely due to technical issues that have arisen, the amount of work remaining, and the possibility of additional problems in the future. The report stated, "Given remaining integration and test work ahead - the phase in development where problems are most likely to be found and schedules tend to slip - coupled with only 1.5 months of schedule reserves remaining to the end of the launch window, additional launch delays are likely." The JWST Standing Review Board will "review the schedule in early 2018 to determine if next year's launch schedule can be met."





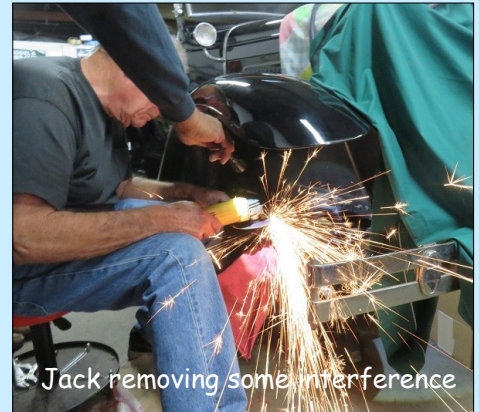
## The Latest from Al's Garage

We are making progress on Steve Thompson's '31 Deluxe Phaeton. This was a rescue car last year from a collection that has since been destroyed by the Malibu fires. Some nice cars lost.

We are working on the brakes. It came with hydraulic brakes and we decided to upgrade them with all new parts and related hardware. It is starting to come together. . . . .



No lack of supervision! That's Steve doin' the work.



Jack removing some interference



Steve centering the linings



Mike Plessner working on  
Drain Marshall's Sedan



Monty Inspecting Gary's brakes



Fitting shoes on backing plate



Yes and I want to tell all of you how it is



Just  
remember,  
every problem  
has a solution.





## A Short History of the Model A Ford

The year was 1926. Henry Ford's "Tin Lizzie" was getting old. It had been produced since October 1<sup>st</sup> 1908. There had been very few major changes to the car even though it did look quite different. With his son Edsel pushing to move past the Model T and design and build a "new Ford" the order was finally given on July 20, 1926 to start work on a new Ford, the "Model A", although that name had not been picked yet!

Henry made the last Model T on May 26, 1927. It was car No. 15,000,000. It is said Henry spent \$100,000,000 (Yes, 100 Million Dollars!) on the new car design and for retooling of the Rouge plant to build the new Model A. Quite a sum in the 1920's! The car contained over 6800 parts whereas the Model T only contained about 5000.

Model A No. 1 rolled off the production line Oct. 20, 1927 but the public didn't see the car until Dec. 2, 1927. Unlike the Model T, the new Ford came in seven body styles and an amazing four colors!

The engine was an L-head 4-cylinder, 'cast en bloc' type. It had a 3-7/8" X 4-1/4" bore and stroke with a displacement of 200.5 cubic inches. SAE horsepower of 24.03 with brake horsepower rated at 40 at 2200 rpm. Typical gas mileage was between 20 and 30mpg using a Zenith one barrel carburetor. It's 103.5 wheelbase rode on 4.50 X 21" tires with a gear ratio of 3.77:1. The transmission was a 3 speed sliding gear unit with 1 speed reverse. The Model A had 4 wheel mechanical brakes and Houdaille, double action hydraulic shock absorbers with semi-elliptic front and rear transverse springs. Top speed was around 65 mph. Standard equipment on all Models included a Starter, Five Steel Spoke Wheels, Dash Light, Mirror, Windshield Wiper, Oil Gauge, Gasoline Gauge, Rear and Stop Light, Speedometer, Tools and Pressure Grease Gun.

The "Model A" Tool kit included with each car had the following items: Adjustable wrench, 2 open end wrenches, 2 tire irons, jack, pliers, screwdriver, tire pump, grease gun, combination spark plug wrench and head bolt wrench and instruction book which all fit into a Snap Pouch.

As for the price, the new Model A Tudor Sedan sold for \$495 with the Fordor bringing \$570 F.O.B. Detroit. For \$385 you could get a Roadster and \$395 would get you a beautiful Phaeton. At \$495, the new Ford Coupe was nice but for \$550 the Sport Coupe with a standard Rumble Seat was a hot seller.

The **Harbor Light** is a monthly publication for the Harbor Area MARC/MAFCA. All articles or want ads must be received by the 15th of each month in order to appear in the following month's publication. Neither the *Harbor Light* and its staff, nor the Harbor Region of the Model A Restorer's Club Inc. and Model A Ford Club of America, Inc. will assume any liability for errors or omissions, or for any liability or resultant damages for products, opinions or services listed herein. Some information contained in our newsletter has been reprinted from other newsletters; we thank and acknowledge them. Editor



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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 PM (The park is located about 1-1/2 blocks west of Hawthorne Blvd. and one 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 Fords and have fun while doing it.

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TO:

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The Harbor Light



From:  
 Harbor Area Model A Club  
 Dick Wyckoff, Editor  
 337 Lomita St.  
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The good old days. . . .

