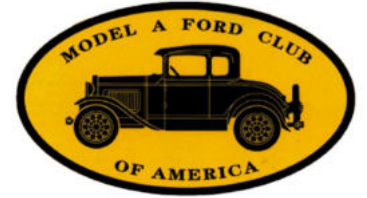




4th Quarter 2020



A WORLD

YOUTH NEWSLETTER MODEL A FORD CLUB OF AMERICA

CHRISTMAS PARADE

By SHERRY WINK

It was almost Christmas and as always, the Sitzman family were busy getting ready. The cookies were being baked, and the candies being made. The Christmas tree had been cut and the cedar tree now decorated the house with the beautiful electric lights Grandma Roberts had gifted the family last Christmas. Presents were being discussed, planned, wrapped, and hidden. Dad Sitzman made sure that he locked the door to his workshop when he wasn't in it and had a curtain over the window to prevent little eyes from peeking in. Mom Sitzman also kept her sewing room locked up tight! Even the kids were all conspiring among themselves to come up with gifts that they were sure would be perfect for each person on their list! Larry had carved some little wooden cars for the three little boys, Leonard, Sam, and Stanley. Suzanne had been working on embroidering an apron for Shannon's favorite doll, with the help of Grandma Roberts. The words "ouch, I stuck myself!" were heard more than once!



This year something new had been added to the festivities. There was going to be a Christmas

parade! This had never been done before, but this year was going to be the last Christmas in the country for old Mrs. Jones. At ninety-four years old, her son had decided she was just too old to live on the farm by herself anymore. Her health had been bad too, so finally, he had convinced her to move into the big city with him.

It had been a hard decision for Mrs. Jones. She had lived on this farm all her life. When she got married, her folks had given the farm to the new couple and moved to a smaller place. Mrs. Jones was excited about her move but sad to leave her home. But she struggled to walk and do the things that needed to be done to stay, so it was time to go.

Now, Mrs. Jones was well known to everyone for miles around. And they too were sad to see her go. She had been a teacher at the local school for many years and then had volunteered at the local library until just a few years ago. She had taught generations of the local families. Mom and Dad Sitzman had both had her as a teacher and counted her as a favorite. Mr. Jones, who was gone now, had worked at the Ford garage in town and was remembered as a great mechanic.



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It was too close to Christmas to throw a going-away party when the community learned of Mrs. Jones's intent to move. But they wanted to do something to let her know how much she was loved and would be missed. Quite a few conversations centered on this subject at the local Farmer's Co-op, and among the farmwives gathered around at the grocery store. But unexpectedly, the best idea was offered up by Larry. Since Mrs. Jones doesn't have the energy to come to a party he said, let's throw a parade for her! She doesn't have to be in the parade, we'll take the parade to her! And that was that! The decision was made to gather at the Co-op the Saturday before Christmas and parade past her home a honking and a hooting! Signs were made to hang on the vehicles, and wreaths and garlands were wrapped around the cars.

Over thirty cars, trucks, and tractors showed up that Saturday! The parade was led by the town's 1924 REO Firetruck, with the fire chief (and also town mayor) at the wheel. He had the siren wailing, and the bell was being rung by his youngest son, a boy of 6 who thought this was the most fun he had ever had! The firetruck was too old to fight fires now but was kept polished for parades, so it was ready to go. The next vehicle in line was Dad Sitzman's AA truck. He had loaded some cut cedar trees in the back to celebrate the season! Then cars, trucks, and even tractors filled in behind. The tractor pulled a trailer load of kids, to celebrate Mrs. Jones's years of working at the school, and the library. Larry was at the tail end of the procession driving his Model A pickup, with the honor of carrying Santa Claus in his pickup bed. The plan had been to have Santa in a sled, but the weather had not cooperated, and with no snow, other arrangements had needed to be made!

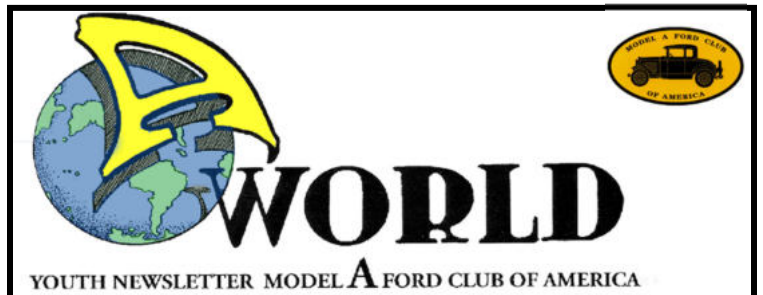


The first few cars in line stopped in front of the farmhouse and delivered plates of cookies and a jug of fresh eggnog for the Joneses to enjoy during the celebration. The rest of the procession pulled right on into the farmyard too, honking and yelling "surprise", and "Merry Christmas" at the top of their lungs. Then everyone stepped out of their cars or up on their trucks and sang a few Christmas carols to top off the event! Everyone realized it would wear Mrs. Jones out to stay too long, so they eventually got reluctantly back into their cars, and with promises from both sides to write each other, drove away, still making enough noise to alarm the cows in the nearby field.



The last car in the procession before Larry was Grandma Roberts' Tudor Model A. She had the twins, Robert and Richard in the backseat, holding tight to a big covered basket of steaming food. Knowing that the events of the day would leave the Joneses too tired to cook what Grandma Roberts considered a good meal, she had brought the meal to them.

There was a crispy roast chicken, with potatoes and carrots cooked in the pot, and the drippings made into gravy. The biscuits were still hot from Mom Sitzman's oven, with fresh butter and apple butter from Grandma's fall canning to go with them. This delicious meal was finished off with one of Mom Sitzman's famous chocolate cakes. The kids had all sniffed hungrily when it came out of the oven earlier that day but they knew it was not for them. Mom Sitzman said nothing, but there were some happy kids (and Dad Sitzman) when they found out she had actually made two cakes, so there was an extra one waiting when the hungry family finally made it home after the big day. And Santa, who was actually Uncle Fred, had a big piece too!



A-World is published by the Model A Ford Club of America for the benefit of youth and the promotion of the Model A hobby.



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A-World is free, courtesy of MAFCA. As of May 2016, it became a web or email only publication. If you wish to have it emailed directly, please send your email address to Aworld@mafca.com

KIDS AND THEIR "A"s!



Stella Rose Dotson is 2 years old and lives in Greencastle, Indiana. She may be young but she still loves their Model A!



Josalyn Whitmire is four and is from Taylors, South Carolina. She attended Old Fashioned Day at their Church dressed in era fashion!



Sebastian Phillips lives in Fowler, Indiana. He is twelve and looking forward to driving the family "A" as soon as possible!



Hannah Bruno is just over a year old but is already forward to learning how to drive her Grandfather's wonderful Model A!

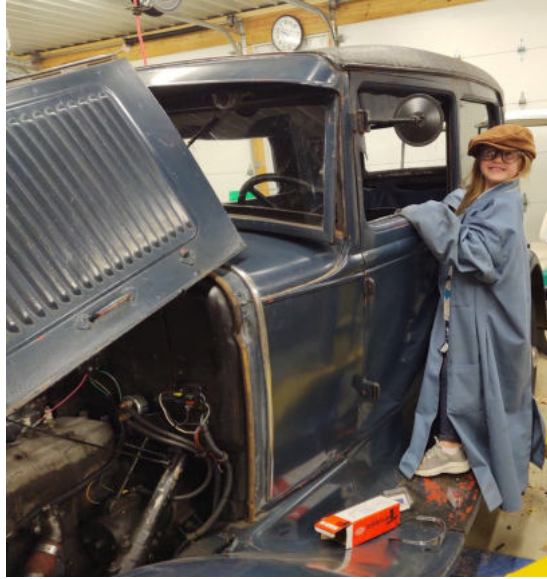


Bree Fellows is 15 and lives in Ohio. Right after Thanksgiving, she had the opportunity to drive FIVE Model A's, thanks to her Great-Uncle Jim.

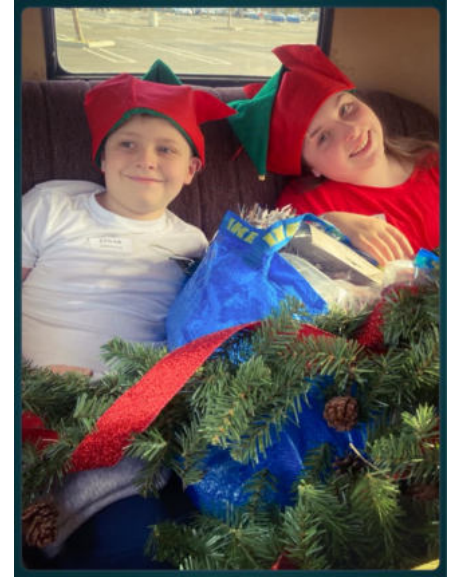
MORE KIDS AND THEIR "A"s!



Trevor Bolliger, 7 years old, lives in High Springs, FL. At the Rotary 28th Annual car show, his car placed in the top 20 people's choice award. There were 147 cars entered! Trevor's grandfather owned this car for forty years and sold it. Several years later, his dad was able to buy it back into the



Kaydence Shoemaker from Kalamazoo Michigan enjoys helping when their Model A needs work done!



Ethan, age 10, and Eleanor, age 12 live in San Diego California. They recently participated in a Christmas parade with their local club!



Morgan is the granddaughter of Phil Serviss and she loves going for rides and weekend trips in Grandfather's Model A!



The Serviss family were on a 8 day Model A trip and stopped at a state park.

A bunch of Home school kids out for the afternoon with their parents stopped by to check out the A and were thrilled to get behind the wheel!



Madison Rose Theil is 2 years old and lives in St. Augustine, Florida. By the way, the skeleton was teaching her how to drive! From what I hear, they both did a great job. Better hide that key!

ANOTHER YET ANOTHER PAGE OF MODEL A KIDS!



Roger and Nora Dean, shared these wonderful pictures of their grandchildren with their 1930 Coupe. These pictures were taken in Indiana during the celebration of Roger and Nora's 50th anniversary in August.

Back L to R: Maddie Herman 12, Hannah Dean 13, Heidi Dean 10, Charlie Herman 7; Front row Left to right: Tillie Dean 12, Addyson Dean 10, Elaina Herman 14, Gabby Dean 15.



FLASHBACK

This 1931 Fordor has been in the Denham family for three generations. These pictures are from five years back. Colton is now 17, and Victoria is 14. The Denham's live in Brandon, Mississippi. To the right is a picture of their dad Steve Denham with his father many, many years ago.



Irvin and Gloria Mccorkle shared these wonderful pictures of a few of their 29 great-grandchildren! These three live in Texas. Niko Quesada wants to be the driver. Madeline, in the front seat and Bradley, in the rear seat, are content being passengers in their grandfather's Model A.

SIX THINGS ARE DIFFERENT!

This Model A Tudor is getting ready to go on a drive in the snow. But the top picture looks like it's missing a few things compared to the bottom one. Can you find the differences? *The answers are on page 10 but don't peek too soon!*

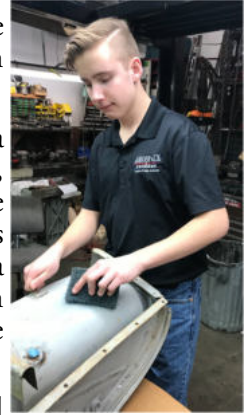




Model A Youth Restoration Award Recipient Diezel Cook

Diezel J. Cook is 15 and lives in Sylvania, Ohio. He is a member of the Sweet 16's Model A Club. In 2018, Diezel applied for and received an award from the Model A Youth Restoration Award (MAYRA).

Diezel needed help with the restoration and transformation of a speedster into a 1929 Model A Ford Pickup. When Diezel's dad was 14, he and his father had built a speedster. So the family has an affinity for speedsters. The speedster that Diezel is rebuilding ran in the 1987 Great Race. It was discovered by Diezel's uncle ten years later in Chandler, Arizona, where it had been asleep in a weedy backyard through heat and cold, rain and shine for over a decade. His uncle and a team from the Arizona Model A Club extracted the car. It eventually made it to Ohio, where Diezel, his father, and grandfather are working on it.



The MAYRA award that Diezel received in 2018 enabled him to begin the restoration. Diezel applied for a second award from MAYRA in 2020 to help him complete his project. He writes, "we began ordering the parts we needed with the gift certificates that were awarded to me (2018). Then we started the restoration by removing the rear of the car. We began sanding and dismantling the truck at the same time. The chassis has been completely redone and painted. The engine, transmission, and rear-end are back in the car. I have a used truck bed that is rotted out in the middle. Since I do not have enough money to buy a new bed yet, we cut out the rusted part, shortened the bed by 18 inches, and welded it back together. The shorter bed will do until I can afford to buy a new one."

The Model A is providing a great learning experience for Diezel. Every reader of A-World between ages 12 and 20 who wants to work on and restore a Model A should check MAYRA's website at Modelarestitutionaward.org.





Winners of the New Paper A's!!

We have our winners! Three lucky Model A kids were selected to receive one of the new Paper A's race cars. They are from as far away as Australia! See their pictures and articles below!



Alex Stolis is from Blaine, Minnesota.

My name is Alex I'm 6 years old and I really like spending time with our A. I like to work on it and get my hands dirty. I want to keep it nice so I can drive it one day.

My parents let me play in it all the time I play I go on rides and stores. Sometimes when I'm out in the country my parents let me ride in the rumble seat. I ask my dad if we can take the A almost every day for a ride. The best is when it is warm and we can open the windshield.

Milly, who is six years old, lives in Australia.

I love my Grandpa Alan's Model A Ford and especially going in it for drives together with my two sisters, Grandpa and Granny Sharon. I can't wait for when Grandpa can teach me to drive it on his friend's farm once I can reach the pedals when I am older. I can already press my foot on the starter and blow the horn.

My teacher two years ago had Grandpa bring the Model A Ford to show my kinder pre-school class. Grandpa also gave us a short talk. We all had turns to sit in the car where it was parked with me always in the driver's seat!

After me and my friends enjoyed the car, we went inside back to our classroom and all then did a Model A Ford coloring in competition. We used the MAFCA A World drawing template (see attached) of Grandpa's Model A sedan and colored it in the same green and black colors as his car. Grandpa then judged. We all did so well that we each won a tied 1st prize of small packet of candy each.

I hope to go with my sisters and Grandpa in 2027 to the Model A Ford Centenary Australia National Tour which will be held in our State of Victoria.



Clara Evans is from Oxford, Kansas, although currently her family is living on the road as full time RVers:

I've only ridden once in a Model A but it was fun. I like the trunk on the back and the rolldown windows. It was louder than a modern car, and I could barely hear my mom when she spoke through the window. Also, there weren't any seat belts. That was cool. So, in all, it was a fun experience.

Christmas Toys

Model A era kids had a lot to look forward to for Christmas. No, there were no iPhone, or Xboxes, but there were still plenty of interesting things to play with! Instead of the internet, they did their Christmas wishing with catalogs. The pictures below are of catalog pages from just a few of many available!



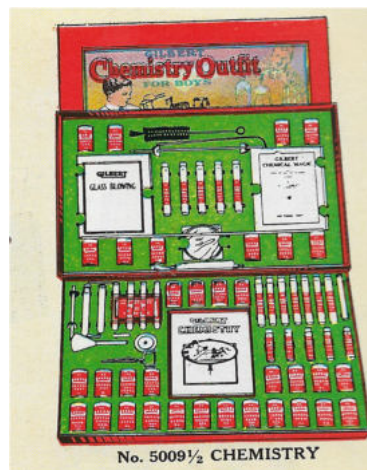
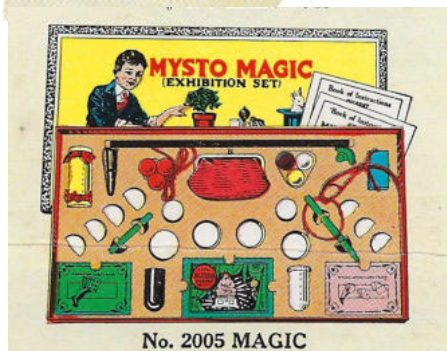
Pedal cars were undoubtedly on most kids Christmas lists!

Hands-on toys were popular; check out this tool chest or erector set.

From dolls, teddy bears that growled, to trains and record players, this catalog had it all!



Board games and card games were popular back then too. There were whole pages of games to choose from. .



Magic and puzzles added excitement.

Science added a little bit of danger.



Bicycles, scooters and tricycles were all the rage.

A 1928 Kid's Christmas Party!

This is a page from a kid's magazine from 1928. It has all the details on how to throw a Christmas party for young people. It is quite different from what we would expect in today's world!

It starts with handwriting the invitations on red paper with white ink. These are then sent in the mail.

It suggests that the host dress up as Merry "Mary" Christmas in a green dress of paper or fabric outlined with silver or gilt tinsel, with a round cap with a star in front. The small host may be Jack Frost with silver stars and a tall black hat with a silver star on the front. Girl's costume is illustrated at left.

A Christmas Party

THE invitations to this exciting party should be as Christmassy as possible, being either written on crimson paper with white ink or on white cards which may be holly-decorated, tying the envelopes with narrow holly paper ribbon. The wording on the invitations might be:

*"At the sign of the holly, my friends I'll await;
I think 'twill be jolly, so don't you be late!"*

In one corner, state the date and hour of the party, writing in the other the name and address of the little hostess.

Costume Suggestions

The little hostess may be dressed to represent "Merry (Mary) Christmas" in a green dress of paper or fabric outlined with silver or gilt tinsel, with a round cap with a star in front. The small host may be Jack Frost with silver stars and a tall black hat with a silver star on the front. Girl's costume is illustrated at left.

ever new moon on the front. Girl's costume is illustrated at left.

Sleigh Bell Game

All the players are blindfolded except one—the reindeer—and he has a string of sleigh bells fastened around his neck which naturally jingle as he moves. The blindfolded players try to catch the reindeer, who, being caught, becomes a blindfolded player while the catcher becomes the next reindeer.

Christmas Fish Pond

Put a pile of buttons of the shank variety, like shoe buttons, in the middle of the table. Each child fishes for these with a string on the end of which is a bent pin. A prize is awarded for the biggest catch at the end of five minutes.

Table Decorations

The Santa Claus centerpiece is at one end of the table. The chimney is cardboard covered with brick crepe paper, and Santa emerging from it holds in his hands ribbons attached to favors placed in front of each little guest.

Another centerpiece is a poinsettia with a shallow round green box center full of little favors wrapped in yellow, and long red crepe paper petals which lie on the white tablecloth. The favors are tiny toys, jewelry, etc., from a ten-cent store. On the white place cards are poinsettia stickers holding ends of ribbons leading to the favors.

Menu

Orange Juice	Creamed Chicken with Molded Rice
Buttered Finger Rolls	Celery
	Tiny Sweet Pickles
Vanilla Ice Cream with Chopped Cherries	
Poinsettia Cake	Green and Red Mints

Poinsettia Cake

Whites of 8 eggs	1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon cream of tartar	¾ cup flour
1 teaspoon vanilla	½ teaspoon salt

Beat whites of eggs until light, then add sifted cream of tartar and continue beating until quite stiff. Next put in vanilla, then sugar gradually; lastly, fold in the flour which has been sifted three times with the salt. Bake forty-five to fifty minutes in a greased angel cake pan. When cold, cover with a plain white frosting and insert a poinsettia (artificial or cut from paper) in opening in the center. Cost, 65c; time, 1½ hours.



Planned by Lily Haworth Wallace

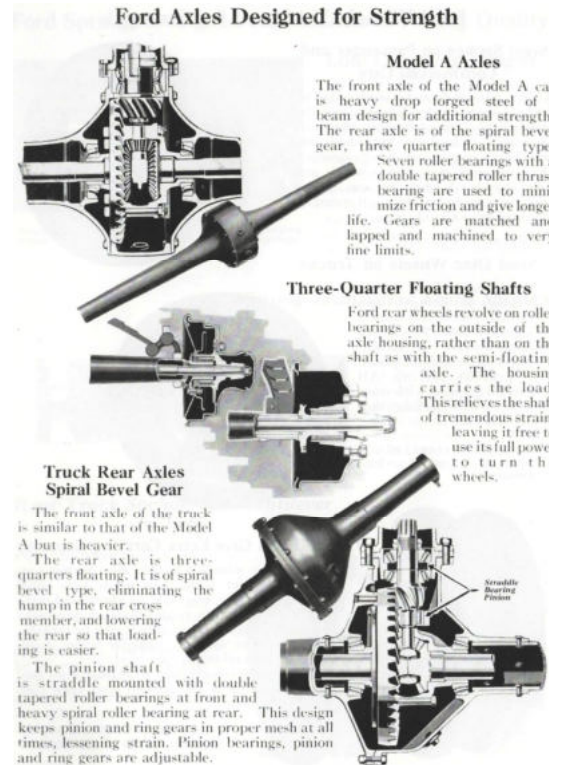
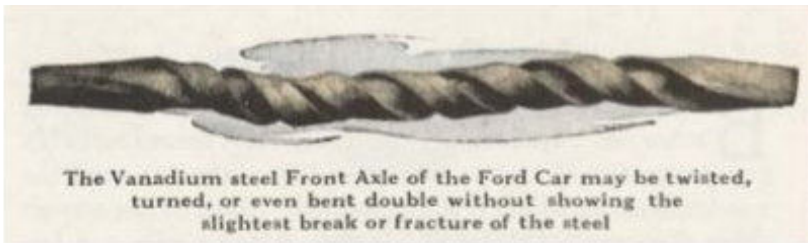


Twisted Ford Axles

Henry Ford was proud of the strength of his axles. As you can see on the right, from a page of a Fordex book, the front axle is of heavy forged steel.

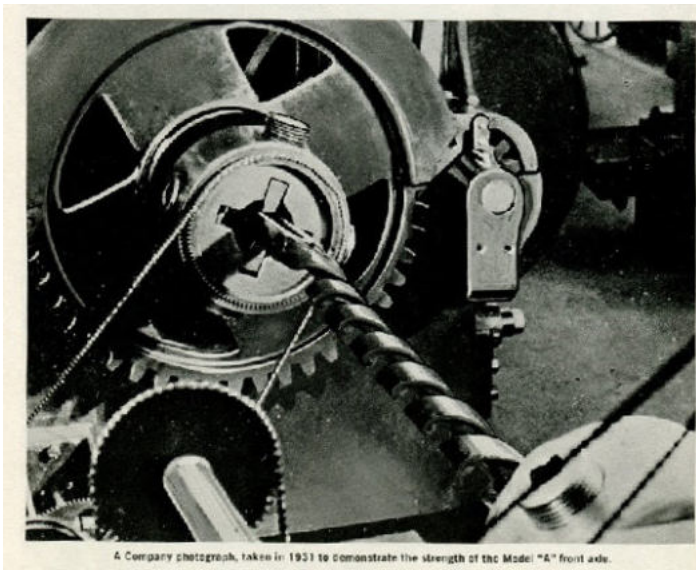
Henry was fond of demonstrating the axle strength in a very interesting way. He would set up a lathe, insert the axle, and then put it through seven or eight full rotations while talking about how strong his cars were. He would then send these axles to dealers around the country to put on display.

This demonstration wasn't something new he came up with the Model A's. The first picture of this practice I could find was from 1913 with a Model T axle.



But of course, Henry didn't like change. He felt if something worked, why change it. Since it was a very successful display, it continued with the new Ford, the Model A. Henry continued using this demonstration for many years. I found a video from 1935 showing this process in action:

<https://tinyurl.com/twist-axles>



This publicity picture is captioned "A company photograph in 1931 to demonstrate the strength of the Model "A" front axle."

One of the Model A twisted axles is on display at the Speedway Motor Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska. I took this picture in August 2017, but I'm assured the exhibit is still up!



Light Up for Christmas



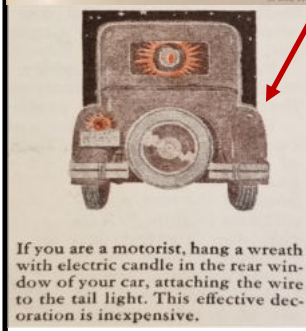
Electric Christmas string lights were invented in 1882, but they were very expensive and not that safe at first. In 1894, President Cleveland put electric lights on the White House tree. This made the demand for them grow, but it was not until the 1920s that electric Christmas lights became safe and affordable.

Their popularity quickly grew! Although not all homes had electricity in the Model A years, many did. And the electric lights were much safer than the lighted candles that had been used to light trees.

The lights sets had fewer lights than we have now, but I'm sure they were amazing compared to candles. And as you can see from the ad on the left, it wasn't just trees and houses that were lit up!



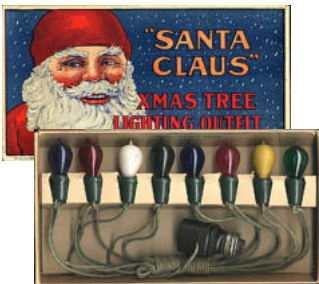
A 1928 ad with a lighted Christmas tree.



A 1928 ad with an electric candle in the car's window.



A 1928 ad showing the house lit up.



1928 Light Set



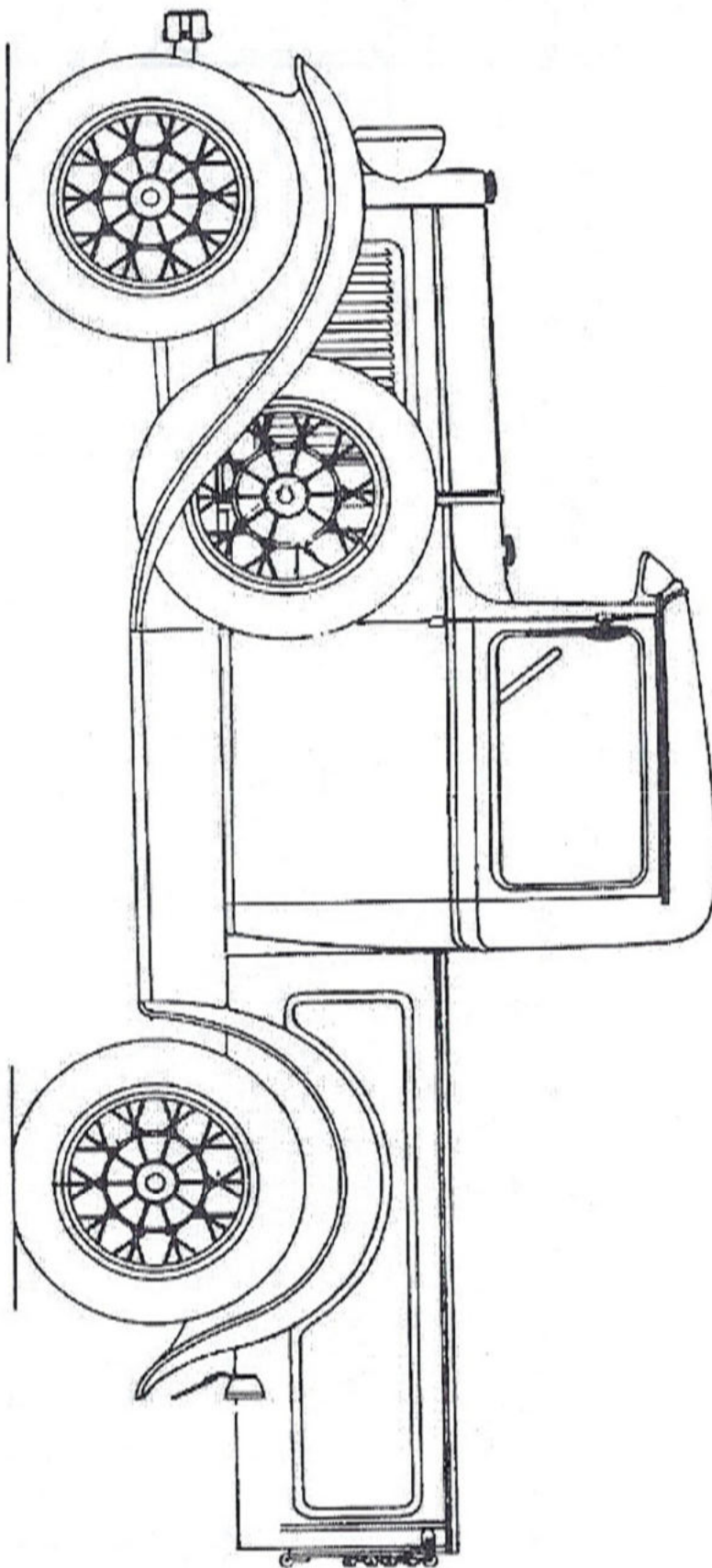
A 1930 light set



Answers to Six Different Things



Model A's pickups were very popular on farms. They could haul all kinds of stuff! I see a lot of green pickups, but there were many colors. What color do you think it should be?





Rumble Seat

Sherry Wink

It's the end of a very strange year! I hope you all stayed safe, but still had time to spend in your Model A's. I know I didn't have near as much A time as I would have liked. From the pictures that have been shared, it looks like many of you still found plenty of time to spend with our favorite hobby!

In my part of the world, it is now time to let the Old Lady sleep in her garage, dreaming of spring. She's had some need repairs done, and now, unless there is some unseasonable good weather, she'll stay in her warm space until spring. I'll miss driving her, but there are still plenty of other Model A activities I can do, like writing this newsletter.

What do you do during the winter months to stay involved with Model A's? I'd love to hear some stories and see some pictures of winter activities. Working in the garage with dad or grandpa? Or maybe you are adventurous and get the A out in the snow! If so, send me pictures!! And have a Merry Christmas!



Quiz Time



Take a half sheet of paper. Number 1-10. Name at the top right corner. If you share this A-World with others in your family or friends, make sure you do not write on the newsletter pages. There are two ways to take this quiz: 1) Not looking back 2) Looking back as you take the quiz to find the answers. Try the "not looking" way first!

- 1) What did Mom Sitzman make for the event?
A) Cake B) Pie C) Ice Cream
- 2) Who was the parade for?
A) Mrs. Smith B) Mr. Jones C) Mrs. Jones
- 3) How many Model A's did Bree drive after Thanksgiving?
A) Three B) Two C) Five
- 4) Who was teaching Madison Rose how to drive ?
A) Grandpa B) the Skeleton C) Dad
- 5) How many cars competed for the trophy Trevor won?
A) 125 B) 1931 C) 147!
- 6) How many generations has the Denham owned their 1931 Model A?
A) 3 B) 4 C) 2
- 7) What award did Diezel win?
A) Model A Youth Restoration Award
B) Model A Literary Award
C) He hasn't won an award yet
- 8) How many Paper A's were won in the contest?
A) 1 B) 2 C) 3
- 9) What part did Ford spiral on a lathe—
A) Spring B) Axle C) Bumper
- 10) What Model A is ready to be colored?
A) Roadster B) Pickup C) Coupe

Answers: 1) A, 2) C, 3) C, 4) B, 5) C, 6) A, 7) A, 8) C, 9) B, 10) B