



April-May-June 2011

WORLD



YOUTH NEWSLETTER MODEL A FORD CLUB OF AMERICA

A FLAT HAT

By SHERRY WINK

Grandma hated politicians. All politicians, she didn't care if they were Democrats or Republicans, she was convinced they were all crooks. Everyone in the family knew how she felt. Anytime one of those no-good-for-nothings interrupted one of her radio shows, she made no hesitation of speaking her mind as only Grandma could. It wasn't anything she couldn't have said in church, mind you. Grandma didn't use bad words. But she did use good everyday ordinary words better than anyone the Sitzman kids knew!

Grandma Roberts lived on a farm outside a small town in Nebraska called Elk Creek. Now you'd probably pronounce that like "El-K Cree-K", but everyone knew it was really pronounced "El Crick". If you said it the first way, everyone knew real fast you were city folk.

The farm wasn't very big anymore. Since Grandpa died, Grandma had sold off a lot of it, and rented out a lot of what was left. But she still kept some livestock, including her cows for milk and beef, pigs for bacon and ham, and of course chickens for eggs and fried chicken. And everyday after school, a couple of the Sitzman kids would take turns driving the Model A pickup to the farm to help do the chores. Many a weekend was spent there too. Some of the time was spent doing work. But a lot more time was spent doing fun things like jumping from the hayloft in the barn onto the hay pile below, searching out the newest batch of

kittens, tracking the raccoon tracks in the creek, and eating a lot of Grandma's great fried chicken dinners Sunday afternoons.

Today's story has to do with one of those weekends where most of the kids were spending the day at Grandma's house, helping out and having fun. Everything was going along great, and then it happened.

Into the long farm driveway came a strange car. The kids just stared, because it wasn't often this far out in the hills that you saw someone you didn't know. And this gentleman was dressed all up in a tweed suit and a fancy city hat. He looked like he was ready to go to a funeral or something. And they knew if he said the name of town, he would definitely pronounce it "EL-k Cree-k".



The city gent pulled up in front of the farmhouse and proceeded to climb out of the car. He eyed the kids up and down, and asked "Is the man of the house home?"

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Well, the kids all just stared. They didn't know what to think of this city slicker that didn't even know that Grandpa wasn't around anymore. But Sharla, the oldest one, had the good sense to holler at Grandma to come outside. She'd know what to tell this fancy dude.

Grandma came outside, and right away, her eyes narrowed to a slit. She had an idea who this might be and the sign on the door of the car confirmed it. It was a no-good, low-down, rotten scoundrel politician. Right here in her own driveway!

The man looked at Grandma and repeated "Is the man of the house here". Grandma looked him right in the eye and said "I'm the man of the house". When the man started to argue with her, she'd had it. "Larry," she said, "Go get me my shotgun". Now this wasn't an idle threat. Grandma was a good shot and had stopped quite a few coyotes from stealing her chickens. From the look in her eyes, she was aiming at another one. (Of course all she was shooting was rock salt. She wouldn't really have killed him, just made it sting!)

Well, the politician thought she was bluffing until Larry came out of the house with that big gun. He took one look at it and the look on Grandma's face and knew she wasn't kidding! He got in his car and tore out of the driveway so fast that all that was left was his hat fluttering to the ground.

One of the girls picked up the hat and asked Grandma if they should hang it on a fence by the road in case the city man came back. With a look of fire in her eye, Grandma told her "You go throw that hat in the middle of the road". The kids all looked at her with their mouths open, but she was serious. Not only did she make Larry march out to the road and toss the hat in the mud, she decided that wasn't enough to satisfy her. The nerve of that skunk coming on her property!!

Grandma made Larry jump in the Model A and go out on the road and drive back and forth over that hat until it was good and run-over. When she was finally satisfied, she gave a good "hurrumph" and marched back into the house to finish her interrupted chores.

You might say that this was when the kids all learned not to mess with Grandma, but you'd be wrong! Anybody but a darned-fool city slicker already knew that!



Writer's note: This story is actually based on an incident involving my Grandmother and a politician. I've embellished a little, but you didn't mess around with my Grandma, and I don't know if that man ever did come back to find his hat!

Correction: Last edition I forgot to credit my illustrator. Carmen Christopher Cerra was responsible for the Model A pickup in the "Crying Wolf" story and the Tudor on the outside page!

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A-WORLD

YOUTH NEWSLETTER MODEL A FORD CLUB OF AMERICA

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KIDS AND THEIR CARS!



Drew and Mackenzie Osborn enjoy riding in the rumble seat of their Grandpa's 1930 Coupe. And like their grandparents, they enjoy dressing in era outfits! Here they are getting ready for the Southside parade in St. Joseph MO.



Nautica Burgess loves going to the picnics and other activities with her grandparents. Here she's eyeing all the beautiful Model A's that are lined up at Smithville Lake for the annual picnic!

Got a picture of you and a Model A? Send it in and share how much fun you are having with everyone!

FORD FACTS

Did you know that Ford has been using an oval shaped logo since 1907? The first oval had a lot of vines around it, but it was still an oval.



In 1912, the company changed the logo to one very similar to what we know today but without the blue. You might have heard that the writing is Henry Ford's signature, but according to official Ford Corporation history, that's just an urban legend. The writing was really designed by one of Henry's workers by the name of Harold Wills.



Ford added the blue background in 1928. The Model A was the very first vehicle to have this blue oval. Henry must have liked it because they kept this design until the sixties!



Around 1961, Ford put the logo on a diet, and changed it to a skinner version.



In 2003, Ford decided to make another change. This was to help celebrate 100 years of Ford Cars!



It seems like a long time to keep using the same style of logo, but it must work well. They have now been using it now for over 100 years!

Music Memories

Kids growing up in the Model A era loved music too! There was no TV or iPods back then. Radio was just really becoming popular! You heard the good bands on the radio and if you were lucky, they visited your town or nearby and you could see them in person. And the radios weren't pocket sized either. Here's a typical radio from a 1929 advertisement.



As you can imagine, the bands back then looked and sounded a little different than today. Here is a band that was popular with the young crowd of the time. The Coon Sanders Nighthawk Orchestra was considered really hot back then.



Phonographs (eventually known as 'record players') had become very popular too. In 1929 you still had to wind the player up by hand with a crank. Many homes still didn't have electricity. Some of these players were even portable. Check

out this fancy blue one. In 1929, it cost \$35. That was more than a week's work of pay for the average American back then.

Check out this cartoon from 1929 that is talking about this band. Since the radio show is over, they are going to listen to it on the phonograph.

Just like today, teenagers loved to dress in the latest fashion and talk in slang. Can you imagine calling someone "Lilacs" or "Lollypopsie" today? And the short skirts on the girls and wide leg pants on the boys were considered to be all the style (and a little outrageous) then!

These machines played flat records with grooves cut in them that recorded the sound. A needle rode in the groove to reproduce the sound. There was one song on each side of these discs. The records are now known as 78's, because they had to spin at 78 rotations per minute or "rpm" to make the music sound right.



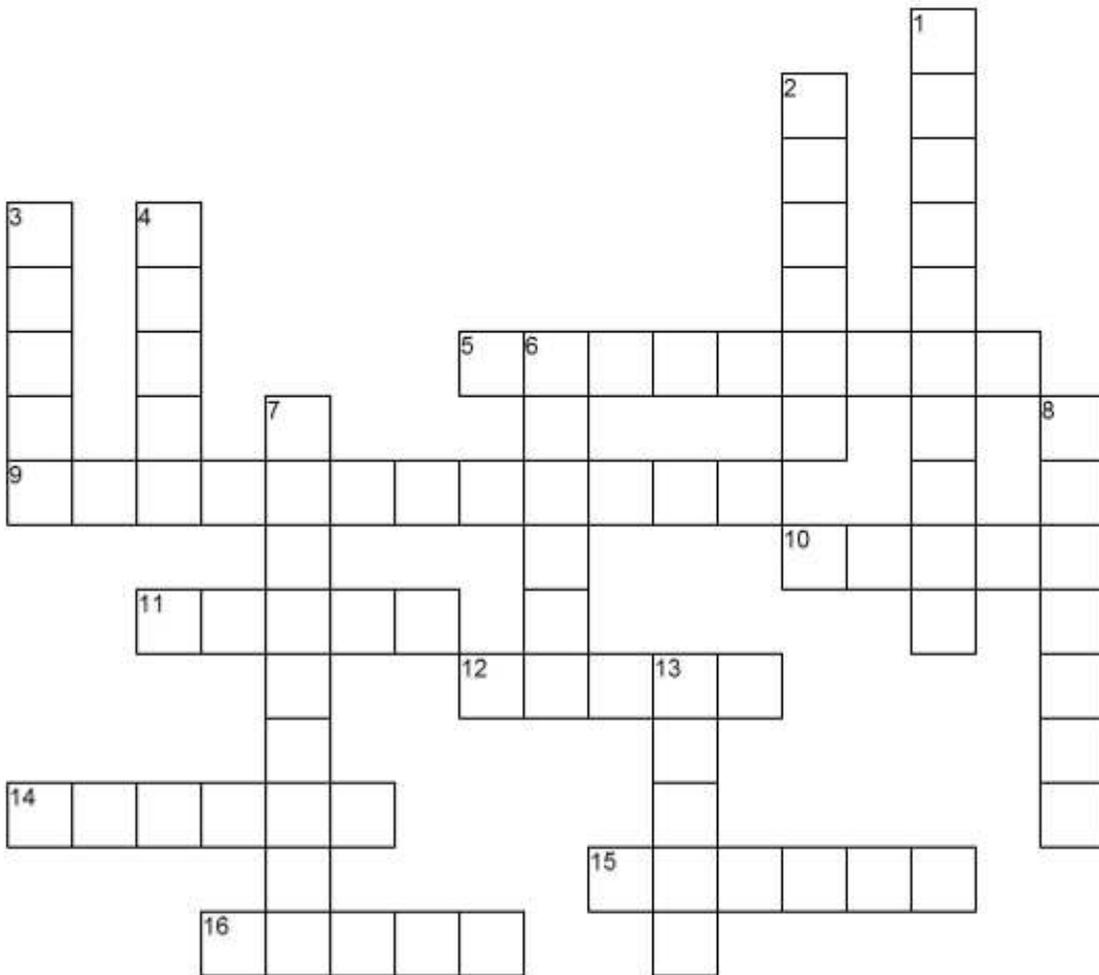
A post card from 1930. It shows a phonograph with a "horn" which was used as an external speaker.



CROSSWORD

Can you find the Model A based words in the crossword below?
Good Luck!

Answers on Page 8 but don't peek!



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

ACROSS

- 5) A 2 door convertible but with glass windows
- 9) Support for climbing in a Model A
- 10) Mr. Ford's wife
- 11) Son of Mr. Ford and also the co-designer of the Model A
- 12) A great Model A Organization
- 14) A nickname for the Victoria body style
- 15) Wire wheel supports
- 16) Mr. Ford's first name

DOWN

- 1) Fold out rear seating
- 2) 4 door 5 passenger version
- 3) 2 door 5 passenger model
- 4) Alignment of front tires at a tilt
- 6) The sound a Model A horn makes
- 7) A thin line of decorative paint
- 8) A 4 door convertible
- 13) A 2 passenger hard top

GRANDPA'S GAMES



Here's a game your grandmother or grandfather probably played when they were knee-high to a grasshopper. Tiddlywinks has been played for over 130 years. It can be played very simply, but there are also rules for Tiddlywinks that are being played at competition level in colleges today.

Tiddlywinks is usually played indoors and is played with sets of small round discs called "winks". These come in red, yellow, blue and green discs. A player uses a larger disc called a "squidger" to pop a wink into flight by pressing down on one side of the wink. The object of the game is to get as many winks into the pot (or cup) in the middle of the table as possible.

Place your tiddlywinks game on a smooth flat surface large enough to keep your winks from hitting the floor, such as a large table. You can play it on the floor if you mark your boundaries, or use a mat to play on.

You can have two or four players and have them choose pairs and colors. If you're playing with two, they get two colors each. Partners are located diagonally across from each other on opposite corners of the table.

Place the pot in the center of your playing surface and the winks of the four colors in the four corners. "Squidge off" to decide which player goes first. Each color plays one

wink as close to the pot as they can. If you get your wink closest to the pot, you are the winner of the squidge-off and you get to go first. The plays then continue in a clockwise motion.

Start a timer at the start of the game: 25 minutes is normal, or 20 minutes for a two-player game. Or you can just play until all of one color is in the pot! Take turns, proceeding in a clockwise order. Each player gets one shot per turn, unless they pot a wink of their own color, in which case they get an extra shot.

Capture enemy winks. Any wink which is underneath another wink, even by a tiny bit, cannot be played. It is said to be "squopped".

Keep your winks on the table. If any winks go off the table area, they are replaced at the edge. If you send any winks of your own color off the table, you lose your next turn.

Play a final round after the time expires. If one color does pot all 6 winks, the game is also over. This is called a pot-out.

Count the points. If the game ended without a pot-out, count the points for each color: any winks in the pot are worth 3 points each. Any unsquopped winks outside the pot are worth 1 point each. Any un-played winks still in the corner are not worth any points. The winner is the one with the most points!



SIX THINGS ARE DIFFERENT!

This is a young Walter Thomas Jones with his first Model A back in 1962. Walt still has a Model A he drives today. But this one is gone. Six things in this top picture are also gone. See if you can find them all. *The answers are on page 8, but don't peek!*



KNOW YOUR MODEL A?

AUTOMOBILE SAFETY

Why a Quail?

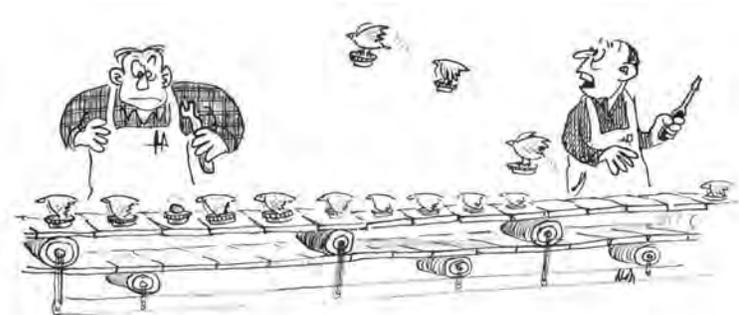
Have you noticed that the radiator cap on many Model A's is in the shape of a bird? It is actual called a "Flying Quail".



Now why would anyone use a quail as a mascot? They are know as shy birds that like to hide. But, as Henry Ford said, when you scare them, they take off "just like a firecracker".



Henry wanted a new design for the Model A that demonstrated the idea of a quick getaway to show how fast his new car was. So he felt a quail was perfect, and he worked with the designers to come up with the perfect radiator cap!

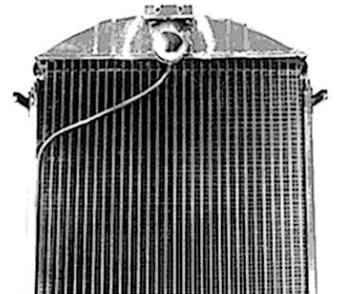


Radiator Safety

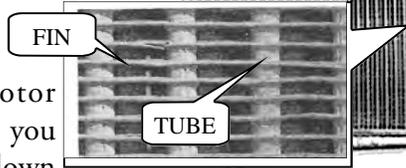
While we're talking about radiator caps, lets talk about radiators themselves. Radiators are part of the cooling system for a Model A. In the cooling system, water is circulated around the hot motor to absorb the heat. It is then sent to the radiator. The radiator has "tubes" the water flows thru and "fins" that help absorb the heat and expose it to the air so the fan can cool it off.



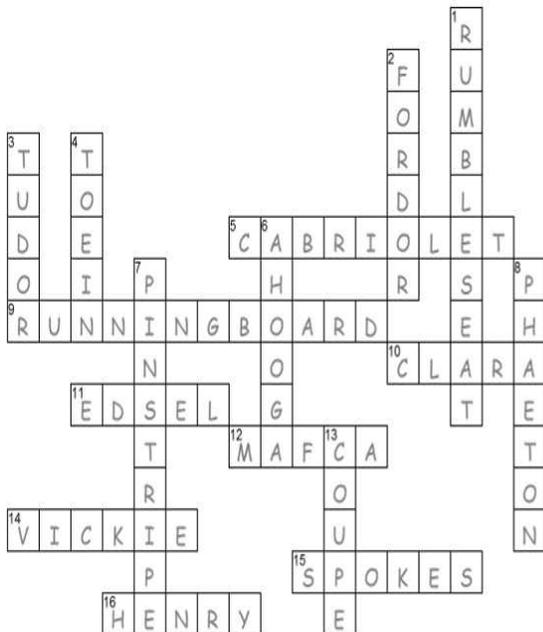
When the water can't cool off fast enough, the motor can overheat and the water start boiling. This can be dangerous if you tried to open the radiator cap while it's this hot. It can cause serious burns.



The radiator can also boil dry, and let your motor overheat. Then you must let it cool down before adding water or the water can turn to steam and burn you. Adding cold water to hot engine could also damage your motor.



Crossword Answers



That's why it's important to always check your water level routinely, and especially before a long drive! It's part of staying safe in your Model A!

Six different things:

Did you find them all?



WHAT THEY USED TO WEAR

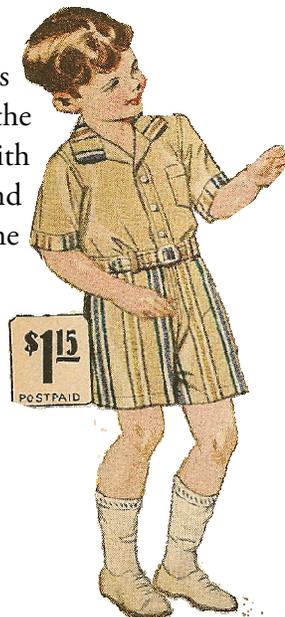


If you like to dress "Era Appropriate" when you are Model "A"ing, here are a couple of outfits that could be easily duplicated with today's styles. All of these outfits are from the 1930 Sears "Spring and Summertime" catalog.

The above examples would be great for any teenager. For young ladies, a simple skirt and blouse combo looks great. For young men, a sporty look with a bow tie is just the ticket.



These additional outfits were very stylish for the younger generation, with shorts for the boys and bloomers under the girls dresses.



WHAT YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO WEAR NOW!



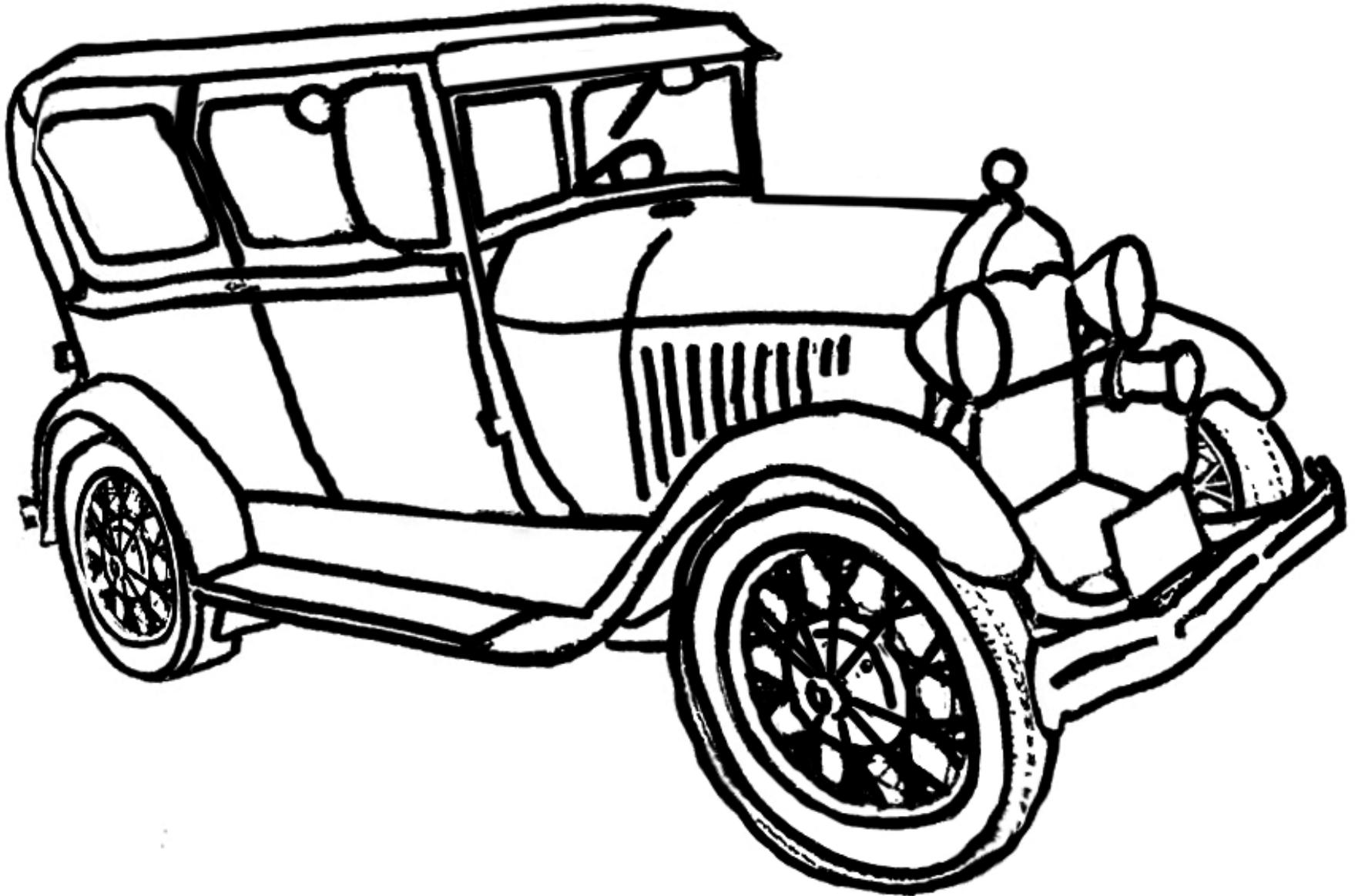
Did you know that swimsuits in the Model A years were made out of wool? It itched when it was dry, and stretched when it got wet.

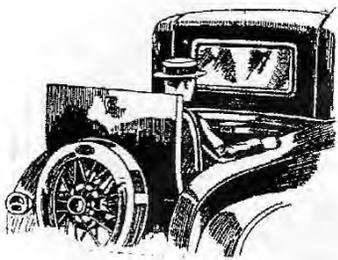
And yes, men and boys had to wear a top too! But they all did show more leg than in prior years, which was surprising to me! However, nothing makes me more grateful for modern fabric than thinking about wearing wool to swim in!



Coloring Page

Here's a nice TUDOR for you to color. Feel free to use any colors you like because this car came in lot of different color combinations. But don't forget, the fenders and the roof should always be black!





RUMBLE SEAT

Sherry wink

Time already to write my second edition? You must be joking! Where has the time gone? Well, not enough of it spent in a Model A, if you ask me!

I hope you enjoyed my first edition, but I have to admit I'm disappointed that I haven't received any pictures or letters yet! I'm dying to hear from all of you about all the fun you're having in your Model A. But I know that the driving season is just starting in my neck of the woods, so maybe that's the reason I haven't heard from you yet. Make sure to take some pictures this summer and send them in as soon as possible. Or else I might think you're not having any fun at all, and I know that's not right!

I plan to have my Tudor out running as much as possible this summer. I already have trips planned to go for ice cream, watching old airplanes, a picnic at the lake, and a trip to a veterans' hospital.

I'm sure you are all going to some great locations too, so have fun this summer and I hope to hear from you in time to include your summer fun in the next A-World issue! See you then!



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 our 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) The last change in the Ford Logo was made to celebrate what anniversary?
A) 75th B) 100th C) 150th
- 2) How fast did the records spin on a record player in 1929?
A) 44 rpm B) 33 rpm C) 78 rpm
- 3) What lake was Nautica picnicking at?
A) Smithville B) Erie C) Powell
- 4) What was the favorite Sunday dinner at Grandma's?
A) Pork Chops B) Omelets C) Fried Chicken
- 5) What were swimsuits made out of in the Model A years?
A) Cotton B) Rayon C) Wool
- 6) A large disc used to press on a "wink" is called what?
A) Squiggy B) Squidger C) Squirt
- 7) What year coupe do Drew and Mackenzie ride in?
A) 1929 B) 1931 C) 1930
- 8) What colors are winks?
A) green & blue B) red & yellow C) All four of these
- 9) What is the name of Henry Ford's wife?
A) Clara B) Sally C) Mary
- 10) Walt Jones got his first Model A when?
A) 1962 B) 1941 C) 1953

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



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