

ROAD CHATTER

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

Volume 43 Issue 3

P.O. Box 0803

Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0803

March 2009

www.nirgv8.org

UPCOMING NIRG EVENTS

March 12 Board of Directors Meeting, Wheeling Township Service Center, 7:30 pm.

March 17 Monthly Meeting Wheeling Township Service Center, 8:00 pm.



OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

March 15 Peotone Car Club 21st Annual Swap Meet, Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, 8 am, Admission \$3

March 20 Spring Begins!

April 4 - 5 Chicagoland Antique Advertising, Slot-Machine & Jukebox Show, Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, 9:30 am-5 pm (Sat) & 9:30 am-3 pm (Sun), Admission \$7

In this Issue

Page 2 – President Dan Pudelek apparently caught cabin fever and had to get away to a warmer place. ...or was it?

Page 3 – There are a lot of activities planned for NIRG members in the upcoming months. Please review these events, mark your calendars, and plan to participate when you can.

Page 4 – Our V-8 Valentines went out for a night on the town. Details here.

Page 5 – Updated information on the two V-8 Club National Meets scheduled for this summer. It is not too late to make plans to attend.

Page 6 – A summary and some pictures from the Chicago Auto Show.

Page 7 – Your editors would like you to know some history of the Road Chatter and announce a little contest. Also, did you know you can get the Road Chatter via e-mail? Please read!

Page 8 – Minutes of the January 20 meeting.

Page 9 – One of our members had a little scare out on the road.

Page 10 – Our tech corner is about rebuilding the knee-action shock absorbers used on Early V-8 Fords.

Page 11 – Rearview Mirror – information about club events over the past 35 years – and an original Road Chatter cartoon.

Page 12 – The V-8 Gals start their Spring Cleaning early this year, beginning with the spice jars.

Back Cover – Our Photo of the Month: Everyone at the Valentine's Day Ladies Night Out event.



Reminder:

Daylight Savings Time starts on March 8 this year.

2009 OFFICERS**President**

Dan Pudelek

Vice President

Frank Madrigali

Secretary

Don Drews

Treasurer

Joe Serritella

Membership Chairman

Ken Bounds

Health & Welfare

Stan Stack

Tour Chairman

Ron Blum

Newsletter

Ken and Carolyn Bounds

Board of Directors

Ron Blum

Joe Novak

Tom O'Donnell

Stan Stack

Alan Wall

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 published 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 DESK OF PRESIDENT

As most of you who went to the February meeting know, I was not there. Diane and I were off on a little trip looking for a place with sun and heat. Most of the time all you have to do is go south - or so I thought. When we left the temperature was at +10, wind chill -5. I told Diane not to worry; by the time we hit Louisville, KY, we should be in the high 30s. Well, it was snowing when we went through Louisville and +12 on the old thermometer. I told Diane once more not to worry; by the time we stop in Nashville for the night it will be warmer. Date line Nashville: the lowest temperatures in a decade for this time of year - it was 14 degrees and a chance of snow at 6:00 p.m.



At breakfast the next morning we were talking with a couple that were heading back north. They were very disappointed with the weather in Florida; after two weeks of 50 and 60 degree weather they had enough and were going home. Trying to keep a positive attitude, I looked forward to a day of driving to a warmer place. Again I told Diane that by the time we stop for the night we will be in Florida and the temps should be in the 50s. Well, 4:00 p.m. that afternoon we were crossing the state line into Florida and the temperature was 33. I was now beginning to get a little weary of this weather. The next morning we awoke to clear skies and a chilly 35 degrees on the old thermometer - not good. We had 5 to 6 hours of driving left to get to our destination. Once more I told Diane it's going to warm up today - I mean come on we're in Florida. It's always warm in Florida. At this point I was beginning to doubt my own words. We pulled onto Marco Island which is just south of Naples, FL, around 2:00 p.m. that afternoon and the weather gods were starting to look down on us. It wasn't in the 70s or 80s, but the low 60s was a good start. The next few days the weather started to turn around, as all the locals said it would, and by Sunday of that week it was in the low 70s. That's the kind of weather we were looking for! The rest of our stay in FL we had great weather in the high 70s to low 80s every day. I only had one problem: how do I bring some of this wonderful warm weather back home with me? Well, like Roseanne Roseannadanna would say, it's always something.

President,
Daniel Pudelek

We were sad to learn of the death of long-time Northern Illinois Regional Group member Pete Spear this past month. Pete, who lived in Skokie, had a 1936 Ford Tudor Sedan. Pete joined our regional group 27 years ago in February 1982. Our sympathies go out to Pete's family. Thanks to Paul Jensen for letting us know at the February monthly meeting.

UPCOMING TOURS AND EVENTS

Please mark your calendars and reserve the dates for these upcoming NIRG events:

Eggs & 8's - Saturday, April 26

Time to get those Flatheads out of storage and join your V-8 friends for an Eggs & 8's breakfast at Egg Harbor in Geneva, hosted by Tom & Judy Buscaglia. See complete details in next month's Road Chatter.



A Day at the Races - Saturday, May 9

This year we are going to Arlington Park. The \$55 per person package includes parking, admission, and an outstanding buffet with great track views from the International Room. Please contact Ron Blum right away at 847-537-7059 for reservations and details. Make your checks payable to Ronald Blum and send them to him at 3 Belaire Ct., Buffalo Grove, IL 60089.



Spring Driving Tour - Sunday, May 31

Spring driving tour to the Beller Museum in Romeoville with lunch at the historic White Fence Farm. More details will be provided in upcoming months by host Tom O'Donnell.



Munz Collection Tour - Saturday, June 13

Frank Koeder is organizing an exciting and rare opportunity to visit the Richard Munz collection in Madison, WI. The driving tour will be leaving from Arlington Heights. Rides should be available for members who do not have Early Fords available. More details will be provided.



NIRG Picnic - Sunday, August 9

The annual NIRG picnic will be held on the Fox River in Cary. Please reserve the date!

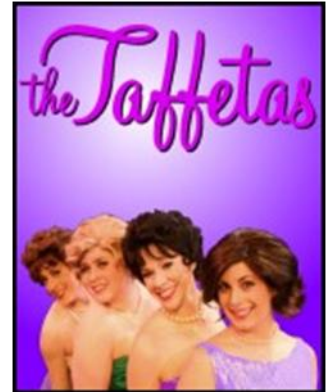
Do you have an idea for a club tour or event? Contact your Tour Chairman, Ron Blum or any other club officer. They'll be glad to help you make your tour or event a success.

Ladies Night Out 2009

The Taffetas – Pheasant Run Resort

By Ken Bounds

Johnny Angel, Mockin' Bird Hill, Puppy Love, Lollipop, I'm Sorry, Tonight You Belong to Me, The Three Bells, Mr. Sandman – just a few of the dozens of '50's classics pleasantly presented by The Taffetas, straight from their home in Muncie, Indiana, to the stage of the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. It is 1954 and in their efforts to land an appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show, four young sisters made their TV debut on the Dumont Television Network's *Spotlight on Music*. Although the group and the television show are fictional, these four talented actresses thoroughly entertained and warmed the audience, including our gang from the Northern Illinois Regional Group, on a chilly Valentine's Day evening. The banter among the sisters was delightful and there was even interaction with the audience. Everyone truly enjoyed the presentation – when was the last time you heard some of these songs?



Joey Novak says "Please don't tell us how you got the beads, Lenny."

Since 1989, the Taffetas have entertained audiences on Broadway and in traveling ensembles all over the country. This night they delighted our group of 21. Most participants gathered before the show for cocktails, then after the presentation proceeded to the Atrium for a buffet dinner. Everyone seemed to agree that the food was terrific and the service was prompt. After dinner we had plenty of time to enjoy everyone's company before it was time to head home. Our sincere thanks go out to Joey Novak for arranging this fun event. If you can't get your V-8's out because of the weather, it is hard to beat dinner and a play.



Joan and Garry Kelly



Paul and Joanne Linzer

2009 Central National Meet Update



When we first started talking about this year's Central National Meet in Auburn, IN, it was 13 months away. Time has flown by and the meet is just five months from now! If you have not yet registered for the meet, there is still time; but don't delay – hotel rooms are filling up fast. The Hampton Inn and Comfort Suites are sold out, but rooms are available at the La Quinta. Over 175 participants have registered so far. Please contact Ken Bounds if you need a form, or you can download it from our web-site, www.nirgv8.org.

The meet dates are August 28 – September 1. Auburn is less than 190 miles from the Lincoln Oasis. We plan to caravan from there with a large group Friday, August 28. Also, please reserve Saturday, August 22, for our traditional “drivers meeting”. The location has not yet been chosen, but these meetings are always a fun time to get together for dinner and to go over detailed plans for driving to the national meet and what to do while we are there. Any questions you may have about national V-8 Club meets will be answered, such as vehicle classes, the judging process, etc.



There will be a lot to do in Auburn, including the anticipated opening of the [Early Ford V-8 Foundation](#) Museum. We are making plans for an enjoyable, relaxing trip across Indiana to the meet and also some things to do (meals, etc.) in addition to what the meet organizers have planned for us.

As of the end of February, we are aware of the following folks going to the meet: Ken & Carolyn Bounds, '50 Crestliner & '50 Convertible; Ron & Arlene? Blum, '40 Fordor; George & Betty Cech, '36 Phaeton; Don & Elaine Braun, '36 Coupe; Earl & Gene Heintz, '51 Mercury; Garry & Joan Kelly, '32 Roadster; Joe & Nell Kozmic, '37 Coupe; Neil & Julie McManus; Joey Novak, '40 Pickup; Tom & Madeleine O'Donnell, '40 Mercury; Dan & Diane Pudelek, '53 Victoria; Len & Irene Vinyard, '39 Convertible; and Alan Wall, '32 Coupe. If we have missed anyone, please let Ken Bounds know. Also, contact Ken if you need any additional information or plan to attend the meet and your name is not listed.

2009 Eastern National Meet Update

The Eastern Meet is being held this year in Windsor, CT, just outside Hartford. Since this is about 700 miles farther away than Auburn, we realize there won't be as many NIRG members going. But we currently have four Early Fords going from here. We will be taking a three-day drive, picking up at least three members of the Northern Ohio Group along the way. We are leaving Monday, June 22 for the meet, which is being held June 24-27.

Details are available on our [web site](#), along with a complete set of registration forms. Contact Ken Bounds if you would like to join us. Scheduled to go so far are Ken & Carolyn Bounds, '50 Crestliner; Joe & Nell Kozmic, '37 Coupe; and Joey Novak, '40 Pickup.



Chicago Auto Show By Ken Bounds



Already having 100 shows under their belt, the Chicago Automobile Trade Association held the 101st Chicago Auto Show February 13-22 at the massive McCormick Place on Chicago's lakefront. Using 1.3 million feet of exhibition space (large enough to park 26 Boeing 747's!), the Chicago Auto Show is the largest in the country, and also the longest running. The first show was kicked off March 23, 1901, at the Chicago Coliseum and has been held every year except for an 8-year hiatus due to World War II. Another show is in the books, and Ford was the winner in three of the five categories voted on by attendees: Best All-New Production Vehicle: Ford Taurus SHO (27% of vote); Best "Green" Vehicle: Ford Fusion Hybrid (31% of vote); and Best Exhibit: Ford (30% of vote). The media reported that unlike the earlier National Auto Show in Detroit, attendance was unexpectedly strong, despite the gloomy economy.



Many NIRG members attended the show and one member, Bill Grams, had a large display of classic cars from his [Volo Auto Museum](#).



Bill Grams by a Duesenberg from Volo



Joe Kozmic, Ken Bounds & Joe Novak by Ford Exhibit



1914 Model T Speedster from Volo Museum



Even a Flathead made an appearance

FROM THE EDITORS

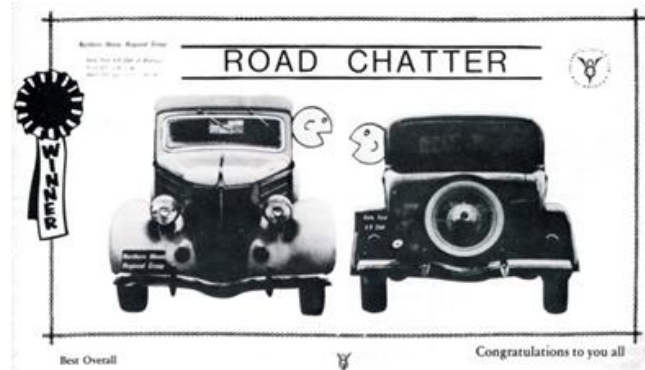
On page 7 of the January issue we mentioned that 2009 is an important anniversary year for the Road Chatter. We hope that everyone noticed in last month's *In the Rearview Mirror* column that the very first NIRG newsletter was published 40 years ago in February 1969. During this year we have some really fun things planned, so please keep reading each month.



The first bit of fun starts below, but first we want talk about a recent development with the Road Chatter. Late last year we began reformatting a copy of the Road Chatter to allow us to distribute it via e-mail. This would normally be no big deal, but because we print the newsletter booklet-style on large 11x17" paper we needed some updated software to allow the changes that would let recipients easily view and print on normal 8½x11" paper. We sent test copies out to several people and the response was very positive. Starting in January we began doing our "newsletter exchange" electronically with 10 of 13 other regional groups. Then in February we issued the Road Chatter by e-mail to nearly 50 members. As of now, 15 NIRG members have agreed to drop the paper copy and receive the Road Chatter only by e-mail. The savings in printing and postage costs helps the club Treasury and is particularly timely since the mailing cost will go up 5¢ to \$1.05 on May 11. We will always be glad to mail the Road Chatter to any member who prefers the paper copy, but anyone who would like to switch to the e-mail version should let us know at editor@nirgv8.org.

Now for a little fun. Back in January we teased you with the following:

- Did you know that the NIRG newsletter was not always called the Road Chatter?*
- When was the newsletter started?*
- What was it originally called?*
- How did it become the Road Chatter?*
- When?*
- Who benefitted from the new name?*
- Were other names considered?*



Last month we answered one question: When was the newsletter started? If you have been paying attention, you know that the answer is February 1969. (We are sure you remembered that, Ron Dopke. You typed the darn thing, didn't you?)

This month, we want you to answer the question "What was it originally called?" The first member to contact us with the correct answer wins a prize. In fairness, if you are a current or prior editor, you should not be eligible to win - and please don't whisper the answer to anyone. (But we would still like to hear from you, Diane or Ron!) Our contact information is shown on Page 2.

Next month we will reveal the answer, tell you who won, and what they won. We will also ask another Road Chatter trivia question, so stay tuned!

Ken & Carolyn

FEBRUARY 17 MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by Secretary Don Drews

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Frank Madrigali at 8:15 pm.



Treasurer's report:

Opening balance:	\$496
Net income and expenses since the last report	+\$2,294
Ending balance:	\$2,790

Health & Welfare report:

This month's report was given by George Cech, standing in for Health & Welfare Chairman Stan Stack, who was on vacation. Bob Paladino and Dick Alfini are on the mend after reconstructive knee surgery and a mild stroke, respectively. Jack Nikolich has had a long bout with the flu. Paul Jensen reported that NIRG member Pete Spear passed away recently.

Membership report:

The Northern Illinois Regional Group has 75 members in good standing as of February 17. Three more returning members are expected to renew. 2009 Club rosters were distributed at the meeting.

2009 club events:

The Valentines Day event, dinner and a play at Pheasant Run, was attended by 21 members and wives. The play was "The Taffetas, a musical journey through the fabulous fifties."

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Activity:</u>	<u>Organizer:</u>
April 21	NIRG club pizza meeting	Bob Paladino
April 26	"Eggs & Eights" breakfast	Tom Buscaglia
May 9	Day at the Races at Arlington Park	Ron Blum
May 31	Visit to Jordon Beller's "Rust Museum"	Tom O'Donnell
June 13	Visit the Munz car collection in Madison, WI	Frank Koeder
June 24-27	Eastern National Meet in Connecticut	Ken Bounds
July 10-12	Door County driving tour	Joe Novak
August 9	NIRG club picnic	Frank Koeder
Aug. 28-Sept. 1	Central National Meet in Auburn, IN	Tom O'Donnell
September 25-27	Lake Geneva Poker Run	Ken Bounds
November 7	Veteran's Day lunch	
December	Christmas Brunch	

Other events under consideration are: Fall Color driving tour in October, Combined driving tour with the local Model T, Model A and Thunderbird clubs, date TBD and a High School Auto Shop car show and tech talk, date TBD

NIRG Club Pride:

For the third year in a row, the NIRG newsletter, the Road Chatter, was honored with first place among all the Regional Group newsletters in the EFV8 Club. Co-editor Ken Bounds reported that several RG's have complimented the Road Chatter, and a couple have declared that they are "coming after us." Our reply: Competition is healthy, bring 'em on!

Our Regional Group website, www.nirgv8.org, is being continually updated. Improvements include a large gallery of our members' cars. Also, our site is apparently the only place on the World Wide Web that has direct links to *every* Regional Group in the EFV8 Club - and that includes the National Club site. Check it out.

Service awards:

Alan Wall presented a 2008 service award to Mike Heatherly for serving as Secretary in 2008. (Thanks Mike!)

50-50 raffle results: Frank Koeder won \$18 in this month's 50-50 raffle.

Members present: Rich Anderson, Bill Balogh, Ron Blum, Ken Bounds, George Cech, Don Drews, Ron Ek, Jerry Gunderson, Mike Heatherly, Earl Heinz, John Judge, Roger Meness, Paul Jensen, Frank Koeder, Joe Kozmic, Frank Madrigali, Neil McManus, Joe Novak, Tom O'Donnell, Joe Serritella, Len Vinyard, Alan Wall.

No guests were present. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Ghost Car

This actually happened earlier this year to one of our members (let's call him Lenny) and even though it sounds like an Alfred Hitchcock tale, it's absolutely true.

Lenny was driving in rural Wisconsin when he suddenly got caught in a blinding snowstorm. After missing a turn and sliding into a ditch, he climbed back up on the road. Because he saw no cars for over 30 minutes and saw that his cell phone couldn't get a signal, he decided to try to hitchhike to a nearby town. The snow was so heavy that Lenny could hardly see a few feet ahead of him. Suddenly, he saw a car come toward him and stop. Without thinking about it, Lenny got in the car and closed the door. Only then did he realize that there was nobody behind the wheel!

The car started to move very slowly. Lenny looked at the road and saw a curve coming his way. Petrified, he started to pray, begging for his life. He had not come out of shock when, just before the car hit the curve, a hand suddenly appeared through the window and moved the steering wheel. Now paralyzed in terror, Lenny watched how the hand appeared every time the car was approaching a curve. Finally, although terrified, he managed to open the door and jump out of the ghost car. Without looking back, he ran through the storm all the way to the nearest town. Cold, exhausted and visibly shaken Lenny walked into a nearby bar and asked for two shots of Scotch.

Then, still trembling with fright, he started telling everybody in the bar about the horrible experience he just went through with the spooky car with no driver and the mysterious hand that kept appearing. Everyone in the bar listed in silence and became frightened, listening to this eerie story. Hairs stood on end when they realized Lenny was telling the truth because he was crying and he definitely was not drunk!

About half an hour later two guys walked into the same bar and one said to the other, "Hey, there's the jerk that jumped into our car while we were pushin' it to the gas station!"





TECH CORNER

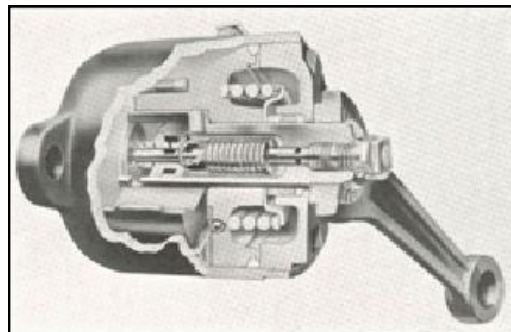


By Ken Bounds

Call them knee-action shocks, call them lever-action shocks, call them #\$\$%&!* shocks – many Early Ford owners have strong opinions about the shock absorbers that Mr. Ford put on his cars from 1928 to 1948. Whether they are old and leaky, hard to maintain, or just don't work well, these shocks are often ignored by owners or even replaced by the many kits available over the years to convert to more modern tube style shocks.

Ford called them Ford Houdaille Double Acting Shock Absorbers. The design was patented by Maurice Houdaille as early as 1907, but it was in 1927 that production really took off when Henry Ford announced that these shocks would be standard on the upcoming Model A – an order estimated to be over 21 million units!

Many owners want to keep their Early Fords “like Henry built them” or believe that a properly maintained Houdaille shock is just fine, but realize that disassembly or rebuilding is a daunting task requiring specialized tools. There are a few sources for servicing or rebuilding these shocks, but I often heard the most praise for Louis Trinqué in Connecticut. Many of us were concerned when we learned that Louis had decided to retire and initially could not find anyone to take over his business. The following good news appeared recently on the Fordbarn website: <http://www.fordbarn.com/earlyv8/forum03/ev8forum.htm>.



Section View—1940 Shock Absorber

There are a few sources for servicing or rebuilding these shocks, but I often heard the most praise for Louis Trinqué in Connecticut. Many of us were concerned when we learned that Louis had decided to retire and initially could not find anyone to take over his business. The following good news appeared recently on the Fordbarn website: <http://www.fordbarn.com/earlyv8/forum03/ev8forum.htm>.

Posted by Gary Trinqué on Monday, November 17, 2008 at 5:08PM :

My father Louis Trinqué is retiring from the shock rebuilding business. The business has been sold to William P. Wzorek of Florence, MA. Louie and Bill will begin rebuilding the shocks together until Bill has a good grasp of the rebuilding process and gets completely setup at his location at which point he will completely takeover. If your shocks are with Louie now they will be working on those first to complete all outstanding orders. I know its been getting behind as my father is not as young as he once was and slowing down quite a bit. PLEASE DO NOT send any more shocks to Louie and contact Bill with your needs. He can be reached at 71 cardinal way Florence, MA 01062. On behalf of my father and I we appreciate the years of business and its been a fun ride. Thanks everybody!!!!

Bill has now fully taken over the Trinqué shock rebuilding business. Contact information: Bill Wzorek, 71 Cardinal Way, Florence Ma. 01062. Phone (413)586-5324, E-mail wpwz@comcast.net.

This article is not intended to be an endorsement of Bill's business, just one source for our members who need to have shocks serviced or rebuilt. Another major “player” in this business is Apple Hydraulics, 1610 Middle Road, Calverton, NY 11933. Phone (800)882-7753, web site: <http://www.applehydraulics.com/>

Many different fluids have been used to refill Houdaille shock absorbers. The original fluid was glycerin. [Mac's Antique Auto Parts](#) in Lockport, NY, Phone (716) 210-1340 sells “correct” fluid for \$3.20 per pint.



10 Years Ago This Month – March 1999

The March Road Chatter contained a new feature from Tour Chairman Ron Blum, an event calendar for the year that will be updated monthly. At the March 18 meeting Membership Chairman Lin Stacey passed out the new rosters showing 81 members. Super-salesmen George Cech & John Pater collected \$70 for the 50/50 raffle. Earl Heintz and the club were the beneficiaries.

20 Years Ago This Month – March 1989

At the March 14th monthly meeting President Duzell welcomed new member Doug Leicht to the club. Long-time V-8er George Anderton passed away on March 13. George & Betty Cech hosted a candlelight bowl for a large group at Sim's Bowl in Des Plaines on March 25th.

30 Years Ago This Month – March 1979

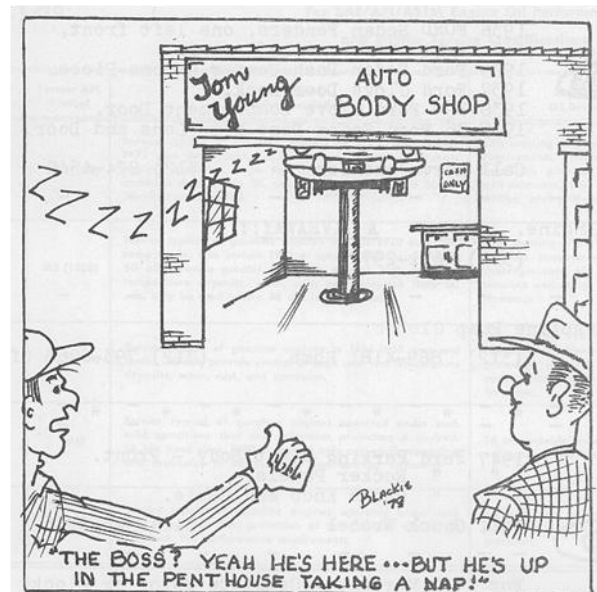
New member Lloyd Duzell was introduced at the March 13 monthly meeting at the Thornwood Lounge in Wood Dale. President Chester Lawrence gave a tech talk on Early Ford V-8 fuel systems. A large group of V-8ers and guests enjoyed great fun & great food at a candlelight bowling party March 31st hosted by George & Betty Cech at Governor's Lanes in Cicero.

35 Years Ago This Month – March 1974

The March newsletter contained a recommendation to go see the movie "*The Sting*" set in 1936, starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford. Two NIRG members' cars appeared in the movie: Marv Gunchick's 1936 Tudor Sedan and Bob Hanselman's 1934 Tudor Sedan. The March 12 meeting at Hewlett-Packard in Skokie was well attended by members and spouses.

Flathead Flashback

On the right is an original cartoon by then NIRG Member Bob "Blackie" Blackmore, published in the March 1979 Road Chatter, poking a little fun with longtime member Tom Young.



V-8 Gals

It's finally March. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. The days are getting longer. Winter is almost over. The first day of spring is March 20th. It might be a while before we can open up the windows, but the beginning of spring always has me thinking about Spring Cleaning. I was flipping through a couple of magazines that Nell Kozmic gave to me and I found some interesting "Spring Cleaning" stuff that I thought I would share. I think this year I'll start in the kitchen.

- ✧ Do you know that there is a way to tell how old your McCormick spices are? Since I think I have spices from when I first moved in to my own apartment in 1991 I thought I'd check out the information in the February 2009 Woman's Day. Go to www.spicecheckchallenge.com. There is a Fresh Tester box where you enter the code on the bottom of the jar and the city where it was made. You'll get back the date that the spice was bottled. And Yes, my little jar of Dill Weed was bottled on 12/16/91.

This chart from McCormick documents the lifespan of spices and extracts.

	Spices, ground 2-3 years
	Spices, whole 3-4 years
	Seasoning blends 1-2 years
	Herbs 1-3 years
	Extracts 4 years, (except pure vanilla, which lasts indefinitely)

Any way you look at it that little jar of Dill Weed is way past its prime. That's heading for the trash. I'm sure that's not the only spice I have from that century.

- ✧ Do you know how to tell if baking power is still active? Just put 1/2 teaspoon baking powder in 1/4 cup of hot water. If it bubbles, it is still active. I also found out that baking powder only has a shelf life of 6 to 12 months. My baking powder is new so I don't have to worry about that one, but let me tell you the previous baking powder had some serious age on it. If you are out of baking powder you can always make your own by combining a tablespoon of baking soda with 2 tablespoons of cream of tartar and 1-1/2 tablespoons of cornstarch.
- ✧ Did you know you can test baking soda too? To test baking soda's effectiveness mix 1/4 teaspoon baking soda with 2 teaspoons of vinegar. The mixture should bubble immediately. The shelf life of baking soda is also 6 to 12 months.
- ✧ Did you know that you can make white rice fluffier by adding a teaspoon of white vinegar to the boiling water? I'm going to have to give that one a shot. I know this one doesn't have anything to do with cleaning out the kitchen, but I thought I'd just pass this along.

NIRG EVENTS CALENDAR

January 8 Board Meeting 10 Installation Dinner 20 Member Meeting	February 12 Board Meeting 14 Ladies Night Out - Pheasant Run 17 Member Meeting	March 12 Board Meeting 17 Member Meeting	April 9 Board Meeting 21 Member Meeting - Pizza Meeting 26 Eggs & 8's
May 9 A Day at the Races 14 Board Meeting 19 Member Meeting 31 Spring Driving Tour	June 11 Board Meeting 13 Richard Munz Collection Tour 16 Member Meeting 24 - 27 Eastern National Meet, Windsor, CT	July 9 Board Meeting 10 - 12 Tour to Door County Wisconsin 21 Member Meeting	August 9 NIRG Picnic 13 Board Meeting 18 Member Meeting 28 - September 1 - Central National Meet
September 10 Board Meeting 15 Member Meeting 25 - 27 NIRG Poker Run, Lake Geneva, WI	October 8 Board Meeting 20 Member Meeting - Officer Nominations	November 7 Veteran's Day Lunch 12 Board Meeting 17 Member Meeting - Officer Elections	December No Meetings TBD Christmas Brunch

Welcome Spring!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
 HEATHER GUIDO (3/2), CHRIS COLDITZ (3/4),
 HARRIET LAWRENCE (3/14), CHARLES R. KAISER (3/17),
 NICOLE GILDAY (3/20), JACK NIKOLICH (3/26),
 MADELEINE O'DONNELL (3/26) & BETH DREWS (3/31)**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO
 RON & EDIE VAUGHAN (3/2)**

**AND ALL THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AND
 ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH.**



HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF THE 1932-1953 *Fords*


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Contact Ken Bounds at 630-858-9474 or e-mail editor@nirgv8.org to advertise in the Road Chatter. Cost is \$25 per year.

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For Sale

Doorlocks, glove box, visor brackets & more for 1953 Ford pickup. Offered by Jerry Gunderson at 847-395-2370

1996 Ford Econoline Van (Club Wagon). Offered by Mike Heatherly at 630-969-6873

Wanted

Your stories for the Road Chatter about you, your V-8s or your involvement in NIRG. This is your newsletter, please submit your stories or ideas for tech tips, ladies articles, feature articles or event write-ups to the newsletter editor. See submission information on page 2.

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



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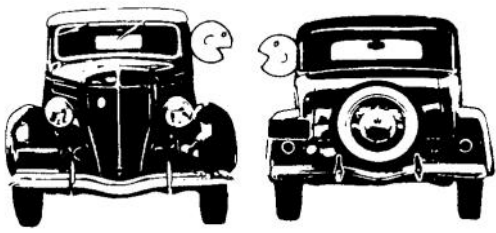
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Photo of the Month
The group at Ladies Night Out