

# The il Leak

January 2021 Minuteman Model A Ford Club Vol 58 Issue 1

## No Club Events Until Further Notice

### *The President Speaks:*

Hello club members,  
and HAPPY NEW YEAR.

2020 is now over and will be a bad memory to us all. As we start 2021 we will still have at least 4 more months before meetings start again. When the vaccine has reached the majority of our club members and the troubles have started to go away. In the mean time be careful and think what you are doing don't let your guard down now !!!!

As for the future, the MAFCA NATIONAL TOUR scheduled for June 20-25 in North Conway New Hampshire looks good. We as a club should make a concentrated effort to get as many members to attend this event it is 6 months away try to plan on going .

Hope all members and there family' are doing well and I wish you all a Happy New Year.



KEEP SMILING EVERY DAY

*Doug Farrell*



## Sunshine

Sue Champagne  
(sdchampagne1931@gmail.com)

A sympathy card was sent to Betty Flanagan for the passing of her husband John. Our condolences to her and her son Jim who is also a club member.

*If you know of a member who needs a little cheering up contact me.*

## Coming Events

(Tours Start at Wayland Town Center RT 20)

**No Events scheduled until further notice.**

TL= Tour Leader

### Minuteman Model A Ford Club

Treasurer's Report  
November 2020

#### Income:

Member Dues	\$ 340.00
Total Income	\$ 340.00

#### Expense:

Oil Leak Printing	70.00
Total Expense	\$ 70.00
Net Income	\$ 270.00



### MINUTEMAN HISTORY

by Art Callan

#### JANUARY 1986 35 YEARS AGO

Pres Stitt was out of town, VP Maily presiding. This night was so cold-how cold was it? Doug's speedometer cable howled until it broke. New member, J.Taylor. Raffle winner-Batstone.

#### JANUARY 1996 25 YEARS AGO

Pres Art Callan, VP Al Mills, Secy M. Plaggenborg, Treas D. Linden. Holiday Party big success with 84 members & guests. Roy Mallet played Santa. Club underwrote \$10 - for members from the 1st Winter Blahs meet. 11 Members worked in the WGBH annual fund raiser. 1st tour 'WANNABE' breakfast at Lou's Diner

#### JANUARY 2006 15 YEARS AGO

Installation Dinner Party at Gene Lak's Temple was a great success. Thanks to Tom Zappala, Barbara Tallone & Nan Linden for table decorations, plus Ed & Joyce Croci collecting for Toys for Tots. N E Meet committee planning at the Zappala's.

#### ----- ARTI-FACT - VIRUS -----

2019 Stay away from negative people.  
2020 Stay away from positive people.

Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors. This virus has done what no woman has been able to do - cancel sports, shut down all bars & keep men at home.

**National Organizations:** If you are not already members of the following organizations, consider joining them.



**Model A Ford Club of America (mafca.com)**  
Membership dues \$50/year



**Model A Restorers Club (model-a-ford.org)**  
Membership Dues \$45/year



**Model A Ford Foundation (maffi.org)**  
and the Model A Ford Museum \$25/yr

## **2021 Board of Directors**

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**Vice President** -

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**Treasurer** - Barbara McElhiney *mcelhiney@rcn.com*

**Membership** - Nan Linden 508-485-7575 *met59a31@aol.com*

**Editor** - Doug Linden *douglingen@aol.com*

### **Steering Committee**

Wayne Champagne, Rich Batstone, Tom Zappala, Harold Samuels, Jo Johnson - Emeritus

**Tour Director:** Don Ross 617-584-5245

**Sunshine:** Sue Champagne *sdchampagne1931@gmail.com*

**Newsletter Distribution:** Sue Champagne *sdchampagne1931@gmail.com*



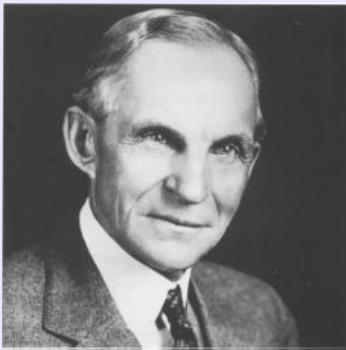
### **Hear Ye! Hear Ye! 2020 is Over**

I am sure we all are happy to see 2020 disappear in our rearview mirror. It sure was a year that everyone could have done without.. Let's hope that we will be back on the road by the time springtime rolls around.

I know I'm ready to hit the road again!



### **HENRY FORD FACT**



Ford was gifted a pocket watch by his father during his early teens. During that time, he dismantled and reassembled the watch, as well as the watches of several of his friends and relatives. Through these efforts, he gained quite a reputation as a watch re-pairman.

After the sad loss of his mother in 1876, his father wanted Henry to take responsibility and work on the farm. However, Henry disapproved of this and said that he was not interested in farm work. In his earlier years, he was willing to perform farm work due to the fact that his mother was present. However, he had no interest in the farm apart from his mother.

After being convinced he should seek a life in politics by his friend President Woodrow Wilson, Ford ran for a seat in the United States Senate in 1918. He only lost by 4,500 votes, even though he didn't spend a dime on his campaign.

Henry Ford was America's second billionaire, after oil magnate John D Rockefeller.

When he was only 20 years old, Ford was promoted to Chief Engineer of the Thomas Edison Illumination Company's main electrical plant in Detroit, which provided electrical power for the city. He worked there for six years before Edison himself encouraged Ford to follow his dreams of creating an affordable, reliable, gasoline-powered automobile.

*(from NJ Model A Club newsletter)*

# Secretary's Report

**No December 1, 2020 Meeting or Holiday Party**

Nothing to Report - Stay well



## Happy New Year



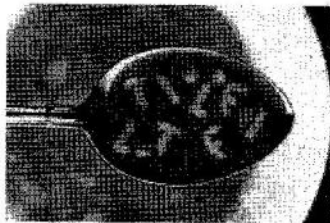
### 2021 Club Officers

Our Installation Party was canceled due to Covid restrictions and fortunately the current board will continue for 2021. We still need someone to step forward to help as Vice President. Why not help out the club, just call any officer to volunteer.



Pres - Doug Farrell Treas - Barbara McElhiney Secy - Rick Gadbois

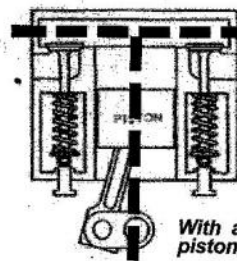
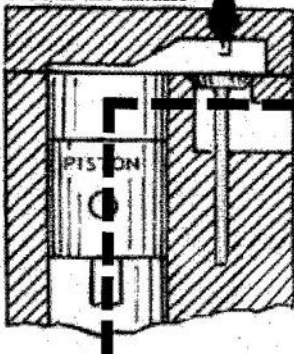
### What is an 'L' head engine?



Those of you intimately familiar with engines probably need no further explanation. For those, though, recently entering our hobby, hearing strange terms tossed around can be confusing. We blithely discuss OHV (overhead valve) engines, or 'L' head or side-valve engines. May I take a moment and explain what these phrases mean, and how an engine came to be labeled an 'L' head or and 'I' head engine?

The letter designation of an engine, i.e. an 'L' head, 'T' head, 'I' head or 'F' head is essentially a picture of the piston/valve configuration as viewed from the front.

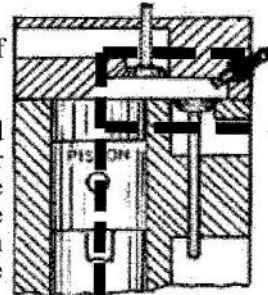
An 'L' head often referred to as a side-valve engine, has both the intake valve and the exhaust valve situated on one side of the combustion chamber. The valves are in line with each other and, when viewed from the front of the engine, seem to form an inverted letter 'L' (the valves making up the bottom of the letter 'L' and the combustion chamber/piston making up the upright of the 'L').



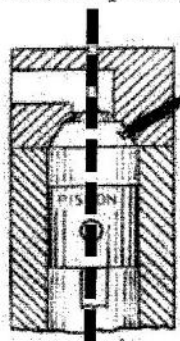
A 'T' engine has an intake valve on one side of the combustion chamber and the exhaust valve on the opposite side. Again, viewed from the front, the two valves form the cross-bar of the letter 'T', and with a valve on opposite sides of the piston, the lines appear as the letter 'T'.

the piston making up the upright of the 'T'.

The 'F' head engine is an over/under configuration. One valve is in the block, while the other is in the head. With the two valves making the arms of the 'F', the combustion chamber and piston make up the upright of the letter.



Notice the 'F' configuration.



Finally we have the 'I' head or OHV engine. In this case the cam is in the block and the valves are situated above the piston (operated through push rods and rocker arms). Looking at the valves/piston from the front they simulate the letter 'I'.

With the valves above the piston, it appears to be an 'I' layout.

S.K.



**The new year near!  
Time to renew your  
*MEMBERSHIP***

***Dues is Due***  
**2021**



In order for us to keep our records up to date, **PLEASE** complete the form below and return with your check for \$20. If there are no changes, you won't have to complete the entire form, just check the appropriate box. *Thank you.*

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

No Changes \_\_\_\_\_

Are you over 80 and been a member for at least 5 years? \_\_\_\_ If, yes, membership is free. However a donation in lieu of dues is always welcome

I would like to receive my ***Oil Leak*** by email. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

(If you do not specify, it will be sent electronically if we have an email address on file.)

Are You a member of MAFFI \_\_\_\_\_ MAFCA \_\_\_\_\_ MARC \_\_\_\_\_

Model A Info:

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Body Style \_\_\_\_\_ Year Acquired \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Body Style \_\_\_\_\_ Year Acquired \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: Minuteman Model A Ford Club and mail to

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# The Hard Luck Award ..... Goes To .....



## ..The Year 2020..

I think it's only appropriate that the year 2020 gets this award for having problems that were unimaginable at the start of the year.

"Normal" has changed and going forward hopefully the "new normal" will see us getting back together soon.

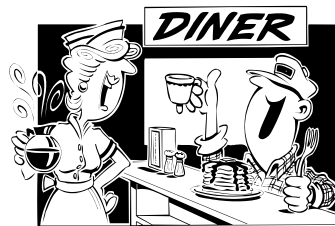
Just about every event was canceled this year, including our Winter Blah's Flea Market, Summer Bash, The New England Meet in Maine and our Holiday Party, just to name a few.

Having caused so many problems, the year **2020** is the unanimous winner of the **Minuteman Hard Luck Award!**



## ↑ *Weekly Breakfast Group* ↑

Doing anything on Wednesday morning? No. Well, you are invited to re-join the breakfast group at the Big Apple, 890 Boston Post Road East (RT 20) in Marlborough, MA. The food is



good and there is plenty of Model A talk. New time 8:00AM, Masks Required (see ad page 11)



**John Flanagan 1936 - 2020**

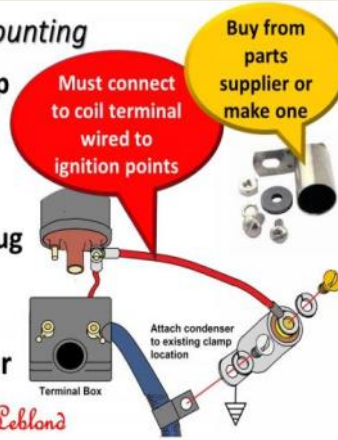
Our Model A family has lost another member. John Flanagan passed away on Dec 2 and will be missed by all who knew him. John and Betty have been members for many years, but since they lived in NH they weren't able to join us on a lot of tours. They always enjoyed traveling with us in their 1931 Roadster when we had tours in NH or in northern MA. Our condolences go out to Betty and family, especially son Jim and wife Sandy who have lost both father and father-in-law in the past few months.

## CONDENSER PROBLEM CURE

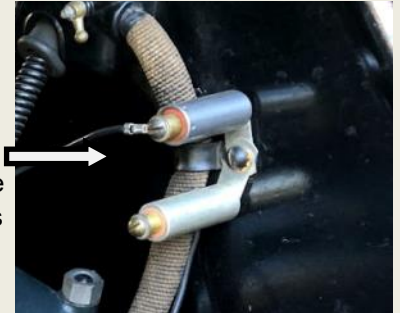
### Condenser – Permanent Mounting

- Mount condenser to clamp on firewall
- Escapes heat from exhaust manifold
- 16 gage jumper with eye lug terminal both ends
- Solder terminals
- Install dummy condenser in distributor

*By Ray Leblond*



Condensers do go bad and usually at the worst possible time. On the MAFCA Canyonland Tour last year Bruce & Trish's Model A died in the parking lot of Zion NP. It took a while to diagnose and fix the condenser problem, which didn't make the Park Ranger happy. Just by chance Ray Leblond happened by and showed us his condenser set-up which is shown in this diagram. Ray actually had two external condensers, one in service and another as a standby just in case.



### MAFCA's "New" Paint & Finish Guide

The new Paint & Finish Guide is now available. It is the culmination of three years of work the MAFCA Judging Standards Committee to update the text and with the printer for color matching with the original paint chip samples. The most noticeable change is the size of the color samples, which is approximately 2" x 7" compared to the postage stamp size in the previous edition. The price is \$42.50 and for members who are close by I can deliver them with no shipping. If interested contact me for details ([douginden@aol.com](mailto:douginden@aol.com))



MY GOODNESS, I DIDN'T REALIZE YOUR OLD CAR WOULD ATTRACT SO MUCH ATTENTION!

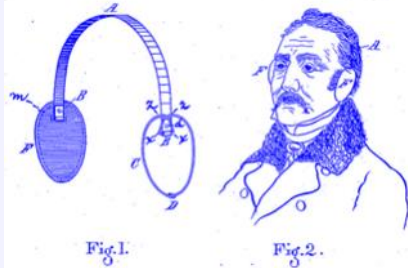
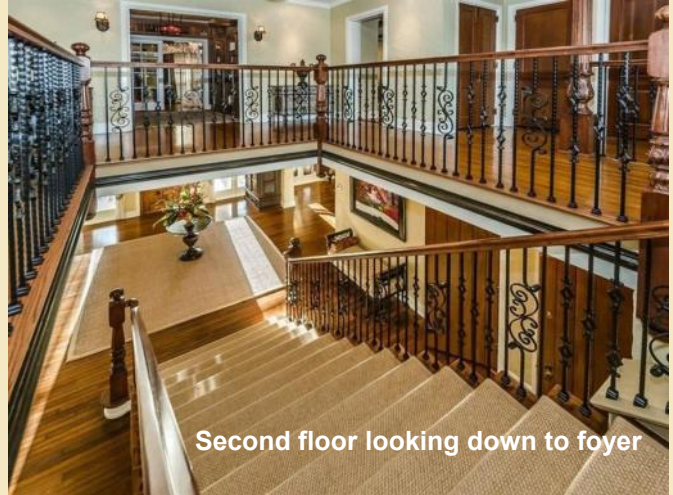
### Jack with his face shield



Check out this picture of Jack Stokinger at the 2010 Installation Dinner. Yes, I'm sure Jack didn't know his appearance with a face shield then would be perfect for 2020! Jack is always so prepared.

## The Great Bambino's 1928 Estate for Sale

*SAINT PETERSBURG, FL — Here's a chance to own a bonafide piece of history — the one-time winter estate of the Great Bambino. This 7,381-square-foot replica of an Italian villa may be the most unique waterfront home in La Vista on Tampa Bay. It once served as a winter refuge for Babe Ruth. Built in 1928, this brick mansion underwent a \$2 million restoration in 2001-06 and again in 2012 that preserved the estate's Old World details while updating it for modern living. I guess even in 1928 Babe Ruth was pretty well off. Price: \$2,199,000*



### NEWS You Didn't Know - EAR-MUFFLERS!

A young man from Farmington, Maine, patented his simple invention: earmuffs. Chester Greenwood, who first had the idea for this "improvement in ear-mufflers," as the patent documents describe it, at the age of 15, turned chilly ears into a business.

Like most inventors, Greenwood was trying to solve a problem. He loved to skate outdoors on the frozen ponds of his town, but he couldn't stay on the ice for very long. He was allergic to the protective wool caps with ear covers that were, at the

time, typically used as ear protectors.

Motivated by his sore ears, Greenwood devised a solution. He asked his grandmother to sew either pads of beaver fur or flannel onto a wire headband with two hoops on the ends. Greenwood's idea was clearly one whose time had come. Although his friends initially mocked him, the earmuff caught on quickly. Its popularity led Greenwood to make further improvements, such as replacing the wire with a band and hinging the pads. The factory he built near his hometown employed numerous Farmington residents and eventually became the seat of his earmuff empire, says Matt Hongoltz-Hetling for CentralMaine.com.

It's a cute story, but, according to Hongoltz-Hetling, Greenwood didn't exactly invent earmuffs. "It wasn't the first ear-muff. It was an improved earmuff," patent agent Dennis Haszko told him. Greenwood's true innovation, and the reason he got a patent, was a v-shaped swivel hinge that kept earmuffs tight to the ear. Still, his patent and factory put Farmington on the map and kept locals employed. In its best year, 1936, the earmuff factory produced over 400,000 pairs.

Buoyed by his early success, Greenwood kept inventing, eventually accruing over 100 patents. Farmington still celebrates its most inventive son each year in December on Chester Greenwood Day.

**..... Now You Have New NEWS You Know !**

# Jim's Tech Tip

## Installing the Starter "Bendix Drive"



The small Bendix Drive gear that's bolted to the starter motor puts up with a lot of use (and abuse when you forget to retard the spark before starting). Eventually you will be working on yours and I have a tip for you about installing it back on the starter shaft.

The Bendix is bolted to the shaft with 2 special bolts and lock washers, as shown in the photo below. One bolt has a specially-shaped end that goes down into a hole in the starter shaft. This is critical, to lock the Bendix to the shaft; do not substitute a plain bolt for this.



The other bolt is "special" only because it is only 11/16" long. This allows the bolt to lock the spring in place, without having the bolt actually touch the starter shaft. Don't be tempted to use a 3/4" long bolt instead of the correct shorter one. See the comparison photo of a 3/4" bolt and the correct bolt.



When this longer bolt is used, it presses against the starter shaft when tight and it messes up the Bendix operation.

Don't forget to install the half-moon shaped Woodruff key in the shaft before slipping the drive on the shaft. You may also use 2 spring clips (optional). Be sure to lock the bolts down tight by bending the ear of the special lock washer up against the bolt head. If you don't, these bolts will work loose and fly out of the starter drive.

I carry a spare Bendix spring (they are known to break) and a set of these special bolts and lock washers with me in my parts kit on tours. If I don't need them, someone traveling with us might. This will help quickly get them back on the road to.

Have A Model A Day - Jim

*From MAFCA Flying Quail News*

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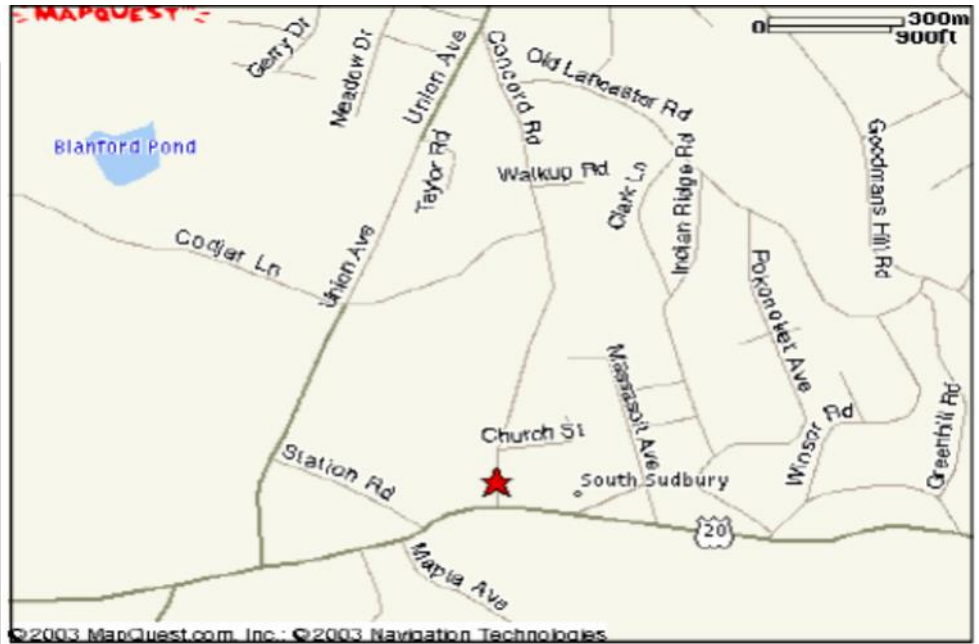
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### **No Activities for a While**

2021 will start off with no club activities due to the pandemic restrictions. We are all hopeful the vaccine will turn things around and we will be able to see more activities on our schedule for spring touring. In the mean time don't forget to winterize your Model A; change the oil, put a little fuel stabilizer in the gas, use a battery maintainer, check the anti-freeze or drain any water in the radiator. You don't want a cracked head or block.



Monthly Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the Month at the Memorial Congregational Church, 26 Concord Rd in Sudbury. Meetings start at 7:30 PM, preceded by "Tire Kicking" at 7:00 PM.

**Minuteman Model "A" Ford Club  
PO Box 545, Sudbury, MA 01776**



**January 2021**

Please  
Mail to:

**Be sure to visit [www.oilleak.org](http://www.oilleak.org)**