

ROAD CHATTER

Early Ford V-8 Club—Northern Illinois Regional Group #8

P.O. Box 0803

Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0803

www.nirgv8.org

Volume 41 Issue 5

May 2007

MAY NIRG EVENTS

- 6** Spring Driving Tour -
Hosted by Ron Dopke - See
Page 3
- 10** Board of Directors Meet-
ing, Wheeling Township
Service Center, 7:30 pm
- 12** Crystal Lake Museum
Tour - Hosted by Jack
Nikolich - See Page 3
- 15** Monthly Meeting Wheel-
ing Township Service Cen-
ter, 8:00 pm - Tech Talk on
car appraisals by Frank
Koeder
- 30** Depart for Eastern
National Meet



OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

- May 6** 42nd Annual
Grayslake Auto Show, Lake
County Fairgrounds,
Grayslake, 8am - 4 pm, \$5
donation
- May 12** Spring Classic Car
Corral, Volo, 10 am - 3 pm,
\$9 admission
- May 27** 36th Annual Auto
Show Swap Meet & Craft
Show, Sandwich Fair-
grounds, 8 am - 3 pm, \$10
admission

In this Issue

Page 2 – Message from the editors with important news about the Road Chatter.

Page 3 – Your club officers and board are putting together a great touring calendar with plenty of events for everyone. Please try to attend this month's tours. See the details of our first spring driving tour on May 6. If you haven't already confirmed, please call Ron Dopke right away – let's have a great turnout. Also, Jack Nikolich has arranged a tour to two collections in Crystal Lake on May 12.

Page 4 – Our May feature article – Tom O'Donnell tells us about his '40 Mercury and the recent restoration.

Page 7 – Minutes and photos from the April 17 Pizza Meeting.

Page 8 – A report on our April Eggs-n-8's outing to Geneva, IL.

Page 10 – Tech corner - 1940 *Standard* Ford Convertible?

Page 11 – Rearview Mirror – NIRG happenings from years past.

Page 12 – V-8 Gals page - our salute to mothers.

Page 13 – The NIRG events calendar has been updated with additional events for 2007 – save these dates!

Back Cover – Tom's beautiful Mercury!



Attention Members

Due to ongoing renovation of the Wheeling Township Building, the first floor meeting room may not be available for several months; therefore, all Director and regular Monthly Meetings will be held on the lower level until construction is completed.

2007 OFFICERS**President**

Dan Pudelek

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George Zulas

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Ken Bounds

Health & Welfare

Stan Stack

Tour Chairman

Joe Novak

Newsletter

Ken and Carolyn Bounds

Board of Directors

Ron Blum

Ron Dopke

Tom O'Donnell

Joe Serritella

MEETINGS

8:00 pm on the third
Tuesday of the month at
the Wheeling Township
Service Center, 1616 N.
Arlington Heights Road,
Arlington Heights, IL

NEWSLETTER

Send submissions to
Editor, 1N410 Forest Ave.,
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
or e-mail

editor@nirgv8.org
or call

630-858-9474

Publishing deadline is the
25th of the month.

The Road Chatter is pub-
lished monthly by NIRG.

Other Early Ford V-8
Regional newsletters are
welcome to use material
from the Road Chatter
provided the Road Chatter
is credited as the source.

FROM THE EDITORS

You probably know by now that the Road Chatter was honored by the Early Ford V-8 Club with the first place award in the 2006 United States newsletter competition. This award recognizes not only us as editors, but more importantly the entire Northern Illinois Regional Group. Without our fine group there would be no newsletter. We count on you to provide us the content for the newsletter. It is about our group, what we do, and some of our similar interests – particularly the Flathead Ford V-8.

To say we are pleased with this accomplishment in our first year of publication would be an understatement, but we were also pleasantly surprised. When we began putting together our first issue late in 2005 we just wanted the Road Chatter to be informative, interesting, and pleasing to read. We wanted to use technology to allow us to publish very current news and to add a little color. We wanted it to be a reflection of the activities of our group and our pride in ownership of these fantastic V-8s.

We thank the NIRG members for all your contributions to the Road Chatter and especially appreciate the write-ups of club events and the articles about you and your cars. Please keep them coming. We also thank the club for being active and for having plenty of events to report. We just couldn't do this without you.

One of our concerns back in 2005 was whether we would be able to get enough input to fill the newsletter. Actually, the problem has been quite the opposite. Usually we struggle with what we need to cut back on to fit it all in. But don't take this as a signal to relax. We still need your input and really need more of those member car articles! If you haven't submitted one, think about doing that now. We will be glad to help you in any way we can.

We also would like to thank our first editors Ron Dopke and Diane Wrobel for building the foundation on which the Road Chatter is built. We owe them a debt of gratitude for keeping the news coming every month for so many years. You can't truly appreciate the amount of work that they did until you try to do it yourself! Going through the back issues each month to prepare our Rearview Mirror column has been an education and brings back great memories.

We don't plan to rest on our laurels. As you know, we made a number of changes in our second year of publishing the Road Chatter and hope you like them. We plan to have more improvements, more original material, and more fun as we strive to make the Road Chatter the best it can be.

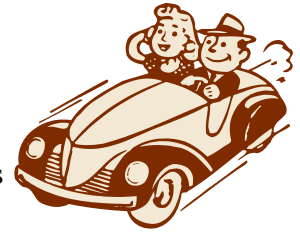
Ken & Carolyn

UPCOMING TOURS AND EVENTS

Spring Driving Tour - Sunday, May 6

Its time to get those V-8's out, blow off the dust, and hit the road for a leisurely shakedown tour!

Meet at the Town & Country Mall, corner of Palatine Road and Arlington Heights Road, leaving at 9:00 am sharp.



Tour over back roads, McHenry County Scenic Roads, and the historic Woodstock town square. Stops at Dan Adams collection in Bull Valley and the Auto Gallery Museum in Spring Grove (\$2 fee). Lunch at approximately 2:30 at Doyle's Pub & Eatery in Richmond.

If you haven't already signed up, please call Ron Dopke at 815-344-1335 and let him know that you plan to attend. Ron needs to know the count of those attending as soon as possible so reservations can be finalized. These collections are being opened specially for us on a Sunday, so let's have a good turnout!

Crystal Lake Museum Tour - Saturday, May 12

Now that you have those V-8's out and running, here is another chance to get out and enjoy the spring weather and see some nice collections. Jack Nikolich has put together a tour to two collections in Crystal Lake.

We will gather at 9:00 at the Town & Country Mall, corner of Palatine Road and Arlington Heights Road. No later than 9:30 we will tour out Northwest Highway to Marvin Richer's collection at Brock Equipment Company, 100 S Main Street in Crystal Lake, arriving by 10:30. Jack says that Marvin has more than 60 antique Fords and Corvairs for us to see. After we have had time to view the collection there, Ken Weger will meet us and take us to his mini-car collection at his recently-expanded museum at 3515 Oak Ridge Road.

At approximately 2:00 p.m. we will leave the Weger's for an optional late lunch at Kief's Reef, 3505 S. Wright Road, McHenry, just off Route 176 at the Fox River.

This promises to be a well-attended event. Jack has worked the phones and has around 20 club cars planning to attend. Join us if you can! **If you haven't already signed up, please call Jack Nikolich at 847-537-6069 and let him know that you plan to attend. Leave a message if Jack is out.**

Volo Show - Sunday, July 1



Mark your calendars now for Sunday, July 1, when we will show our cars at the Volo Auto Museum. George Cech is organizing this event, the largest car event of the year at Volo. Over 300 cars are expected, plus there will be a chance to meet the "King of Kustomizers" George Barris. Watch for details in the June Road Chatter.



My 1940 Mercury Sedan Coupe

Tom O'Donnell

When my sons were pre-teens, I decided that I needed to spend more time with them. Madeleine and I discussed it and decided that an old car would interest them, especially if they could work on it with me. With my job, I wasn't able to commit to Little League or Scouting but I could grab a couple of hours with my sons when I was home to work on the car. The decision was to get a stylish convertible or coupe with enough room for all 6 of us.



Summer 1976

I have always liked the Ford V8 engine. It is peppy, easy to work on and requires few special tools to do regular maintenance. I had several Fords and Mercurys and liked the 1940 models the best. The 41, 42, 46, 47, 48 convertibles were more roomy than the 1940 models and both Madeleine and I liked the styling of the 47 and 48 Mercs. We started the search for a 47 Merc convertible. I looked at several convertibles in Illinois, New York and California. Most of the eastern cars had serious rust

problems with the body mounts and trunk floor. The California cars were priced as if they were gold plated.

We were at the Auburn auction when there were a 1939 Ford convertible, a 1940 Ford business coupe with the jump seats and a 1939 Mercury coupe for sale. We ruled out the 2 Fords as we would not have enough room for all 4 kids in them. The Ford coupe was very tempting until I remembered how uncomfortable those jump seats were. Madeleine liked the Mercury styling, but bidding went way over our limit.

Two months later, I saw this 1940



Mount Prospect 1995

Mercury Sedan Coupe for sale and the price was within reach. It was a California car and rust free. I negotiated with the seller and arranged to have the car shipped to Illinois. My boys and I worked on the car for the next 2 years to make it presentable and driveable. We spent many hours together looking for parts and then installing them on the car.

The 1939 and 1940 Mercury bodies were just for Mercury. No components are shared with Ford, while the 1941-1948 Mercury used the same body as the Ford with a longer hood and front fenders. When you have the 1940 Ford and Mercury side by side, you can see the wider body, longer hood and sharper angle to the windshield on the Mercury. The wider body also gives the car wider seats and more interior room. The longer wheel base of the Mercury makes it ride better than the Ford. The Sedan Coupe body has unique styling similar to the “hardtop convertibles” of the 1950’s cars. The body is a convertible body with a hardtop welded on. This was done to reduce costs by having one set of dies for 2 cars.

Over the years, we have attended many shows with the car and have enjoyed driving it. We also collected many NOS and good used parts to upgrade the car.

In 2003, we decided that it was time to repaint the car and rebuild the engine as it was burning oil. My son Steve and my grandson, Tom helped me take the car apart and Jordon Beller helped me get the pieces to the body shop where it would be repainted. I hauled the engine to the machine shop to be rebuilt.

Over the winter, I made new plastic for the dashboard and straightened and polished some of the stainless. The pieces that were beyond my skills were sent to Jack Edison in Florida. I had the chrome plating stripped from the window moldings and painted them with a base coat for wood graining. I am still trying to get the right look on the wood graining. I also refurbished the buckets for the head lights and tail lights with new paint, wires and looms. Bob Paladino color matched the dashboard paint for me.

The body shop finished the paint job in the last week of July. I started putting it together in the body shop and they helped me when the task called for 2 or more people. While I was waiting for the paint to cure on the fenders, I installed the stainless on the hood and body. I also installed the chrome on the hood and deck lid. We put the rear fenders on, and then the dashboard. The front fenders were mounted along with the grill and left loose until the hood could be lined up. Then we aligned the front fenders with the hood. The doors took a lot of work to get them to line up. The reproduction upper seal was too thick and a new one had to be ordered. We aligned the lower halves to close properly and left the upper stainless loose until the new seals came. Steve came over a few



Merc with back fenders



Dashboard

times to help in the afternoon and we had the car ready to come home in the middle of August.

My son, Steve, son-in-law Joe and grandson Tom all helped putting the car together. We installed the windshield, back window, gas tank, seats and motor in the next week. The car was running by the end of August and it went to the upholstery shop for a new headliner. When it came back, the rest of the glass was put in. There were many problems with the engine and the car didn't get into good running condition until September of 2004, when a different engine was put in.



Ready for the ride home

The car is running good now. I took it to the Auburn Motorfest last summer and it performed well. I intend to take it to Winona and the Motorfest this year as well as going on local tours and attending some cruise nights with my granddaughters.

What I like most about my car is the memories of working on it with my sons and how it kept us close. Now my Grandchildren enjoy the car as much as I do. They can ride in a car that is different from the usual cars on the street. Because the car was designed before air conditioning became standard, it is comfortable to ride around with the windows open. And they roll all the way down to the sill, not just halfway like the modern cars. The car also sits higher than newer cars and the grandkids enjoy looking down on the drivers in modern iron.



Granddaughter working on motorcycle

All four of my kids still come to visit the Mercury and enjoy going for rides in it. My 3 grandsons all talk about getting an old car to restore and my 3 granddaughters are still interested in collector cars and talk about driving one when they get their license. Two of my granddaughters are getting to the age where boys are becoming interesting and finding out that boys like to talk about cars. So their interest in cars is growing also.

Did you know?



Air conditioning was invented by Willis Carrier to help a Brooklyn, New York, printer get decent color during hot, humid weather. Air conditioning wasn't used for cooling people until 1924 when it made its debut at the J.L. Hudson Department Store in Detroit, Michigan

<http://www.mineofuseless.info/trivia/Technology/?p=2>

PIZZA MEETING

HOSTED BY BOB & ANGIE PALADINO
SUBMITTED BY KEN BOUNDS

The NIRG held our traditional Spring Pizza Meeting April 17 at John's Pizza in Addison. What a great turnout! Forty-eight members and guests enjoyed the cocktail hour followed by delicious pizza. A big NIRG *Thank You* to our hosts Bob & Angie Paladino for arranging this event. Thanks also to Lenny for collecting the money (doesn't it bother anyone seeing Lenny with all that cash?) and to two Joes, Kozmic and Novak, for running the 50/50 raffle.

Our President Dan Pudelek conducted a short business meeting. The primary business was a discussion of upcoming events: the April 29 Eggs-n-8's breakfast, the May 6 McHenry County driving tour, and the May 12 tour to Crystal Lake. Sign-up sheets were passed around for each event. (Note: please see the information about the May tours on page 3 and participate if you can!) Dan also passed along the news that the Road Chatter won first place in the 2006 Early Ford V-8 Club newsletter competition. Dan presented Ken & Carolyn with a special, much coveted "Silver Oil Can" award to commemorate the occasion. Ken reluctantly was persuaded to say a few words.

The Pizza Meeting was a great event to see old friends who we haven't seen in a while (such as Dick & Dot Alfini, who both looked terrific); to see

Continued on Page 9



EGG-N-8'S

**HOSTED BY TOM & JUDY BUSCAGLIA
SUBMITTED BY KEN BOUNDS**

The April NIRG Eggs-n-8's breakfast was held April 29 at Egg Harbor Café in Geneva, IL. It was an incredible spring day with sunny skies and temperatures in the 70's. Because of the great weather we were able to eat in a private outdoor area. Our hosts, Tom & Judy Buscaglia, provided booklets about the city of Geneva and the locations of the many shops. Tom also talked about the first car cruise of the season that was being held nearby today instead of the normal Wednesday night.

We were pleased that Heather Guido was able to



Dick & Dot Alfini, Ken & Carolyn Bounds, Don & Elaine Braun, Lloyd & Gladys Duzell, Dan & Diane



join us for her first V-8 Club event. Hopefully she will come back! We were also glad to see our newest member, Steve O'Neill, who drove his recently acquired 41 Ford Tudor Sedan. President Dan Pudelek asked everyone if they had a good time and if they would like to do it again. The consensus was that we should have another Eggs-n-8's breakfast in late June. After a relaxing breakfast there was time to visit with friends or take a look at the beautiful Fords that several members brought before heading out for shopping, to the car show, or just to enjoy the rest of the day.

Attending were: our hosts Tom & Judy Buscaglia, Dan & Diane Pudelek, Jimmy & Heather Guido, Earl & Gene Heintz, John Judge, Frank Madrigali, Joey Novak, Steve O'Neill, Bob & Angie Paladino with grandson Anthony, and Len & Irene Vinyard.



PIZZA MEETING

those who traveled many miles to attend (such as Marty & Leah Duling); and to make new friends (it was great to see one of our newest members Jimmy Guido in attendance). The good times just kept rolling for Ken as he won \$42 in the 50/50 raffle. The winning ticket was pulled by Marty Duling.

In attendance were: President and First Lady Dan & Diane Pudelek, Len & Irene Vinyard, Marty & Leah Duling, Lloyd & Gladys Duzell, Earl & Gene Heintz, Joe & Nell Kozmic, Ken & Carolyn Bounds, Bob & Angie Paladino, Joe Novak, Stan Gaynor, Art Russell, Tom O'Donnell, Don & Elaine Braun, Dick & Dot Alfini, George & Betty Cech, Ron Vaughan, Collin Sprau, Sam & Grace Iusi, Ron & Sue Dopke, Paul Linzer, Jimmy Guido, Cliff Dixon, Paul Jensen, Tom Young, Joe & Marie Dispensa, George Zulas, Mike Heatherly, Jim Ondracek, Don Drews, Alan Wall, Roger Obecný, Frank & Phyllis Madrigali, and Johanna Madrigali.



EGGS-N-8'S





TECH CORNER



When was the last time you visited the NIRG web site at www.nirgv8.org? We try to keep the site up to date with current information about our club and our activities. We actually receive quite a few contacts from the public based on our site.

We recently received a letter from a V-8 fan in Brazil! Sergio Pedreiro is asking for some help. Sergio sent pictures of this beautiful '40 Ford Convertible. Here is his letter:

Dear Sirs,

I have a couple of questions with respect to the 1940 FORD Convertible shown in the pictures below. It looks like a STANDARD, however I thought that FORD 1940 Convertibles were manufactured only in the DE LUXE model. Is that the case? Was it different for FORD Exports (I am in Brazil)? Is it possible that this was originally a DE LUXE Convertible but was modified during restoration? If that is the case is it possible to convert back to DE LUXE? Which parts are required to replace?

Thanks for your help.

*Best regards, Sergio Pedreiro,
Brazil*

We sent Sergio an initial response with some quick research in a couple of references. We told him several of the differences between the Standard and DeLuxe models and the thought that he was correct that all '40 Ford Convertibles were sold in the U.S. as DeLuxe. We also commented that the car looked great as is and wondered why he would want to change it.

OK guys: since one of the purposes of the V-8 club is to "...serve as an accurate and technical source of information concerning these cars for the benefit...of the general public." let's help him out. If you know the answers to any or all of Sergio's questions, please contact the editors (see page 2) and we will send him a response based our collective knowledge. Thank you!





10 Years Ago This Month – May 1997

The club obtained two swap spaces at the Grayslake AACA meet and was looking for donations of items from members to sell. 31 members attended the May 20th meeting. Membership Chairman Lin Stacey reported that we have 78 NIRG members.

20 Years Ago This Month – May 1987

The Road Chatter included an article by Neil McManus about his '47 (or was it a '46) Woodie. An article from Chester Lawrence provided tips and warnings about working on fuel tanks. Ron "Lucky" Vaughan won the 50/50 raffle for the third time at the May 12th meeting.

30 Years Ago This Month – May 1977

The May 15th NIRG picnic, hosted by Howie Bischoff, was well-attended but had to be cut short due to a sudden storm. 18 NIRG families were present with 13 club cars. The newsletter carried a reminder that all NIRG members must also be members of the National V-8 club and discussed some of the benefits of being a member.

35 Years Ago This Month – May 1972

Various NIRG members planned to attend the 7th Annual AACA Auto Show & Swap Meet in Grayslake. Tentatively attending and bringing club cars: Ron Dopke, Tony Verschoore, Len O'Connor, Pete Lenz, Ray Petros, John Serena, and Bob Zielke.



Christmas Tour - December 14, 2002

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A MOM WHEN ...

Your feet stick to grape jelly on the kitchen floor..... and you don't care.

When the kids are fighting, you threaten to lock them in a room together and not let them out until someone's bleeding.

You can't find your cordless phone, so you ask a friend to call you, and you run around the house madly, following the sound until you locate the phone downstairs in the laundry basket.

Your idea of a good day is making it through without a child leaking bodily fluids on you.

Popsicles become a food staple.

Your favorite television show is a cartoon.

You're willing to kiss your child's boo-boo, regardless of what body part it happens to be on.

You're so desperate for adult conversation that you spill your guts to the telemarketer that calls and HE hangs up on YOU!

Spit is your number one cleaning agent.

You buy cereal with marshmallows in it.

You count the sprinkles on each kid's cupcake to make sure they're equal.

You have time to shave only one leg at a time.

You hide in the bathroom to be alone.

Your kid throws up and you catch it.

You cling to the high moral ground on toy weapons; but your child chews his toast into the shape of a gun anyway.

You find yourself cutting your husband's sandwiches into cute shapes.

You're up each night until 11 PM vacuuming, dusting, wiping, washing, drying, loading, unloading, shopping, cooking, driving, flushing, ironing, sweeping, picking up, changing sheets, changing diapers, bathing, helping with homework, paying bills, budgeting, clipping coupons, folding clothes, putting to bed, dragging out of bed, brushing, chasing, buckling, feeding (them, NOT you), PLUS swinging, playing baseball, bike riding, pushing trucks, cuddling dolls, rollerblading, basketball, football, catch, bubbles, sprinklers, slides, nature walks, coloring, crafts, jumping rope, PLUS raking, trimming, planting, edging, mowing, gardening, painting, and walking the dog. You get up at 5:30 AM and you have no time to eat, sleep, drink or go to the bathroom, and yet ... you still managed to gain 10 pounds.



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NIRG EVENTS CALENDAR

May	June	July	August
6 Spring Driving Tour - Hosted by Ron Dopke 10 Board Meeting 12 Crystal Lake Museum Tour - Hosted by Jack Nikolich 15 Member Meeting—Tech Talk on car appraisals by Frank Koeder 30 Eastern National Meet, Fairfax, VA	1 - 5 Eastern National Meet, Fairfax, VA 14 Board Meeting 19 Member Meeting	1 Volo Show 12 Board Meeting 15 - 20 Central National Meet, Winona, MN 17 Member Meeting	9 Board Meeting 12 NIRG Picnic—Hosted by the Brauns 21 Member Meeting
September	October	November	December
5 - 8 Auburn Motorfest 13 Board Meeting 18 Member Meeting 28 - 30 Lake Geneva Cancer Rally	7 Ladies Night Out 11 Board Meeting 16 Member Meeting—Officer Nominations	8 Board Meeting 10 Veteran's Day Luncheon 20 Member Meeting—Officer Elections	No Meetings 9 Christmas Luncheon



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
STAN STACK (5/2), PHYLLIS MADRIGALI (5/4), DOTTIE ALFINI (5/7),
DAWN ZULAS (5/8) JOHN ELLIS (5/9), FRANK KOEDER (5/18),
IRENE VINYARD (5/18), JANE BALOGH (5/19), JOHN BAUER (5/27)
& GINNY MAGNUSSON (5/31)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO
DON & ELAINE BRAUN (5/4), WALTER & JOAN ANDERSON (5/8),
NEIL & JULIE MCMANUS (5/14) & PAUL & JOANNE LINZER (5/31)

AND ALL THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS
AND
ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH.



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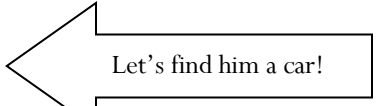
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1951 Ford Clock Electric, 1957 T Bird Clock, 1951 Ford Clock Windup, 1957 Mercury Clock, 1955 Ford Clock Electric, 1964 Galaxy Clock, 1956 Ford Clock 1964 T Bird Clock, 1969 Galaxy Quartz Clock, 69-70 Cougar Rally Clock, 69-70 Mustang Rally Clock. Contact Jim Ondracek 630-960-4801 or by email jim4754@hotmail.com

Wanted

1940 Deluxe coupe. #2 condition or better. Don Drews 708-528-0925
don.drews@couragemarketing.com



When listing items for sale please provide your first and last name so club members can contact you.



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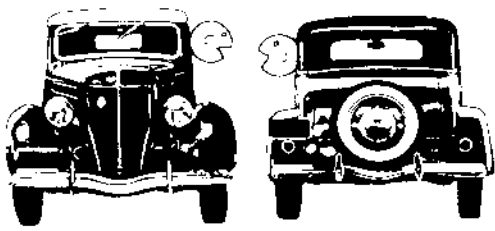
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Photo of the Month
Tom O'Donnell's 1940 Mercury