



The “A” Preserver

~ Enhancing the preservation of the Model A Ford and its era ~

VOLUME XXVII NUMBER 2, June 2016

The Fordson Coal Company at Nuttallburg, WV

By Stan Johnson



In 1919, Henry Ford turned his attention toward controlling another key resource needed for his manufacturing enterprise: Coal. Naturally, he began looking in West Virginia and particularly the New River Gorge area. Ford decided to purchase the Nuttallburg Mine which had tapped into the 3½ foot thick “Sewall Seam” of high-carbon coal and had mined it for nearly 50 years. Ford bought the operation in 1919 and began its revitalization. He renamed it the Fordson Coal Company. As he usually did in these ventures, Ford visited the site, and formed a bond with the local community and made further investments in coming years.

The community of Nuttallburg, began when enterprising John Nuttall moved down from Pennsylvania and began a successful mining operation in the early 1870s. The town grew alongside a branch of the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad which hauled the coal away from the site. The rail line was built into the area in 1873, long before Ford’s ownership; in fact, Nuttallburg was the second town in the gorge to ship bituminous coal by rail.

In 1890, Nuttallburg had 342 residents in 110 company-owned houses stretching a half mile along the New River and up the sides of the gorge. In 1900, it had a doctor, a blacksmith and a company store, plus clubs and athletic teams.

There's not much in Nuttallburg today: park service kiosks, parking for eight vehicles, a restroom, interpretive signs and three hiking trails: the 0.6-mile Tipple Trail, the 1.3-mile Town Loop Trail and the rugged 3.0-mile Conveyor Trail, an uphill climb to the top of the conveyor and the mine opening. But it can provide an awesome educational experience to the visitor.



At the left is the holy grail of coal mine hunters, the elusive mine mouth.



A majority of the equipment used to extract “black gold” from the ground during the Ford era and beyond is still there. The interesting thing about Nuttallburg is that there is a complete mining colliery remaining on the site, including the mine portal, tracks, a conveyor, the tipple and other portions of equipment. The equipment remaining at the old Nuttallburg Mine provides a traceable path of the coal from the mine all the way to the railroad car.

Ford made improvements to the site and the mine doubled production. It was part of Ford's goal of creating “vertical integration” or controlling all aspects of production. However Ford sold the plant after 10 years of ownership because he could not control the railroad that transported his coal. He sold his interests in the Nuttallburg mines in 1928. The post office closed in

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2015-2016 MAFFI Board of Trustees

President

Loukie Smith
71 Henrico Road
Buffalo Junction, VA 24529

email: President@maffi.org
loukiesmith52@gmail.com
Phone: (434) 374-7563
or (757) 810-2355

Vice President

John Marshall
6647 W. Kennedy Road
Peotone, IL 60468

email: VicePresident@maffi.org
jmarsh0986@aol.com
Phone: (708) 258-0685

Secretary

Janice Barker
10662 Longnecker,
Whitehouse, OH 43571

email: Secretary@maffi.org
jlb72443@aol.com
Phone: (419) 877-0513

Treasurer

Gene Tallone
8219 Hampton Glen Drive
Chesterfield, VA 23832-1950

email: Treasurer@maffi.org
bb170d@aol.com
Phone: (804) 739-4830

Trustee

Anne Neely-Beck
76 Ridge Drive Box 365
Jeffersonville, GA 31044

email: erafashionlady@gmail.com
Phone: (478) 945-3736

Trustee

Jim Thomas
8165 Glenmill Court
Cincinnati, OH 45249-2237

email: autotiques@aol.com
Phone: (513) 489-7430

Trustee

Rob Seiter
9619 Blackburn Street
Livonia, MI 48150

email: rseiter27@aol.com
Phone: (734) 261-0248

Trustee

Donna Lewis
500 Saddlebrook Lane
Tomball, Texas 77375

email: DCLPSL@sbeglobal.net
Phone: (281) 255-8885

Trustee

Jerry Morrissey
5278 South 6th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

email: jertrudy@sbeglobal.net
Phone: (269) 372-7936

Trustee

Rob Mills
12130 Rouget Road
Deerfield, MI 49238

email: rmills@cass.net
Phone: (517) 902-5852

Trustee

Stan Braden
10548 John Fox Road
Hughson, CA 95326

email: bradense@aol.com
Phone: (209) 883-0525

Trustee

Marsha Quesnel
830 Merrill Way
Port Angeles, WA 98362

email: mmquesnel@msn.com
Phone: (253) 318-4000

Trustee

Joe Hornacek
2570 Frankson Avenue
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

email: fords3031@gmail.com
Phone: (248) 853-0835

Trustee

Randy Czubko
3491 Northedge
Rockford, MI 49341

email: ra.czub@gmail.com
Phone: (616) 291-5161

Trustee

Louis Ironside
366 W. Winds Drive
Almont, MI 48003

email: louisironside@aol.com
Phone: (810) 798-8803

Project Coordinators:

Jordon Beller, IL
Jay McCord, CA
George Tynan, TX

Linda Morford, MI
Stan Johnson, VA
Greg Shepherd, VA

Editor

Stephanie Grundman
s24 w22798 Morningside Dr.
Waukesha, WI 53186

email: Editor@maffi.org
sgrundie@sbeglobal.net
Phone: (262) 513-0447

Executive Director

Art Callan

email: ExecutiveDirector@maffi.org

Summer: 49 Jasset Street
Newton, MA 02458

Phone: (617) 332-3363

Winter: 1151 Idlewild Dr S,
Dunedin, FL 34698

email: fordsong@msn.com
phone: (727) 738-4485

MAFFI Mission Statement

The Model A Ford Foundation, Inc. seeks to preserve Model A Fords and related memorabilia, encourage research, and educate present and future generations.

Publisher's Statement

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President's Article

Model A Touring season is here again! I hope you are all able to be out and about enjoying the open road in your Model A. Perhaps your club is even planning a Model A tour to the Model A Museum at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan in 2016. This would be a great year to visit the Gilmore Car Museum as they are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year and have many special events going on. Congratulations to the Gilmore! We are so pleased to be located on this fantastic campus.

The Model A Museum continues to be well supported by individuals, local clubs and memberships. Your financial support of the museum is crucial to our existence and we appreciate and 'thank you' for every donation. Through your support, we have been able to move forward with our investment plan for the endowment fund. Our operations management fund is in good shape and we have been able to make needed improvements and maintenance to our building. In March, a temperature/humidity monitoring system was installed and is now informing selected individuals of current temperature and humidity levels in the building. I'd like to thank Phil Kohler, Linda and Jim Morford for their help in researching, procuring the system requirements and helping trustees Jerry Morrissey, Randy Czubko, John Marshall, Rob Mills and Carolyn along with Jerry's friends, Frank and Judi Southwell and Paul Franklin who helped to install the system and get some other jobs done. There was also some wind and storm damage to the front door and a couple of outside lights which has been taken care of by Jerry and Randy. "Thank you" to all of you who make the effort to get to the museum on work days to keep our museum in fine shape. We also owe our treasurer, Gene Tallone, a big 'thank you' for his work in keeping up with our insurance needs, the Foundation books and for submitting the 2015 Federal and State Tax Returns and information in compliance with 501 C3 regulations. That, alone is a lengthy and time consuming process. Thanks, Gene.

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The **6th Annual Model A Day** will be here before you know it. I hope you are making plans to attend. We are excited about the seminar presenters and the special features.

The host hotel will be the Four Points Sheraton in Kalamazoo. Our Friday night seminar will feature a video about four Model A's which made an 'around the world' trip several years ago. One of the Model A's that made the trip will be on display at the museum for several months starting this summer. Trustee Jim Thomas has been working hard to get this exhibit together.

Another project is being worked on in Kansas City and falls in the category "What else did a Model A engine run?" Perhaps you would like to make a guess on this one and come to Model A Day to find out if your guess was right? Former MAFFI president, Stan Johnson is long distance advisor on this project.

Also, concerning Model A Day, please go to the website www.maffi.org and download a nomination form to submit your choice for the 2016 Hall of Fame award.

As you can see, the MAFFI board of trustees is a 'working' board that consists totally of volunteers. Each year, there are at least two members who have served out their terms and leave the board. Every year we need to find interested individuals who are willing to step up and serve on the board. If you are interested in serving on the MAFFI board and/or working in the museum, please contact vice-president, John Marshall.

Lastly, I am saddened to report the death of Mr. Roy Frost from Pell City, AL in late March 2016. Roy was an avid Model A collector and we were fortunate to be able to display the "Model A Sportsman" built for Henry Ford II for several months in 2015-2016 which came from his collection.

Enjoy the USA in your Model A this year. Hope we see you in September. *Loukie Smith, MAFFI president*

HOTEL INFORMATION FOR MODEL A DAY

Friday, Sept. 16 through Sunday, Sept. 18, 2016

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON KALAMAZO

(269-385-3922)

3600 East Cork Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

\$95 Per Night Plus Taxes, etc.

HOLIDAY INN KALAMAZOO SHERATON

(269-373-0770)

3630 East Cork Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

\$110 Per Night Plus Taxes, etc.

(complimentary breakfast included)

Call early. Rooms are limited.

Ross Milne of CanMARC presenting check to Art Callan

Club News



The **Canadian Model A Restorers Club**, host of the MARC Niagara Falls Meet has shared the proceeds with MAFFI.

Palomar's Golden Bird Award for club contributions and effort given as bricks to Anna Lewis, Sheila Saxman and Linda Thamer.

Welcome to new MAFFI Club members, **Running Board A's** of Pipersville, PA and the **Aiken Model A's** of Aiken, SC with a brick on the Museum walkway.

The **Grape County Club** had another successful auction and gave the benefits for Museum improvements.

The **Vermont Maple A's** have found it necessary to disband their club functions. They will continue to tour as a social group. They have gifted their treasury balance to MAFFI, with a donation of over \$2,000.

Jill Sullins, a MAFCA Director, passed away suddenly and is remembered by many in MAFFI's Memorial Book.

CLUB LIAISONS

If your club does not currently have a MAFFI Liaison, please contact Marsha Quesnel by email at mmquesnel@msn.com with the name and email address of a willing person and we will gladly add them to our 'Liaison List.'

*We appreciate your continued support of MAFFI
and your willingness to get the word out!*

DUES ARE DUE!

A letter has been posted to those who prefer annual memberships from May to May. We hope you will send your check and application as soon as possible.

We appreciate saving the cost of reminders, not to mention the wear and tear on the administration.

(Continued from page 1)

1955 and the rail depot on the rail-line was shut down in 1962.

Once the coal came out of the mine it had to be processed and then shipped to Michigan. As it happened, the mine entrance was high above the railroad tracks and the fast-flowing New River far below.

Therefore, the coal was transported downhill by a gravity conveyor known as a “button line”. The coal was sorted in the tall “tipple house” and then turned into coke in a line of ovens. By heating the coal in the absence of oxygen, the coal turned into high-carbon coke, which created intense heat when placed in Ford’s iron ore blast furnaces in Michigan.

In the photo at the left, the coal was mined at the top of the hill, then transported down the conveyors and into the large dark building at the bottom. There the coal was sorted and non-coal rock thrown out before the pure coal was put into the coking ovens.

In Pennsylvania there are stories about the young boys who worked all day long in the tipple houses grabbing at sharp impure rocks and throwing them aside. Their hands would be bloody by the end of the day. It is very likely that the same scenario played out in this setting.

Soon tourists may be able to view this relic of that era. It is in fact, a Ghost Mine – everything is there except the miners. The Nuttallburg property, was acquired by the park service in 1998. Because of its unusual status as a totally complete example of mining a century ago, it is being slowly stabilized by the US Park Service. It is now included in the National Register of Historic Places. Restoration work got underway in 2006.

In the picture at the right, an abandoned coke oven, partially choked with forest debris, waits patiently for the park service to restore it so that visitors can understand the coking process.

A plan is being slowly implemented to preserve the remaining resources of the historic Nuttallburg mine, and at the same time, preserve the history of another of Henry Ford’s many ventures which were designed to improve the efficiency of his manufacturing process .

Information for this article was obtained from the following sources

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, October 6, 2013

Beckley Register-Herald, January 22, 2006

<http://www.coalcampusa.com/soww/river/nuttallburg/>



Around the World in a Model A Ford

by Jim Thomas, MAFFI Trustee



World Trip 1930 Model A Coupe

We’re pleased to announce that MAFFI can confirm the addition of the Bob Meyer “Around the World” 1930 Coupe as an upcoming addition to the Model A Ford Museum. Plans call for the car to be on loan to the Museum beginning in early July and to be a featured attraction at this year’s Model A Day celebration in September. We’re also planning to have a presentation of the *Around the World Trip in Model A Fords* as the Friday night seminar at the Model A Day event.

In 1982, Bob and Dottie Meyer joined with three other couples to drive their Model A’s on an amazing over four and one-half month trip around the world.

The Model A’sers involved in this record-breaking trip were:

Bob and Dottie Meyer, Cincinnati, Ohio, -- driving a 1930 Coupe.

Bruce and Diane Davis, Walnut Creek, California, -- driving a 1931 A-400 Convertible Sedan.

William (“Doc”) and Darlene Ingwersen, Downey, California, -- driving a 1931 Victoria.

Kurt Petersen and Judy McMillan, Seattle, Washington, -- driving a 1931 Special Delivery.

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Their around the world adventure...

Started with a list of over 125 interested Model A participants but dwindled to a final group of only 8 individuals and 4 Model A's to attempt the trip.

Required over 3 years in the planning stages and almost 5 months to complete (114 days, 9 hours and 4 minutes).

Spanned 6 continents, 3 oceans, 7 seas, 24 countries and 15 States – and crossing the Equator twice.

Bridged all 4 seasons, with temperatures ranging from 20 to 105 degrees F -- with drought, rain and snow conditions.

Required (in addition to car mileage) travel on 7 airlines, 4 ferries, a cruise ship and freighter -- plus numerous trains, busses and taxicabs.

Involved travel through hundreds of large cities, towns and small villages – with many taxing border crossings and complicated car transport logistics.

Required the unescorted negotiation of innumerable highways, city streets, poorly-paved roads, bridges, tunnels, deserts and mountain passes.

Involved a total of over 16,600 Model A road miles and a grand total of over 37,000 total land, air and sea miles.

And all of this was accomplished with only two minor breakdowns among the four Model A's – a flat tire and a broken axel. This trip was a real tribute to the durability of the Model A Ford – and the stamina of the eight Model A world explorers!

Make plans to see the Bob and Dottie Meyer Model A Coupe and related memorabilia from their fascinating around the world trip at the Museum later this year.

Collection Improvements

By Rob Mills, Trustee

Today the Model A Ford Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan exists because of the generosity of individuals and clubs, like yours. You are a full PARTNER in the Museum, while the MAFFI volunteer Trustees administer the museum facility.

My involvement as a MAFFI Trustee includes authenticating the vehicle collection at the museum. This involves the locating and installation of correct parts. These parts have come from my personal collection as well as scouring local and national swap meets, including Hershey. It is important to me to continue the preservation and authentication of Henry's Model A and its rich history for future generations.

We need your help to continue this process. We are in need of the following items at this time:

- Two restored 1931 gas caps One restored 1931 radiator cap
- Three restored 1928-29 gas caps
- Five sets of license plate clips
- Two sets of single-bulb headlight reflectors (original silver plating in very good condition)
- Two sets of two-bulb headlight reflectors (original silver plating in very good condition)

The Model A Ford Museum and Foundation are possible because you share our passion. Many clubs and individuals have given donations of items to benefit our museum. If you have any of these items available, I would encourage you to make a donation to MAFFI so that the Model A Ford Museum will remain a living legacy. It's an achievement we can all be proud of. MAFFI and the MUSEUM exist because of YOU. Please contact me for any part donations at rmills@cass.net or 517.902.5852 (after 2:00 p.m.)

***Rob Mills installing a donated gas cap at the museum.
Thanks to Craig Riker for the restoration.***



NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER

The following new members recently joined the Foundation. We welcome them to the important work of preserving the Model A and its era for future generations.

LIFETIME

John & Happy Begg, Irmo, SC
Doug & Reyanne Freeman, Concord, CA
Richard Alexander, Lompoc, CA

FAMILY

Hunter Leary, Waynesboro, VA
Ed & Monika Tolman, Chino Hills, CA
Robert & Patty Belvin, Yorktown, VA
Chuck & Karen Haber, Kansas City, MO
Cameron Hostager, Carrollton, GA
Kalvin Carruthers, Appling, GA
Aidan Folger, Lynnwood, WA
George Scholl, Bethlehem, PA
David Teale Spring, TX
Ronald Kuhlman, Gilman, IL
J C Taylor Insurance Agency, Upper Darby, PA

Isaac Yokofich, New Berlin, WI
Emmalyn Smith, West Allis, WI
Derek Ricci, Frenchtown, MT
Darwin Schafer, Spring City, PA
David Jensen, Blandon, PA
William Strunk, Stroudsburg, PA
Woody & Lynn Malone, Aiken, SC
Eric & Dotti Shogren, Aiken, SC
Tom & Pat Roberts, Aiken, SC

MEMORIALS

ALL memorial listings, past and present, are now available on our web site and in the Memorial Book. Both include bricks purchased "In memory of." See www.Maffi.org

Your A Preserver can be emailed

Advantages are that you will get your *A Preserver* issue sooner than mailed and in color. This also allows MAFFI to save on printing and mailing costs which helps to keep expenses down.

If you would like to have your issues emailed, send an email to: editor@maffi.org.

MAFFI Membership Application

The Model A Ford is a symbol of Americana. MAFFI is dedicated to the preservation of the Model A and associated historical information. By joining MAFFI, you will help meet that goal while receiving an informative quarterly publication and other benefits. Your membership donation is tax deductible under Internal Revenue Service rule 501 (c)3 and will help with MAFFI's many projects and worthwhile goals.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ E-mail Address: _____
MAFCA/MARC Chapter _____
Family Membership Category:
Annual (\$25.00) _____ Three Years (\$70.00) _____ Life Member (\$350.00) _____
Club Membership Category:
(\$100.00) _____ (\$250.00) _____ (\$500.00) _____ Other _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Mail this form with your payment to: Model "A" Ford Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 95151, Nonantum, MA 02495

Support the MODEL "A" MUSEUM with a lifelong tribute

BRICK ORDER FORM - \$150/BRICK

3 line message-20 Characters/line including spaces & punctuation- 17 Characters for CAPITAL LETTERS
(Each line will be centered.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Purchaser's Name: _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
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Mail form and check, payable to MAFFI, at P O Box 95151, Nonantum, MA 02495

Phase II MUSEUM ENDOWMENT THERMOMETER

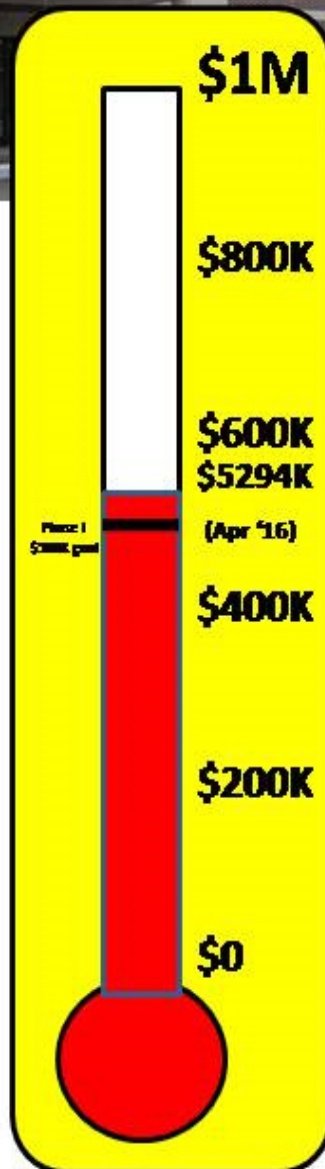


An Additional Goal

Now that the first \$500,000 goal has been reached, the funds are being invested conservatively, with \$300,000 already in the hands of a trusted conservative investment institution, and more will be added.

The initial estimate of a \$500,000 endowment was based on an expected rise in interest rates to traditional levels. This level has been slow in developing.

The Trustees have decided to set another endowment goal of \$1 million, to be earned over time, to completely assure that the Model A Museum lives forever, even if interest rates stay at present levels.



Klecha Bequest

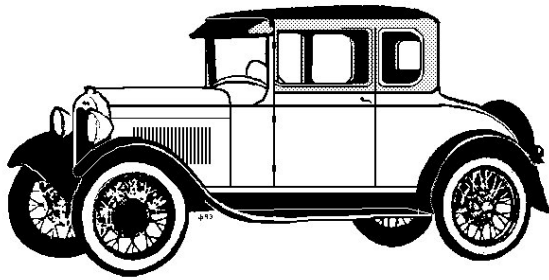
In March, 2016 the Endowment Fund received the results of the probating of the will of well-known New Jersey Model A leader, Butch Klecha. The amount was over \$81,800. This enduring bequest from his will is an example of the generosity and forethought shown by Model A Ford owners around the nation in support of the future of the Model A Museum. A suitable memorial will be placed in the museum to mark this generous donation.

Thanks to ALL Donors!
The initial \$500K goal has been met

The "A" Preserver

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Preserving The Model A Era for Future Generations

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Museum Window Decal	\$ 2.00	Bumper Decal (My other Car is)	\$ 3.00
Iron-on Museum Cloth Patch	\$ 4.00	Museum Clutch Pin	\$ 7.00

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Contact Janice Barker—Email your requests to Janice at: jlb72443@aol.com

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MAFFI Model A Magazine Ads Program	Forty Horses
Seat Belts for your Model A by Stan Johnson	Hammer Welding
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The Henry Ford Museum	How a Mustang Was Made
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