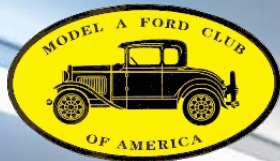


SHADE TREE A'S



NEWSLETTER

May 2022

Volume 49

Number 5



4424 Reynolds Street
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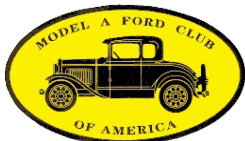
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On the Front Cover

Dan Perla takes the Shade Tree A's on a trip through the Model A horn system to identify all the trouble areas keeping your Model A horn from sounding the way it should - or from working at all. If you missed the April Technical Session you missed a good one. Photo by Robbie Jones.

SHADE TREE A'S MODEL A CLUB



The Shade Tree A's Model A Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and the restoration of the Model A Ford automobile. Shade Tree A's annual dues are only \$25. Members are urged to join the Model A Ford Club of America (www.mafca.com) and the Model A Restorer's Club (www.model-a-ford.org) to enjoy the benefits of these national organizations including their respective magazines: *The Restorer* (MAFCA) and *Model A News* (MARC). The Shade Tree A's club is also a member of MAFFI, the Model "A" Ford Foundation, Inc.



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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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OFF THE RUNNING BOARD

Jim McPherson - President

We all wait in anticipation for the arrival of the next Shade Tree A's Newsletter. Robbie Jones, Newsletter Editor, presented the April program on what it takes to put together the Newsletter and where he gets the information. A most enlightening program, and one in which you can, and are encouraged to contribute to our Newsletter.

Board Member Dan Perla presented our Tech Session on Horns on Saturday April 23rd. Several members brought their horn for evaluation and four members drove their Model A. The Club provided lunch, prepared by Sheila McPherson.

At our May meeting, Steve Teal will present our program on Ford's Efforts in World War II. Our Anniversary Pins have arrived and Craig McMullin will be making awards to those deserving members. And we finish the month with the long awaited Garage Tour by Tour Director Charlie Weaver. Charlie has arranged for us to visit the garage of Darrell Henderson, the restoration shop of Andrew Morse, and the garage of Steve Teal. Steve has a large collection of Model A and AA's which includes three fire trucks, a very rare AA Long Bed Express Truck, and an even rarer AA De Luxe Delivery. We will stop for lunch on our way home. Charlie will have tour details at the meeting. This is a tour you don't want to miss.

MONTHLY MEETING TIME & LOCATION
Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at Richard Dunevent's garage, 4338 Owens Road, Evans, Georgia. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM and are followed by refreshments.

MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2022

Richard's Garage

Respectfully submitted: Frank Knapp - Secretary

The monthly meeting of The Shade Tree A's was held April 11, 2022 in the clubhouse meeting room at Richard Dunevent's garage. President Jim McPherson brought the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Twenty-seven members were in attendance. All members were properly identified, most wearing our new Club Nametags!

Jerry Lyda provided our "Joke of the Month" with a cute story about a Bear and a Chihuahua! Quite a humorous encounter!

President:

President Jim opened with a poll of our members who are not members of MAFCA. The few that responded were encouraged to join and given MAFCA membership applications.

Vice President:

John Neumar had nothing to report.

Treasurer:

Stuart Smith reported only two expenses were paid in March. Reimbursements were made to Darrell Henderson and Sheila McPherson for items purchased for lumber and paint and Saturday tech session refreshments respectively.

A motion was made from the floor to accept the Treasurer's Report and March Minutes as published in *The Newsletter*. That motion received a second and was passed by unanimous vote.

Continued on next page

MEETING MINUTES

Continued

National Director:

No report was given as Matt Barrett was not in attendance.

Newsletter Editor:

Robbie Jones had nothing new to report.

Show & Tell:

Henry Smith asked the group for assistance in diagnosing a problem with his 1930 Tudor. Several opinions were offered that hopefully will solve his problem. Don Turley informed the group of a nice 1930 Fordor for sale by a close friend. For more info contact Don.

Tour Director:

Charlie Weaver announced our tour to The Sno-Cap and Graniteville will be rescheduled for a later date.

Other upcoming events discussed included The Johnston Peach Blossom Parade May 7th and the upcoming Old 96' District Model A Club Swap Meet to be held in Greenwood on April 15th and 16th.

Old Business: No items were brought up for discussion.

New Business:

President Jim informed the group our new Anniversary Pins have been delayed but should be available at our May meeting.

Members were reminded of our next Saturday tech session to be held April 23rd at Richard's shop. Lunch will be served thanks to Sheila! Our traditional August meeting normally held at Sconyer's Bar-B-Que was discussed. According to Jim, attendance has suffered to the point we will probably not have enough attending to warrant a reservation. Members were asked to

offer suggestions as to another venue for our August meeting.

Technical Program:

An excellent program entitled "How's It Made: The Shade Tree A's Newsletter" was presented by our Newsletter editor Robbie Jones. According to Robbie, it is all done on computer, basically using Microsoft Word and the age old "cut and paste" technique. Although that might sound simple, dozens of saved image and word files are required to fabricate the final product we enjoy each month. Well done Robbie, and thanks for all you do for The Shade Tree A's!

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M. Refreshments included a variety of "handmade" ham, turkey and roast beef sandwiches provided by Jerry Lyda and Sheila McPherson. Delicious! Thanks!



CLUB CALENDAR

Shade Tree A's Events

May

- 7 Peach Blossom Parade, Johnston, SC, we will meet at Richard Dunevent's house at 9:00 and departing by 9:15. The parade is going to be a blast!
- 9 Shade Tree A's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Richard's garage (Technical Program - *Ford's Efforts in World War II*, presented by Steve Teal)
- 14 Boss Hog Cookoff in Waynesboro, GA, we will meet at KJ's grocery store on Hwy 25 at 10:00 AM, leaving at 10:15 AM, please purchase your tickets online or at the gate
- 21 Shade Tree A's Garage Tour, we will visit the garage of Darrell Henderson, the restoration shop of Andrew Morse, and the garage of Steve Teal, watch your email for further details
- 28 Aiken Memorial Day Parade, details will be provided at the next meeting

June

- 13 Shade Tree A's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Richard's garage (*Restoration of a Model A Coupe*, presented by Andrew Morse)

July

- 13 Shade Tree A's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Richard's garage (*Seat Belts in the Model A Ford Slant Window Sedan*, presented by Robbie Jones)
- 23 Saturday Technical Session, *Safety Inspection of Your Model A*

Every Wednesday at 11:30

Join the Shade Tree A's for lunch at Cicis Pizza on Wheeler Road

TBA - To Be Announced

Other Events of Interest

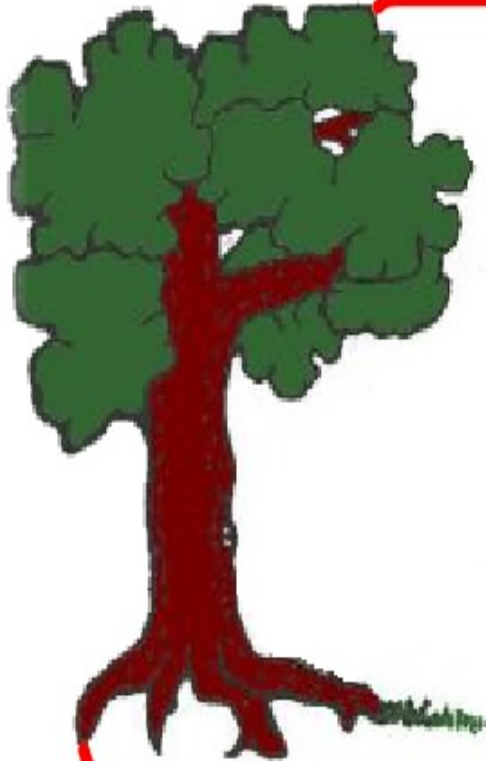
May

- 7 Darlington Raceway Official Throwback Weekend, Darlington, SC
- 13-14 Model A and T Swap Meet, Luray, VA
- 19-21 AACA Grand Nationals, Virginia Beach, VA
- 21 Magnolia Ridge Antique & Arts Festival - Car Display

June

- 5-10 MARC National Meet, Morgantown, PA
- 12-17 MAFCA National Convention, Kerrville, TX
- 18 Trenton Peach Festival, Trenton, SC
- 24-25 Palmetto A's Swap Meet at Smith and Jones, Columbia, SC

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Shade Tree A's Member News

- Don Gordon and Shirley Teal are recovering from recent surgeries. Misty Hooker will be having surgery May 24. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

Send items for Shade Tree A's Member News to:
newsletter@ShadeTreeAs.org



Refreshment Schedule

May

Don Gordon, Steve Spencer

June

Stuart Smith, Andrew Morse, Ralph Neitzke

July

John Buchanan, Robbie Jones



May Birthdays

5	Montie Knapp	8	Lois Melchiors
10	John Neumar	11	Mike Gordon
13	Josh Dover	16	Kathy Poole
18	Dotti Shogren	19	Rebecca Dover
19	Brenda Prince	20	Gerald Melchiors
21	Billy Garland	24	Linda Krosting
27	Debra Weaver	27	Misty Hooker
28	Ben Deitz	28	Donald Gordon
28	Betty Wade		

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MAFCA NATIONAL CONVENTION YO RANCH RESORT • KERRVILLE, TEXAS

From its spectacular scenery to its beautiful two-lane country roads, here you will experience our hobby the way it is meant to be at the 31st National MAFCA Convention!



FIND CONVENTION INFORMATION ONLINE AT: www.mafca.com

Some of the week's highlights:

- San Antonio's Famous River Walk
- The Alamo ~ Birthplace of Texas
- Great Sightseeing & Restaurants!
- Fine Point Vehicle Judging
- Era Fashions & Judging
- Restorers Class



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Message from the MAFCA President

Model A Ford  *Club of America*

250 SO. CYPRESS • LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA 90631-5586
562/697-2712 • 562/697-2737 • FAX 562/690-7452



The Prez Sez...

May 2022

Welcome to the best time of the year. The last of the snow has fallen and the wildflowers are beginning to emerge. It has been wonderful to finally be able to get my Coupe out for daily drives. I have been fortunate to attend several events this year. The Central California Regional Jamboree, hosted by the Paso Robles As had over three hundred in attendance. The Orange County A's held their 59th annual pancake breakfast with record attendance. I am looking forward to attending many Chapter Meetings and a swap meet or two. I know you will be spending time with your A at different activities too. I hope that you will keep a membership application for your local chapter and the national club in your car. When people want to visit about your car, I hope you will tell them about the many benefits of our wonderful club.

I would like to remind you that we have proclaimed May as Model A youth month. We have joined forces with the Model A Youth Restoration Award and the Model A Youth Scholarship organization. Check out our website, www.mafca.com for more information on these fine organizations. I would like to ask each chapter and group to actively promote the hobby with our young people. Our chapter is hosting a BBQ at a members ranch where we will have a variety of Model A's on display. We have invited everyone to bring their children and grandchildren. There will be opportunities to check out the cars and honk the horns. Those with drivers licenses will take the wheel and develop their driving skills. If we provide memorable experiences these young people will develop a love for the Model A just like we enjoy. Remember we have the A World Magazine available for the children. You can subscribe by sending your email address to Aworld@mafca.com. This is a wonderful electronic publication written by our editor, Sherry Winkinhofer. I hope you can do your part to share your car with grandchildren and neighbors.

I am getting excited for the fun time that we will have as we attend our National Convention in Kerrville Texas. It is not too late to send in your registration for this fun filled week in the Texas Hill Country. You can find the registration form on our website www.mafca.com. See you there.

Happy Motoring, Jay McCord

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Model A Youth Month



HELP US CELEBRATE

MODEL A YOUTH MONTH THIS MAY

Since the 1950s and 60s, the Model A hobby hasn't been exactly overwhelmed with young folks. Well, sir, the **Model A Youth Restoration Award** program is trying to correct that. We are looking to expose as many kids to the Model A Ford as possible, around the country and abroad. We feel that the Model A experience can still appeal to today's youth IF they are exposed to it. **With the support of both national organizations – MARC and MAFCA – we are declaring May 2022 as the inaugural Model A Youth month and we ask ALL clubs to do an event that focuses on children and teens but encourage mom and dad to attend, too.**

This needs to be a sensory experience to appeal to them – the kids need to hear, smell, see and touch the cars. The automobiles need to be in context historically – in many cases as cars their great or great- great grandparents may have driven in an era when a new car cost as little as under \$400 (but 64% of the population made under \$5,000 per year!) And the vehicles should be presented as functioning cars and trucks, not museum pieces.

So, let's get our cars out to where the kids are: to the schools; youth groups (Boy and Girl Scouts, Police Athletic Leagues, 4-H, FFA, Boys and Girls Clubs, and church or temple associated youth groups.) Tie in your local Ford dealership or a business celebrating nearly a century in business. Don't be shy about local car shows or Cars and Coffee. Check with your local community museum and set up a "show and tell" with them.

Please check our website: <https://www.modelarestorationaward.org/> for more ideas and resources for **Model A Youth month**.

DO SOMETHING – THINK YOUTH and share with them their month, M A Y.

standing of MAFFI and we strongly encourage each trustee to support both national clubs, MAFCA and MARC through membership as well. We ask that while serving on the MAFFI Board, you do not run for or accept positions on another national club's board. If you think you may be interested in serving on the MAFFI Board, please contact our Executive Director, John Marshall (ExecutiveDirector@maffi.org), or Jerry Morrissey (President@maffi.org).

The Board meets once a year on a day before Model A Day(s) at the Gilmore begin, which usually falls on the third weekend in September. Attendance at the meeting and Model A Day is strongly encouraged. Meetings and business are also conducted through email and conference phone calls so a trustee must have access to a computer for email. We like to have representation on the Board from all areas of the country. We would like to also encourage women to serve on the board.

Don't forget to register for your Model A Days prepaid events on the MAFFI website.

The "MAFFI Newsletter Minute" was sent to you as the editor of your club's newsletter. It is for you to use at your discretion. If you are no longer the editor, please notify me at the email listed below with the name and email of the new editor. If you no longer wish to receive this, please notify me as well.

Thank you, Mike DuBreuil, MAFFI
clubcontact@maffi.org

MAFCA and MARC have jointly declared the month of May "Model A Youth Month". We should all make a special effort this month to help the youth among our family and friends experience the Model A hobby.

Would You Like to Serve?

This year the Model A Ford Foundation is looking for three (3) individuals who love the Model A hobby and are interested in serving on the MAFFI Board of Trustees. The MAFFI Board oversees the Model A Ford Museum at the Gilmore Car Museum and encourages Model A'ers around the country to support the museum through membership in MAFFI, donations to the museum operations and the Endowment Fund.

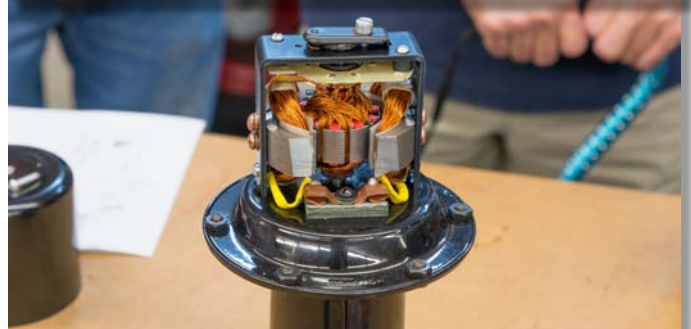
A trustee serves for three years and is eligible to serve a second consecutive term if he or she desires. Trustees must be a member in good

RECENT EVENTS

Shade Tree A's Saturday Technical Day - Horns

(Story and photos by Robbie Jones)

Shade Tree A's members gathered at Richard's garage on April 23, 2022 for another Saturday Technical Session. This one, on "Horns", was presented by Dan Perla. Dan did a great job explaining all the possible trouble points that would prevent your horn from blowing the way it should. Dan traced the entire electrical path from the horn to the horn button on the steering wheel and back again. Dan pointed out all the trouble points along the way. Many members brought their own horns to have tuned up, tested or diagnosed. Thank you Dan for a very informative discussion and presentation! Afterwards, a hot dog lunch prepared by Sheila was enjoyed by all. Thank you Sheila!



RECENT EVENTS

Old 96 District Model A Club Swap Meet

(Story by Jim McPherson)

The Old 96 District Model A's held their 16th Annual Swap Meet Friday April 15th and Saturday April 16th in Greenwood, South Carolina. Friday was a beautiful day with 16 vendors including Gerald and Lois Melchiors and grandson, and Jim McPherson displaying their wares. Other than the host club, we had the largest member turnout of any Model A Club. John Buchanan who found a couple of carburetors he had been looking for, Ben Deitz, Richard Dunevent, Andrew Morse who found many needed parts, Billy Garland, Henry Jones, Eric Shogren who found some needed parts, and Darren and Pat Riley were spotted in the swap meet area. Friday afternoon many vendors packed up due to forecast of rain Saturday. A rainy Saturday found only three local vendors remaining. This Swap Meet continues to provide needed Model A parts to area enthusiasts.



File photo from the 2021 Old 96 District Model A Club Swap Meet

MODEL A ERA FASHION AND STYLE

The Forgotten Accessory

By Sherry Winkinhofer, Northwest Missouri Model A Ford Club

"From its place as simply a useful accessory, the decorative pin has become a most important detail of dress. It still performs the old function of enhancing the beauty of the person and adding distinction and dignity, but today it does more than that. The jeweled pin or bracelet, appropriately worn, forms the last in the perfection of the completed costume." -1928 Baird-North Jewelry catalog.

When we think of Model A era jewelry, what comes to mind? Necklaces are usually at the top of the list, closely followed by earrings and bracelets. But how often do you think about wearing a brooch or pin? The jewelry catalogs of the time have pages and pages devoted to pins of all types. The materials range from platinum and diamonds to paste and pot metal. There are cameos, mosaics, gemstones, pearls, and even coral and jade.

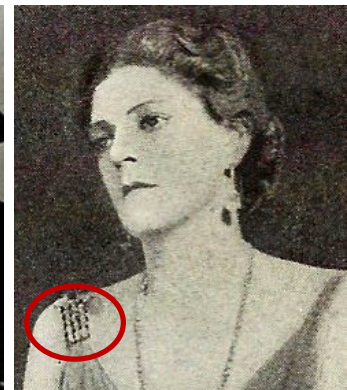
So why such a dearth in visibility? One of the reasons we tend to overlook this jewelry is its size. Pins and brooches are relatively small and do not show up well in pictures. I didn't realize this fact until I started researching the subject and quickly noticed how hard it was to find pictures with these details. With a lot of searching, I was able to round up a few pictures of ladies wearing pins for this article. Most of these are from advertisements or movie magazines.



A La Salle Car ad shows a bar pin matching our lovely lady driver's outfit-Good Housekeeping May 1930



These three actresses from a 1928 Metropolitan Studios publicity shot demonstrate three different styles of pins.



Ethel Barrymore wearing a brooch on her dress strap-Cosmopolitan magazine October 1929



A housewife with a circle brooch holding the draped accent on her dress-Good Housekeeping June 1928.



Notice the petite bar pin at the neckline in this illustration-Carson Pirie Scott & Co. 1928 Jewelry catalog.



Actress Polly Moran wears a lovely brooch on her coat-Picture Play magazine July 1928



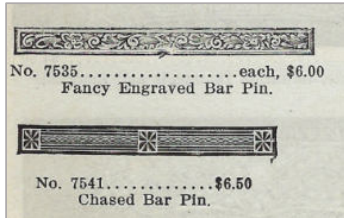
Polly Moran wearing a stylized brooch-Silver Screen Magazine December 1931

MODEL A ERA FASHION AND STYLE

Continuing my research, I pulled out a number of era jewelry catalogs. In just one 1931 catalog, I counted over twenty-five pages dedicated to pins and brooches, and many more pages with pins as part of other collections. In reviewing multiple catalogs, I discovered an unforeseen variety of brooches and pins. Here is a small selection of what I found:



Sterling silver, platinum finish, open pierced filigree work, set with 4 fine brilliants.
No. 83645 Each.....\$3.00



No. 7535.....each, \$6.00
Fancy Engraved Bar Pin.

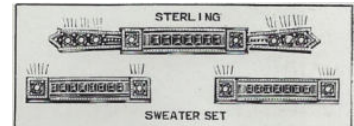
No. 7541.....\$6.50
Chased Bar Pin.



R969—Each \$3.00
White gold plated. Set with Amethyst stone and two Imitation Pearls. Has safety clasp.

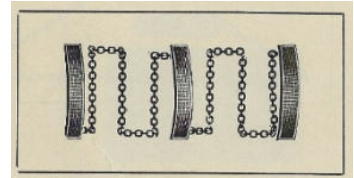
R907—Each, \$4.50
Silvanir, Brilliant sets. Length 2¾ inches. Safety clasp.

R972—Each \$3.50
Sterling silver with transparent enamel tops. Set with Brilliants, colors light blue and white with yellow flowers.



STERLING
SWEATER SET
Sterling silver, platinum finish, set with fine blue sapphires and brilliants.
No. 8394 Per set.....\$5.50

Sweater sets consisted of one large and two small matching bar pins. I'm not sure how these were worn but I find them interesting.



Chain pins are also an item I'm not sure how were worn but they seemed prevalent in the catalogs.



BEAUTY PINS
R1162—Pair \$5.00
10k Solid Green Gold.
Engraved Top.

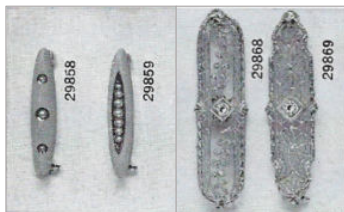
Beauty pins were a small version of bar pins, usually sold as a set. Don't confuse these with lingerie clasps which although about the same size, don't have a pin backing.



Semi-precious stones such as lapis, chrysoprase, and even rose quartz were often found in era jewelry.



Cuff pins were a surprise to me. I couldn't find any reference to them outside the jewelry catalogs, but I assume they were used instead of cuff links for ladies' blouses as they are quite small and were always sold in pairs.



Handy pins were tiny pins named because of how handy they were for everything. Sometimes they were also called dress pins. I have found versions that range from 1/2 inch to 1 1/2 inches long. But small size didn't always mean small price. The ones above on the right are platinum and gold, with sapphires (left) or diamonds (right.) Adjusted for inflation, they would cost \$200 and \$500 today! So, these were not just fancy safety pins!

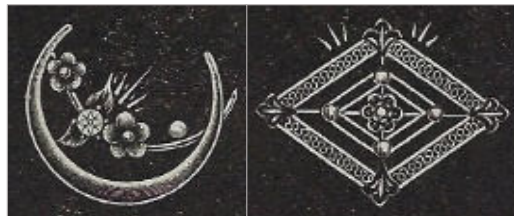


Beautiful Reproductions of
French Crystal Jewelry

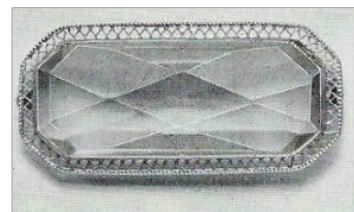
R1141—Each \$2.50

R1142—Each \$2.50

True rock crystal was a unique material well-liked in this timeframe. Imitation glass crystal was often used for less expensive versions of the more luxurious pieces.



A few more interesting shapes! These were gold, with diamonds and pearls.



Precious gemstones such as amethyst and aquamarine were used often, sometimes with accent stones and sometimes plain. Synthetic gemstones were also routinely used.

MODEL A ERA FASHION AND STYLE



Jade was always fashionable, especially as the interest in Oriental art grew in the 1920s.



Coral is another natural material used. This pin is carved coral with seed pearls and green gold. Green gold is yellow gold with a slightly greenish hint. It's made from an alloy of pure yellow gold and pure silver.



Pearls were not always just an accent. This brooch is made of genuine seed pearls with a 14kt white gold setting.



According to one source, circles are called friendship brooches because of their unbroken lines.



Filigree or "pierced" designs were the most widespread style if the pages in the catalogs are an accurate



The finest cameos were carved from shell. But you can also find some from onyx or other stones. And in the Model A years with the new plastics being introduced, I'm sure there were some made from that also. An often-found design element of the era was a real diamond on a chain.

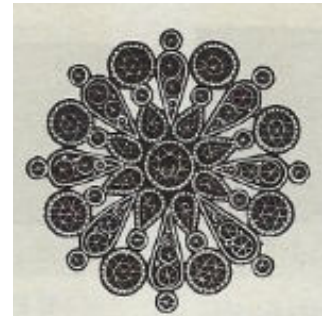
Classic designs were still prevalent, but a few reflected the new modern style. See the bottom two cameos; both have bobs, with the one on the right wearing a cloche.



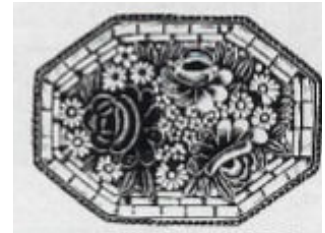
Abalone shell, with pearls on silver in a beautiful bar pin.



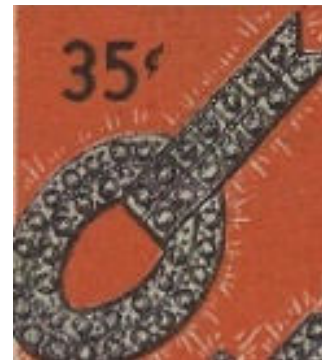
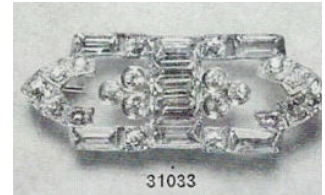
These brooches are called pendant brooches. These are filigree style, with gemstones. The top chain loop folds down when worn as a brooch.



Red Bohemian Garnets were a beautiful stone often used for elegant brooches of all sizes.



Italian mosaics were delicate little pieces of art. They were made by arranging tiny pieces of glass into pictures.



Rhinestones with a white metal base were part of the rising popularity of costume jewelry in the 1920s and beyond. Quality varied and many were cheap and easily available. But they were sold in both fine jewelry catalogs and general catalogs such as Sears and Roebuck.

MODEL A ERA FASHION AND STYLE

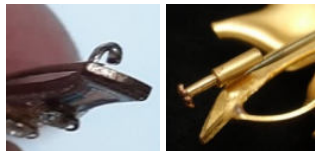


Jabot pins were most often used as hat pins, but I have also found references that show them being used as dress brooches. These pins are two-ended. One end twists off so the pin stem can pass through whatever material it is fastened to. Like most other pieces we have looked at, they were available as both fine and costume jewelry.



It wasn't all about grace and elegance—some pins were just for fun! Some of the above are cheap costume jewelry, some are a little better quality but still costume. The dog pins are a good example of this. Although both are costume, the top one, from Montgomery Wards, sold for 19¢. The bottom one was \$3.35, sold by the Jason-Weiler-Baird North Jewelry catalog. That's about \$3 and \$52 in today's money. Sterling silver appears to be considered somewhere in the middle of the fine jewelry-costume jewelry mix as an affordable option. The "aeroplane" and the art deco "bubble" pin in the middle is also sterling silver with cloisonne. The elephant is rhinestones with enamel.

This is a fun one! The unique monkeys on the left are "non-tarnishing metal," set with "whitestone" (rhinestone) with simulated ruby eyes, and faux pearls. It sold for the equivalent today of over \$100. It may be costume, but it's not "cheap jewelry" by any means!



Most pins and brooches of this era used a "C" clasp to secure the pin. The reason for its name is obvious as it simply wire or flattened metal formed in a "C" shape. A trombone clasp was also available but not as common. A trombone clasp had a little pull-push button which locks the pin in place. Safety clasps were in their infancy and were handmade if used, and therefore extremely rare.

As with most things, these styles of clasps were used over a large stretch of time, and some have never gone out of style. The "C" style can still be found today on cheaper jewelry. As such, the clasp is not the only determining factor to consider when accessing age. Materials, design, and the manufacturing processes used also need to be reviewed when trying to decide if a piece is "era." If you plan to wear a pin or brooch in original judging, your safest bet is a "C" fastening!

As you can see, the variety is endless. Of course, there are designs that "look" more vintage to our modern eyes, but in reality, there was a myriad of choices to choose from. I hope these examples inspire you to add more brooches and pins to your Model A outfits. Think of them as the last sparkling details of a well-crafted outfit.

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THE SHADE TREE A'S – THIRTY YEARS AGO



The 1985-2005 *Shade Tree A's Newsletters* are now available on the Shade Tree A's website. They can be accessed via the same "button" as the other *Newsletters*, but they are password protected. The same password used to access the member roster is used to access the *Newsletters*. Thank you Dan Perla for scanning these and posting on the website.

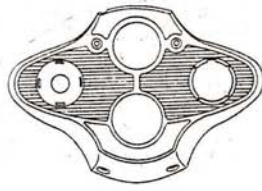
The May 1992 issue of the *Shade Tree A's Newsletter* announced many activities for the month of May including breakfast at Shoney's and a tour to the Beech Island Heritage Day at the Redcliffe Plantation State Park. The *Ten Commandments for the Car Collector* were also included. An article by Bill Adams titled *Our Family Car "The Little Model A"* was very well done and interesting. A photo album describing an engine swap and photos from the Charlotte Autofair were included as well.



□ DASH PANELS
 1928 'til Mid 1930 Mid 1930 'til 1931



A11805BR
A11805BRN



A11805AR
A11805ARN

TECHNICAL TOPICS

Jim's Tech Tips

"Radiator Hoses"

If there is one thing we take for granted on the Model A engine, even more than the fan belt, it's the radiator hoses. We put them on and expect them to last "forever". But they don't. I've been on more than a few tours where someone ends up with a leaking radiator hose that interrupts their drive.

So today's Tech Tip is to remind you to inspect the radiator hoses and snug up the hose clamps (if needed) every time you change the engine oil. Look for signs of coolant seeping out of the hose, usually at the end. Look for obvious cracks and other signs the rubber is breaking down.



The upper radiator hose is subjected to the hottest coolant while you drive, so that is often the hose that starts leaking first. And the lower steel pipe tends to corrode away from the inside out, where you can't see it until it's too late. So look for coolant weeping down there, too.

A stock Model A does not run a pressurized cooling system, so it does not have a lot of pressure on the hoses. However, if you have a thermostat installed in your upper hose, the hose section between the engine outlet neck and the thermostat sees a lot of pressure when the thermostat is not open. A leak there can pump all of your coolant out in no time at all. So check that area carefully.

It's probably overkill, but to avoid a problem on the road, I replace my radiator hoses and coolant about every 3 years of normal driving. Avoid problems, and *Have a Model A Day!*
Jim

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