



VALVE CLATTER

Northern Virginia Regional Group



THE EARLY FORD V-8 CLUB OF AMERICA
Regional Group 96

Volume XXIII, No. 11

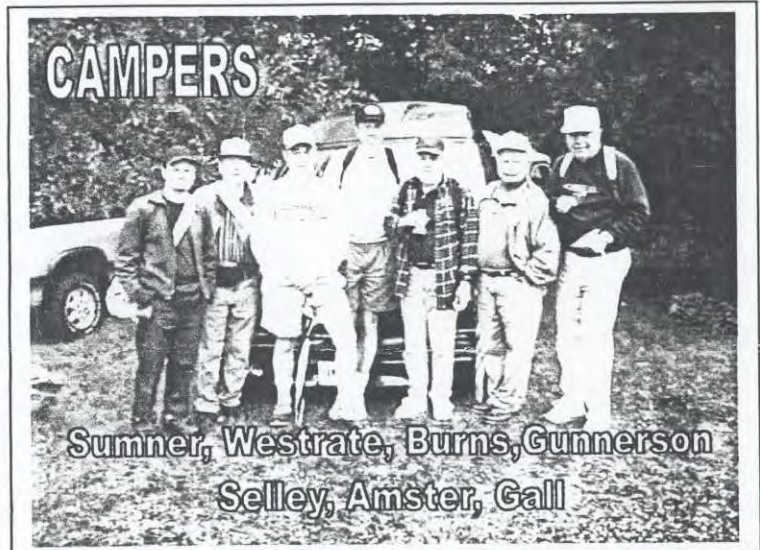
November 2000

Cliff Green, Editor

HERSHEY 2000 RECOLLECTIONS -

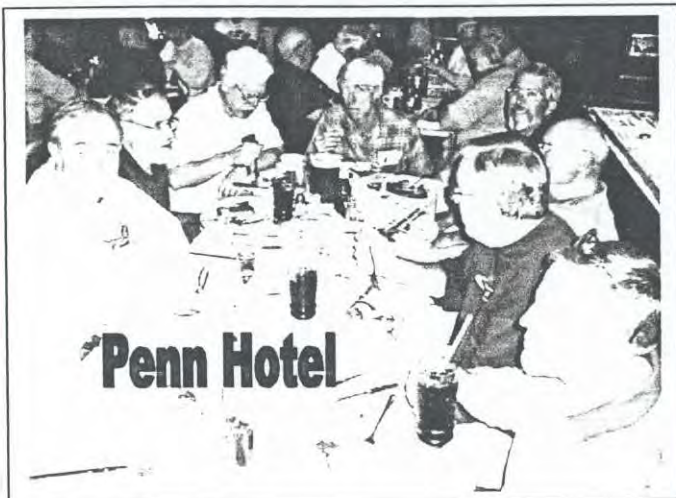
Dave Gunnarson

This was the first year for me to attend Hershey for more than a very long day trip. Usually I get up very early in the morning, arrive at Hershey at 7:30 am, walk all day, and drive home totally exhausted. This year I was able to rise at a very reasonable hour and the commute was less than a five minute walk all thanks to the veteran Northern Virginia Regional Group camping crew who came early and staked a wonderful lake side tree-shaded green grass spot. I had just purchased a 1999 Ford conversion van and this was my first long distance trip with it. It came in handy transporting everyone to diner at the Penn Hotel and the Hershey Hotel for the Blackhawk show car review. Everyone seemed to appreciate the comfort as compared to the prior mode of transport in the bed of Cliff's pickup.



CAMPERS

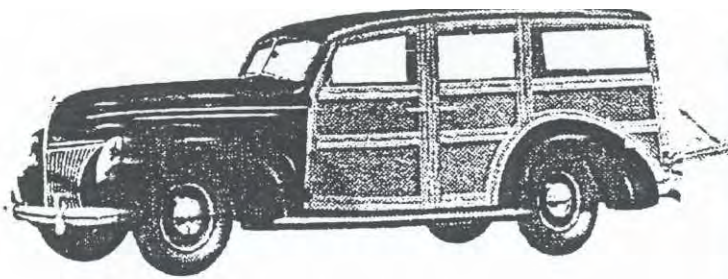
Sumner, Westrate, Burns, Gunnerson
Selley, Amster, Gall



Penn Hotel

The very first new Hershey experience for me was the Penn Hotel for dinner. I don't know for certain, but I'll bet it was in business before Henry Ford got around to making the flathead engine and the building has a certain Rouge class ambience to it. The food was great, portions generous and prices very reasonable. Double pork chops one night and prime rib the next - who said camping had to be a hardship?! About 20 early Ford folks were around the table and the beer and talk flowed freely.

Afterwards we returned to the campsite and walked over to the car corral with flashlights in hand for a review of the vehicles on display. No trucks, but lots of good-looking cars. Car coral prices seemed high on some cars
(Continued Page 3)



UP FRONT With the President

November 2000

Happy Halloween! The fall weather has been beautiful, and everyone returned safely from Hershey. It was a very nice event this year, with the exception of the temporary yellow field that was renamed the lemon field by the vendors because of the mud. Nonetheless, there were treasures to be found in the mud, as **Eric Sumner** found a great steering column that he had to carry out of that mess.

The campers from the club lucked out with the same site as last year, thanks to **Cliff Green** and **Hank Amster** going up a day early to close the deal. Be sure to come to the next club meeting at Nottoway and see the Hershey slide show and share the annual show stories of who found what and who didn't.

We all had a very nice time at the last meeting listening to the presentation by Pete Daniel on the history of the South in the 50s and how the automobile fit into the scheme of things. I thought it was interesting to learn a little about the NASCAR early years and his theory that the boys (and a few girls) who left the farm for inside city jobs needed to blow off a little steam on the weekends, and they turned to racing cars for this outlet. Sounds a little close to home, doesn't it?

The rough and tumble early days of these races were highlighted by his description of heavy drinking and other excesses, and he quoted one driver as saying that "he drove the straight-aways and Lord Calvert took it through the turns"! Not so today, with super high speeds and the high tech competition of NASCAR. **Bill Simons'** ride in a NASCAR car last spring at Charlotte must be even more meaningful to him now.

Please thank **Von Hardesty** for arranging Mr. Daniel's presentation and **Wendy** and **Steve Piper** for their wonderful refreshments, including ice cream! I am glad that so many spouses could join us, and we trust that you had a good time.

Don't forget that the Holiday Gala is coming up, and remember---if we each do a little, together we can accomplish a lot.

Dave

REFLECTIONS (cont.)

and low on others and I couldn't figure it out. It was an interesting experience to cruise the car coral at night that saved time during the day for parts hunting.

I didn't have much luck finding truck parts in the Chocolate field on Thursday but hit pay dirt in the White field on Friday. I was able to find a fully restored parking brake handle assembly with the correct two-tone nickel finish and a very nice sheet metal transmission cover. I left behind a NOS headlight bucket that I should have purchased but my big find was a 1935 Ford truck dealers showroom album in very good condition for a reasonable price.

The blue and yellow fields were a mess with lots of mud and I felt bad for the dealers there. The weather was always threatening but it never rained during the day. This



probably kept quite a few people away and the mud certainly kept everyone out of the new yellow field.

With only a short walk back to the campsite, it was easy to unload purchases and start out again light and empty. At the end of the day we would have a short show and tell sessions and it was fun to see what everyone had found. I certainly will try to make the camping a tradition for all my future Hershey trips and would recommend it to anyone who wants to have a good time.

MY HERSHEY EXPERIENCE -Mike Kearney

Bad news - It was cold on Friday! The yellow field was a disaster! The white field was too long! Got a couple of good parts for my Pontiac (but had to pay too much for them!).

Good news - had a handicapped electric cart (this is the only way to cover Hershey!) Of course, the price you personally pay to get the handicapped sticker is not worth it!!!. Was able to sneak my car hauling trailer into the car coral for loading my car ! Did not sell Judi's 34 Terriplane (good for her, bad for me) Saw several of the Ford club member in the car corral (all were in great form). **Dave Blum** did not buy another car (neither did I). Made it home in one piece!!

Actually, the best way to go to Hershey (I think) is to drive a older car that you do not really want to sell (put a very high price on it) and buy a space in the car corral. This way you have a excellent place to park and do not have to walk very far to all things and maybe if you are lucky, someone will pay a ridiculous price for the car you brought and you will have to sell it!!!!

MORE HERSHEY - Editor

Because of the uncertainty of the camp site, even after an advance party scouted the area two weeks prior to THE EVENT, it was decided that Green and Amster would go up on Tuesday and secure the camping area. No sweat...the secluded area that we had last year by the farm pond, with a hill blocking the traffic noise, was claimed! Mike Gall was already there in his mini-motor home. The weather was shorts and T-shirts.

After establishing camp, the three of us ventured into the new "Blue Field" a mere 100 yards away. The vendors were scattered, however "The early bird ..." proved to be true, but there was not much bargaining room as the word was "maybe later in the week" We saw several cars that would be snapped up and resold in another field. Tuesday night the three of us eat at the Hotel Penn. Ron and Fey, the owners, were glad to see us and made a reservation for 14 for the next night.

Another beautiful day on Wednesday. - actually it was hot! **Tommy Lumpkin** was pestered at his vendor's space and **Jerry Hill** provided a rest stop at his space. I made my "find" that afternoon: 18 Ford dealer film strips with records in their shipping boxes, three still sealed. I returned to buy them after finding a projector and screen for \$25 from another vendor. I bought a wagon for my Grandson to haul the loot back to the site. **Mike Gall** bought a loose-leaf binder with the first five years of the V8 TIMES - Volume 1, No. 1 being just one page! Upon arriving we were greeted by fellow campers **Burns, Sumner, Gunnarson,** and El Presidente **Westrate**. Our site was further embellished with a dinning table and canopy courtesy of Dave Gunnarson. The favorite part of the day commenced with drinks, munchies and show and tell of the goodies purchased. The late afternoon weather was extraordinary, but an eye was on the developing storm visible on the horizon. We all piled into Dave's seven-passenger conversion van for the short trip to the Penn Hotel. The weather was building! Our table that night included **John Ryan, Ray Kunsman, Bill Fox** and son Billy, **Bill Simons, Hank Dubois, Dave Blum,** and **Von Hardesty**. Severe weather warnings were now flashing across the bottom of the TV screen and the locals were informing us how close the 60 mph winds and ¼ inch hail were - just down the road. I could visualize the flea market and our tent as rain was reported outside! Well, another pitcher of beer, please! When our group left the Hotel Penn after another huge, delicious meal and a reservation for the following night secured, the rain had stopped!! We had dodged a bullet!
(continued page 4)

MORE (continued)

The line of storms had passed just North of Hershey. Back at the site we discovered that the window flaps on the tent had been left open (Solley never would have let this happen!) and Amster's bedding was soaked. Gall's windows were open too and his literature was rained on! Ray Kunsman came to Hanks rescue inviting him to spend the night at his motel in the spare bed. It was still pleasant enough that the whole group walked to the car Carroll and inspected the cars – even the stars were visible. Later that night, it rained again. This spelled doom for the Yellow field!

Thursday cleared up with bright sun. The Chocolate, White Fields were negotiated easily as they had been prepared over the years for a rain event. The Blue Field was passable, however the Yellow was a disaster. The word was passed not to even try to go over there, thus the vendors received little traffic and those that ventured out were mired down in the mud. I did not attempt the Yellow until Friday and it was a sad sight. Rumors were that the AACA refunded the vendors rent. I imagine that the farm tractors made a fortune pulling every one out. It was the worst possible conditions.

Jeanette Moore and Barry Hall joined us at the Penn Hotel. Jeanette insisted that we follow them to the Hershey Lodge, where they were staying, to see the some of the Blackhawk collection displayed for sale in the convention center. About 30 cars were shown from Dutsenburgs to Bugartti's, some priced at over one Mil!

Friday the weather was noticeably cooler. Some of our RG's volunteered hours at the National V8 booth to recruit new members and promote the club. Friday was my fourth night at the Penn Hotel – **Bruce Mazzie** joined us.

Saturday morning the die hards: Green, Burns, Westrate and Sumner watched the parade of cars driving onto the show field. After the tents dried out, we packed up and looked forward to next year – THERE IS NOTHING LIKE IT!

ON THE ROAD HOME –Ray Kunsman

This follows up my earlier advice on the old car junkyard in Mineral, Va., that I discovered on my way home from Hershey. Today I called the lady whose husband has inherited the place from his recently deceased father. Net, net, the lady told me that the place isn't open regularly, but stuff is for sale on the weekends, by appointment.

I think what she was trying to say was that her husband works during the week, but is willing to sell stuff on the weekends. The lady was very nice, sounded youngish, and generally was very accommodating. She did say that her husband was interested in Fords, but I didn't press her as to what kind.

As I said in my earlier note, I saw a complete 46/7/8 Mercury coupe and a 42-7 Ford Pick-up grill / fenders,

and my "source" said that there was a lot of old cars in the back fields. (make and condition unknown)

The guy's last name is Walker. (I didn't get his first name) The dead father's name was Earl 'Poke' Walker. The lady I talked with was Mrs. Walker (the son's wife) Their telephone # is: (540) 967 3967. The location of the place is at the junction of Rts. 522 and 33. Mineral is SW of Fredericksburg; I'd guess about 70 miles from Fairfax Station, (as the crow flies). With a deal like this it will be either a "boom" or a "bust". For this lead I get first call on all '40 Columbias, skirts, bumpers, and convertibles! Let me know when / if you go.

Via email to Editor

IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to learn that long time NVRG member Gilbert Williams died the end of October. He was the proud owner of a 1939 pickup and a 1929 roadster pickup that he enjoyed driving to local cars shows. The club extends condolences to his wife Kathryn and family – he will be missed.

BY-LAW CHANGES

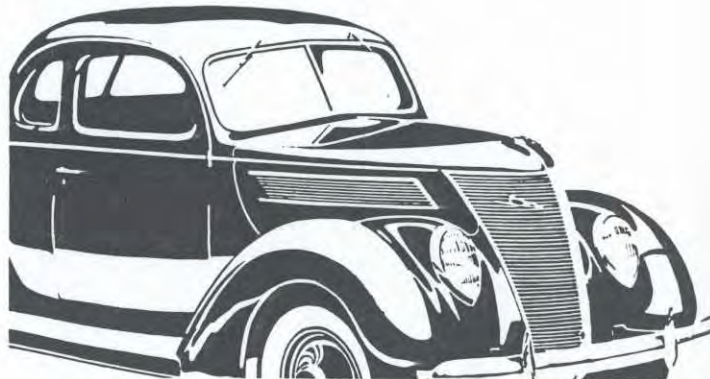
The Board of Directors has reviewed the By-laws of the club and has assigned **John Girman** to come up with revisions to simplify this document. The draft is expected to be ready by February for the Board. Changes require a vote of the membership prior to implication.

CLUB LOGO SHIRTS AVAILABLE

Vice President **Blum** reminds members that he has golf shirts with the club logo in blue w/o pocket and white w/ pocket for sale. The blue are large and white XL for \$25 & \$29. Also, 14 red club hats remain at \$7. Interest has been shown for a club sweat shirt and T-shirts. Orders will be taken after the first of the year.

TOURS FOR 2001

Looking ahead: a tour is being created to view a military collection of tanks, half-tracks, ton and halves, over 100 in all with a restoration shop; tour of the new DIA training facility, perhaps a tour of the CIA museum. **Von Hardesty** seeks input from members on ideas that would make a tour for the club.





Lt - Rt Jerry Hill's '40 Mercury - Green, Hill, Amster, Hardin
Bob Wild inspects flathead.

Westrate selects tools with Sumner, Gall, Gunnerson, Burns, Vendor
Alan and Joan Whelihan



Well, it just goes to show the power of prayer by half a million old car zealots – another great Hershey Show. The weathermen's dire predictions proved unfounded and we escaped with only one late day rain on Wednesday. The rest of the week was more than acceptable to most of us diehards in attendance this year.

NVRGers were everywhere it seemed and in great numbers. Lots of great camaraderie by friends who share this strange obsession with old cars. There were very few early V8s for sale in the car corral compared to last year, and certainly fewer SOLD signs even though the car corral was sold out well in advance. Lots of other great cars though – there was a 20s era Bentley custom-bodied speedster that looked like it could give the mighty Mercers a run for their money, and some old high-wheeled buggy that was everywhere, unmuffled and spewing smoke at everyone. One car I especially liked was a primo red '64 Ford Galaxie XL with 4-speed and a 427 engine that made me pause to reflect on my own similar machine long ago.

There were more crab cakes for sale than hot dogs this year – do you think this is a trend? The new Yellow field, which replaced the old Green field, was messy before the one rain and unnavigable after the rain. Whoever decided to use a bottomland adjacent to a creek for a swap meet must have been a politician not a planner. Rumor has it that both union and non-union contractors are hotly competing for the multi-million dollar contract to pave the Hershey fields so maybe next year all the mud we are so fond of will be a memory.

Show day was spectacular. Beautiful fall weather, yellow honey locust leaves falling like rain across the stadium parking lot and lots of carefully tended automobiles gleaming in the sun. There was a huge turnout of EFV8s this year – 47 were registered, and they really got a lot of attention by the crowds. One '39 sedan with Hawaii plates came onto the field with all the typical era accessories carrying a bunch of era old fogies that were obviously having a great time with no regard for being judged. What the heck – they got a great parking place on the field.

Prices continue to escalate at an alarming rate at Hershey, way beyond any other cost of living increases. Parking was \$8-\$10 per day in a slippery cow pasture, motels in Harrisburg were anywhere from \$95 to \$125 for a modest room, and sausage sandwiches were typically \$6. If the fields are paved you can bet who will be paying for the new facilities next year. But you know what? We'll all be there anyway.

One option to the high cost of motels is camping. I know be there done that, but some folks are willing to endure lines for the showers to save four or five hundred bucks that can be used for other things like car parts. And so it was that my son and his wife and I spent the week at the KOA campground near Hershey in a modern aluminum pop-up camper this year. Comments? It wasn't bad, it was cheap, and I now have a renewed appreciation for the folks who rose by the light of the moon to go to the little house with the moon on a frosty, cold night. Anyway it was a far cry from the old pup tent we used to erect on the frozen tundra of High Meadow Campground long long ago.

The drive home on Sunday down beautiful Rt. 15 was a perfect way to end a week at Hershey. It would have been better had I not commented that despite the ongoing controversy about tire failures we had not seen one motorist with a flat the whole trip. You guessed it – not 30 minutes later we had a blow out on our new trailer. Fortunately I had a lot of tools because not only did the trailer's lug wrench not fit the spares lugs, but also the trailer jack broke. Can't we make anything right in this country anymore? Oh well, never get too complacent because God loves to play jokes.

Remember, it's only six months to Spring Charlotte. Over & Out.

NVRG ANNUAL GALA
CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

*Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Rd, Fairfax, Va.
Cocktails beginning at 7 pm, Dinner at 8 pm*

\$25 per person- attendance limited to 50 reservations

For your dinning pleasure.

Salad of the Manor

Choice of:

8oz Filet Mignon drizzled with Brandy Sauce

*Chicken Alexander - a boneless Chicken Breast topped with a Shallot
and Mushroom White Wine Sauce*

Choice of Dessert

Chocolate Cream Pie or Raspberry Sherbet

RSVP by November 26th to Hank Amster 703-753-9575

Each person desiring a gift is asked to bring a wrapped auto related present for our traditional NVRG gift exchange



EASTERN NATIONAL HOST HOTEL

If you are considering going to the Eastern National Meet in Westbrook, Conn., June 4-7, than you should make a reservation at the host hotel ASAP. I have the brochure for the Water's Edge Resort and it looks grand - right on Long Island Sound. The special price block of rooms are filled up - rate is now \$119/night for the few remaining. Call 860-399-5901 so you don't miss out. I also have the list of nearby motels and B&B's.

WESTERN NATIONAL?

Looks like there will be a Western Meet in 2001! A group (not an RG) has been formed to put on a meet at the Marriott at Prismo Beach, Calif (between LA and SD), but needs the sanction of the National to hold a concourse. The National Board is meeting Oct 28th and will consider this proposal.

OCTOBER MEETING NOTES *Von Hardesty*

The Northern Virginia Chapter set aside the October meeting for a special guest lecture by author Pete Daniel on the early days of NASCAR and the shifting social scene in the American South following World War II. Daniel, a curator at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, gave a vivid lecture on the many changes of that era, as told in his new book *Lost Revolutions: The South in the 1950s*. The pioneers of NASCAR, as Daniel portrayed them in a series of fascinating anecdotes and stories, were often veteran whisky runners -- often with a preference for Ford V8s. During the Fifties over seven million people of all races were displaced from their farms, crowding Southern cities, giving birth to Rock music, and setting up the stock car racing circuit.

The first generation of NASCAR drivers, as portrayed by Daniel, were rowdy, hard drinking, and rebellious. Daniel recaptured their careers in a series of dramatic stories, allowing everyone to see the wild character of NASCAR in its first years. Around these NASCAR pioneers, of course, Southern society itself was changing, rapidly and irreversibly. Ahead were the turbulent years of the civil rights movement and the extraordinary impact of Southern musicians such as Elvis Presley. Daniel also revealed that the old whisky runners proved to be talented mechanics with a flair for building fast cars with special suspensions to handle the heavy tanks of illegal liquor. These skills, he argued, were eventually transferred over to the new world of NASCAR. The saga of NASCAR included whites and blacks, men and women -- all characterized by an independent style that set them apart. In time, as Daniel pointed out, NASCAR would be tamed and transformed into the mega sport it is today.

Hank Dubois is to be thanked for arranging this special lecture. **Steve and Windy Pieper** set a wonderful table of desserts and ice cream to make the event a memorable evening.



Ken & Mary Brown
7030 Upland Ridge Rd.
Adamstown, Md. 21170
301-644-1787
kenmbrown@aol.com
1942 S/D station Wagon

Ken Brown is a welcome addition to our RG. He is a very active member: past president of the Volunteer Rg, Master Judge of woodies and is presently writing the 1941-48 restoration guide.

Thomas & Joyce Mason
6517 Fairland Street
Alexandria, Va 22312
703-354-5490 1948 Merc

V8 FORUM *Email from Jerry Windle*

Please visit the Club website and go to the new V-8 FORUM. This is an interactive area where visitors can leave questions and others will be able to see the questions as well as the answers. This is a FREE service provided by BRAVENET and as such you will see some advertising. Anyway, check it out and see if it works like it's supposed to. Think this will be a great addition.

2000 JUDGES PATCHES

I have contacted the Charlotte meet chairman as to the where abouts of the 2000 rocker patches that are given to the judges. They were not available at the met due to supplier problems. It seems this has been overlooked and I shall be informed of the situation -- stay tuned, judges.

WANTED '46-'48 Transmission Hank 703-476-6919

CONGRATULATIONS

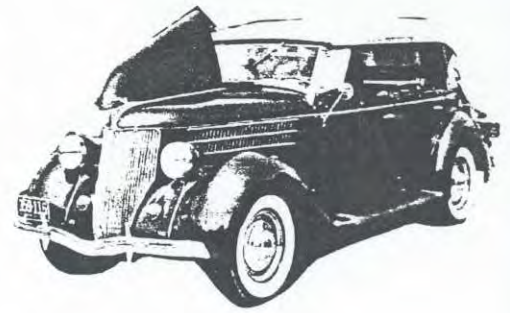
Jeanette Moore-Hall was overlooked as she also received a Grand National First with her 1950 Custom Tudor at the AACA Grand National at Montoursville, Pa. last July. The car also received it's 24th preseveration award at Hershey.



Jeanette and Barry are trailering the '50 to Cape Canaveral, Florida this month for an expected 25th award. Look for this perfect V8 to be featured in the *V8 TIMES*



V8 CALENDAR NVRG



NOVEMBER

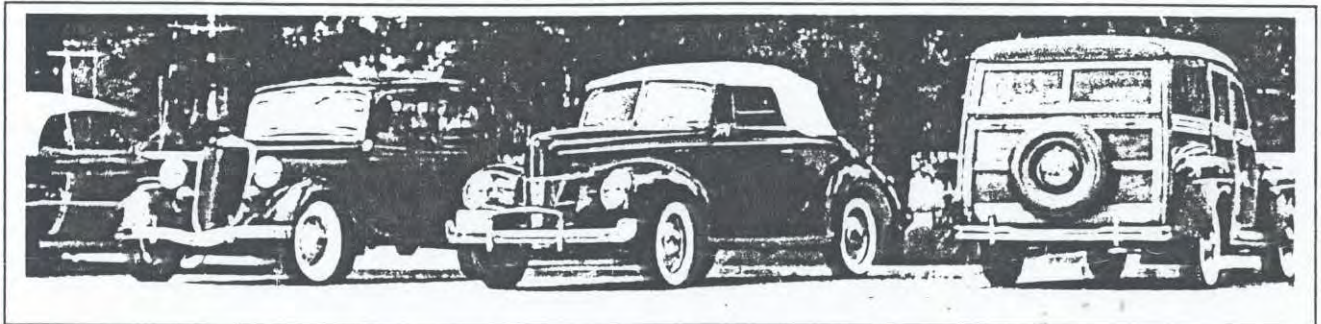
- 14 **NVRG Monthly meeting.** Program: slide show of Hershey and Central National Meet
Refreshments: **Cliff Green**
- 28 **NVRG Board Meeting**

No tour scheduled for November

DECEMBER

- 2 **NVRG Christmas Party,** Country Club of Fairfax, Ox Road, Fairfax. 7pm

No monthly meeting or Board of Directors meeting in December



NOVEMBER 14TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PRESENTATION OF DIGITAL PICTURES TAKEN AT HERSHEY 2000. With the use of a digital camera and a power point projector, the club will now be able to view images at no cost. The old method required the purchase of film and developing costs at around \$50 to show the slides!

SLIDES AND TALK OF THE 2000 CENTRAL V8 MEET IN MINNESOTA. Bill Tindall will talk about his experiences at the Central meet



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL GROUP**



President: Dave Westrate....620-9597

Vice President: **David Blum** 281-1654
Secretary: **Tom Shaw** 771-9374
Treasurer: **Hank Amster** 753-9575
Membership: **Bill Simons** 536-3648
Tours: **Von Hardesty/Steve Pieper** 276- 7579

Programs: **Hank Dubois** 476-6919
Property: **David Blum** 281-1654
Activities: **John Girman** 242-1459
Refreshments: **Bill Selley** 679-9462
Newsletter: **Cliff Green** 426-2662

Monthly general membership meetings are usually held at 7:30, the *second Tuesday* of each month , in historic Hunter House, located adjacent to the tennis courts, Nottoway Park, Court House Road, Vienna, Virginia. Check the newsletter for occasional alternates sites. **SEE YOU THERE**



**Regional Group 96
Early Ford V8 Club
Post Office Box 1195
Vienna, Virginia, 22183**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

*Cliff & Sandra Green
6214 Militia Court
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