



THE FRANKLIN LINE
HHFC MIDWEST REGION NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2017

Greetings Franklin Friends,

If you couldn't join us in Michigan for the Spring Meet and Air Cooled Gathering, a great time was had by all.

As I start the next three years as President, I would like to thank all the people that have stepped up to put on some wonderful tours in some of the greatest parts of the Midwest with some of the most interesting places and stops along the way. Our Fall meet is just around the corner and all of you should have received the sign up info in the mail. Doug and Jane have some "Great" things in store for us in Manitowoc, WI. That now leaves us with the need for some members to come forward and host a meet in your area. It's not difficult and I'm sure there are places you want to show off in your own backyard. One thing I've noticed is that the meets with just a couple of things to do each day are more fun and it gives us all more time to socialize with one another. We are a Franklin Family aren't we.

We now also have our own Midwest Franklin Club shirts available from an embroiderer in Minnesota, they have the artwork and they also sell some very nice shirts. Info is included in this issue of the line on how to work direct with the company, Baggy-Joe. That's all for now and feel free to contact, me, Joan or Jeff if you are interested in hosting a meet in your area. PLEASE help us keep this great Region active and strong.

Dean Dorholt
 Aura Vincit
 (612)803-0836



Dean donated mother's wheelchair to Gilmore Car Museum

Midwest Region Spring Meet

Hosted by Bill and Geri Eby
Article Written by Cinda Dorholt

Pre-tour - Wednesday

With celery sticks and light southwestern veggie dip along with our Illinois I-Pass in hand, we start our 10+ hour trip from Minnesota at 5am. We thought we'd slip right through Illinois and Indiana; we did not anticipate the road construction along the way. Four lane highways were reduced to stop and go single lanes, adding hours to our 9-hour drive. Stopping only for gas we arrive after 5pm with growling stomachs.

We join 12 others to eat at the **Seasonal Grille**. With no reservation for our impromptu meal, it took the hostess a bit of time to arrange eating to accommodate all of us. In the end, it took 3 hours to finish our meal. Next time we highly recommend either not eating in a group or making reservation!

Tour

Bill and Geri Eby demonstrated their skill at planning and coordinating when they set up the 3-day Franklin Club Midwest Region Spring Meet in and around Hastings, Michigan. From June 15 through June 17, 2017 the Holiday Inn Express in Hastings served as home base for the event.

Day One - Thursday

The 90 minute **Gilmore Car Museum** visit was our first of the day stop. The star of the stop was Wendell Eby who accompanied his son Jim Eby to surprise and visit with a number of his friends from the Midwest Region. Wendell's smile is as bright as ever, and he is looking and sounding great!

During our stop the museum acquired a wheelchair for visitors to use thanks to Dean Dorholt who donated his mother's wheelchair in honor of her, Marjorie Dorholt, who passed away in March of 2016.

2017 Midwest Spring Meet (Cont'd)

Brittany Williams, Collections Registrar at the museum accepted the donation and said the Museum expects to put it to good use.

We also enjoyed a photo op with the “Fab (Midwest) Franklin Four”. Previously known as “Terrific Trio” the group recently increased by one when Mary Stang joined Loretta Fusco, Nancy Nelson, and Carol Norton on what is affectionately referred to as the Midwest Region Basketball Team. The heights of the women range from 4’7” to 4’11”.

Whether the first visit or the umpteenth visit to the museum, gentlemen who are also Franklin owner/operators gather round the cars on display - they murmur - they point. For some it is clear they are looking for details that will help them with their own car or that of a friend, for others not so clear, so I asked one of our Midwest Region members as he pensively looked at a 1931 Series 153 Sedan, “What do you like about this specific car? After a couple minutes he responded “All of it”....followed by “only one change in my opinion could be made and understand this is just my opinion; remove the chrome strip from the spare cover. The chrome is too much. It takes away from the rest of the car.” So there you have it. Time to move on. (dirty word)

Next up was lunch at **Scotts Comer Café** in Scotts, MI, Bill Eby found the location by searching the web for a food establishment located midway between the Gilmore Car Museum and Colon the next stop on the tour. Boy, was he and were we lucky! Although owner Mark, his wife and the staff had never hosted a group as large as ours, they expertly managed to feed us without a glitch. They reserved one of two sections in the café for us and served lunch buffet style with sandwich makings, salad options, and cookies for dessert. You can ask Jim Reed about the cookies. It was delicious and affordable!

From Scotts we headed to **Full Spectrum Stained Glass** in Colon, MI. Located on a beautiful piece of land 40 miles south of the Gillmore, Full Spectrum Stained Glass is a “mom and pop” operation owned by Valerie McCartney and her husband John. They built their stone house and the stone building housing the sales office/design studio and shop over 10 years ago. Valerie welcomed us in the studio where she freehand plans the restoration or design

stained glass windows with notably on this day *no* air conditioning. The business takes on both short term and long-term projects but only if they believe they can complete the work to the satisfaction of the customer. Valerie described the challenge of matching glass or metal, and the inventive trial and error way they tackle those challenges. Just a few steps away from the design studio is the shop where seven employees artisans prep the glass and/or metal works for installation. With the exception of a little heat and humidity, all enjoyed the Full Spectrum Stained Glass tour!

A little over a mile down the road was the last stop of the day at **Abbott’s Magic Factory** also in Colon, MI. This little shop with its unassuming facade is the heart of what is touted as the “Magic Capital of the World”. As we entered the little black building, we were met with not only magic items in display cases for sale but a plethora of magic memorabilia - posters and pictures going back 80 years - plastered on the walls and ceiling. This “artwork” continued as we moved into the next room where we saw a ragtag stage with wooden bleachers for us to use in anticipation of what was to come. Once we settled, Greg Bordner welcomed us (dirty word) and gave us a history of the Abbott’s Magic Factory and how Colon became known as the Magic Capital of the World. He explained he was filling in time waiting for the magician to arrive. During the back and forth conversation with us, Greg said magic “is not so much about the trick (magic) as it is about presentation”. About this time, a thirty-something young man showed up carrying a suitcase and rushing onto stage. This had to be the set up guy for our magician. Where’s the guy with the pointed hat and the black cape? Wrong! The young man, BJ Mallen, lifelong resident of Colon was our magician. For the next 45 minutes, BJ mesmerized us with his magical skills. From the “No Poem on Sunday” poem that he wrote for his children, the spinning wheel optical illusion effect, to his playful onstage toying with Bouvard Hosticka (ask Bouvard to pronounce his name for you), BJ demonstrated that magic is in the presentation and he excelled! After the show, Bouvard showed BJ some Franklin magic with a quick spin around the neighborhood. Based on BJ’s reaction, Bouvard excelled too! This stop was one of the highlights of the meet.

Day one ended with conversation in the Hospitality Room at the Holiday Inn Express.

2017 Midwest Spring Meet (Cont'd)

Day Two - Friday

The first stop of the day was at the private collection of Dick and Audrey Deming in Hastings, MI. **The Deming Collection** consists of about 10 cars from the 50s, 60s and 70s, and an American Eagle motorhome. The couple is in the process of downsizing their collection - "because it's time". Dick mentioned that he sold a Shelby the week prior to our visit. Dick and Audrey in separate conversations acknowledged the challenge of downsizing because they discovered that the vehicle one of them wants to keep is the one that the other is perfectly okay letting go of. Dick said he'd work on his approach

As I did at the Gilmore, I approached another one of our Midwest Region experts with the question, "Which of this collection do you like the best? Why?" He responded "Ahhh the El Camino because a truck bed should be big enough to hold a 4' x 6' piece of plywood or plasterboard flat"... "then the Ford hardtop convertible because I'm a topless car kinda guy"... "then the (flower power decorated) dune buggy because it would be fun." So there you go then!

We thank the Demings for sharing their collection with us. They were a delightful couple and we wish them the best as they find loving homes for their treasures.

Stop number two was 40 miles away at the **GoGo Classic Cars and Showroom** in Galesburg, MI. The showroom was packed with vintage vehicles from the 30s, 40s, 50s, and 60s. The collection includes a Ford Model A (suspended overhead from the ceiling) and a few motorcycles. Notably a number of the cars are convertibles and have long wings. My question: Are those Burma Shave signs real? Once again, I tapped into a Midwest Region expert, a known historian who shall remain anonymous, when I asked "Which of all the vehicles here do you like the most?" His response was "The Studebaker truck" - brief and to the point. The truck was a 1938 1/2 ton Coupe Express. There were only 1000 of these vehicles built in 1938.

With that our group of some 37 people moved on to our luncheon stop next door.

Our buffet lunch consisted of a variety of wrap sandwiches, sides, dessert tray, and drink at **Andrea's Café, & Pizza Too** in Galesburg, MI. The set up was perfect. Seated at a long table, we were comfortable, wait staff provided beverages easily from behind, and we were in and out so quickly that Jeff Hasslen arranged to move up the start time at our next stop by a half hour. Thumbs up for Andrea's!

The last stop of day two was at **Bell's Comstock Brewery** in Galesburg, MI. "Larry Bell started brewing beer at home in a 15-gallon soup pot in 1985." This is the start of the tour guide spiel at Bell's Brewery. Our group was split and assigned to 3 of those tour guides: Joe, Katey, and Michael. The guides' explanation of the history of this family owned business along with the step-by-step explanation of the current process that uses state of the art brewing technology was awesome and enlightening as we toured the massive facility. Additionally, we enjoyed not one but two taste tests of Bell's brews!

After a 35-mile ride back to the Holiday Inn Express in Hastings, our day ended in the hospitality room giggling and laughing with friends. It was a good day!

Day Three - Saturday

The entire day was spent at the Air-Cooled Gathering at the **Gilmore Car Museum** in Hickory Corners, MI. You will see a separate article written by Mr. Phil Weisenbarger about the Air-Cooled Gathering.

11 Franklins at the Meet (Vehicles *driven to meet)

Bouvard Hosticka - 1910 Model G Touring
Robert and Darla Metro - 1923 10B Sedan
Jim and Debbie Reed - 1924 10C Sedan
Tom and Barb Chandler - 1924 10C Speedster
Roger Moffat and Lisa Christensen -
1926 11A Sedan*
Mark Chaplin and John Strawway -
1927 11B Tandem Sport
Bill and Geri Eby - 1928 12B Victoria Brougham*
Bruce Levey - 1929 130 Sedan
Phil and Pam Weisenbarger -
1930 145 Victoria Brougham
Keith and Janet Kilmer - 1931 152 Sport Salon
Jeff and Joan Hasslen - 1932 Club Sedan*
Dean and Cinda Dorholt - (dirty word)

2017 Midwest Spring Meet (Cont'd)

Other Members in Attendance

Jim Eby, Wendell Eby, Randy and Loretta Fusco, Rick Hale and Sam Kowalisyn, Eric Hasslen, Chuck Johnson, Lee and Nancy Nelson, Roy Nelson, Carol Norton, Sinclair and Suzanne Powell, Jake Reed, Tim Smyk, Jack and Mary Stang, 4 Guests of Phil Weisenbarger

Thank you to Bill and Geri Eby for planning and coordinating the Franklin Club Midwest Spring Meet.

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

A) Call to Order: President **Dean Dorholt** began the meeting by thanking our host Bill Eby (and Jeff Hasslen who lead the Friday tours).

B) Recognition: Attending a Midwest Meet for the first time: Mark Chaplin, Rick Hale & Sam Kowalisyn, Janet & Keith Kilmer, Bruce Levey, Roger Moffat & Lisa Christensen, Carol Norton, Tim Smyk (friend of Jake Reed) and John Strawway.

Brought their Franklin to the Meet: Tom & Barb Chandler, Mark Chaplin & John Strawway, Bill & Geri Eby, Jeff & Joan Hasslen, Bouvard Hosticka, Keith & Janet Kilmer, Bruce Levey, Bob & Darla Metro, Roger Moffat & Lisa Christensen, Jim & Debbie Reed, Phil & Pam Weisenbarger. **DROVE their Franklin to the meet:** Jeff, Joan and Eric Hasslen (780 miles), Bill and Geri Eby (620+ miles), Roger Moffat and Lisa Christensen (25 miles). **DROVE their Franklin the furthest:** Jeff, Joan and Eric Hasslen. Jeff commented: "We drove the northern route around Lake Michigan - crossing the Mackinac Bridge. For the most part, we drove state highways and back roads so there was less traffic, less stress and nice scenery. **Traveled the furthest to attend:** Jack and Mary Stang from Hammond, Louisiana.

Roger Moffat commented about the meet: "Thanks for everything. We appreciated the warm welcome. You're a very friendly group."

C) Host Report: (In Bill's absence, Dean reported) There were 11 Franklins, 40 people attended - 39 from 10 states - FL, IL, IA, LA, MI, MN, NY, OH, PA, VA and 1 member from Ontario, Canada. We had good weather, great roads and interesting tour stops. (Please read Cinda Dorholt's complete report on this issue.)

D) Secretary's Report: We currently have 117 Midwest Region members. New members who joined at this Meet are Mark Chaplin and John Strawway from Rochester, NY; Bruce and Amelia Levey from Ottawa, Canada; Carol Norton from South Glen Falls, NY. New members since our last Meet in September are Michael Burns from Green Bay, WI; Gene and Kathy Fioritto from North Royalton, OH; Rudolph and Frances Ann Kastelic from Calumet, MI; Keith and Janet Kilmer from Argyle, NY; Roger Moffat and Lisa Christensen from Caledonia, MI; and Paul Zuraw from Joplin, MO.

E) Treasurer's Report: **1)** Balance as of 6/17/17 is \$1,418.60. **2)** Expenses since our last meet totaled \$544.72 for printing and mailing The Franklin Line, the Region Addendum, directories to new members, etc.

F) Old Business: None

G) New Business: 1) Election of Officers: Carol Norton moved to accept the current slate of officers. Motion seconded and carried. Officers for 2017 - 2019: President - Dean Dorholt; Vice President - Bill Eby; Secretary/Treasurer- Joan Hasslen; HHFC Regional Director - Jeff Hasslen. As editor of our newsletter, "The Franklin Line", Hazel Wade is not an elected officer but a volunteer. We appreciate her talents and dedicated service to the Region. Thank you, Hazel.

H) Midwest Region Reports: 1) Jeff Hasslen states that our Region is healthy. We have money in the treasury, and thanks to Dean as president and Midwest members who have stepped up to host meets, we are an active region. Jeff reminded us that it was decided that every 3 years we hold our Region meet in conjunction with the Air Cooled Gathering at the Gillmore. For other years, we need to find hosts in states we have not visited for a while like Indiana. **2)** Dean mentioned that **Hazel Wade** is always looking for members to write their Franklin story for The Line. **3) Eric Hasslen** will send pictures of this meet to Hazel, the ACN editors and the webmaster for posting. Others were also encouraged to send a few pictures. Bouvard Hosticka mentioned that only "a few of the very best" should be sent. **4) Roy Nelson** reports he is in the process of locating historical facts and letters regarding our Region history and will write articles for the Line.

2017 Business Meeting Minutes (Cont'd)

The Region started in 1955 and one member, Cliff Boram, age 86 or 87, still lives in Indiana. Roy will ask him to write a story for the Line about the Region beginnings.

I) Other Business: 1) The Franklin Collection:

Phil Weisenbarger thanked the Region for supporting and coming to the Air Cooled Gathering. The Collection is in fine shape. Donated cars are appreciated. "Sparky", a 1922, 10A V-windshield Sedan sold to Bill Fields from Palmer, AK. Dan Russell recently offered to display his 1933 Olympic Coupe at the Collection and there is a need for a 1929. Phil asked the FACHC committee members to stand. Those in attendance were Mark Chaplin, Randy Fusco, Jeff Hasslen, Bouvard Hosticka and Chuck Johnson. The committee met with Bill Parfet and Chris Shires, the new Gilmore executive director. Phil reports, "It was congenial - both sides are happy. We are the least demanding of all the clubs" represented at the Gilmore. Jeff Hasslen added that attendance has increased 40% since the Franklin Club built at the Gilmore. The display committee (Jeff, Tom Rasmussen, Arthur Einstein) will be moving things around to keep the display fresh.

J) Future Meets: 1) Midwest Fall Meet will be Sept. 21-23 in Manitowoc, WI. Doug Rohde and Jane Hurst will host. We will stay at the Baymont Inn and Suites on the shore of Lake Michigan. Highlights include EAA Aviation Museum Tour, Railroad Museum tour, Wisconsin Maritime Museum. Manitowoc is the docking site for the only coal-fired ferry still in operation on USA waters. Those members coming from the east can avoid Chicago by putting their Franklin and family on the ferry - arriving in Manitowoc refreshed and ready for the Meet.

2) Hosts are needed for our Midwest Meets next year - 2018 - fall and spring. Please think of ideas and consider hosting. It's easy and fun. The Region provides written guidelines and suggestions plus other assistance if needed. Please contact Dean, Bill or Joan.

K) Additional Announcements: Cinda Dorholt has volunteered to write up this Meet report for The Franklin Line and Air Cooled News. Thank you, Cinda.

L) Meeting adjourned: Thanks again for Bill Eby. Thanks everyone for coming.

Joan Hasslen, Region Secretary

THE SAGA OF A 1929 SERIES 135

**Sinclair and Suzanne, Owner
Ann Arbor, Michigan**



In the early months of 1929 a Series 135 Franklin Victoria Brougham was manufactured at the Company's plant in Syracuse, New York. The vehicle was painted medium green, with black fenders and wheels. Its appearance was enhanced by 2 spare tires in fender wells, and a spare trunk on the rear.

The vehicle was purchased by the chief surgeon of a large steel manufacturing company in Eastern Pennsylvania. By all accounts he was a somewhat unique person - argumentative and not too well liked by fellow steel company executives.

After several years of use, the chief surgeon traded the Franklin in on a new Cadillac. The next two owners cannot readily be identified, but by the mid-1950s the vehicle wound up on a farm in the Allentown, Pennsylvania area. The owner stripped the interior of the Franklin, using it to bring produce to a local market!

At this low point in the car's existence a Franklin enthusiast persuaded Lester Sheaffer of Harrisburg, PA, a Franklin Club member and a fine automotive restorer to re-do the vehicle. Lester restored the exterior and interior of the Franklin, and then turned his attention to the engine. He installed stellite valves, replaced Babbitt bearings with inserts, and upgraded other items. The more powerful engine enhanced the performance of the 135, aided by a high-speed rear axle. On runs with other Franklin cars, few could compete with Lester's vehicle.

The Saga of a 1929 Series 135 (Cont'd)

Lester Sheaffer disposed of his vehicle to R. Williams of Kansas, who in turn sold it to Sinclair Powell in the spring of 1975. Sinclair, accompanied by his 5 year old son, Rob, drove the Franklin all the way back to Ann Arbor, Michigan. The car was equipped with a siren, which Rob activated a number of times on the interstate, producing some startled looks by drivers who were speeding past at illegal rates of speed!

The Franklin 135 has remained in the Powell's possession since 1975, full 42 years. It has been driven to the Trek several times, performing flawlessly on each occasion



UPCOMING MIDWEST MEET

Fall 2017, Manitowoc, WI, Hosted by Doug Rohde
September 20-23, 2017

CALLING ALL MIDWEST TREKKERS

WE NEED HOSTS FOR 2018 MEETS!

Please contact Dean Dorholt if you would like to
host a 2018 Meet --
deandorholt@frontiernet.net

NEW MEMBERS (After 2017 Addendum:)

Mark Chaplin, John Strawway
50 Barrington St.
Rochester, NY 14607
585-473-0799 -phone
5857032577mc@gmail.com
1924 10B Touring
1925 10C Sedan
1927 11B Tandem Sport

Bruce & Amelia Levey
849 Long Point Circle
Ottawa, Ontario K1T 4G1
Canada
613-822-2598- Home
613-720-4895-Cell
blaaap@sympatico.ca
1929 130 Sedan

Carol Norton
24 Jackson Ave.
South Glen Falls, NY 12803
518-793-5071-Home
518-796-4143-Cell
capnorton1@aol.com

ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER CHANGES

Frank and Jill Pennypacker
127 Norfolk Circle
Anderson, SC 29625
608-469-3880-Cell

Michael Burns
609 Gray St.
Green Bay, WI 54303

Bill Fields (Alaska)
907-202-1499-Cell

MEMORIAM

Shirley Harvey (John), December 2016
Beverly Myers (Bill), December 2016
Shirley Young (Lloyd), September 2016
Melvin Overdieck, April 2017



Wendell Eby & friends at the Gilmore



"Fab (Midwest) Franklin Four"



1931 Series Franklin at Gilmore



Scotts Corner Café and Franklins



Cinda, Pam, and Jim at Abbott
FactoryMagic



Full Spectrum Stained Glass



Deming Collection - Dean Dorholt



Happy Magic Man and Bouvard



Hospitality Room at Holiday Inn Express



Mary Stang at Andrea's Café

HHFC Midwesr Region

C/O Hazel Wade

25 N. 31st Street

Belleville, IL 62226



Bell's Comstock Brewery - Waiting in line for a taste.



Gilmore Museum



Joan in an air-cooled cyclops



Bell's Cornstock Brewery