

The Gas Line

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Winter Brrrrunch, January 5 at 11 a.m.



Looks cold up in the mountains, doesn't it? Come join us for our Winter Brrrrunch at Dixie's Diner, 2150 Channing Way in Idaho Falls on Saturday, January 5th at 11 a.m. Bring your old car if you want, but regardless of your transportation, come on out and enjoy a nice meal and car conversation. This is a no-host event, so you'll have to purchase your own brunch.



President's Corner

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I would like to thank Darla and James Hoff for hosting the Christmas gathering. Everyone enjoyed the food, gift exchange, and the highlight of perusing the exhibit at the Museum of Idaho, Discover Steampunk. Many members dressed in Steampunk costume and some were quite imaginative with their costume.

I would also like to thank Bob for his last two years of leadership. He has done a fantastic job in this role and has left me with a hard act to follow. I am looking forward to another year of great activities and touring.

See you Thursday at our monthly meeting.

Doug

CHAPTER EVENTS

Jan 5: Winter Brrrrunch, Joy
(208) 529-9450

More coming soon!

Christmas Party Photos

Since there are no meeting minutes for December, I wanted to share some photos from the Christmas Party at the Museum of Idaho.



MEETING TREATS

Coming Soon!

Dad's Trunk: Model T Road Tripping

(by Jim Van Orden from Hemming's Motor News)

Dad's car trunk was loaded with so many tools and emergency equipment it would have made a service station mechanic envious. He was prepared for everything, whether a flat, broken wiper, or blown out muffler.

As a boy, I was amazed when he opened the trunk lid. Inside were bottles, jugs, and cans of all descriptions and sizes that filled "Becker Farms" milk boxes. Their contents included oil and other lubricants, water (tap and distilled), anti-freeze, and fluids for brakes and steering reservoirs. Long- and short-neck oil cans sat alongside containers of turpentine, gasoline, and lighter fluid.

Dad loved Model T Fords and bought his first one in 1921 when he started driving. He drove the car from Chatham, New Jersey, to Williamstown, Massachusetts, when he began his freshman year at Williams College. The cold New England winters taught him invaluable lessons. Such as the time sub-zero temperatures thickened oil in the crankcase. The only way the engine would start was to warm it for hours with a small, slow-burning fire underneath. A few years later, when courting Mom in his 1924



Model T, their heated romance quickly became frigid for lack of sufficient horsehair blankets to wrap in during long drives. To keep out wind and rain, Dad finally added Isinglass curtains, the forerunner of glass windows. But apparently these weren't too effective and, according to Mom, adding to her misery were holes in the wood floorboard that kept toes on the verge

of frostbite.

On their honeymoon in May 1928, the couple took a long and chilly drive along the old Storm King Highway on the north end of the Hudson Highlands and the west bank of the Hudson River. The Model T carried them safely, but slowly, above the water as they took in panoramic views of the river and surrounding mountains.

Dad kept several types of tire wrenches and spare lug nuts in another box, along with extra fan belts and an assortment of tools. Stored in metal boxes or wrapped in heavy canvas, his tools included many he inherited from his father and grandfather. His father owned the first car—a 1905 Buick that resembled a horse-drawn wagon—in Chatham, New Jersey.

I remember a summer vacation in 1951. It was night and Dad drove Mom and me in his 1948 Chevy along a two-lane blacktop in rural New York State on our way to Ottawa, Ontario. A flat tire forced him to pull off the rural road into a corn field, where we sat for an hour in darkness. Fortunately, a farmer came along in his truck, pulled over, and offered to help.

It took time for Dad and the farmer to remove all the equipment and tools, plus our suitcases, from the trunk, then take off the flat tire and put on the spare. Although his face didn't show it, seeing Dad's stuff spread across his field probably amused the farmer. Repacking Dad's trunk wasn't so funny, however, and took another hour to accomplish. The farmer must have felt sorry because he and his wife invited Dad to drive us to their house, where they provided a comfortable room for the night.

I'm reminded of Dad's trunk every time I attend car shows and examine unrestored classics, especially those that still smell of Marvel Mystery Oil and garage lube grease.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 28-Mar 2: Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Rich Blake (505) 474-7789 or rb3790@gmail.com

Mar 31-Apr 5: Chrome Glidden Tour, Gonzales, Texas. Pat and Jamie Crandall
Jamieandpat@gmail.com

May 5-10: Lewis & Clark (Regional Tour) Independence Missouri to Sioux City, Iowa. Mike Welsh
vsecretary@vmcca.org

Jun 9-13: One- and Two-Cylinder Tour, Marysville, OH.
icfigge@gmail.com

Jun 23-28: Heritage Tour, Dayton, Ohio. Rick Donahue (513) 574-5078

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Send me your car photos
for the website.
<http://www.eivmcca.org>

Christmas Party Photos (continued)

