

# ROAD CHATTER

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

P.O. Box 803

Volume 58 Issue 3

Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0803

March 2024

[www.nirgv8.org](http://www.nirgv8.org)

## UPCOMING NIRG EVENTS

**March 14** - Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom 7:30 pm.

**March 19** - Annual Pizza Meeting, Papa Passero's, 6:30 pm. See page 3.

**March 23** - Tour to Elmhurst History Museum, 10:00 am. See page 4.



## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

**March 10** - Daylight Saving Time begins - remember to turn your clocks forward.

**March 17** - St. Patrick's Day. Enjoy something green.

**March 17** - MARC Winter Swap, Friendly Ford, Roselle. 8:00 - 1:00. \$5 admission

**March 19** - Spring begins at 10:06 pm CDT! Time to dust off those Early V-8's!

## In this Issue

**Page 2** – President Scott Gilday looks forward to an early driving season and talks about past and upcoming club events.

**Page 2** – A few words from your editors.

**Page 3** – Este and John Scheve have arranged our annual Pizza Meeting at Papa Passero's in Westmont. Details here.

**Page 4** – Ron Blum has set up a visit to the Elmhurst History Museum for March 23 - details here.

**Page 4** – A brief update on 2024 National Meets.

**Page 5** – Nicole Plenge arranged a fun Valentine's Luncheon in Barrington February 10. See the pictures and read her report here.

**Page 6** – Minutes from the February 20 monthly meeting.

**Page 7** – Our V-8 Gals are talking about judging at the 2023 Grand National Meet.

**Page 8** – In this month's Tech Corner, Tom O'Donnell details his recent brake overhaul on his 1940 Mercury.

**Page 10** – Rearview Mirror – information about club events over the past 50 years, plus a Flathead Flashback.

**Page 11** – Remember to review the Events Calendar each month; also, see who has a birthday or anniversary this month.

**Back Cover** – Tom O'Donnell and family enjoying the Valentine's Luncheon.

**Note:** We plan to have the 2024 Rosters available at the March Pizza Meeting.



## \*\*Attention Members\*\*

Do not show up at the regular meeting place this month – no one will be there! Instead, bring the family and friends on March 19 to Papa Passero's in Westmont – see Page 3 for details.

**2024 OFFICERS**

**President**

Scott Gilday

**Vice President**

Jay Hinshaw

**Secretary**

Gary Osborne

**Treasurer**

Ron Blum

**Membership Chairman**

Ken Bounds

**Health & Welfare**

Dawn Zulas

**Tour Chairman**

Open

**Newsletter**

Ken and Carolyn Bounds

**Board of Directors**

Ken Bounds

Rusty Medlin

Tom O'Donnell

Este Scheve

George Zulas

**MEETINGS**

7:30 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](mailto: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 THE PRESIDENT**

It's hard to believe it's already March, which means it will officially be Springtime soon, and if the weather continues to be as nice as it's been over the last couple of weeks, we can potentially get our V-8s out on the road sooner than we expected. First, please note that this month's member meeting will be a Pizza Meeting at Papa Passero's on March 19th, so please do not go to our normal Wheeling Township Service Center location in Arlington Heights.



I'd like to thank my wife Nicole for organizing last month's Valentine's Day luncheon. We had a great turnout, great weather, and a great time at Makray's Oak Terrace restaurant in Barrington.

During last month's Tech Talk, I spoke a little bit about the work that I did with Tom O'Donnell on his '40 Mercury's brakes. As Tom was unable to participate in the meeting, he shared a write-up about this multi-month brake saga that we're sharing in the Road Chatter. Please be sure to read it.

In addition to our Pizza Meeting this month, Ron Blum is also hosting a trip to the Elmhurst Museum on March 23rd. More information on both events is inside this issue. We hope to see you!

If you would like to get more involved in the club or have any questions or thoughts you'd like to share, feel free to catch me at a meeting, email me at [sgilday@msn.com](mailto:sgilday@msn.com), or call/text me at 312-953-6855.

I look forward to great year and hope to see you at our upcoming activities.

**FROM THE EDITORS**

**Ken & Carolyn Bounds**

The Road Chatter is a little bit late as we are just back from another fabulous trip to Hawaii. This was the 7th time we have traveled to Maui in February and we don't remember ever seeing so many whales.



We were joined for several days by Dick and Linda Livingston who stayed at a resort near ours before continuing their trip to Honolulu. We had a chance to get together for dinner one evening and went together on a fabulous whale watch catamaran cruise. Great fun!

Special thanks to all the contributors to this issue. We cannot do it without you. We hope to see you at this month's events.

## UPCOMING TOURS AND EVENTS

## PIZZA MEETING

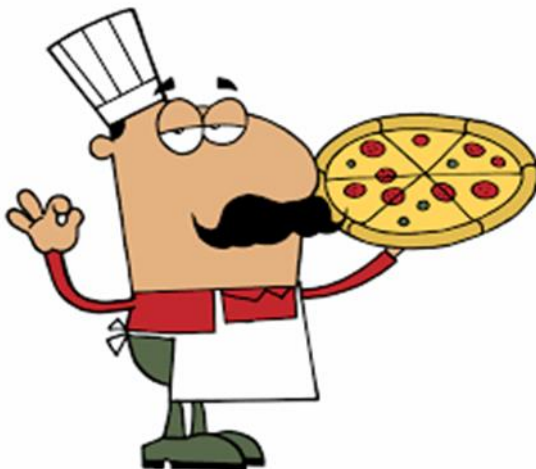
March 19, 2024

Papa Passero's  
6326 S Cass Avenue, WestmontParking lot on the south side of the building  
(Enter from front door - we are not in the back room)All you can eat pizza and all you can drink regular  
and diet pop

Cash Bar - 6:30 Pizza served at 7:00

\$18 per person

Family and Friends are Welcome





**Tour of Elmhurst History Museum  
Saturday, March 23rd at 10:00 AM  
120 E Park Ave, Elmhurst**

- **Free Admission!**
- **Free Parking adjacent to the museum building**
- **Meet at the museum at 10:00 am**
- **This month's special exhibit  
Victory at Home: 1941-1945**
- **Plus, ongoing exhibits about Elmhurst history**
- **Lunch to follow at 11:45 AM at Rainbow Cafe, 1/2 mile away**

**A signup sheet was passed around at the February meeting and will be available at the Pizza Meeting. If you want to attend and have not signed up, call or text our host Ron Blum at 847-650-7059.**



## 2024 National Meet Updates

### 2024 Central National Meet ▪ Auburn Indiana June 17-21, 2024

Full registration is now open! Visit the meet website at [2024cnm.com](https://2024cnm.com) for full registration forms, the tentative schedule, how to make your hotel reservations, and more.

Most meet activities will be held at the Early Ford V-8 Foundation Museum. Come see the newly opened Jerry Windle events center.

As of now, we have received 90 registrations - including 52 full registrations.



### 2024 Eastern National Meet ▪ Clayton, New York September 15-20, 2024

Early registration is available and we expect the full registration package, including schedule, soon. Visit the meet website at [efordv8-59.org](https://efordv8-59.org) for registration forms, how to make your hotel reservations, and more.

This meet will be held in the stunning 1000 Islands area of Upstate New York. This will be a very special experience. So far, we have received 77 registrations for this event.



### Valentine's Luncheon By Nicole Plenge

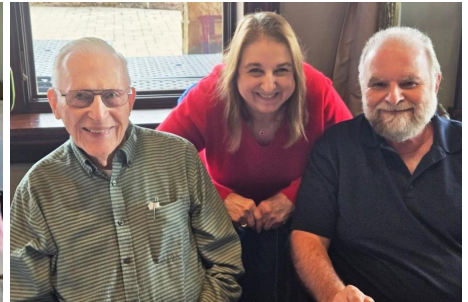
On Saturday, February 10, Club President and First Lady, Scott and Nicole Gilday, hosted the annual NIRG Valentine's Luncheon at Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington. After the brutal weather the club had for January's Installation Dinner, the group was fortunate to have a sunny winter day for this year's luncheon and was seated in the main dining area overlooking the course. Makray was a lovely host, printing special Ford menus and using Ford blue napkins at each place setting. For their meal, the group enjoyed the house salad with a choice of a petite filet, chicken piccata, or grilled salmon, finishing with a small dessert assortment. Twenty folks were in attendance: Ron & Arlene Blum and their friend, Audrey; Ken & Carolyn Bounds; Ron Dopke & Bernice Short; Scott & Nicole Gilday; John Judge and his friend, Linda Luplow; Pat & Dee Maroney; Russell & Melanie Medlin; Tom O'Donnell with his daughter and son-in-law, Maureen and Joe Joos; and George & Dawn Zulas. The group had a wonderful time, so much so, that some members had a hard time leaving and stayed past 2 pm. Nicole and Scott would like to thank everyone again who attended.



Our Hosts Nicole & Scott Gilday



Audrey and Arlene & Ron Blum



Tom O'Donnell, Maureen & Joe Joos



Linda Luplow & John Judge



Rusty & Melanie Medlin



Dawn & George Zulas



Dee & Pat Maroney



Our group enjoying V-8 camaraderie





## FEBRUARY 20 MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by Gary Osborne

President Scott Gilday opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. Although we have had several well attended events over the last couple of months, this was our first Members Meeting since November 2023 due to last month's cancellation because of weather. Scott welcomed everyone and the meeting began.



### Membership Report

Ken Bounds was out of town, so this is his report from the Board Meeting held February 8th. Last year we had 64 members, and so far this year only 48 have renewed their membership. If you know someone who has not renewed, please remind them to renew as soon as possible.

### National Club Report

Per our Board Meeting notes: The registrations for the two National Meets this year are continuing to trickle in. There was to be a National Board Meeting on February 17.

### Treasurer's Report

Ron Blum reported the following for January: revenue of \$800 from dues, event income, and ads. There were expenses of \$1073.23 from Road Chatter, ZOOM contract, event expense, and Jan-June room rent.

### Health and Welfare Report

Dawn Zulas reported: Stan Stack is having surgery, JoAnne Stack is also having surgery, Vickie Beck is still having health issues, Tom O'Donnell is in remission, Irene Vinyard is still recovering, a donation was sent to the charity for Ron and Colleen Steck's Granddaughter Quinn, John Emmering's Mother passed away. Please keep these and others you may know in your prayers.

### Past Events

Christmas Brunch on Dec 17th hosted by Pat and Dee Maroney- held at Tony Spavone's, everyone had a great time.

Installation Dinner on Jan 14th hosted by Jay Hinshaw- held at Cooper's Corner on a very cold night. Everyone still enjoyed it.

Valentine's Day Brunch on Feb 10th- held at Makray Memorial Golf Club; it was very well attended and all had an enjoyable time.

### Future Events

- March 19- Pizza Meeting at Papa Passero's in Westmont-6:30 PM
- March 23- Elmhurst History Museum, "Victory at Home" Exhibit-10 AM
- April 27- Eggs and Eights in Geneva at Egg Harbor

### Additional Items

After the business portion of the meeting, we took a short break with cookies supplied by Jay Hinshaw. Our Tech Talk was about the brake repairs made on Tom O'Donnell's Mercury. Scott Gilday gave the Talk and shared about the process that he and Tom used to make those repairs.

**FEBRUARY 20 MEETING MINUTES - CONTINUED**

Submitted by Gary Osborne

Then the Meeting was opened up to any members that wanted to share about some of their experiences lately with their cars. There was some lively discussion.

Our final item for the evening was the 50/50 Raffle which Terry Freihage came away with \$16 more in his pocket.

**Attendance**

Ron Blum, Terry Freihage, Scott Gilday, Mike Heatherly, Jay Hinshaw, Pat Maroney, Russell Medlin, Gary Osborne, Dan Pudelek, John Scheve, Ron Steck, and George and Dawn Zulas.

# V-8 Gals

**Ok, maybe this is a stretch. But the point is, not all judges are males. Many V-8 Gals have judged over the years, including our own Este Scheve and Kim Taylor. Gal Power!**

**Judging Cars at the Grand National Meet**

By Este Scheve

For the past few years, when I have gone to a National Meet, I have volunteered to judge cars. I was the person tasked with purchasing the parts for our '37 V8-60 and knew the car inside and out. John did all the work to paint, refurbish, rebuild and put it together. I think I have retained much of what I learned in the process and, with the help of the books published by the National V-8 club, can generally figure out what is right and wrong.

Usually, I have judged cars looking for the Dearborn award, or cars that have already received that prestigious award and want a repeat. As part of the team, I usually judge interior and exterior portions of the car. At the last Grand National Meet in Dearborn, I was put on a team to judge the Rouge class of cars. I was happy that the others on the team were more experienced than I was and could help guide me. This was very different--more like being a detective; looking for things that might have been replaced, repainted and generally not original. Rouge cars must be survivors. Sometimes it is the body, or the interior, or the engine, or even all three, but it must be original.

I had a great group to work with and feel like I did my part and was able to add my opinion. One of the fellows wanted to take a picture and just recently, sent me a print! It brought back a flood of good memories. Left to right - John Mason (Maryland), Bart Harris (Texas), Arel Brown (New York), Bob York (Texas) and me in front (Este Scheve-Illinois).

The Central National Meet for 2024 will be in Auburn, Indiana which is not too far to travel and drive your V-8 or even your modern car. I look forward to judging again and maybe seeing more members of our regional group there.





## TECH CORNER



## 1940 Mercury Brake Job

By Tom O'Donnell

The five-month saga of doing the brakes on my 40 Mercury started in early May. I decided to drive my Mercury to the May 6 Duals Night hosted by Ron and Arlene Blum. At 3:00 I went to my garage to get the Mercury wiped down for the drive. I took the cover off with help from my son, Tom, hooked up the battery and started the engine. I started to back out of the garage and as I put my foot on the brake pedal, the pedal went right to the floor. The Mercury went back into the garage and the cover was removed from the Lincoln.

I started the Lincoln, backed it out of the garage and we wiped it down. We started for the Duals Night and after driving about a mile, I heard a clunk in the back of the car. I pulled into a parking lot and we looked all around the car for the source of the clunk and did not see anything wrong, so we continued our journey. About a city block later, I began to smell rubber burning and then another clunk followed by the rattle of a hub cap rolling away from the car. I pulled into the next parking lot and found that my left rear hub cap was missing and the mount for the skirt was bent enough to make the skirt release handle rub on the tire. We looked for the hub cap, but could not find it. John McCarthy (past NIRG member and fellow LCOC member) drove in from Crystal Lake the next morning and searched for the hub cap. He found it and brought it to my house. Unfortunately, it appears to be beyond saving.

The next weekend my son Steve and I replaced the master cylinder. After several rounds of bleeding, we could only get less than half the pedal and it was spongy. I decided it was time to rebuild all of the wheel cylinders and reline the brakes. Steve wanted to just put new linings on the front wheels. Because he was going to have to do most of the work, I allowed him to have his own way.

Two weeks later, we had the new shoes and the front drums turned. Steve installed the shoes and adjusted the brakes, but the pedal was now just above half way and still spongy. I called NAPA and ordered all four wheel cylinders.

Steve's work took him out of town for a couple of weeks and because of my balance and fatigue problems, I could not go out there alone. John McCarthy volunteered to come over and help me. I bought a pressure bleeder and made an adapter for my master cylinder out of an old master cylinder filler plug. We filled it with denatured alcohol and flushed the system with it. When we removed the shoes, we found that three of the four wheel cylinders rear sections were frozen from dried out silicone brake fluid.

We put on the new wheel cylinders and master cylinder and started to put on the shoes. The right rear set would not cooperate with John and he spent a couple of hours trying to get the shoes on. I had to chase him home because my fatigue was getting the better of me. The car sat for a couple of weeks until Scott Gilday asked if he could come over and help. His offer was very welcome







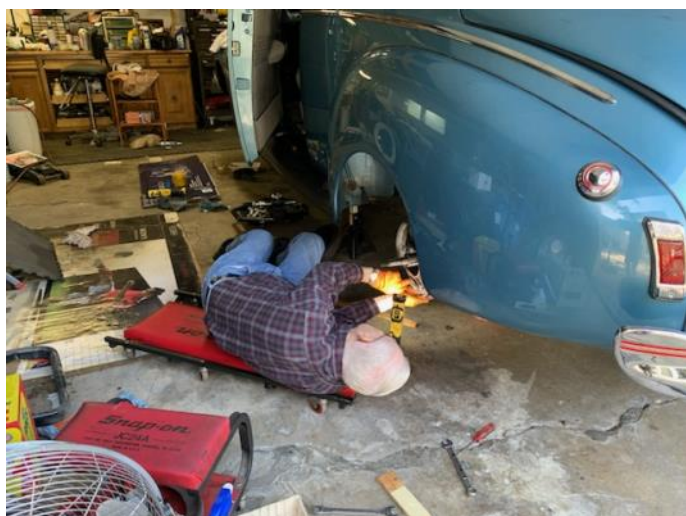
## TECH CORNER



and swiftly accepted. Scott finished installing the shoes and repacking the wheel bearings. Before we could do any more, I had to chase him home because of my fatigue.

It was now September and Steve had time off, so he came over and we started to bleed the brakes, using DOT 3,4. We found that there was a leak where the rear brake line connected to the rubber line. The rubber line was new, so I got my magnifying glass and examined the steel line. There was a small crack in the flare. Two days later we finally had the new line bent so it was out of the way of moving parts. Steve lost a few pounds from getting up from the floor and then going back under about 100 times while fitting the line. We bled the brakes again and did a final touch up on the adjustment. I got in the car and tested the brake pedal; it was now hard and full.

We took it out for a test drive and the car stopped like it should. The new linings in the front took a couple of hard stops to break them in and now the car stops better than it has for quite a few years. I am sending another set of shoes to be relined at Naylor Automotive Engineering and intend on replacing the rear shoes in the spring. The Lincoln will also be getting new shoes.





### 10 Years Ago This Month – March 2014

On March 8, twelve NIRG members enjoyed the annual Pioneer Turners Luncheon at Café Prague in Chicago. Our host, Charles Kaiser, is the President of the Pioneer Turners and invited our group to join the Turners at their luncheon. On a very warm Sunday, March 30, Twenty-three V-8ers brought out five Early V-8s for breakfast at Egg Harbor Café in Geneva. The high temperature of 56° seemed like a heat wave after a month of below-average temperatures.

### 20 Years Ago This Month – March 2004

The March Road Chatter contained a very detailed article from Lin Stacey about the tools that were included with 1933-1934 Fords. Twenty-eight members attended the annual Pizza Meeting March 15 at John's Pizza in Addison, hosted by Bob & Angie Paladino. President Ken Bounds advised that the long-anticipated National realignment of regions had been approved, placing our group in the new Midwest Region with John McBurney as our National Director.

### 30 Years Ago This Month – March 1994

The March 14 monthly meeting featured a speaker, Bridget DeFrank, from the March of Dimes. Bridget thanked the group for the support we provided to the March of Dimes Walk America event the past two years and discussed our involvement at the April 24 event this year. On March 26 a candlelight bowling event was hosted by Rich & Judy Doligale at Maplewood Bowling in Chicago. [I remember having a good time, but alas there was no report in the Road Chatter – editor.]

### 40 Years Ago This Month – March 1984

At the March 13 monthly meeting, President Rich Doligale presented Road Chatter Editor Diane Wrobel with a certificate from the National Club recognizing the Road Chatter as “Best Overall” in the 1983 newsletter contest. The meeting also featured a literature display with many nice (some of them rare) items being brought in by members.

### 50 Years Ago This Month – March 1974

The March newsletter encouraged members to see the movie *The Sting*. Two NIRG members' cars could be seen in the movie: Marv Gunchick's '36 Tudor and Bob Hanselman's '34 Tudor. A large group of 24 members, including five wives, was in attendance at the March 12 monthly meeting held at Hewlett Packard in Skokie.

### Flathead Flashback

**Our group at the 2014 Eggs & Eights Breakfast.**

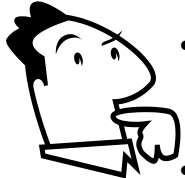




**NIRG EVENTS CALENDAR**

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b>January</b><br/>                 11 Board Meeting<br/>                 14 Installation Dinner, Cooper's Corner, Winfield<br/>                 16 Member Meeting</p>  | <p><b>February</b><br/>                 8 Board Meeting<br/>                 10 Valentine's Luncheon, Barrington<br/>                 20 Member Meeting</p> | <p><b>March</b><br/>                 14 Board Meeting<br/>                 19 Pizza Meeting<br/>                 23 Elmhurst History Museum</p>             | <p><b>April</b><br/>                 11 Board Meeting<br/>                 16 Member Meeting<br/>                 27 Eggs &amp; Eights, Geneva</p> |
| <p><b>May</b><br/>                 9 Board Meeting<br/>                 21 Member Meeting</p>  | <p><b>June</b><br/>                 13 Board Meeting<br/>                 17-21 Central National Meet -Auburn<br/>                 18 Member Meeting</p>    | <p><b>July</b><br/>                 11 Board Meeting<br/>                 16 Member Meeting</p>   | <p><b>August</b><br/>                 8 Board Meeting<br/>                 20 Member Meeting</p>   |
| <p><b>September</b><br/>                 12 Board Meeting<br/>                 15-20 Eastern National Meet, Clayton NY<br/>                 17 Member Meeting<br/>                 27-29 Lake Geneva Poker Rally</p> | <p><b>October</b><br/>                 10 Board Meeting<br/>                 15 Member Meeting</p>  | <p><b>November</b><br/>                 9 Veterans Day Lunch, Location TBD<br/>                 14 Board Meeting<br/>                 19 Member Meeting</p> | <p><b>December</b><br/>                 No Meetings</p>  |

**Did you know?**



March is National Frozen Food Month. Frozen foods began in 1000 B.C. with the Chinese storing food in ice cellars. The modern frozen food industry began in 1930 with Clarence Birdseye. Frozen food does have some advantages to fresh.

- Peak Quality. Frozen produce is picked at its peak and flash frozen to maintain flavor and nutrients. Fresh produce in the grocery store may have been harvested days before and may be past its peak by the time it arrives.
- Economical. Frozen food is cost effective. It can keep longer than fresh refrigerated foods because the freezing process suspends enzyme activity that causes the food to rot.
- Safety. Freezing suspends microbial and fungal activity in the food. As long as the food is stored properly it is safe.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO  
 MARY McMAHON (3/5), NICOLE GILDAY (3/20),  
 LAURIE VLASIC (3/22) & JUDY BELLER (3/28)**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO  
 JOE & PAULA BAUGHN (3/9), & RAY & MARY McMAHON (3/20)**

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





## Vehicles For Sale



### 1953 Mercury for Sale

- Rebuilt engine
  - Rebuilt automatic transmission
  - Brakes, shocks, rear springs replaced
- Email [novak\\_j@att.net](mailto:novak_j@att.net) for more photos. Call Joe Novak at 708-923-9953 for more info.**



### 1936 Ford 5 Window Coupe for Sale

- Museum quality
- Third owner

**Call Bob Miller at 847-651-7207 or by email at [roberthmiller2@comcast.net](mailto:roberthmiller2@comcast.net) for more info.**



**This 1940 Ford 1/2 ton pickup** is a full restoration. The engine is a 1951 Mercury flathead, 3 speed transmission, Columbia two speed rear end. Frame is powder coated along with many suspension parts. New wire harness and many other items. Have all the records of the restoration and list of parts. **Asking \$40,000. Contact Ron Steck at 630-777-4001.**

## Other Items For Sale

Three 16" pickup rims. **Contact Tom Myers at 847-308-1495.**

R-12 Freon 12oz \$10 per can. Ignition resistor - new \$5. Condensers: 78-12300 fits 1940 helmet distributor \$5, 91-A 123000 Fits 1941 and up \$5 each. Spark Plugs for sale \$1 each: Champion F-14Y (8), Champion RF-14Y4 (6), Motorcraft AWSF 44C (8), AC Delco R45TS8 (8), AC Delco R44TSX (6), AC Delco R45LTS6 (5), AC DelcoR43TS (1). **Contact Roger Obecny at 708-772-1925.**

## Have something to sell?

Send your information, including your name and phone number, to the Road Chatter Editor.

## Wanted

Wanted: 2-speed 6-volt blower motor for 1940 Ford hot water heater. **Contact George Zulas at 630-460-0095.**

Wanted: 1941 Ford starter, generator, and carburetor. **Contact Vickie Beck at 847-946-5237.**

Wanted: 1952 International L-150 Model 5 lug rims. **Contact Mike Heatherly at 630-234-5384 or [mikehy@raacorents.com](mailto:mikehy@raacorents.com).**



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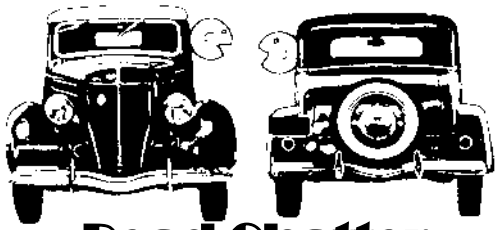
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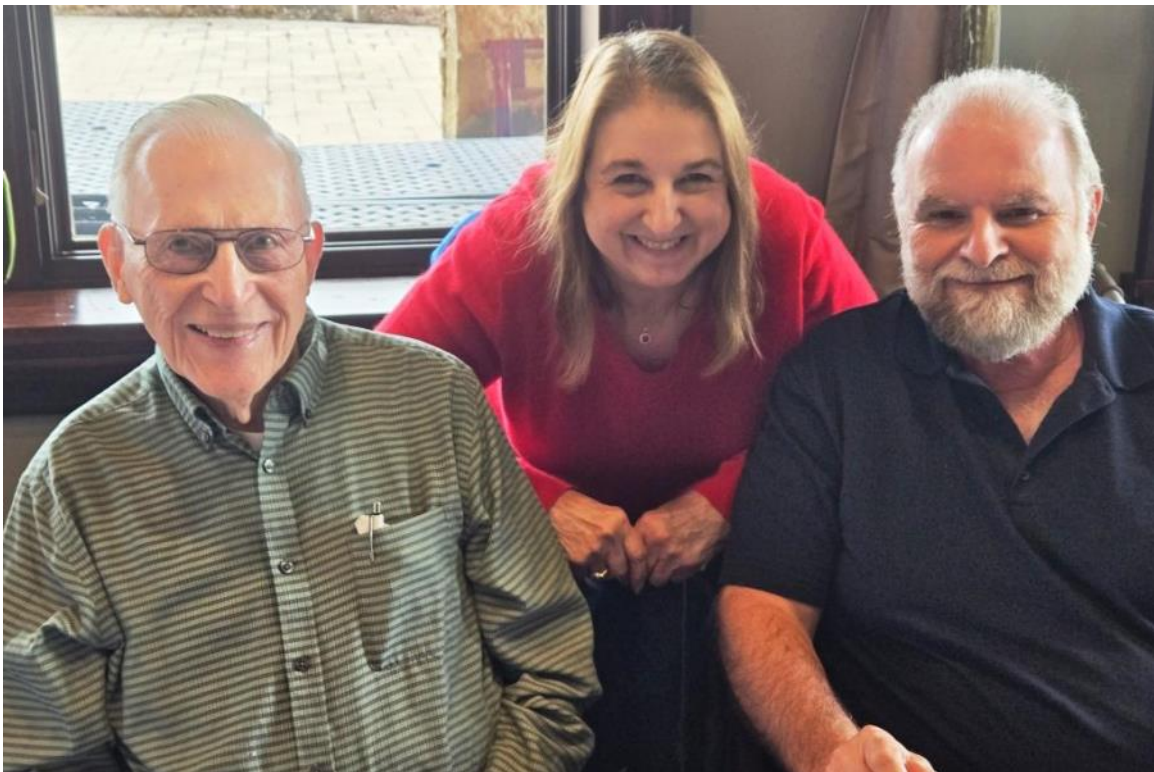
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## **Road Chatter**

1N410 Forest Ave  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



**Photo of the Month**  
**Tom O'Donnell with daughter Maureen Joos and husband Joe**  
**Enjoying the Valentine's Luncheon**