



**SPRING
2020**

**“Your Region’s
Newsletter Resource”**

THE RUMMAGE BOX

IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE
ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

Matthew C. Hinson, Editor

718 Woodlawn Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28401

910-471-0797

matthew.c.hinson@gmail.com

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**Rising To The Challenge
in Challenging Times**

By Don Barlup

VP - National HQ & Library

Some of our National Headquarters staff are working from home, while others are busy boxing up items, preparing for the move to our new Headquarters/Library building in the Fall. This is a large task and getting a head start on it will make the move much easier.

Steve Moskowitz and Pat Buckley were successful in applying for the federally funded SBA Payroll Protection Plan, assuring that our staff continues to provide all the services that our members have been accustomed to.

While construction has come to a halt, due to the national shutdown, materials continue to arrive on site and Steve participates in the weekly construction conference calls. The Construction shutdowns is set to be lifted on May 1st and progress will continue.

Our Library staff has also been busy and head Librarian Chris Ritter reports the following:

The Library staff has been very busy working from home – scanning books and photos, digitizing slides & filmstrips, making some interactive 3D models, cataloging sales literature, processing research requests and interacting with people. Our jobs have temporarily changed but AACA Library is still alive and well.

Mike recently gave our website a facelift and I encourage you to check it out: www.aacalibrary.org. There are still things to be edited, added and adjusted but it is certainly a lot brighter and has a more modern look – a lot like our new building!

We’ll reopen our doors in just a few weeks and adjust to whatever our new normal looks like. Until then stay healthy and safe.

This too shall pass!



The Chevrolet Bowtie

By Bob Parrish

VP - National Awards

Most of us remember “See the USA in your Chevrolet”, the advertising tune sung by the beloved Dinah Shore to promote the Chevy brand in the 1950s. Did you realize the logo made some minor changes around that same time?

The Chevy bowtie logo, as it is commonly referred to among hobbyists, is one of the longest, continuous American business logos still in existence, with perhaps Coca Cola being older. The logo first appeared around 1911 and continued the name framed in a bowtie looking configuration with two horizontal bars in the center. On pre-war Chevrolets the logo could be found everywhere, on the engine block, water pump, cylinder heads, exhaust manifolds, as well on the body, taillight lens, hub caps, not to mention floor mats, dash and accessories. “The Good Old Days”.

No one really noticed that the previously mentioned horizontal bars dropped off the logo around 1958/1959, only to appear again in 2018, commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Chevrolet truck and only then for a couple of months on the limited edition Silverado.

No big deal, but when purchasing undated Chevrolet materials you will find this change will date the material and help you determine the age.





Editor's Note

Matt Hinson
Rummage Box Editor

Welcome to my 17th issue as Editor of the *Rummage Box*.

I am getting a bit closer to the end of my 1938 Buick Century project. While I can start to see the end of the project, I still have a bit of work ahead of me on the project. I recently got the car back from the paint shop and am well on the way to completing the restoration.



If you want to see more about this project, please check it out on the AACA Discussion Forum at: <https://forums.aaca.org/topic/297623-1938-buick-century-model-61-four-door-touring-sedan-trunk-back/>.

I hope that you are all having as much old car fun as you can in these trying days. I heard on the radio the other day that a recent trend is the return of the old fashioned "Sunday afternoon family drive". Once again we find something old is back in fashion. That goes right in hand with what some of our local AACA members have been doing. A small group of local members have taken a few "social distance mini tours" taking local drives as a group, while still maintaining our distance from each other, usually on Sunday afternoons. We have also seen another interesting local activity develop recently, the "Birthday Drive-by Celebration". It seems that several local young children have enough interest in old cars that their parents have asked for a group of old cars to drive by at a designated time as a birthday surprise. It is interesting to see the surprised smiles on the unsuspecting child when a group of old cars arrive with horns, smiles, and waves. A lot of the neighbors also seem to enjoy it. I think that the drivers enjoy it as much as the spectators. In these times with club meetings and activities suspended, it is nice to have a chance to get out and drive our old cars.

Another way to enjoy the old car hobby in these unprecedented times is online. You can find the AACA Discussion Forums at <https://forums.aaca.org/>. You can also find lots of activity on Facebook. One Facebook group that you will likely enjoy is the AACA Antique Automobile Club of America private group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/7846724972/>. You will likely also enjoy the AACA Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/AntiqueAutomobileClubOfAmerica/>. There are also lots of other local Region and Chapter groups and pages on Facebook to enjoy.



When I was Your Age...

Wayne Tuck
Executive Vice President

Most of you have heard this. Remember how our parents would start a conversation with that phrase? Being one of the "Baby Boomer" generation and hearing this from our parents was frustrating. We would make fun of it (always behind their backs) with comments like "When I was your age I walked three miles to school bare footed, in the snow, uphill both ways!" As it turns out, they probably were a lot closer to the truth than we realized. The "greatest generation" grew up as children during the Great Depression, suffered great hardships and upon reaching adulthood were immediately thrust into WW II.

By now you must be asking yourself "What does this have to do with the old car hobby or AACA?". The answer is "a lot". The post-war era for the automobile industry was exciting. The new offerings and innovations the manufacturers presented year after year were now available and affordable for the average family. Many of the veterans had never dreamed of being able to own a car during their childhood. For those that couldn't afford a new car, the pre-war cars were plentiful and available at bargain prices.

Now I have come to realize the harsh reality that I have turned into my father. Compared to our children and grandchildren, we had a tough life. We had air raid drills in grammar school. We were threatened with the fear of nuclear annihilation during the cold war. Then it was being thrust into the Vietnam War. Again, what does that have to do with the old car hobby? I think it was a lot. Those great 1950's cars were affordable and plentiful for us during our teen years in the 1960s. Then came the muscle car era. Many veterans returning to civilian life bought a new muscle car to celebrate their new found freedom. Now those cars seem to be reaching their peak in the collector car hobby.

Just the other day I caught myself starting to tell my grandson "When I was your age I didn't have a car with air conditioning, power windows, automatic transmission, power steering and brakes". Suddenly I realize that I have come full circle. My children and grandchildren have faced challenges. Maybe their challenges have been different than those faced by previous generations, but that doesn't make them any less difficult. I hope that some day my grandson will pull his 2011 car out of the garage and tell his son, "When I was your age our cars ran on gasoline. Want to take a ride with me to our region AACA meeting to learn more about them? Here, I'll let you drive"



Where Have All the AACA National Shows and Tours Gone?

By Mark McAlpine
Vice President - National Activities

It's hard to believe how much and how quickly life has changed in our country and how long it has been since the last AACA national activity. The AACA started off 2020 with a bang: first with our Annual Convention in Philadelphia, PA, followed two weeks later by the Winter Nationals in Miami, FL. (I still have some tan left from our time in Miami and a little ringing in my ears from the pounding of the flamenco dancer's shoes.) Then our activities calendar rapidly fell apart as our country (and the world) was ravaged by the COVID-19 "coronavirus."

The first AACA national activity to fall was the Southeastern Spring Nationals in Concord, NC. Fortunately, this show was only postponed to 12-13 June (and I have my fingers crossed that it doesn't need to be rescheduled again). Days later, as social distancing and stay-at-home orders were issued across the country, the dominoes continued to fall: the Western Spring Nationals and Founders Tour in Show Low, AZ, were cancelled, followed by the Central Spring Nationals in Auburn, IN, then the Sentimental Tour in Davis, WV; and now the Reliability Tour in Lock Haven/Wellsboro, PA. Add in the cancellation of AACA region/chapter meetings and local, regional, and national car shows, tours, and cruise-ins, plus the closure of car museums, and I'm displaying symptoms of old car withdrawal. (Fortunately, the cravings are eased a bit by people being creative on the Internet and AACA Forum, allowing us to still vicariously experience antique vehicle activities "virtually" from the safety of our home.)

I know all the safety measures we're practicing are necessary and are in place to protect us. And the postponement or cancellation of national and regional AACA activities pales in comparison to the devastation COVID-19 is wreaking on our country and fellow citizens. I never imagined I would live through a pandemic like I read about in history books as a child, yet here we are. (As I write this article, over 60,000 people in our country have died from the coronavirus, another 1,000,000 have contracted the virus, millions are out of work, and millions are struggling to make ends meet.)

My observations about the cancellation of car shows and tours also pale in comparison and possibly come across as insensitive, but I miss participating in AACA activities. More importantly, I miss seeing AACA friends from around the country who we only get to see a few times a year at AACA activities and being able to make new additional friends.

Our country will get back to normal. I can't tell you when (but hope it's soon), but we will get through this. Just like every cataclysmic event in our nation's history, things

will change and "normal" may not look the same as it did before this crisis. (Remember what air travel was like before 9/11?) However, we will adapt and come back stronger than ever. We're Americans—that's what we do.

The AACA is adapting and will come back stronger, too—we've rescheduled some of our cancelled activities for later this year and next year, and are working to add some additional activities both years to help you make up for lost time, overcome "old car withdrawal syndrome," get back to normal, and have the opportunity to participate in fun activities again with your fellow AACA members.

Best wishes to everyone—be safe and stay healthy! And I look forward to seeing you at the next AACA national activity—whenever it is. (Want to know what activity is coming up next? Check the AACA website—www.aaca.org—for the most current calendar of upcoming AACA national activities.)



Legislative Update

By Kelly Adams - VP Legislation

I hope this message finds you all safe and well during this unprecedented time in the history of our planet. I hope some of you have been able to work on and/or complete some of your projects! I, personally have not been able to work on my 1934 Ford for a couple of reasons; 1) I have had a modern 2007 VW GTI in my garage working on many things. I finally pulled it out yesterday and drove it for the first time in 3 months! 2) My 1934 Ford is at my Mom's house and to keep her safe, I have not been able to visit her.

Cancelling many of our Nationals as well as many local shows has been the norm as of late. I do hope that we can get together soon and enjoy this hobby that we all love. I do sincerely hope that our Nationals starting with the rescheduled Charlotte Auto Fair will be the beginning of a return to normalcy.

On the legislative front I have been in touch with Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) and they really have their "finger on the pulse" of legislation in the houses and senates of each state and the nation. I hope to soon be able to pinpoint and point out relevant bills that may affect our hobby both positively and negatively. It is important to keep informed and write letters or emails to our elected officials especially when legislation could negatively affect our hobby. If any of you know of any specific bills being looked at or recently passed that effect our hobby, please send an email to fordgal34@gmail.com.

In closing I hope you all are staying safe and I hope that this reminds us all to be more conscientious of covering our coughs and sneezes from here on out! LOL! I pray our world also becomes a bit more patient and kind towards one another.



Publications in Isolation

By Dave Anspach
Vice President - Publications

Well, sadly, there are no shows going on during this National Health Emergency. There are no tours, no meetings, no dinners out, no cars and coffee, no group breakfasts happening. So what is going on?? Your newsletter!!

Every editor for every newsletter all around the nation is frantically scrambling for information to put in his or her next issue!! Why not help!! There is plenty for everyone to do to share what you are doing during these times of isolation.

Are you a region or chapter president? How about finding an alternative for your regular meeting? One region that I know of has recorded their president on YouTube holding a simulated meeting. Everything from the pledge to the flag to the Treasurer's Report is there for the members to watch. They even have everyone who watched it send a note to the president so he has an attendance. You could do a phone conference, or even a series of notes by email to keep your membership informed and interested. And, of course, the chapter secretary could record minutes for the newsletter so those that couldn't tune in can have a record of what is going on.

Are you the activities chair? Just because events aren't taking place, you can still work on lists of events for the future!! And while you are doing that, how about a virtual, online car show among your members. Working with your webmaster, these have proven to be fun and can show off your members' cars. And again, keep your editor informed with a nice article.

Publicity? It is a great time to let your community know what you are doing to get through these difficult times. Newspapers and TV stations are desperately looking for something to air that isn't about the virus. Call them, write them, tell them your ideas about activities about your club during these times. You will be welcomed.

Membership? With all of the above, what better time to talk to people about what you are doing now and will be doing when this is over? Recruit people who live in your area that are listed on the AACA membership list that aren't already members

of your club. You have time to do this now !!

This is a good time to finally write that article about your last restoration, that last adventure with your car, that show you almost made it to, or the one you did!! Or you can work on that car and take detailed, step by step notes and pictures. Then submit them to your editor!! Your editor will be thankful you did!!

Your newsletter is the one thing that is still going on through all of this. Be a part of it!! Keep your fellow members informed. Your chapter or region will be stronger and kept closer together because you did!!

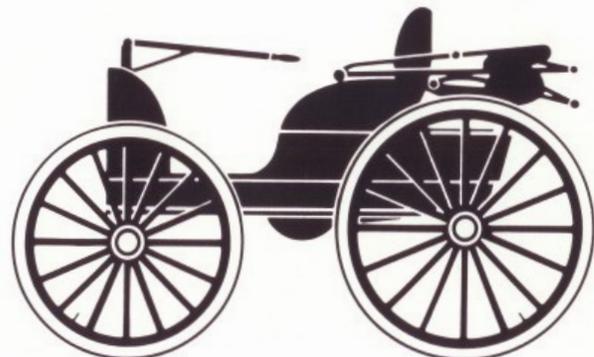


Main Street USA

By Myron Smith
VP - Regions - Western Division

I seem to be on an old movie and TV show theme. This time the obscure short-lived TV show called "Window on Main Street" comes to mind. It starred Robert Young of "Father Knows Best" and "Marcus Welby M.D." fame. I consider the Main Street cars, mostly 4-doors, not all shiny and new and many with blackwall tires. I call it 'True Americana.' Or, a window of Main Streets past. Sure, there is a 2-door hardtop here and there and once in a while a convertible, but the real foundation of the past was the dependable 2-door or 4-door sedan. Almost every family had one.

I joined and have become active in AACA because I enjoy the variety. While Chevrolets will always be close to my heart, they aren't the only brand that I can appreciate. A lot of the hobbyists want what they couldn't have from their youth, and that's ok. Personally, I like to see what at one time was common. I can even appreciate a vintage early minivan as they are a part of our past too.





The Hobby's Best Kept Secret

Fred Trusty
Vice President - Membership

For some reason, AACA seems to be one of the best kept secrets in the automotive hobby so I have to ask, how did **you** hear about AACA? I have literally asked the question, "Are you familiar with or heard of the AACA" hundreds of times. Keep in mind that I don't ask this question to random people as I'm walking down the street or in the aisle of the grocery store. I ask this question at events that attract automotive enthusiasts.

In 2019, the National Street Rod Association (NSRA) asked the KYANA Region to manage their outdoor swap meet at the Street Rod Nationals here in Louisville, KY. I was "volunteered" as the chairman. The KYANA Region has a good reputation of running our own swap meet in March of every year so I'm sure this contributed to the NSRA Swap meet being a sellout for the first time. That's over 300 vendors spread out over 720 spaces with nothing but old car parts and memorabilia. No new or remanufactured parts are allowed. I sat at the check in table every day and as the vendors checked in I handed them their registration packet, a flyer for the upcoming 2020 KYANA Swap Meet, an AACA tri-fold brochure and then I asked the question, "Are you familiar with AACA?" I don't think I had over a half dozen people say they'd heard of AACA, but at least half of them had heard of the KYANA Swap Meet. Some even said the reason they set up at the NSRA Swap Meet was because they knew Kyana was now managing it.

How can car enthusiasts and vendors from all over the country know about the KYANA Swap Meet but have never heard of AACA? The front page of our flyer says in big bold letters, "Support from the KYANA Region AACA" along with the AACA Duryea logo and Antique Automobile Club of America.

Yes, I know this was a very simple survey but if vendors haven't heard of AACA, what about the average old car enthusiast? What if we reversed the question and at an AACA National show we asked the question, "Are you familiar with the NSRA?" I wonder what the results would be?

In an effort to better understand why AACA is such a well-kept secret, I would love to hear some of your experiences and comments of how you first heard of AACA?" Please send me an email at 2011fred55@gmail.com or, if you would prefer, call me at 502-292-7008.



Almost Classics in China

John McCarthy
Vice President - Endowments

We visited China several years ago. On the morning of our day in Wuhan (pop. 9 million), as we were returning to the riverboat for lunch, at the end of the pier were two old cars, a Lincoln Zephyr and what looked like a 1947 Cadillac. I was not expecting to find any old cars in China as anything that was no longer productive in China was scrapped.

The Lincoln Zephyr appeared to be a post-war model, and in doing some research I confirmed it was a 1946. There was surprisingly little rust on either car so they must have been well cared of over seventy plus years. The grille, bumpers and other bright work had all been painted silver and were somewhat pitted. On closer inspection I could see that modifications had been made to the Lincoln. The gearshift was on the floor indicating the Lincoln V-12 and transmission had been replaced, and in all likelihood the entire drive train had been replaced as the axle hubs stuck out quite far preventing hub caps or wheel covers from being used.

The "Cadillac" was an imitation but had a lot of similarities to a 1947 Cadillac. While I was looking at it one of the old men who was playing cards in the "luncheonette" came out with a big smile on his face. I smiled back and gave him "thumbs up" which hopefully was not a negative gesture in China. He opened the passenger door and the interior also looked Cadillac, had manual transmission and a gallon can of oil on the floor. Like the Zephyr, the grille, bumpers and bright work had been painted silver and showed a fair amount of pitting. I did some research and found this car was a Zimgaz 12 or GAZ-12 ZIM that were produced in Russia from 1950 to 1959. Don't be misled by the "12" as it has an aluminum block straight 6 displacing 214 cubic inches producing 90 horsepower--maybe in Russia they count valves instead of cylinders.

In researching the GAZ-12 ZIM on the Internet, it seems Russia was a big copier of cars. In addition to copying the 1947 Cadillac, copies of 1931 and 1934 Fords, 1930 Chevrolets, 1932 Buicks, 1947 Chryslers and 1942 and 1956 Packards were all produced in Russia. It is doubtful any royalties were ever paid to the original producers of these cars.



NOT Closed for Business

By Steve Moskowitz
AACA CEO

These times are certainly a gigantic challenge for all of us and most likely the biggest challenge we have ever faced as a world, country and individually. There is a lot of pain and suffering occurring, but in the midst there are all sorts of wonderful things happening by those who refuse to let this pandemic define them in a negative way.

In the scheme of life and death, health or no health, the car hobby may feel insignificant. In that respect it is. However, some day the virus will be contained, life will get back to a new normal and we, as the most progressive and optimistic country in the world, will find a way to start enjoying life again. In the meantime, many of you have down time and are missing getting out with your cars and socializing. I feel bad for the donut shops and ice cream stores as our hobby certainly supported them well!

I am certain, many of you are finding garage time with your cars and handling needed projects at home. You may not be aware that there are other active ways you can get involved in AACA and the hobby by simply heading to your computer. There is an extremely active community at www.aaca.org. Our forums are buzzing with interesting topics, one, "Period Images to Relieve some of the Stress" should reach 50,000 views by the time you read this and race car fans can see an amazing thread of early photos title "Period RACE Car Images to relieve stress." There are many other topics you can read or join in on the conversation.

We also have two Facebook sites, the club official site is Antique Automobile Club of America and there is a very active group site that is approaching 20,000 members, AACA Antique Automobile Club of America. These are also great ways to interact with fellow members and hobbyists from all over the world. There are many great photos and interesting topics presented on Facebook!

Make sure we have your correct email address at national, as the monthly *Speedster* online magazine will not miss an issue. If you are not getting it or not bothering to open it up you are missing the latest news on the club. It is especially important now given our changing environment to stay up to date as to what is happening with the club.

Your national staff has not missed a bit. We are here for you. You can reach us by mail, phone or email. Staff is working from home but we are finding ways to get the job done so do not be hesitant to reach out to us. Hopefully, as you read this, we are back at full strength and here to serve you. In the meantime, stay active and don't give up as better days are ahead. That's a promise from all of us.



Check Out the AACA Forums

By Mark McAlpine
Vice President - National Activities

Does the coronavirus have you down? Do you miss your AACA friends and activities? Then check out the AACA Forums.

If you've never explored the online AACA Forums, now's the time to do it. The AACA Forums have always been interesting, but members have been especially creative recently to help us pass the time and beat the boredom during our country's (and the world's) ongoing health crisis. Unable to attend the postponed AACA Southeastern Spring Nationals in Concord, NC, or the cancelled AACA Central Spring Nationals in Auburn, IN, members let us view antique vehicles from the comfort of our homes by starting posts on the AACA Forums with period photographs of antique vehicles and race cars. I know—this isn't the same as being able to walk the show field and enjoying the sights, sounds, and smells of these beautiful automobiles, trucks, buses, and motorcycles, but I really enjoyed the photographs of these vehicles, especially seeing them in their original settings, and saw some vehicles I've never seen before. Other members seemed to enjoy the photos, too—the "Period Images to Relieve the Stress" topic has over 43,000 views. The "Period Race Car Images" topic has over 6,200 views. (I posted 20 car quizzes, but I think only Marion viewed them.)

Looking for a "new" antique vehicle or those parts you need to finish your current restoration project? Check out the "Cars for Sale" and "Parts for Sale" sections of the AACA Forums. Members must be taking advantage of the down time to clean out their garages because listings in each section have increased significantly since we've all been restricted to home. (And if you're looking for an antique vehicle or part, there are separate "Cars Wanted" and "Parts Wanted" sections.)

There are AACA Forums sections for "Judging," "Newsletter Editors," "Garages, Trailers, and Towing," "Memorabilia, Toys, Art, Clothing, and Literature," "Our Cars & Restoration Projects," and "Technical." There's also loads of interesting information in the "AACA Library" section. If you haven't checked out the AACA Library & Research Center's website recently at www.aacalibrary.org, you need to do it. The old website was great, but the new one is fantastic.

So until we resume our AACA national and regional activities (soon, I hope), connect with your AACA friends and vehicles by checking out the AACA Forums at www.forums.aaca.org.



If I Only Had the Time

By Fred Trusty
Vice President - Membership

As of the writing of this article, most of us have been on some sort of shelter in place or limited movement restriction in our communities for at least 4 – 6 weeks. For some areas it has been even longer than that. A lot of people haven't left their houses unless it's going to the grocery store every few weeks. Think about it. In some states, you can be fined just because you went for a drive in your car. Who would have ever thought something like this could happen in America? Remember the old saying, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

So, what have you been doing to occupy your time? If you're like most car enthusiasts, you've spent some time on the Internet searching for parts, accessories, or maybe researching a particular vehicle. I bet a lot of you have looked at cars for sale on Hemmings thinking that there are some good deals out there since the economy has done a nose dive. One of the first things I did was search for some hard to find parts for my 1955 Pontiac 2-door wagon. Right off the bat I found the taillight housings at a fair price. They weren't in great shape, but at least there weren't any cracks or pieces missing. Yes, the opening in the body is the same as a 1955 Chevy, but the light itself is different. I immediately dropped them off at Highline Plating and two weeks later I had a couple of beautiful chrome housings. I already had the clear backup lenses from my original housings, so I started to search for the brake/light lenses. I found a pair of NOS lenses on ebay with the "buy it now" price of \$1,250.00. No typo. The decimal is in the correct place. If I spend that much for (2) 3" round pieces of red plastic with a small metal band, I better get used to sleeping in the dog house. Pretty small accommodations. So I began looking for other parts. I found a NOS grille filler panel at a great price. A few small spots of surface rust here and there, but other than that, just like new. I was still searching for the lenses when I stumbled on a pair of brand new front floor pans. When I saw the price I hit the "Buy it Now" button as fast as I could. Then a couple weeks later there was another pair of NOS brake/light lenses listed as auction style on ebay. Just like a gunfighter in the old west, I was ready with my

fingers twitching at the keyboard as I faced off for the show down as the auction closing drew near. With just a few seconds left I drew and fired at reserve price. Bingo! I stole these lenses and I didn't even use a mask and gun. I also found a few other parts for my projects but after several weeks, looking for parts gets boring.

How about the maintenance on your old cars? Oil changes, brake adjustments, cleaning and waxing. Done. Next I started to actually work on some of my projects. I made a lot of progress but if you've ever restored a car, there comes a point where you are waiting on parts to come back from a vendor or you need the money to order more parts. In my case, I know the transmission kick down rod for my 1976 Ford F-150 Supercab is in the garage somewhere, but I can't seem to find it. If I order a new one and install it, then I'll find the old one. OK. Time to clean out the garage. Years and years' worth of Hemmings and club magazines to the recycle bin. Done, and still no rod, but I did find that 7/16 combination wrench that has been missing for years, again. Now I have three of them.

Then I thought I would write some articles for our local region and, obviously, for the *Rummage Box*. Done. I made a list of all my friends to call and check on. I called both of them the first day. Next, clean out my office. Done. Get rid of some old clothes in my closet. Done. I even offered to have a 10-yard dumpster dropped in the driveway so my wife could get rid of some shoes. Please refer to the sentence in paragraph two about small accommodations. Meeko, our 80-pound German Shepherd/Huskie mix is not pleased at having a roommate. Oil all the door hinges in the house, get rid of some old house paint, and one more quick look on ebay for car parts.

Then there are those projects that you really don't want to do because they involve some physical labor. You know, the ones that for years you've said, "If I just had the time I would do this or that". Then comes the stark reality that thanks to coronavirus you do have the time now. There is no excuse for not tearing out that old falling down fence and putting up a new one. Or maybe cutting down that half dead tree, cutting and splitting the wood, and filling up the firewood shed. And one of my favorites is cleaning out gutters, which I have still not done yet.

I look forward to the day when things get back to normal and I can go back to saying things like, "If I only had the time, I would clean out the gutters."



What Did You Do While Quarantining?

By Myron Smith
VP - Regions - Western Division

There was a 1966 movie called “What did you do in the war Daddy?” I don’t know that I ever saw it, just remembered the title. My question is “What did you do during the Quarantine?”

A couple years ago I took some upholstery classes. The class was mainly oriented toward furniture but we could do basically any project we desired. So, this winter I took on a low budget project to do the interior in a good friend’s 1926 Model T Touring. The car had been basically done for 30 plus years except the interior. The car has been and will continue to be used as a tour or parade car, and the owners were willing to let me do what we called an experiment.

It’s a very low budget operation and I stewed most of the winter with how to do various aspects. There were no patterns. However, I was able to borrow side panels from another friend who had purchased an interior but had not installed it yet. There also are no springs as the they wanted to just use foam rubber for the springs, which we had an ample supply of. Modern cars seldom have springs, and doing Model T is a mixture of auto and furniture upholstery of sorts. So, during the quarantine I finally got really started with it. Note the winter project really didn’t start until we should be experiencing spring. Since they have no top bows, I want to make it as durable as possible.

The side panels were the first thing to be installed as the seat covering overlaps the side panels. I had looked at other restored Model Ts to learn how this one should be. I learned from one of the Philadelphia seminars that one of the upholstery restorers used thin plastic for the door and side panels rather than cardboard as would have been done originally. The plastic is much more durable as the base. The side panels I borrowed had a thin layer of padding over the cardboard base with vinyl stretched over them. I guess called it leatherette. I learned this thin padding is actually modern trunk liner or trunk floor carpet. I purchased some from a local auto trim shop that has been helpful to me with my interior projects. I had previously done some limited upholstery work on 1950’s-1970’s vehicles.

Ordinarily when doing upholstery, you take off the old, cut new fabric to match what you’ve removed and put it back together. This may be slightly

over simplified, but in general that is the gist of it.

The seats of this car have a plywood base. We padded them with the foam rubber, and then put a layer of canvas over that before putting the finish layer of pleated vinyl over that. The pleated vinyl was made by sewing the pleats into a thin layer of foam, then adding stuffing between the pleats. If you don’t have a sewing machine, this is where taking a class at the community college helps immensely to have access to a machine. The final covering and the canvas all get stapled or tacked on to the wood frame that is the basis of the body.

Am I done yet? No; but I have made great progress. The whole point of this, that if you are wanting to have a fun tour or parade vehicle, the interior is a doable project. It just takes some time and thought and be prepared to make some mistakes. A lot of them can be corrected. It’s not like machine shop work where measurements have to be within tolerances of thousandths of an inch. So, that’s what I’ve been doing during “QUARANTINING.”

