

THE CHRISTMAS PRESENT

BY SHERRY WINK

It was almost Christmas time, and most of the Sitzman family were happily getting ready for their favorite season. Mom Sitzman and Grandma Roberts had been sewing and crocheting projects that were quickly whisked out of sight

anytime any of the little ones approached.

Dad Sitzman was similarly working on projects in his workshop, projects no one was allowed to see. The kids were whispering among themselves as they planned their gifts for others, and every one of them spent many an evening on the living room floor browsing through Sears and Wards catalog, wishing for

every toy truck, walking doll, and all the other fancy toys that filled the catalogs.

Older kids were spending time at school practicing Christmas songs, and even the little kids had parts in the upcoming church pageant. It was a happy family, looking forward to Christmas Eve, when everyone would finally get to open all those gifts.

A happy family, that is, with the exception of one depressed young man. Now Larry was doing his best to take part in the gift conspiracies, and sang with gusto in the choir, and do all the other things that made Christmas special. But inside, dulling all the other happy things, Larry was feeling quite blue. You see, just a month ago, his German Shepherd dog, Ziggy, died of old age at 14 years old. Larry had gotten Ziggy as a puppy, so as far as he was concerned, Ziggy had been his companion his entire life, and he missed him terribly. He tried not to let on



to anyone, as he didn't want to ruin their Christmas. But it just didn't seem right to not have a dog by his side as he went through his day. He kept finding himself starting to call Ziggy to jump into the Model A pickup every time he headed out to do some tasks. And when he woke up each day, it just wasn't right to not be able to reach down to stroke that fuzzy head on the floor right next to his bed. So, Larry soldiered on through the holidays, with that loneliness locked down tight so he didn't ruin anyone else's happiness.

What Larry didn't know was that Mom and Dad Sitzman were a little more attuned to their kids than he realized. and they knew their oldest boy was missing his dog. And while they couldn't bring Ziggy back, they had plans for the next best thing. Dad Sitzman had been scouring the countryside for anyone who might have a puppy needing a home. He had driven out to more than one farm, following up on a lead, only to come home empty handed. But the week before Christmas, he was delighted to find an almost four-month old German Shepard puppy looking

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for a new home. His owners had moved to town, and decided the new puppy was too big for them. Dad Sitzman quickly arranged him to be picked up on Christmas Eve morning.



Mom and Dad decided that this new puppy would be Larry's Christmas present, so they had to make plans carefully. And to make it really special, they let the rest of the Sitzman kids in on the secret, at least those old enough to not spill the beans! Suzanne was in charge of hiding dog food to have ready, and the twins Richard and Robert cleaned up the old dog toys that had been Ziggy's. Sam and Stanley argued over who carried the most straw to the new bed in the barn where the dog would stay when Larry was at school. Even Grandma Roberts got in on the surprise, buying a beautiful collar for the new puppy.

On Christmas Eve morning, everything went like clockwork. Dad Sitzman made an excuse to head out for "an errand" in the Model A pickup. It was a Saturday, so he took Suzanne with him to hold the puppy on the way home. It was also her job to babysit the dog until it was time to introduce Larry to him. Larry did wonder what happened to her all day, but Mom Sitzman made sure to keep him busy setting up tables and chairs, wrapping last-minute presents, and other tasks like carrying in wood. Larry didn't question the busy work, he was glad he had something to keep his mind off his misery.

It was decided that it would be easiest to do the deed just before supper, when the whole family was gathering around. That way, the puppy wouldn't have to be left in the barn and risk being discovered by howling. Again, Suzanne was in charge of making the delivery to the house without getting caught! She was actually enjoying this game immensely, and when it was time, she smuggled the dog right into the house under her large winter coat.

Once inside, instead of just handing the dog to Larry, she sat him on the floor and let him run around. Everyone kept talking like normal, but all eyes were on Larry to see what his reaction would be.

It was the funniest thing, though! That puppy and Larry kept missing each other. Larry turned one way, and the puppy trotted across the room just behind him, checking out all the new stuff. Everyone tried not to laugh, and Larry, starting to figure out something was going on, turned around just as the puppy went across the room again, but again, just behind him! By now, the kids couldn't keep it back, and peals of laughter rang out! Even the grownups

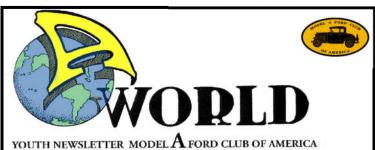
were trying not to crack up. Just then, the puppy stopped in a doorway, and had a "little accident." As everyone's eyes turned to the sight, Larry turned around, finally at the right moment, and saw the puppy. Suzanne spoke up and told him, "Well, it's your dog, clean it up!"

Boy, Larry's face just lit up, and he didn't even complain about the stinky cleanup! He just took care of it, and then he scooped that little dog up into his lap and didn't put it down for the rest of the night. Of course, with the exception of a necessary trip outside to begin the housebreaking process. Mom Sitzman didn't even make him put it down to eat supper, and a large portion of Larry's Christmas dinner ended up in a very rounded puppy stomach!

That night, the puppy slept right alongside Larry's bed, with his new master and friend's hand on his head the entire night. And Larry's dreams were filled, not with

visions of sugar plums and reindeer, but of new adventures with a German Shepherd dog and a Model A Ford!





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KIDS AND THEIR A'S!





Minnesota, and

enjoys helping

family Model A!

work on the



Michael Strout, age 9, lives in Monmouth Maine. This picture was take on a visit to Lisbon Maine!



Eleanor Johnson, San Diego California, a few years back. Eleanor is still enjoying the family's Tudor!



Chase Dunivan, age 6, helped his parents go antiquing before riding in the Christmas parade at Cumberland Virginia!



Makayla, age 9, and Connor, age 12 enjoyed a ride with the Grinch for Christmas in Mansfield Massachusetts!



Knoxlee, age 11, Brody, age 6, and Lucy, age 9, all live in Louisiana. Looks like they are all ready for a fun trip to the North Pole in their Model A pickup!

KIDS AND THEIR A'S PAGE 2



Three generations of Model A admirers! This family portrait was taken in St. Clair Michigan. The kids are Jack, age 6, Eliza, age 5, Penny, age 2, Owen, age 3, and Elsie, age 6 months.





Chance Hallady enjoys working on his family's classic cars, especially the Model A!







Kellen and Everlie Vaira recently did a wonderful photoshoot in Arkansas with their Father Kevin and their Model A Fordor. They nailed the era fashion look!



A FEW MORE KIDS AND THEIR A'S





Birdie Lou Huberty is two years old and lives in St. Paul Minnesota. She loves "hanging out with Grandpa" and going for rides in his 1931 Roadster which is named "Miss Lucy."



Rosie Winkinhofer, age 3, loves riding in "The Old Lady," her grandma's 1929 Tudor. Rosie lives in Table Rock Nebraska, just blocks from Grandma house!



The Dwight family recently had a family reunion near Glen Allan, Mississippi. 106 family members are in this picture! The 1929 Model A has been in the family since the late 50s when it was bought by an uncle. In the 60's it was restored by a cousin, and recently it was given to the New family (Howard New And Sons farm.) It is being used and enjoyed all these years later!

SIX THINGS ARE DIFFERENT!

My friend Bill's coupe helped Santa get around this year. But when it came back, a few things were different! The top picture looks like it's lost a few details compared to the bottom one! Can you find the differences? The answers are on page 10 but don't peek too soon!



Dreams Do Come True



Blake's first time behind the wheel of a Model A was at three years old! Of course, he was just dreaming of driving it back then. Now, ten years later, he is finally achieving that dream!

Blake's grandfather, Doug Linden, is providing lessons to help Blake prepare for when he is old enough to drive the Model A on the road! He needs to be 16 to get a learner's permit where he lives, but Blake wants to be prepared!

Recently, Blake was given the go-ahead to start the engine by himself, while preparing for his driving lesson. Per his grandfather, he did that fine, but the engine was already warm and started instantly. Blake suggested that next time, for a real test, the engine should be cold. Sounds like he is up to the challenge!

Blake has driven the A before but only slowly, (and not on public roads!) so this time the goal was to get to third gear. That is when Blake surprised his grandfather by asking him if he needed to double clutch. When asked how he knew about that, Blake replied that his race car Xbox has that requirement! According to Doug, Blake double clutched like it was natural. Needless to say he did great and his smile was ear to ear! I can tell that Blake will be ready to hit the road in the Model A day one when he gets that learner's permit!

Life-Long Mechanic



When Alex Stolis, now age 8, says he's been working Model A's his whole life, he means it! From the time he was big enough to hold a wrench, there's been holding him back!





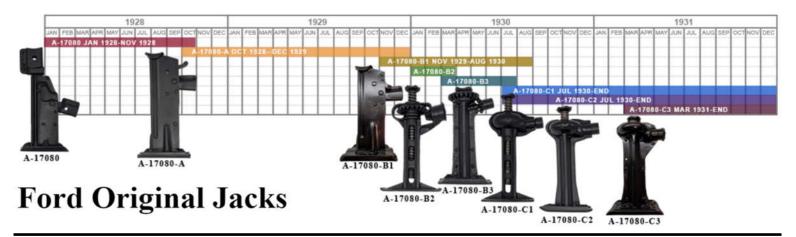


Original Model A Jack Versions

Illustration and Data found at ModelABasics.com and MAFCA.com

What is a jack? It's what is used to lift the car up when you need to change a tire! Although today, most Model A original jacks would not be safe to use! Always carry a modern jack on any tour, for use if you get a flat tire! So, what does an original Model A jack look like? Well, the question should be "What do original Model A jack look like?" Because as you can see from this chart, Henry Ford made multiple versions of this tool throughout the Model A years. Some changes were subtle, some were more obvious. I'm sure there was a reason for each modification, but we can only guess at this point in time, at least without more research.

It appears there were about nine different models of jacks used over the four years the Model A was built. Look over the list, and see if you can tell what the correct jack that came from the factory with your Model A!



















A-17080-B3 A-17080-C1 A-17080-C2 A-17080-C3



Model A Youth Restoration Award—2022

Submitted by Bob Moore

Jonah Mosher is one of the ten recent recipients of a financial award from the Model A Youth Restoration Award.

Jonah is 12 years old and lives in Paso Robles, California. Jonah is the fourth generation in a Model A family. He and his family are members of the Paso Robles A's Model A Club and have a 1931 Victoria. His grandparents, Ron and Carol Mosher, and great-grandparents, Keith and Jo Smith are members of the San Fernando Valley A's.

With his father's and grandfather's help, Jonah is restoring a 1929 Coupe as a touring car. The initial heavy restoration work will be done at grandfather Ron's garage in Newhall, California. Jonah is fortunate to have a grandfather who has immersed himself in the Model A hobby. He has owned over 150 Model A vehicles and has given countless seminars locally and nationally. His great- grandfather was instrumental in the formation and operation of the Model A Touring Club.

Jonah is quite lucky to have so many Model A experts as mentors. He will undoubtedly learn much during the restoration process. During the first few years of the restoration, Jonah will be spending many hours at his grandfather's shop getting the really





his grandfather's shop getting the really heavy work done. When the heavy work is done, the restoration will be finished at home.

Jonah's goal is to complete the car before his 16th birthday. Good luck Jonah!

For information about the Model A Youth Restoration Award, go to www.ModelARestorationAward.org. Remember, May is Model A Youth

Month!!!

Model A Christmas Fun!

The MAFCA Facebook page had so many interesting Christmas cars, I had to share a few! What wonderfully creative and inspired ways to celebrate with your Model A's! Hope everyone had as good of Christmas as these folks must have had!



Model A advertising

Advertising for the Model A Ford was remarkable consistent, with most of the official Ford ads painted by the same artist. But Ford didn't mind adapting each painting to fit properly in different magazines.

Look carefully at these two ads. At first glance, it appears they are identical. Both are from 1930 for a Model A coupe.





A more careful examination shows just a few differences. One is the color intensity. This was probably due more to the printing process of each magazine. But still, the one ad has much more intense colors, making the car look almost black! However, the in the ad to the left, another inch or so of the upper portion of the house is included, showing more of the windows. Now, since the pages are approximately the same size, why or how?

I'm not sure, but it appears the change in font size is a contributing factor. While the ad above has double spaced lines, the ad on the left has significantly closer text spacing. This is due to the fact that changing

the font at the time was not an easy process,. Unlike the thousands of fonts we can get today via our laptops, back then setting type was a time consuming manual process. Publications had just a few standard fonts they used. So with double spacing, the picture itself had to shortened to fit the layout. A small difference, but still an interesting detail!

Christmas Card from 1928!





High School Model A Project

Joe Martin is an ASE Master Technician and an automotive instructor at the VCOE Career Education Center in Camarillo, California. Joe teaches automotive repair and restoration to 11th and 12th graders, both male and female. He says he sometimes gets project cars for them to work on as part of the class. The last several years, those cars have been Model A's.



Although Joe has worked in the auto industry for 35 years, he had only worked on old cars that were hot rods. But then his friend Gary asked for help with his Model A. Joe fell in love with this vintage automobile after his first encounter. About two years ago, Joe found a Fordor in need of restoration, and it quickly became the class project car.

The school does not provide vehicles or parts for the kids in this class to work on. They depend on working on other

people's cars to learn the necessary skills. The owners pay for all costs including parts, supplies, and any necessary specialty tools. Joe says he lets his students work on all his projects, and funds all expenses himself, although he says he can sometimes get parts donated or discounted. The students do all the mechanical work on the vehicles, but friend Gary did the body work and painting part of the process for the Model A. Joe plans on keeping this Fordor when it is completed.

He is looking about for another Model A to use for the next project. Joe feels

these cars are a perfect vehicle for the kids to learn on!

There are an average of about 30-40 students a year, although Covid lowered that number for a few years. All of his students attend class for four hours twice a week from schools all over Ventura county. The first semester, they get the basics down, and time permitting they work on projects with

Joe. The second semester, the students intern in shops all over the county. This year, he has around 28-30 students interning starting in January. Out of 18 students interning last year, 9 got job offers last year.







As his current Model A project is winding to completion, Joe is seeking about for another project Model A for the next school year. This is an amazing group of young people Joe works with. It is an elective class, so every student in it is there because they want to learn. And they are learning skills that will serve them for a lifetime! And the sense of pride that they must feel when taking a "pile of rust" and transforming it into a beautiful restored vehicle will be something that will provide a great sense of accomplishment. What a wonderful project that reaches out to young people to get them familiar with our old cars! If anyone would like to reach out to Joe and his class, he can be reached at Jmartin@vcoe.org

























Simpson's Family Halloween

Each year, Diana Simpson searches for a unique theme for her family's Halloween costumes. This year, they settled on "Newsies," celebrating the young boys that used to sell newspapers on the streets in large cities like New York. The entire family joined in the fun, with dad Kevin, and youngsters Micah, Levi, and Isaac as well as Diana all dressing the part.



Automobile Excitement wasn't Just for Grownups!

Back in the day, every kids wanted to be a driver too! One way to do that was with a pedal car! Here are a few examples from the Model A era.





CHILDREN who have an aversion to getting their hair cut, rapidly overcome it when they see the special chairs that have been installed in a barber shop in Bisbee. Arizona.

Bisbee, Arizona.

The chairs are turned easily and there are plenty of objects and levers to keep the child's attention while the barber is clipping his hair.

Modeled after toy automobiles, ponies and boats, the children's chairs not only attract juvenile attention and allow the barber to cut a youngster's hair without his wanting to get out and roam all around the shop, but grown-up customers often get the urge to climb into one of the chairs for their trim.

Here's a novel version of a barber chair that let kids practice their driving while getting their hair cut! Bet they stood in line for a haircut at this place! Did you know you can build your own Model A pedal car? Stevenson Projects sells plans for a Model A influenced toy that was once printed in Mechanic Illustrated magazine. Stevenson Projects. Check it out at https://www.stevproj.com/DelWagPg1.html. The plans

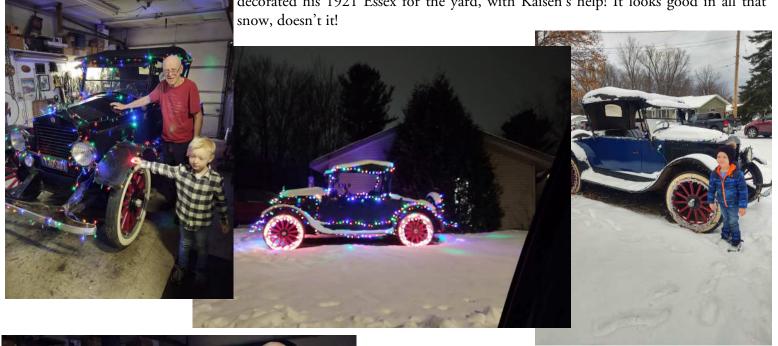
show how to build three versions—a speedster, a dump truck, and a delivery van!



The Lutey Family Christmas

Ok, I know it's not a Model A, but an introduction to any old cars is a pathway to the old car hobby! Kaisen, who is from Marquette, Michigan loves helping "Papa" Dick (great grandpa) and Granddad Tim work on all their old cars. Their most recent project was a 1929 Woody restoration, with a restored wood canoe to ride on the roof.

Alas, a Woody would not be a good all-weather Christmas display, so Papa Dick decorated his 1921 Essex for the yard, with Kaisen's help! It looks good in all that snow doesn't it!

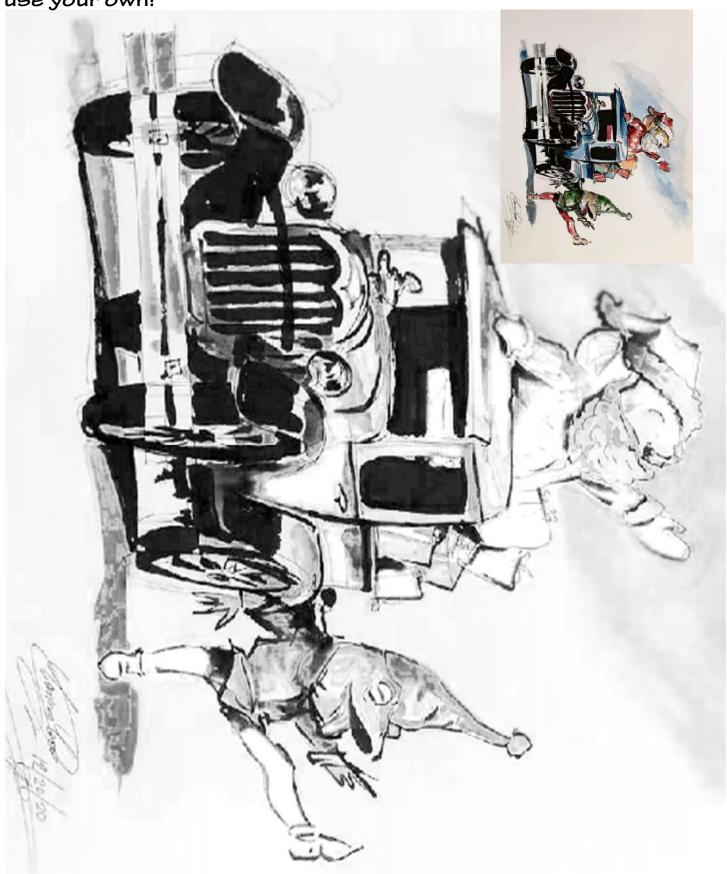




This tough little car has proven that it is not afraid of a little water! One hundred years ago, the original owner drove it from Marquette, Michigan to Daytona Beach, Florida. After meeting some young ladies at the beach, the young man happened to lose track of the tidal schedule. They towed it out, drained and dried it out, and drove it for many more years!



This is a Model A drawing my nephew drew several years ago. I've included a small version of his original colors, but feel free to use your own!





Rumble Seat

Sherry Wink It's the end of a long, but happy, Model A year! It was good to have "The

Old Lady" back on the road. And with my granddaughter Rosie and my nephew Rethan by my side (or in the back seat, as in Rosie's case) we took a lot of "just because" drives, and fit in a few tours and shows as well!

"The Old Lady's" last outing was for Trunk-or-Treat on Halloween. I had a blast outfitting her with lights around the headlights and decorating her up. She had a ghost for a driver, with glowing red sunglasses. He got more than one look from the kids that were trick or treating, let me tell you!

Hope you all had as much fun with your Model Athis year as we did. Sennd me pictures!





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 kind of puppy did Larry get?
 - A) Lab B) Spaniel C) German Shepard
- 2) What state is Severn from?
 - A) Missouri B) Michigan C) Minnesota
- 3) Kellen and Everlie did a photoshoot with who?
 - A) Dad B) Uncle C) Henry Ford
- 4) Birdie Lou's grandpa's Model A is named what?
 - A) Miss. Lucy B) Betty Ann C) Henrietta
- 5) Blake first sat behind the wheel of a Model A at what age?
 - A) Three B) Four C) Six
- 6) The Model A only had one type of jack for all four years:
 - A) True B) False
- 7) Jonah won what award?
 - A) Model A of the Year B) Youngest Driver
 - C) Model A Youth Restoration Award
- 8) What town in California has the high school students lucky enough to work on Model A's at school?
 - A) Camarillo B) San Diego C) Los Angeles
- 9) The Simpson family dressed up as what for Halloween?
 - A) Pirates B) Ghosts C) Newsies
- 10) Kaisen helped his great-grandfather decorate what car?
 - A) 1931 Ford B) 1921 Essex C) 1945 Jeep