

A Ford Script



Mid-Winter Xmas Dinner. Ian Smith accepting his 50 year badge.

July 2025

Official Newsletter of THE MODEL "A" FORD CLUB OF AMERICA

Canterbury New Zealand Chapter. PO Box 4212 Christchurch New Zealand

COMMITTEE

Club Captain Gerry Lake 0204 112 3717

Vice Club Captain John Olliver 03 359 6360

Treasurer Annette Painter 027 644 7892

Secretary Russell Genet 0276068550

General Committee Lindsay Painter 027 644 7892

Glenn Birnie 03 347 4849

Sandra Olliver 03 359 6360

Gill Lake 0273346031

Facebook page co-ordinator Sandra Olliver 0273032300

Script Editor Gill Lake afordscript@gmail.com

Club Car Custodian Ken James 0212225086

Webmaster Kevin Straw kandjstraw@gmail.com

Next Committee Meeting: Monday 21st July venue TBA

Script closing date: 20th July 2025

Help us make The Script a success. We would be grateful for any material you feel could be appropriate to include in our Club's newsletter.

CLOSING DATE for copy for the next Script is **20th July 2025.** Please send to the Editor: afordscript@gmail.com.

The views expressed in this magazine are personal opinions of those who contribute and do not necessarily represent the views or methodology of the Canterbury Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America. Thanks goes to MAFC member magazines and web sites as well as other sources who supply material to our club which we reprint in the magazine.

CAPTAIN'S LOG June 2025

This last weekend of June we had the mid-winter dinner at the Racecourse hotel. There was a good turnout of 35 club members, with good winter meals were dished out an enjoyable catch up was had by all.

It was also good to see Ian Smith finally getting presented with his 50-year badge. Well done on surviving and still being enthusiastic about cars.

Obviously, there was some mention about the various aspects of Model A' and an in amongst that I also heard of how the two separate Chalmers projects were also progressing. That will be a treat when they are up and running, I will be keen to see them.

Gill and I came back from our 7-week trip to the USA in June and felt the cold after leaving Houston's 31 degree weather. While over there we spent a Saturday morning with the Twin Cities Model A club in Minnesota where we joined them for their annual pancake breakfast. Nice people and great hosts. Lots of Model A's with plenty to talk about from engines to the ideal colour to paint your car. One of the more obvious conclusions is they are so fortunate to have everything they need so close. Small parts right through to complete engines are all easily obtainable.

I will put in some photos and description in a forth coming Script.

Cheers, Gerry

CLUB CAR REPORT June 2025

The club car has not been used this month but after Dean returned the car Richard (Early Ford) mentioned

to me that Dean had pointed out that the Split in the right front mudguard had opened up a little more and

moves if under any strain. This needs to be repaired before the car goes on any longer runs.

Ken.

Remember that the Club Phaeton is available for members to use. If your Model A is not mobile, give some thought to borrowing the Club car to join in one of our runs.

Guidelines for its use are printed inside the back of the membership list.

Ken James (ph. 0212225086) is the custodian of the car and looks forward to your call requesting the use of the car.

WEBSITE

Model A Ford Club Canterbury - https://www.modelaford.co.nz

Did you know our club has its own Website? Type 'Model A Ford club Canterbury' into Google. There are a number of pages of interest including all the Scripts from 2014 (able to be downloaded and/or printed), notes on future events as well as market place where free adds for members can be posted.

NOTICES

Election of Officers for the 2025 / 2026 year:

That time is coming yet again to think about who would like to represent the club in one or more of the various roles on your committee.

All positions are available.

Some members are willing to stand again.

Nomination forms are on page 6 and must be received by the secretary (Russell Genet) before the AGM on July 13th. They will be opened at the AGM.

Webmaster



Is there someone who is willing / keen to take over the running of the Website?

With the support of the current Webmaster, Kevin Straw. Please phone Gerry if you would like to discuss this

Ph 0204 112 3717

Event Cancellations:

In the event of unsuitable or doubtful weather, cancellations

or postponements will be emailed to you.

Note from the Editor:

Each month I receive newsletters from other Model A Clubs around the world including:

Script A News Michigan Model A Torque North island

Model A Flyer **NSW**

Western Model A News Western Australia

Ford Torque Victoria

If anyone is interested in receiving these newsletters, and any others I receive, please email me (afordscript@gmail.com) and I will set up a dedicated list of recipients.

Advertisements in the Script: Members advertisements for a maximum 3 months, after which time they will be removed. If the member wishes for the ad to continue they need just contact the editor.

This, of course, does not apply to paid advertisements.

COMING EVENTS

2025



Just a wee reminder, when traveling in groups, to leave a good gap between each other, allowing modern cars to pass. Thank you.

July 13th AGM

Venue: The Hornby Club

Carmen Rd entrance to The Hornby Mall

Meal afterwards will be at the "Legends" Restaurant.

The meal will need to be ordered before the AGM

Time: 10.45: to order your meal

11.00: AGM 12.30: Meal

Nomination Form is on page 6

August 17th Breakfast run

9.30 Mona Vale for brunch.

Menu page 9. Pre ordering will be needed.

Followed by a run to Leeston to view Peter Donald's Ford

collection.

Picnic lunch. BYO

Organisers: Wendy and Russell Genet Ph: 0276068550 (Wendy)

Ph: 027606855 (Russell)

August 24th Daffodil Run for Cancer

September 26th –28th: International Model A Ford Day

Location: Picton

Programme and Entry form on pages 7 and 8

October 10-12th VCC Swapmeet

CANTERBURY (N.Z.) CHAPTER







P.O. BOX 4212,

CHRISTCHURCH,

NEW ZEALAND.

Nomination Form 2025 / 2026 for AGM Sunday 13th July 2025

A chance to assist our members by becoming involved with the running of your club's activities and social events.

All committee positions are open for nomination each year.

Meetings are held monthly for approximately 1 hour.

Please consider forwarding your name by completing this form and either emailing this form to Canterbury.nz.mafca@gmail.com or post to PO Box 4212 Christchurch by **4**th**July** in time for the AGM.

l,	
Agree to be nominated for the position of	
On the 2024 / 2025 committee of the C America.	anterbury Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of
Signed	
Proposer - signed	Name
Seconder - signed	Name

Nominee, proposer and seconder must be financial members of the Canterbury Chapter.

NOTICES

International Model A Day 2025

LOCATION: PICTON September 26th – 28th

Hosted by Top of the South Model A Club

Weekend Plan

Friday 26th

5.00 – 6.00pm Registration at Oxley's Bar & Kitchen on the Waterfront

1 Wellington Street Picton

6.00pm Dinner at Oxley's at own Cost

Limited menu similar to this with seasonal variations:

Fish & Chips served with Salad Salad meal- currently Harissa Chicken

Pan seared Fish vegetables & potatoes Burger meal- currently Beef & Bacon burger.

Menu will be confirmed prior to the Rally and I will be asking for pre orders.

Saturday 27th

9.45am Meet in High Street, South of Waikawa Road.

10.00am Depart on Rally Run

Lunch We will update whether you will need to

pack a picnic, may be weather dependent.

5.30pm Meet back at Oxley's

6.30pm Rally Dinner at Oxley's - Prepaid

Two Course Set Menu \$50 Subject to Seasonal Change
Choice of Dessert
Fish of the Day Panna Cotta
Lamb Rump Apple Strudel

Stuffed Eggplant Mousse

Harissa Chicken Salad Vegetarian Pasta

Menu will be confirmed prior to the Rally and I will be asking for prepayment and orders.

Sunday 28th

In your own time Breakfast and Farewells

Please organize your own accommodation, there are lots of options.

Please Note: Final close off date for meals is 15th September

You will be advised in due course of final details and / or possible changes to the planned events for this weekend should they arise.

TOP OF THE SOUTH MODEL A CLUB INC.

INTERNATIONAL MODEL A DAY 2025 - PICTON RALLY REGISTRATION FORM **EVENT DATES**: Friday 26th to Sunday 28th September 2025 Note: Final close off date for your entry is Monday 15th September 2025 DRIVER: Phone: Email: Mobile: Address: Suburb: City: Post Code: PASSENGER INFORMATION. Navigator's name: Passenger name(s). VEHICLE INFORMATION Vehicle Body Type: Year: Registration Number: Membership of which Model A Club (if applicable): ENTRY FEES. Vehicle Vehicle entry \$15 1 Friday Night Dinner Friday dinner at Oxleys @ own cost Saturday Night Dinner Rally dinner at Oxleys @ \$ 50 each \$ Your total entry costs are \$ Special Dietary Requirements: (eg GF, Vegetarian, Vegan) Please note that no meal refunds will be available if cancelled after 15th September METHOD OF PAYMENT Internet banking number: 03 0751 0018885 000 Reference is Picton and your Name.

Completed entry form to be Emailed to: tosmac27@gmail.com

CONTACTS

Rally Treasurer: Dot Humphries ph 03 539 0071 mo. 027 2222 464 hillberry@xtra.co.nz
Rally Secretary: Ann Holmes ph 03 542 3169 mo. 021 032 4605 tosmac27@gmail.com

THE TOP of the SOUTH MODEL A CLUB INCORPORATED WILL NOT BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGE OR LOSS IN RESPECT OF ANY CLAIM IN RELATION TO ANY EVENT OR FUNCTION BEING HELD AS PART OF, OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 2025 INTERNATIONAL MODEL A DAY.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HOSTING YOU FOR THIS LOW KEY FUN WEEKEND
CELEBRATING THE MODEL A FORD

Past Events

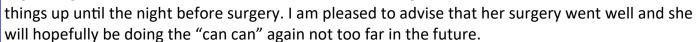
June 28th

Mid Winter Christmas

On a chilly evening 35 brave souls ventured out to Hoofbeats Restaurant for a very pleasant evening with good food an delightful company. Welcome to our newest members Russell and Michelle Dowdle.

Unfortunately the space wasn't suitable for the usual quiz/es and it was decided to keep these until another time when least expected. Thank you Judy for putting in the time to get the quizzes prepared.

Thank you also to Annette and Lindsay Painter for once again organising the venue and menu. Annette was still checking









Brunch

Mona Vale Breakfast | Potato Hash | Eggs | Bacon | Wild Mushroom | Spinach | Confit Tomato | Toast | **\$36**

Thulani Farm Eggs Your Way on Ciabatta or Sourdough | \$17 Wild Mushroom | Chorizo | Truffle Butter | Poached Eggs | \$21 Homestead Bacon Butty | \$14 Warmed Banana & Pistachio Bread | Salted Butter | \$11

Something Little

Cray Fish Arancini | Black Garlic | Parmasan \$10
Scampi Toast | \$14
Grilled Octopus | Feijoas | Chilli Oil | Prawn Emulsion | \$15
MVP Cheese Toasties | Mustard | Pickles | \$18
Buttermilk Fried Chicken | Pickle Salad | Chipotle Aioli | \$18
Duck Parfait Beetroot | Lin Seed Crackers | \$22
Cardrona Gin Cured Salmon | Pickled Fennel | Parsley Oil | \$16
Spiced Pumpkin Soup with Grilled Bread | \$15
Crinkle Fries | Aioli | \$10
Green Salad | \$8
Grilled Ciabatta Loaf | Marmite Butter | \$9

Little Larger

Shallot and Bacon Crumbed Fish N Chips | \$39

Beef Cheek Potato Top Pie | \$38

MVP Double Cheeseburger | \$24

Horapito & Kumara Gnocchi | Spinach Chevre | Wild Mushrooms \$28

Lumina Lamb Presse | Agria Mash | Pickled Lemon | \$41

To Share

Garden Lunch for Two | **\$48** Croquettes | Cured Meat | Cheese | Grilled Bread | Pickles | Mustard





Mona Vale High Tea | \$60pp

Full selection of both savory and sweet served with your choice of hot or non-alcoholic beverage

Add prosecco for \$10

High Tea Single Serves

Buttermilk Scone with Cream and Homestead Preserve | \$4.5
Chocolate & Mint Almond Joconde | \$6.5
Dark chocolate Madeleine | \$6
Macarons | \$7.5
Matcha Choux Bun | \$6.5
Homestead Club Sandwich| \$6
Scampi Toast | \$6
Winter Vege Quiche | Relish | \$5.5

Venison & Fennel Sausage Roll | \$5.5 Something Sweet

Vanilla Ice Cream | \$4.5 Double Chocolate brownie | \$7.5 Tiramisu Eclair | \$9 NZ Cheeses, Crackers & Honey | \$23

Member Contribution by Les Pearson

Surface Grinding.

AUTHENTICALLY SPEAKING

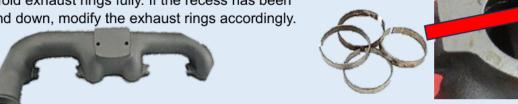
Going about it correctly.

This operation concerns two main engine parts. The cylinder head and both manifolds.

Firstly the Manifolds. Ideally, look for an exhaust manifold that has had little surface grinding in

the past. The recesses in the underside of the exhaust ports should be 3/16" deep if possible. As pictured at right. This depth is required to seat the

manifold exhaust rings fully. If the recess has been ground down, modify the exhaust rings accordingly.



Exhaust manifolds can warp at the exhaust clamp connection with the added weight of the muffler. Look for any cracking. If cracked, find another. They are not too hard to find and new exhaust manifolds are made. Inlet manifolds are pretty robust. Assemble the two units together for surface grinding and once surface ground, NEVER take apart before assembly to the block. There is no gasket between the inlet and exhaust mating surface. You may want to paint your inlet 'engine

green' before assembly. Exhaust manifolds are best left finished the way they are.

The distributor toggle peg on the right-hand drive inlet manifold is best replaced. They pull out. You will have to make your own for RHD, sorry. Copy the dimensions exactly. Re-bush the toggle.

Exhaust manifold nuts are best brass. The heavy washer under the nut is concave, with the raised side uppermost. Torque to 50ft/lbs carefully.



RHD Inlet manifold



Manifold brass nut and washer.

The Cylinder Head.



Tell the engine shop to surface grind just the bare amount to clean up the head. This goes for the manifolds also. Your machined head will look like the one pictured. Always ask for your cylinder head to be crack tested. Heads are a dime a dozen and if cracked discard. Clean out inside the head



with a screwdriver, as it can contain a lot of scale and rust. You don't want scale dropping onto your block on engine assembly.

Cylinder head stud nuts have a top and bottom, with the rounded corners of the nut to the top. Torque at least 3 times to 55ft/lbs in sequence. Torque again after the first 100 miles. The gasket will shrink with use. The head gasket must be a good fit to the head. If not, send it back. Slight weepage is acceptable with some use. Always paint the 'Engine Green' components separately. Never paint engine bolt heads and nuts green. (Henry would turn in his grave) Most were plain or blued.





PAST EVENTS

Member contribution. Dave Rees.

A BIG BREAK IN MASTERTON.

The Model A 2025 National Rally was a great gathering of around 150 cars. Approximately 10% of those attending had a bit of trouble, and my particular experience was a "never seen before" one that caused some head scratching.

My car is a 1930 Coupe which has had a few modifications to help it perform rather nicely. I love driving it and my wife Diane and I were looking forward to the Rally and had put a lot of time into planning our time away. We left Christchurch early on the Friday morning and easily got to the Picton Ferry without incident, then enjoyed an overnight stay in Wellington.

On Sunday it was just a short hop to Masterton and everything was going sweetly. I was happy with getting 20 miles per gallon and mostly cruising at 80-90 km per hour. We drove past the Copthorne Solway and could see lots of Model As were already there, so we looked forward to catching up with everyone once we had settled in at our friend's house 6 miles away. We headed towards the Copthorne around 5.30pm making good time to be at the Concourse judges briefing. Then with 2 miles to go - disaster!

I was coming out of a roundabout doing about 15 km per hour, then as I accelerated away there was an almighty noise coming from the engine, it sounded like something breaking, along with dreadful rattling. I knew straight away that I was in trouble so I quickly turned the still running and rattling engine off. I had Garth Moore's number in my phone and when I called him he suggested I ask Terry Costello for help. Terry turned up in his modern and we were soon being towed at a fairly impressive clip to join the rest of the Model A fraternity at the hotel. Much appreciated Terry, you were definitely the man of the moment! As word spread we got a lot of sympathy for our plight but still felt very sorry for ourselves after all of our planning and preparation. After getting a good deal on the ferry, great accommodation in Wellington and a smooth trip all the way it was a real let down to feel that it might mean the end of the rally for us. the Concourse judges briefing. TOn Monday morning instead of helping out with the Concourse judging, I had my head under the bonnet taking parts off the engine while a number of Model Aers stood around and offered a range of suggestions. Eventually Steve Driver suggested that I take the starter motor out and check the flywheel. I did that and found that the flywheel was very wobbly and loose. I later found out that the crankshaft had broken at the flange where the flywheel bolts on. Well done Steve, great diagnosing!

Obviously our car was out of action so we were very grateful when Murray and Anne Ashby offered to have

us as back seat passengers for all of the runs. That was wonderful as it meant that we were able to enjoy all of the rally as planned. We really appreciated your help Murray and Anne, and certainly enjoyed our time together.

Whenever we weren't jaunting around the Wairarapa with the Ashbys, I was on the phone trying to sort out how to get the car (and us!) back home to Christchurch. My first port of call was the AA, as I've been a member for over 60 years now and I've also had AA+ cover ever since that started. That meant that I was entitled to relocation costs up to a ceiling of \$1500 and they provided me with a couple of quotes to chose from. I accepted a quote for \$1475 to pick up the car on the Friday morning and deliver it to Christchurch a week later.

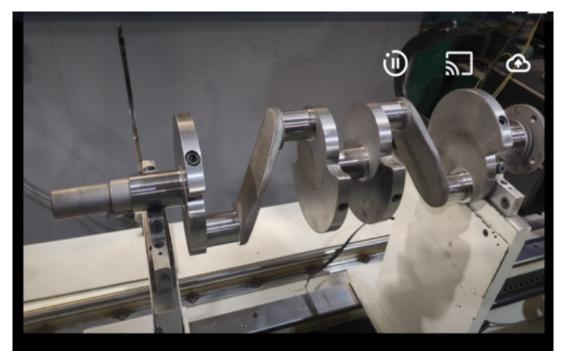


PAST EVENTS Continued

When the rally was over Diane and I caught the train to Wellington, which was free as we had our Gold Cards, then we flew home to Christchurch. Our return ferry trip was refunded and that covered our airfares so everything balanced out. Once the car arrived back here I took the engine out, a very difficult job as the flywheel wouldn't let anything out of the bellhousing. After considerable time and effort I got the engine out, leaving the flywheel behind, and this indeed showed a broken crankshaft.

I removed the sump, unbolted the bearing journals and then had a crankshaft to replace. A number of local Model Aers provided some for the engineer to crack test in order to find one that I could use. The replacement crankshaft that made the grade cost me \$75. However this needed to have the mains ground to .030 so I had to get new bearings costing \$318. The original existing bearings were .020, still perfect and had only done 3000 miles! My engineer, Dirk at Precision Engineering near Rangiora did a great job of counterweighting, balancing etc etc within a couple of weeks and it came to \$2200 all up. I was delighted that he was able to get the job done so quickly.





Once I picked the engine up I had the bottom of it all assembled within a couple of days, and fitted it back in the car a day later. When I turned the key on and confidently pressed the starter, the engine would have only done half a turn before it fired into life. It's now going like a Swiss watch, it's never been better and I'm just thrilled to be driving it again.

All in all, it was an event that could have turned out much worse than it did. Diane and I will always be grateful for the willing help, interested support and genuine companionship that we experienced. Thanks everyone!

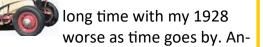
Dave Rees

Member Contribution by Ken James

A Hot n' Cold story. By Ken James.

As some of you will know I have had a problem for a Raceabout overheating which has been getting

ything over 65 Km h and the windscreen gets a brown wash!



I have tried every thing I and many others could think of including having the old honeycomb radiator soaked in an acid bath, flushing both ways, (many times) adding expensive chemicals and thermostats but when my brother and I had to retire and turn back from the Lake Taylor run before even getting to the main North Rd bridge and limp slowly home I decided the time had come to bite the bullet and buy a New! Radiator.

George did not have any and Google advised me that the best price in the US worked out to around NZ\$ 1286.00 plus freight I decided to try one of these cheap Chinese ones I had heard or read some negative stories about. Especially the fitting. After all the car is not original so if I have to make a few little mod's along the way, so what! \$440.00 with free freight! WOW! What a saving!

So I looked on Trade me and found two, one with two rows of tubes and one with three. 40 percent

more capacity and both the same price. Good feedback so what the hell I'll give it a go.

It arrived 4 days later but I didn't have time to start fitting till a few days after. Sitting it in place everything seemed to line up nicely so I began bolting things down and fitting hoses. Great! I think, All those bad stories were crap! I'll write a very good feedback on this!

The radiator surround was a bit of a tight fit so I reached out and turned the fan just to make sure it had clearance on the core. Uh -ho it won't turn! Dam! Its hitting on the top hose!





So. I measure the core height. Its 15mm shorter than the old one!

Darn! Ah well, just put a couple of thick washers under the bottom mounts.

Ah. That worked. Now have a good look around. Oh NO! Now the generator pulley is rubbing on the bottom hose!

Time for a shorter Fan belt. Not much adjustment room on the

12v generator. Just have to get a slightly shorter belt.

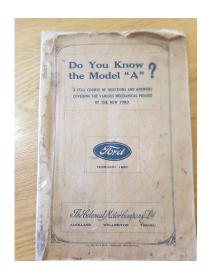
George only has standard A belts. So try John Brooks.

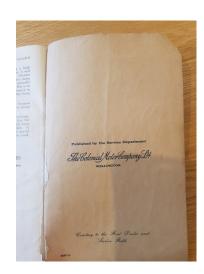
Take the old belt. Very helpful man finds a slightly shorter one. Looks suspiciously like an A belt but I'll give it a try. Still rubs. Darn! Now what.

I'm sure most model A's have more adjustment than that? Go and take a look at the club car. Ahh. Totally different. An original genny mount brings it much higher up. So home again to scratch around in the scrap metal and find a bit of 50x 8mm steel, cut a couple of bits off, weld them together, drill some holes, a squirt of paint and Bobs your uncle! Now we have plenty of clearance!

Took it out for a fast run on my usual test track. (Tai-tapu straight) not a sign of overheating! Yah Hoo! Still to be tested on a long run but it looks promising. Happy motoring. Ken.

Member Contribution





DO YOU KNOW THE MODEL "A"?

A Course of Questions with Detailed Answers Covering

Various Mechanical Phases of the NEW FORD.

ARTICLE 3

REAR AXLE ASSEMBLY.

ADDITIONAL ON REAR AXLE.

Question 10. How is the end thrust of the driving pinion taken care of? Why is a different construction necessary from that used in the Model T FORD?

Answer 10. The end thrust of the driving pinion is taken on Timken roller bearings, in much the same manner that the heavy thrust of the worm of the Fordson tractor is carried. The use of these bearings is necessary since the helical teeth of the driving gears of the Model A FORD exert considerably more end thrust than the straight teeth of the driving gears of the Model T FORD.

Question 11. Is there any adjustment for moving the driving pinion with regard to the driving gear? Is there any adjustment for moving the driving gear with regard to the driving pinion? Explain.

Answer 11. There is no adjustment for moving the driving pinion with regard to the driving gear, and none for moving the driving gear with regard to the driving pinion. Ford favours a "no-adjustment" rear axle, because it stays put and so gives longer and more reliable service. FORD rear axle parts are manufactured with such a degree of accuracy that no adjustments are needed.

Question 12. How is the position of the driving gear determined with relation to the driving pinion? Within what limits of accuracy are housings checked to maintain the proper mesh of the drive gears? Where is this measured?

Answer 12. The meshing of the rear axle driving gear and driving pinion is determined by the position of the Timken roller bearings which support the differential casing. Consequently it is necessary that the FORD axle housing be machined within extremely close limits of accuracy. A tapered plug is fitted into the outer raceway of the Timken roller bearing, and the distance measured to the face of the axle housing. This measurement is held accurate at the factory to within .001 to .004-inch.

Know Your Model A Continued

Question 13. What is the standard ratio of the new FORD rear axle gears? How many teeth in each gear? Is this the only ratio used?

Answer 13. The standard ratio of the FORD rear axle gears is 3.77-to-one, the highest ratio used in any light car in extensive production. There are 9 teeth in the driving pinion and 34 teeth in the driving gear. However, some FORD roadsters have been supplied with an even higher gear ratio, with 11 teeth in the driving pinion and 39 teeth in the driving gear, giving a ratio of only 3.54-to-one. There is also a 10 to 37 driving pinion and driving gear, giving a ratio of 3.7-to-one, and a driving pinion and driving gear 9 to 37, giving a ratio of 4.1-to-one.

Question 14.-Can the differential be pulled out through one side of the central housing, without removing the entire rear axle system? Explain how.

Answer 14. Yes, the differential can be pulled out through one side of the housing as follows:-Jack up the car in such a manner that no weight is placed on the left axle housing, and that the right axle housing is supported in its normal position. Remove both rear wheels. Disconnect left brake pull rod and radius rod. Remove cap screws holding left axle housing to central housing. Drain grease. Pull off axle housing. Now differential and axle shafts can be pulled right out.

Question 15. Can the drive shaft assembly be removed without removing the rear axle assembly from the car? Explain.

Answer 15. The drive shaft assembly can be removed without taking off the entire rear axle system. The fact that the front ends of the rear radius rods are bolted to the front end of the drive shaft housing, greatly facilitates the removal of this drive shaft assembly.

FOR SALE

1928 Model A Phaeton for sale.

I am the third owner from new.

The previous owners were the same family.

Road cost include. It has a new WOF and will have new registration at time of sale.

It has five new tyres with powder coated wheels done recently. The car is in Wigram Chch.

\$28000.00

Please phone me for more details.

Alan Orchard 027 292 5432

Alan Orchard



The Illustrious Vagabonds (Continued from May A Fordscript)

by Dr. David L. Lewis

... the Lazy Susan mentioned in the May AFordScript



Gathered around their Lazy Susan camp table near Hagerstown, Maryland in 1921, clockwise from just left of the tent pole, (some partially hidden) are William F. Anderson, Methodist bishop of Ohio; Harvey Firestone Sr.; George B. Christian. Jr.; Mrs. Thomas A. Edison; Thomas Edison; Mrs. Henry Ford; President Harding; Mrs. Firestone, Sr.; Henry Ford; Mrs. Anderson; Edsel B. Ford; Mrs. Firestone, Jr.; Harvey Firestone, Jr. and Russell A. Firestone.

The wood and canvas camp chairs (also displayed in the Museum) were of a design known as the modern "sling, or butterfly, type," but with a folding feature allowing them to be stowed in a small space. New-fangled gasoline stoves were taken along, but the preference of all was an old-fashioned wood fire, and so the campers devised a grill made of two iron bars with hooks to hold the cooking pots.

A basic supply of food staples was carried in the kitchen truck and

and the fresh eggs, milk, and cream favored by the group were bought

view the 1922 Lincoln Kitchen Truck

the steaks, ham, bacon, vegetables, Henry Ford tries his hand at cooking flapjacks. At the rear are two of the special trucks which accompanied the campers.

along the way from farmers. Frequently local people dropped by the camp with gifts of apples or watermelons. An employee regularly returned to town for Ford's special bread. Noonday meals and generous rest periods were held at pleasant wayside areas that were early counterparts of today's roadside table parks. The 1922 Lincoln kitchen truck used on the safaris is currently on display in the garage at Fair Lane while a White truck that carried tents and equipment, is on display at the Henry Ford Museum.

The Illustrious Vagabonds (Continued from May A Fordscript)

by Dr. David L. Lewis

Records of the various trips reveal how the campers spent their time. Burroughs frequently would have his tent placed apart from the rest so he could meander, in linen duster and with long white beard flowing, among the local plants and creatures. When the party came upon small industries, Firestone would speculate on how modern methods could improve their production. Ford and Edison, if he wasn't reading in the front seat of the touring car, would walk along a stream edge, conjecturing as to its electricity-producing possibilities. At one mountain lumber camp the group clambered aboard a logging locomotive for a ride with

Ford at the throttle.

Ford chopped wood for the fires, around which the party sat after supper. The auto king also displayed his ingenuity as a handyman. At a garage in Connellsville, Pennsylvania, where an unscheduled stop had to be made for repairs on a Packard, the manufacturer fixed a radiator and fan after local mechanics had advised that it couldn't be done. The large sidewalk audience of townspeople was impressed! Edison often gathered rocks, breaking them with a hammer to ponder the possibility of extracting the valuable minerals they contained. Ford and Edison bathed in creeks without hesitancy, but Firestone showed a preference for washing at a hotel whenever one was near enough to permit it.

The Vagabonds were accompanied by newsmen and photographers who reported each man's every move and hung on his every utterance. Almost all of the newspapers in the country reported and theaters showed Ford,



Henry Ford clowns while Thomas Edison beams during a rest stop on a camping trip. This picture is probably the only one ever taken of Ford with a cigarette. The auto king and Edison both abhorred the use of "little white slavers," as they called cigarettes.

Edi-

son, and Burroughs engaging in high-kicking, stair-jumping, sprinting, tree-chopping, and tree-climbing contests. On one occasion, Edison, at age 71, kicked a cigar off a mantle in a hotel lobby three straight times, Ford, 55, once, with Burroughs, 81, unable to connect.

In a stair-jumping contest, Ford bounced up 10 steps in two hops; Edison needed three steps, while Burroughs, still game, lost his balance and had to be rescued by onlookers. But Burroughs was the champion tree cutter-- felling a tree in four minutes flat, a few seconds ahead of Ford.... To be continued......

The Illustrious Vagabonds - Henry Ford Heritage Association

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David Bell

Please contact Andrew evenings only 027 602 8016

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