

# The Franklin Line

## HHFC Midwest Region News Spring, 2013

Welcome to the 'New' Franklin Line. We hope that you enjoy our new format.

In this issue:  
 Presidents message  
 May Business Notes and Treasurer's report  
 Review of Pontiac Meet  
 Upcoming Meet schedule  
 Brief History of the Midwest Region

+++++

### President's Message

Hi my name is Dean Dorholt and I would like to thank the Midwest Region for putting their trust in me and electing me president. We had a great time in Pontiac Illinois and our host's Alan and Liane did a GREAT job of organizing the meet. We visited some very nice collections including the garage tours of our members in the area. Wow do they have a lot of stuff!

The weather was a little cool for me and my wife Cinda in the Model G with no windshield but we toughed it out. We have some meets planned and are listed elsewhere in the Franklin Line. The Franklin Line will have a new section about members and their Franklin stories.

Please send us the history of your Franklin - how you got it, what experiences you've had with it, etc. We will publish a few stories in each issue of The Line. Start writing now - just 2 or 3 paragraphs- and send us your story at any time.

Also, members want to know how your Franklin projects are coming. Send us your news and we'll publish your progress. Would you like to host a meet? Contact either me, Joan Hasslen or Bill Eby. That's all for now.

"WANTED: THE HISTORY OF OUR MIDWEST REGION. Since many of you will be writing your personal Franklin history and how you got involved with Franklins, does anyone in our club know the origin of our Midwest Region? Please write an article and send it to Dean, Bill or Joan for The Franklin Line coming out this fall. How our group got started would be an interest read. Thank you."

Dean

+++++

### Business Meeting Notes

(Abbreviated in the interest of space)

May 25, 2013 Business Meeting, Saturday 8PM

- 1) Alan Finkenbinder started by thanking his wife, Liane, and all the local people who had helped put on the meet and summarizing the meet.
- 2) Vice President Bill Eby recognized and thanked our hosts, Alan and Liane Finkenbinder, for this excellent meet. He also recognized and thanked past officers of the MW Region: Ralph Gack as Past President; Mary Rose Hufnagel, The Franklin Line Editor; Frank Hantak past Secretary/ Treasurer and Don Milne, past MW Region Reporter.
- 3) New officers were unanimously elected: Dean Dorholt, Midwest Region President; Joan Hasslen, Midwest Region Secretary/Treasurer.
- 4) Dean thanked all for the honor and vote of confidence. He also thanked Ralph for past service to the Region.

#### Old Business:

- 1) Treasurer Report: Balance as of 5/23/2013 is \$536.40. MW Region has 76 paid members. (Revision to the treasurer's report: Balance as of 6/15 is \$586.40. Midwest Region membership is 86.)
- 2) Our MW Region representative to the HHFC board is currently Brendan Hogan. According to the HHFC by-laws, he serves a 3 year term which ends December, 2013. Jeff Hasslen was unanimously elected to fill this position starting January 2014.

#### New Business:

- 1) We are in need of an editor for "The Franklin Line." The MW Region Executive Committee would be responsible for the next issue; that a change in format might be tried - more of a newsletter with members contributing.
- 2) The following topics were discussed: **A) Future meets in our Region:** how to encourage MW members to host; how to accommodate members who live outside our Region who wish to host..
- B) Midwest Region By-laws:**
- C) Do we want to e-mail "The Franklin Line"**

3) Phil Weisenbarger reported on the Third Annual Air-Cooled Gathering at the Gilmore Museum, Hickory Corners, MI, held on Father's Day weekend, June 14-16, 2013.

4) Future Midwest Region meets

Respectfully submitted,  
 Joan Hasslen, Secretary/Treasurer

+++++

### Midwest Meet in Pontiac Illinois

By Alan Finkenbinder & Bill Eby

The Spring meet of the HHFC Midwest region toured the back roads of Livingston county over the 23rd to the 25th of May. The meet was headquartered in



Pontiac, Illinois. Pontiac is located along historic Route 66 and is known for its many murals and museums. It has become a very popular destination to visit

and hosts many visitors both foreign and domestic on a weekly basis. The folks of Pontiac showed some real hospitality to us, and we had personal attention from the Mayor, and the Pontiac Downtown association. Although Thursday started out with some raindrops, and we had a little rain off and on over the course of the meet, by and large the weather treated us well. Now if you were driving a car without a windshield (Dean) or a passenger in such a car (Cinda) well, maybe you wouldn't think the weather was ideal for touring, but with blankets and warm coats, we all enjoyed seeing the sights and sounds that Al Finkenbinder and the Pontiac folks had arranged.

The Midwest members were greeted on arrival on Wednesday afternoon and later dined at a local favorite Italian diner. Our Thursday tour was to the

Flanagan/Graymont area. The first stop was at Clint Conway's General Store. Clint has collected for many years and his store is stacked to the ceiling with antiques. Outside he had a fully furnished 1950's Spartan camper trailer on display. His collection of old household products brought back many memory's for all of us.



The second stop was at Zehr's Dairy Farm including a tour of the show cow barn and the computerized dairy parlor. Lynn Zehr was our host and he explained the current dairy operation requirements and graciously answered all our questions. We then traveled to Jim and Sandy Adam's private air strip and hanger for a catered lunch including delicious porkchop sandwiches. While we were there we were given the opportunity to inspect Jim's planes and view the many slides being shown of previous meets. It was then back to the host hotel to freshen up for dinner at Mario's pizza.



On Friday our tour took us East to the Lynn Frantz private collection of household, farm equipment, antique tractors, trucks and autos. Lynn's collection spans three

family generations and has something of interest for everyone. After viewing Lynn's vast collection we were off to Emington, IL. For lunch at The Roadrunner Café. With everyone's belly full it was off to Jim & John Haley's private collection of steam engines, autos and the Hearthside Shoppe. We were invited into their shop to view a Scale model steam engine under construction and to shop in the



hearthside shoppe. Dinner was at Baby Bulls Fine Dining followed by a trolley ride to Chautauqua Park for a

ice cream social and a performance of "At The Hop" by the Vermillion Players.

Saturday we traveled to downtown Pontiac to attend the Pre-War Festival/Heritage Days event. The Franklins were parked around the town square alongside the Living History Civil War Battery G re-enactors and period music. Trolleys tours were given to view all the sites around Pontiac including the 22 wall dog murals. We also visited the area museums-including the well turned out Pontiac/Oakland museum, antique shops and dined in many of the local Downtown restaurants. The trolley provided Transportation to and from the banquet that evening held in the city hall building. Dinner was served by Bernardii's Fine Dining, followed by the regional business meeting.

Sunday was the private garage tours with visits to Roy, Lee & Nancy Nelson's collections, Alan & Liane Finkenbinder's collection and the Pontiac/Oakland basement, upstairs and Fred's Service building collections.

This is the list of participants attending the Spring Midwest Franklin Tour in Pontiac.

Bill Eby (1928 Victoria Brougham)  
Robert Erickson & Grace Knoblauch  
Jack & Mary Stang  
Frank & Jill Pennypacker

Dennis & Linda Radford  
Dean & Cinda Dorholt (1907 G)  
Greg & Daniel Drufke  
Phil & Pam Weisenbarger  
Tom & Derek Kleinschmidt  
Lee & Nancy Nelson (1931 Coupe, non running)  
Ralph & Karen Gack  
Wendell & Jane Eby (1919 9B Touring)  
Jeff & Joan Hasslen (1915 8M Touring)  
Roy Nelson  
Alvin & Marie Elmore (1923 sedan)  
Alan & Liane Finkenbinder (1929 sport sedan)  
Wayne Scherer

Also joining us on Saturday for the prewar festival (but not registered): Gary and Lynn Borner (1924 10C 2dr. sedan) and David Landmichel.  
Jim & Sandy Adams, Tim & Penny Dye & Ellie Alexander also attended as guests of the hosts.

Don and Carole Milne and Frank and Garnet Hantak, faithful and supportive members of our Midwest Region, send greetings and best regards to their Franklin friends. Due to age and/or health issues, they were unable to attend the meet in Pontiac.

With heavy hearts we pass on some sad news: Roline Milne, wife of Denny Milne, passed away in her sleep on July 25, 2013. Roline was an active member and loyal supporter of our Midwest Region who also attended many Franklin Treks. She will be greatly missed and we send our sincerest sympathy to Denny, their children and the entire Milne family. Cards may be sent to: Denny Milne, 426 Huron Rd, Machesney Park, IL 61115

### A Brief History of our Midwest Region Submitted by Anonymous

While researching the history of our own Franklin Club Midwest Region, a few details surfaced:

- The very first Midwest meet was held in Greenfield, Illinois in the spring of 1954 (that's almost 60 years ago!) in the driveway of Cliff Boram's house.
- Six people attended: Cliff Boram, LeRoy Nelson, Master mechanic Milton McGraw, Paul Piston, Syd Cylinder, and an energetic gentleman nicknamed "Sparky".
- Two Franklins were driven to the meet that day: a 29 Sedan and a 23 Touring - both in rough shape. One car was trailered: a 30 Pirate Phaeton (rumor has it - still not restored but living in Roy Nelson's new barn).
- Excitement was in the air as tales of restoration challenges, breakdowns,

mechanical questions/answers and stories of hope, success and family news were shared by all.

**Upcoming Midwest Meets**

**Fall, 2013** – Rhode Island, Sept 18 – 21, hosted by Bob and Pat Harrison, Exeter, RI. There was a limit of 50 people, and the meet is currently full, although Bob does have a waiting list in case there might be any cancellations.

**Spring 2014** – June 12 -15. Near and around Hickory Corners, Michigan; coordinating with the Gilmore Museum Air-Cooled Gathering on Father's Day weekend.

**Fall 2014** - Lee and Nancy Nelson

**Spring 2015** – Minnesota

**Fall 2015** – Montrose, Missouri. Dennis and Linda Radford, host.

Would YOU like to host a meet. Contact Dean, Bill or Joan.

- Mrs. Lucille Boram (Cliff's mother) served cake and lemonade in the front yard under the shade of their 100 year old maple.
- Plans to get together again were not made that day but Cliff Boram accepted the position of first President and organized the next gathering which was held the following fall at

---

HHFC Midwest Region  
c/o Joan Hasslen, Treasurer  
13311 95th Street NE  
Elk River, MN 55330

Dellwood Park in Lockport, IL. Details of that meet are not known except weather was cool, attendance increased and many Franklin rides were enjoyed by all.

Surely you die-hard, faithful Franklin Midwest Members have a DIFFERENT story to tell regarding the history of our Region. Please share your knowledge (from written accounts, from conversations or from first hand

**Your Midwest Officers:**  
Dean Dorholt - President  
deandorholt@frontiernet.net  
Bill Eby - Vice President  
w.eby@verizon.net  
Joan Hasslen - Secretary/Treasurer  
jhasslen@gmail.com  
Brendan Hogan - Midwest Board Rep

experience) and write the TRUTH about our Midwest Region beginnings. Please send your article to Dean Dorholt for the next Franklin Line coming out this fall, 2013. We are counting on someone to give us the straight scoop as this report was, in case you didn't catch on, a total fabrication. Thank you!

**Needed: A volunteer to be editor of the Franklin Line. Would you be interested? Call Dean, Bill or Joan. Thanks...**