

NOTES FROM THE MODEL A GARAGE

By Jim McPherson



I am not sure what is the heart of the Model A engine. We all say if the engine turns over and you have gas and spark, the trusty old four cylinder engine will run. Maybe the spark plug is the heart of the Model A engine.

The first spark plug was invented on February 2, 1839 by Edmond Berger. France dominated the spark plug market in the early 1900's. Albert Champion was born in France in 1878, and came to America in 1889 to race bicycles and motorcycles. He began to make spark plugs to cover his expenses. His interest turned to automobiles and he returned to France to manufacture spark plugs and magnetos.

Champion returned to America in 1900 to race bicycles and motorcycles for Charles Metz. In 1904 he moved to Flint Michigan and founded the Champion Ignition Company. But Albert Champion was soon out of a job when investors took over the company. In 1908, with the backing of Buick Motor Company, he formed the AC Spark Plug Company. Champion died of a heart attack on October 27, 1927, and General Motors purchased his stock and took over the company. To this day Albert Champion's name lives on with every AC and Champion spark plug made.

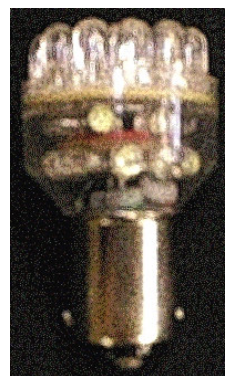
The spark plug is quite simple in theory, it forces electricity to arc across a gap, just like a bolt of lightning. The electricity must be at a very high voltage, 40,000 to 100,000 volts, in order to travel across the gap and create a good spark. The spark plug must have an insulated passageway, created by the ceramic insert, for the high voltage to travel down to the electrode tip, and not anywhere else, where the spark can jump the gap. From there the spark is conducted into the engine block and grounded. The plug also has to withstand the extreme heat and pressure inside the cylinder, and must be designed so that deposits from fuel additives do not build up on the plug and cause it to foul. The ceramic insert is designed to help burn off these deposits.

Today, spark plugs are available in heat ranges. The design of the ceramic insert determines if the

plug is "hot" or "cold". This designation refers to the ability of the plug to transfer heat to the block, and is determined by the shape of the ceramic insert. A smaller contact area of the ceramic insert with the metal part of the plug results in a hot plug, with less heat exchange between the plug and the block. High-performance engines will naturally generate more heat, and need a "colder" plug, less ceramic insert contact with the metal part of the plug. The 3X Champion plug remains the most desirable plug for the best performance of the Model A engine. A variety of after market plugs are available, and the use of 14mm spark plug adapters allows the use of a wide heat range of modern plugs.

First he brought us the halogen replacement bulbs for our Model A's. Now he brings us the LED replacement bulbs. Yes, Abbie Prince has found a source for LED bulbs that fit our Model A's.

The advantage in these bulbs is that they require much less current to operate than either the normal incandescent or the halogen bulbs! That's a definite advantage if you have a generator on your Model A. The cost of \$20.00 each is offset by the increased visibility of the light and the long life of the LED bulbs



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MINUTES OF THE JANUARY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

January 16, 2006

President Jack Horner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Craig McMullin reported that the anniversary pins would be in soon and the appropriate 'year' would be engraved prior to award. Jim McPherson reported on potential day and overnight tours including an overnight to Washington, GA for a live theater Performance (Steel Magnolias) on October 21. Discussion on why participation is declining on tours was held.

There was discussion of the budget and the fact that dues were the only income we could rely on. A motion was made by Ed Meloan and seconded by Craig McMullin that \$5,000 be deposited in an interest-bearing account. It passed unanimously. Richard Dunevent and Jack Horner are to check interest at the bank we use (1-yr CD vs savings account. Ed Meloan made the motion and Tony Gazette seconded that the president and treasurer deposit \$5,000 in whichever gives better interest (1-yr CD or savings account) The motion passed unanimously.

Jim McPherson motioned, Craig McMullin seconded that Club buy six tables at total cost of less than \$300. Motion passed unanimously. Richard Dunevent will buy the tables. There was discussion on increasing the spending limit (from \$300-\$500) without needing the Club's approval. Motion made by Jim McPherson, seconded by Richard Dunevent to table this topic. The motion passed.

There was more discussion on spending. Included topics were: Lowering dues,; club paying for lunch on selected tours; club paying up to \$250 wrecker fee on tours; club reimbursing \$50 of expenses on monthly meeting meals. Craig McMullin motioned, seconded by Jim McPherson that the Club reimburse \$50 for the meeting meal to the chairman of the meal group, retroactive to the January 6 meeting. The motion passed. It was decided not to have a dinner meeting in April

A motion was made by Jim McPherson, seconded by Ed Meloan, to reimburse Abbie Prince for favors at the Big Mo tour. The motion passed. In the future, Club policy will be to have all expenses associated with Club-sponsored activities be approved by the Board of Directors

prior to the activity.

Ed Meloan will chair a Membership Committee and maintain a membership data base with all member data to include date joined, date dues paid and positions held with year they were held.

Jack Horner has acquired an attorney to handle incorporation. Jack and Jim McPherson will talk with him and get opinions on liability, etc.

Mileage awards and Ladies Driving School were discussed. Should these events be continued?

The new owner of Augusta Mall suggests a sponsor for our yearly display such as Children's Miracle Network. Eric Shogren is the chairman for this year's event—Tony Gazette and Jack Horner will assist. Susan Meloan reported that the Shady Ladies are working with child advocacy which will distribute school supplies, etc.

Wayne Ready stated that the Library needs more space. There was discussion on the status of the golf cart.

The next Board Meeting will be March 6. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Roberts, Secretary



Newsletter Contributions

Do you have a contribution for the Newsletter?

Your Editors are ready to help with the article you have wanted to write, the ad you would like to submit, or your favorite Model A picture. Contact one of the Editors (phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed on page 2.

Deadline for newsletter material is the 15th of the month before the month of the newsletter.

ON THE SHADY SIDE

By Susan Meloan

The Shady A Ladies are part of the Shade Tree A's. We all meet together for a light meal and the business meeting, then when it is time for the technical program we leave for informal session to discuss current or future projects and things that we can do to enhance the Shade Tree A's activities.

Although we originally organized to discuss fashions and to encourage members to dress in 'Era' for some of the Shade Tree A events, that is not our only mission. We have expanded our projects to include many other facets. We are particularly interested in ideas that show us what life was like in the Era – 1929-1931.

I recently thought about how members not only own and work on the cars, but also do a lot of other things that tie in with that Era. Many of us are collectors. Jim and Sheila McPherson have collected many items during their jaunts to Model A events. Many of their valentines were featured on the February 2004 cover. Eric Shogren has collected pins (article – March 2004) that he displays on his vest. He has a number that were worn by workers in the Ford plants. Some of us have artifacts that have belonged to other family members.

Our Newsletter cover shows that Carole Gazette has used her artistic talents to paint a series of painting showing the Model A in typical scenes of the Era. These are very beautiful paintings from each season of the year. She has made prints of her paintings and used them to make cards.

I was watching a quilt show on television this morning and they had a feature on Egg Money quilts. This program showed the quilt squares which were published in the daily newspaper during the 30's. Reproduction vintage fabric is readily available from quilt shops. This might be an idea to get a feel of life in the Era.

I have a few needlecraft magazines and Anne Beck has more. There are lots of ideas for needlework - crochet, embroidery, including charted cross-stitch, knitting etc. Anne and her mother made some booties, a picture of which is included in Anne's article on the MAFCA website.

We would like for you to tell us about your endeavors. This column would be ideal place. We will be happy to help you prepare it. We also encourage you to give us pictures. We also encourage all of you to join us at the Model A meetings.



THE FORT GORDON
DINNER
THEATRE

"Thumbs up for this uninhibited romp!" -*The New York Times*

"It's funny, true nonsense! A merry good time!" -*Herald Tribune*

"A good, clean, dirty show! Brings back belly laughs!" -*Time*

JOIN THE SHADE TREE A'S FEBRUARY 25th



VINTAGE VISIONS

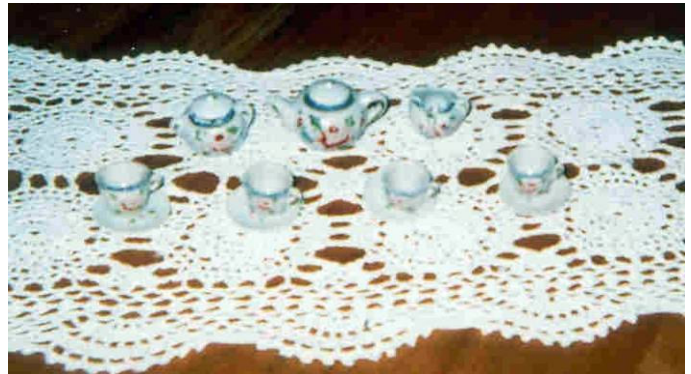
By Anne Neely-Beck

Tea for Two



Two young ladies in 1929 having a Valentine tea. This was the cover of Needlecraft magazine February 1929. The illustration by Alice Beach Winter (1877-1970) was titled "Tea for Two." Alice Beach Winter was an American impressionist painter and illustrator. She often illustrated children for magazines. This original illustration of the girls having tea is priced at \$5750.00 and is for sale at Shelton Gallery in TN. (The song *Tea for Two* was introduced in 1925 in the play *No, No, Nanette*.) The Needlecraft for that month had information on how to create a hand embroidered table runner, frugal cooking for February, dress patterns for young girls, and a variety of other helpful hints, all for just 10 cents. Notice the girls in their Mary Janes and knee socks. Little girls still wear Mary Janes and knee socks.

If you would like to dress your daughter or grand daughter in fun fashions or reproduction fashions then to the MAFCA web page, link era fashions, and read the article that I have posted there for January and February



The picture of the tea set, that could have been used in 1929, is from James' Aunt Martha. I found the tea set wrapped up in a trunk after Aunt Marta died. It is in perfect condition as she never had any children to pass it on to.



The picture of the two children having tea is from the State Library of New South Wales, Australia. The picture is titled "1929 Tea Party."

I talked to several ladies from around Jeffersonville and Gordon who would have been eight and nine in 1929 and asked them if they had pictures of themselves from then and if they had tea parties. They replied no pictures and that they had lived in the country and instead of tea parties they probably would have been playing in the creek!



SHADE TREE A'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Legend: A **RED** entry denotes a change or new addition to the calendar.

2006

FEBRUARY

- 11** **Pancake Breakfast**
- 13** **STA Meeting**
- 17-19 Model A Roundup – Jacksonville
- 25 Dinner Theater

MARCH

- 11 Tech Session VI
- 13** **STA Meeting**
- 18 Picnic in the Park

APRIL

- 10** **STA Meeting**
- 9-14 Natchez Trace Tour
- 21-22 Swap Meet, Greenwood
- 27-30 Fiddlers Hill Climb

MAY

- 8** **STA Meeting**
- 12-14 Ford Festival – Richmond Hill
- 19-21 Social Security Run

JUNE

- 12** **STA Meeting**
- 22-30 Dearborn & MARC Meet, Grand Rapids, MI

JULY

- 10** **STA Meeting**
- 13 Laurel & Hardy Convention
- 16-22 MAFCA Meet – Mansfield, MA

AUGUST

- 14** **STA Meeting**

SEPTEMBER

- 11** **STA Meeting**

OCTOBER

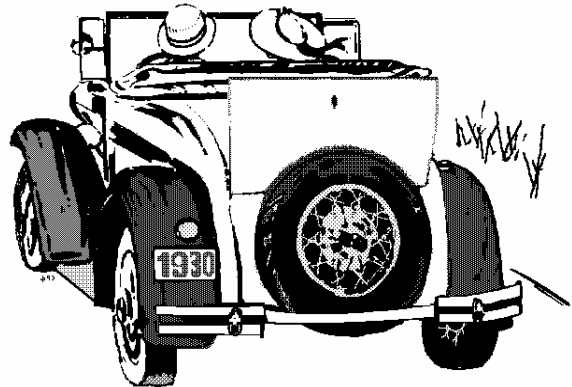
- 9** **STA Meeting**

NOVEMBER

- 13** **STA Meeting**

DECEMBER

- 9** **STA Christmas Party**



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ralph Neitzke, George Gordon, Craig McMullin, Chris Garrison
Virginia Trapp, Susan Meloan, Ruth Hitt,

NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

Greenlee Flanagin fell while cleaning gutters on his home and suffered serious back injuries! Surgery to stabilize his spinal column was performed at MCG and Greenlee has been transferred to The Shepherd Spinal Center in Atlanta for further treatment.

Tom Tilley is recovering from a January 16th knee replacement.

Jim Dover will celebrate his 56th Wedding Anniversary, February 7th.
That's a lot of years, Jim! Congratulations!