

## TWIN CITIES CHAPTER – SEPTEMBER 2023

### Reviving an Osceola Fordor *by Scott Huberty*

It is always a glorious moment when a Model A that has been silent for a long period of time comes back to life. That was the case in Osceola this summer when, in recent months, several members of the TCMAFC Club living in the St. Croix Valley area helped revive a 1929 Fordor that had not been running for a long time.

This is a tale that has its origins a couple of years ago when Club Member Doug Portlance was driving home from the Great Northern Tour in Wisconsin. Doug was experiencing some suspected fuel issues as they were in the Osceola area, so he and Dale Pomerleau made an unscheduled stop at the Osceola Ace Hardware to get a fuel can to collect some suspected bad gas.

While purchasing the fuel container to aid in their roadside repairs, they met Gordan Wyman, who worked at the store. Conversation ensued and it soon was revealed that Gordan and his son, “Gordy” had a 1929 Fordor that had been sidelined for about nine years. What had once been a popular feature in Osceola parades had not been running for a while due to suspected mechanical issues. Never wanting to miss an opportunity to plant seeds of assistance, Mr. Portlance left his card and his encouragement...

Fast-forward to this past May, and the card that Doug left with Gordan was pulled out of a drawer, and the elder Gordan called Doug after receiving too much grief from family members that were wondering if the Fordor would ever be seen again in parades with the occupants throwing out candy. Being ever-resourceful, Mr. Portlance contacted Lake Elmo-based, Model A Knucklehead, Scott Huberty, and issued the alert message. Scott rounded up the assistance of Mark Potvin and the two embarked on a Sunday afternoon fact-finding mission to Osceola to see what could be done. Expecting to find a rusted-out “basket case”, the two were amazed to find a beautiful car that appeared to need only minimal work to get back on the road.

Fluids were inspected and changed, ignition and timing were checked, the radiator was removed to replace a defunct water pump, and the carburetor was removed and brought back to Hudson for inspection and cleaning. George Bell from the Hudson area contributed his skills to go through the carburetor to make sure it was in good shape. A new water pump was ordered, along with a few other items, and a second trip to Osceola was made by Mark and Scott.

It didn't take long to install the new parts, and faster than you can say, “Get this A on the road!”, Gordy, Mark, and Scott were test-driving the '29 on the residential streets of Osceola. The drive included a stop at the Ace Hardware, where the elder Gordan was hard at work, selling more gas cans and, after hearing a loud “Aooogah” from the parking lot, came outside to see the car idling. The smile on his face made all the work worthwhile! While admiring the newly revived A, a neighbor came by and asked if this was the same car that he had not seen in a long time...

There were a few more “bugs to work out”, but the car is now back on the road. The two Gordons, and the younger Gordy's wife, even made a run to Hudson on a Sunday in late July to join up with George, Scott, Mark, and a few other Model A club members who regularly gather at the local Culver's for ice cream. Credit goes to Mark Potvin who was instrumental in diagnosing what needed to be done and made multiple trips to Osceola to make the repairs. Kudos to George Bell who thoroughly inspected and cleaned the carburetor!

It is a wonderful feeling of satisfaction when a classic car gets back on the road. This is an example of how things can work out – even after a couple of years. Always keep your eyes and ears open for the next opportunity that may come your way!

