



# VALVE CLATTER

Northern  
Virginia  
Regional  
Group



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

Volume XXIII, No. 12

December 2000

Cliff Green, Editor

### NVRG CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sold out! The NVRG popular Christmas party at the Country Club of Fairfax was filled with festive V8'ers in their holiday finest. The room was decorated in the season plus beautiful white poinsettia centerpieces on each table. The presents were piled high under the tree while merriment was consumed prior to the 8:00 sitting. The room atmosphere was charged with the arrival of **Charlie Morrison** in his royal Scottish regalar complete with kilt. Charlie gave the blessing with his typical V8 embellishment.

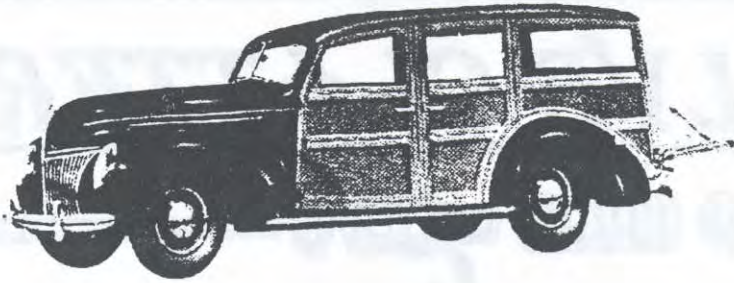
The food was outstanding – comments from the members praised the presentation, quantity and taste. The service couldn't have been better – kudos to the CCF staff and to **Sandra Green** who insisted nothing but the best.



President-for-Life **Dave Westrate** introduced the new President for 2001, **Hank Dubois** and passed the gavel. Hank in turn praised Dave for his three years at the helm and presented him a token gift of a large Ford woody cookie jar. The members recognized David for his service and dedication to the Club.

Founding member **Mike Gall** mc'ed the event that everyone was waiting for – The Gift Exchange! But first, the door prizes jackets provided by a supplier for Jerry's Ford (arranged by **Dave Blum**), were given out to the lucky members **Buzzy Potter**, **Sandra Green** and **John Girman**. Vern Parker of Washington Times fame was the first to pick a gift, thus last to exchange, and the won the table center piece as well – his name is now "Clean up" Parker! The gifts this year were of exceptional quality, such that most members were happy with the gift that they chose. However, several items were exchanged multiple times, including a pair of V8 times binders, a large framed lithograph and a set of picnic china. There is more thought given to the gifts for the exchange every year. Some people keep and eye out all year for that unusual auto related item to wrap for our party.

So, another successful, happy V8 occasion to start the holiday season and to end the year 2000 for the club. Needless to say, a wonderful time was had by all.



## UP FRONT With the President



### DECEMBER 2000

Well, we will have a new President of the club in January (possibly before our nation has one!). **Henry Dubois** has been elected as our new leader. Congratulations to Hank and new first lady, **Cindy**! We wish them well as they guide us down the road. **Barbara** and I wish to thank all of you for your support and kindness over the past years, and I look forward to contributing on the Board of Directors in any way I can. I must say that I have greatly enjoyed working with all of the club members and attending all of the V-8 related events. Thank you.

I want to especially recognize **Dave Blum**, who has decided to retire from the Board of Directors. David's tireless work over many years has been critical to the success of the club. In addition to his wise counsel and steady hand, he has always provided logistical support to the club for special transportation needs and in several other areas. He is special and, thankfully, we will still enjoy his company at club events. **Norma**, thank you also for your contributions and support of David's efforts and our club.

**Dave Gunnarson** has been added to the Board, and we look forward to working with him in the future. Congratulations, Dave, and we wish you well.

**Hank Dubois** has his hands full! Not only is he our next 'President for Life', but he has two 35 Fords scattered in pieces all over his garage, and he just bought a '39 Deluxe Station Wagon to add to the collection. **Eric Sumner** and I went with him to New Jersey to inspect the newest club woodie just after Thanksgiving. We left in the dark and returned home in the dark. We had a good day, even though it was a busy one. I did not think **Cindy** would let him back in the house, but she did. Thank goodness! Hank thinks he is retired, but it seems to me that he won't get much extra sleep.

Well, I wish you all the best and, once again, thanks for all of your good humor and support. Remember, if we all do a little, together we can accomplish a lot!

Happy Holidays!

# 1946 Ford has served original owner for 54 years but the time has come

From coast to coast and border to border Robert Stewart has been just about everywhere in his 1946 Ford Super Deluxe two-door sedan.

When he wasn't crisscrossing this country he took his trusty Ford to Okinawa and Japan, all the while keeping the Ford in daily service.

The saga of this man and his machine begins in Holyoke, Mass., where Mr. Stewart had been assigned to the Air Transport Command at Westover Air Force Base.

Like everyone else in post-World War II America he was searching for a new set of wheels. He was visiting the Charles E. Godere Ford dealership in Holyoke in February 1947 when lady luck smiled on him.

An elderly woman had ordered a maroon Super Deluxe two-door sedan. However, when it arrived at the dealership she changed her mind.

Upon hearing the news, Mr. Stewart reached for his checkbook, and said, "I'll take it."

Although the base price was \$1,260 he paid \$1,535, because the car had a few accessories and, after all, it was postwar America. He still has the receipt from the dealer dated Feb. 17, 1947, showing Capt. Robert Stewart had paid in full.

Never did he think he would still be driving the same car almost 54 years later.

Within a week the Air Force transferred him to Berlin. Before leaving he found a friendly Massa-

chusetts farmer who would rent him space for \$100 in his barn for 2½ years.

"We pushed the cow out and drove the Ford in," Mr. Stewart relates. He then drained all the fluids, sealed the interior of his brand new car and "pickled the engine."

Instead of going home after his tour of duty in Germany, he went to the Azores.

Eventually, he got back to the United States assigned to an air base in Orlando, Fla.

Getting the Ford out of mothballs Mr. Stewart hitched up a luggage trailer to haul all his worldly belongings and drove to his new home.

Remember, this was accomplished before President Eisenhower started the Interstate highway system.

The 114-inch wheelbase gave a smooth ride.

All of Mr. Stewart's cars are equipped with both trailer hitches and tow bars. During his many moves he has towed some with the others or switched halfway depending on the circumstances.

When the military sent him to Seattle so he could ship out for Okinawa, he took the Ford along because it had proved its trustworthiness.

After driving around the few unimproved roads on Okinawa awhile, Mr. Stewart's next assignment was Japan. The Ford made that trip on a Navy LST.

During all his travels, Mr. Stewart maintained his Ford keeping up with all the oil changes. With a Sears Roebuck charge account with the San Francisco office, parcel post delivery of spare parts was possible wherever he went.

Probably the worst treatment the car ever received was when it was shipped back across the Pacific to Oakland, Calif. Mr. Stewart says his car was knocked around, dented and damaged. He suspects someone slept in it from the debris left behind and a cigarette hole burned in the upholstery.

He had the well-traveled Ford trucked to Tucumcari, N.M., and later drove it to Amarillo, Texas. While there, he had the 239.4-cubic-inch flathead V-8 rebuilt.

With 25 years in the Air Force, he retired in 1966 and moved to Falls Church.

After 200,000 miles the old Ford was tired. Mr. Stewart put the 3,190-pound car on blocks for the next 13 years.

Not one to leave an old friend in distress, in 1978 Mr. Stewart took his Ford apart. "It's been a mechanical marvel," he said.

Reupholstering, rechroming, repainting and rebuilding took place before the final reassembling.

Throughout the years Mr. Stewart has always found needed parts easy to find through a couple of New York suppliers. "I can get almost any part overnight," he said. "Besides, they also dispense technical advice.

"This has been the only car that went in any weather," Mr. Stewart said. Ford built 163,370 cars like Mr. Stewart's, but it's doubtful that many achieved 222,000 miles and are still being used on a daily basis.

"It has been good transportation,"



Mr. Stewart said. "All you have to do is keep fixing things when they break to keep on going." He's been doing that for more than half a century.

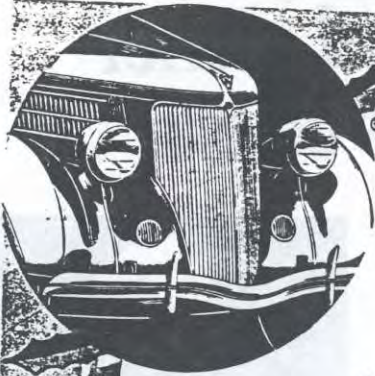
The rebuilt 100-horsepower flat-head V-8 engine still runs strong, although it's harder to start than in the past. Mr. Stewart finds that since a stroke Oct. 2, 1999, he has difficulty maintaining his friendly old Ford.

"I've had to learn to talk, walk, and swallow again," Mr. Stewart explains, and it's a struggle to keep his Ford in ready-to-go condition.

It's always difficult to part company with a friend who has been with you through thick and thin, but in your heart you know when the time has come.

Mr. Stewart for years has fought off the hot rodders who wanted to cut up his Ford. He has found a young man in Herndon, Kenneth E. Summer, who will appreciate the Ford for what it's worth and will take appropriate care of his vehicle. Earlier this week Mr. Summer picked up the Ford and Mr. Stewart gave him about 50 boxes of spare parts as well. "He'd better take good care of that Ford," Mr. Stewart ruminates, "because it's the best car I ever had."

The Washington Times



**A GIFT  
for the CAR  
is A GIFT for the  
ENTIRE FAMILY**

**LICENSE  
FRAMES**

Chrome-plated  
tubing, adjustable



**VANITY  
MIRROR**

Attractive oval de-  
sign, with rounded  
edge. Fits on  
sun visor



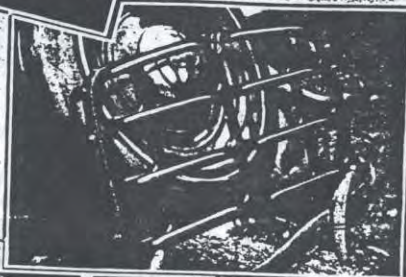
**MIRROR CLOCK**-pull  
winding type. 90-day guarantee.  
Built into highly-polished plate  
glass mirror. 30-hour, or eight day.



**SPOTLIGHT**-Chrome-  
plate finish. Control han-  
dle inside, readily reached  
by driver. Added safety  
for night driving.

**LUGGAGE  
CARRIER**

Quickly attached.  
Folds up, out-of-the-  
way. To use, simply  
pull downward.  
Does not interfere  
with access to spare.



**WINDSHIELD  
DEFROSTER**

Attaches to instru-  
ment panel. Directs  
warm air over wind-  
shield in driver's  
range of vision.  
Eliminates frosted  
windshields.



**RADIATOR SHIELD**-Custom-built for the  
Ford V-8. Snap buttons provide quick adjustment  
for various temperatures. Heavy, high quality, water-  
proof material. Quickly installed or removed.



**CUSTOM-BUILT FOR THE FORD V-8**

# A V-8 CHRISTMAS DREAM

'T'was the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

And all of our members were tucked in their beds, while visions of V-8s drove through their heads.

Each one had a dream and they hoped it came true, to have a V-8 and a spare part or two.

They each hung their stocking and hoped for some goodies, for all their V-8s, including the Woodies.



I had just hopped in bed, all cozy and warm and figured I'd sleep til 9 in the morn.

All of a sudden, I heard all this clatter, and I jumped to the window to see what was the matter.

You'll never believe this but it really is true, such a sight for sore eyes, boy, what a view!!

A parade of V-8s, all models, all colors, coming down from the sky, with that jolly good feller.

He was a good driver, he sure could shift quick, He wore a blue V-8 suit but I knew he was St. Nick.

He had lots of drivers in all those V-8s, all good club members and some had their mates.

They pulled up to the tree which was all brightly lit, and all of this time, I'm having a fit.



He got out of his coupe and opened the trunk, pulled out some clock mirrors and an assortment of "junk."

Fenders and running boards and aluminum heads, and early low-necked fuel pumps – what more can be said.

Grilles and radiators, all "new old stock," a radio, some bumpers and a spare tire lock.

I always thought Santa's suit had to red, but when he drove his V-8 it's Ford Blue instead.

He had T-shirts for the kids with a Ford on the back, and caps for the fellas came out of his sack.

And what do you think he had for the wives while the guys at the flea markets are making those buys?

He had tickets for tours and tickets for shows and trips to the malls for lots of free clothes.

There were even some PC's all shiny and new, just for the folks who write your newsletters for you.

I stood there and watched as they got ready to leave, he lined up those Fords, just as nice as you please.

Then they started their engines and took off with a roar, each has his foot right down to the floor.

As they flew through the night, I could hear old Nick say, "On Roadster, on Phaeton, on Club Cabriolet, on Vickie, on Woodie, on 5-Window Coupe, on Tudor, on Fordor," as they all took a loop.



"On Pickup, on Sedan Delivery on Convertible Sedan," what a sight to behold for a V-8 fan.

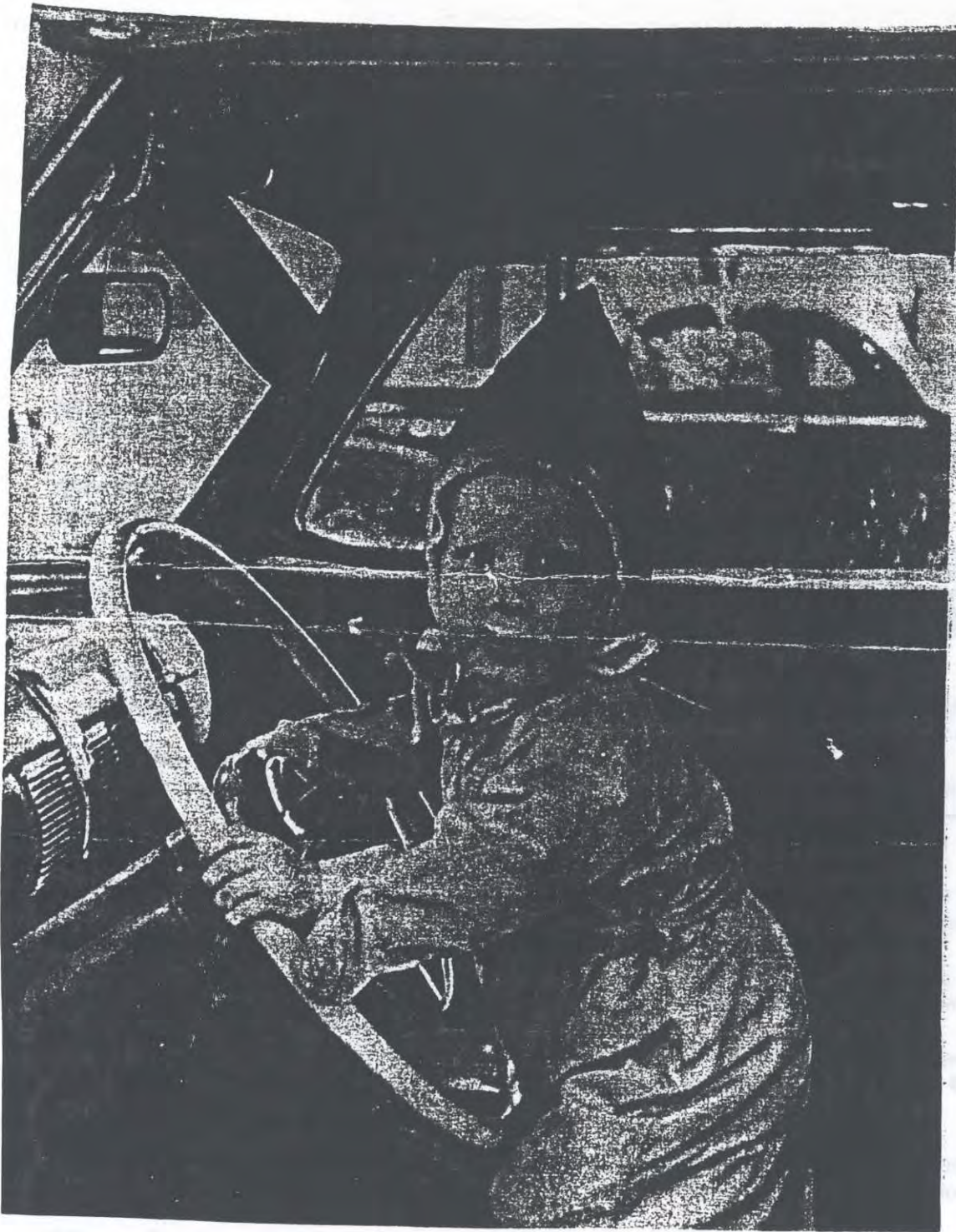
I could hear Santa shout as they drove out of sight,

**"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT !!**

(courtesy of *THE GREYHOUND EXPRESS*, the newsletter of the Lone Star Regional Group, Texas)

**MYSTERY**  
**MEMBER FOR**  
**DECEMBER**

Who is this young driver in the neat convertible? Note the 1940 coupe in the background. See page 8 for the answer.



***THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WISH EACH AND  
EVERY MEMBER A HAPPY HOLIDAY AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR***

## *Introducing the*

# World Wide Web's Resources for the Early Ford V8 Enthusiast

By *Bill Larson*

If you have a computer and Internet access, there are web sites that can help you in your searches for cars, parts, services, and answers to questions. My introduction to the Early Ford V8 Club came by way of a chance visit to [www.mafca.com](http://www.mafca.com), the Model A Ford Club of America web site. A note on one of their bulletin boards led me to [www.earlyfordv8.org/](http://www.earlyfordv8.org/), the home page of the Early Ford V8 Club of America. If you have not visited the site, you are missing some useful information sources including a bulletin board upon which you can post requests to buy, to sell, for information and obtain e-mail responses to your questions, etc. (As is the case for all things free, be skeptical of some of the answers you get. Some are dead wrong. I like to filter out the truth as best I can by polling several sites and with the same question and comparing answers). The site also has links to other sites of interest plus classifieds ( from V8 Times), parts and suppliers references( some of which I list herein), and information on the Early Ford Foundation.

One of the most active sites is the Early Ford forum, [www.fordbarn.com/earlyv8/forum02/index](http://www.fordbarn.com/earlyv8/forum02/index), which is an open bulletin board. There are new postings almost daily and one can search the long Question & Answer list for things in your interest. This forum, note the 02 in the address, is from November 1998 to the present. Forum 01 which was started in February 1998 is still getting follow-on responses to questions listed over 2 years ago. The entries contain a most fascinating range of questions and buy & sell offers. There seem to be people sitting on the site daily to check what's new and to respond to it.

I list below some of the sites I've found with Early Ford V8 content: try 'em( Copy them exactly as printed below including all the punctuation)

<http://www.btc-bci.com/~billben/flathead.htm> This site has generated a "Favorites" entry in my Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 browser ( A "Bookmark" in Netscape parlance) labeled "Techno-Source for the

32 to 53 Ford Flathead". It contains a list of topics, each of which is a gathering of responses to questions on that topic.

<http://www.flatheads.net/> A Question & Answer forum.

<http://www.classic-cars-caam.com/> Classified ads for classic cars for sale & cars wanted.

<http://www.motorlit.com/classicnet/index> Primarily a source of automobile books & literature.

<http://www.dennis-carpenter.com/> A full set of Dennis Carpenter catalogs, with online ordering.

<http://www.cgfordparts.com/> A full catalog from C&G Ford Parts with online ordering.

<http://www.roadsters.com/welcome> Scroll down the Table of Contents and click on "Ford Flatheads" to reach <http://roadsters.com/flatheads.html> which has a long list of links to suppliers for Fords and also more Ford Flathead web sites.

<http://www.rodncustom.com/> Click on the "Flathead Fanatics" to see products for V8'ers.

<http://www.ClassiCar Flathead Forum> A bulletin board for posting questions and answers.

<http://silverstone.fortunecity.com/chicane/425/french.html>

This site is sometimes slow in loading but it contains a wealth of information, including a lot of photos, on the French flathead blocks just recently imported to the US by Hallibrand Engineering and Motor City Flathead.

I joined a free "egroup" called

<http://www.egroups.com/group/flatheadfordv8>

that has a list of over 7000 items in its e-mail database. Again its stuff for sale and stuff wanted plus inquiries about things in the '32 to '53 Ford lines. I found it a little cumbersome to get started but after signing up with my e-mail address and a password and getting confirmation of my "group membership", I can sift thru the whole database. They pledge to keep my e-mail address confidential, an important pledge.

You can spend hours surfing these sites; don't let them keep you out of the garage.

*Our Thanks to Puget Sounds RG - Washington*



## DUBOIS TAKES

### REINS

The Board of Directors has selected **Hank Dubois** to be the new president for 2001 succeeding President-for-Life **Dave Westrate**. Hank hails from Vermont and retired from the USDA in 1995. His first '35 coupe was obtained in 1987 when he joined the club. A large detached garage was finished in 1991 on his property on Ox Road in Fairfax to contain his hobby. A duplicate '35 coupe was obtained in 1998 and this month Hank will be bring home a 1939 woody - he is a true V8'er. Hank is the recipient of the Dick Lebkicker Award for 2000 speaking for his devotion to the club and the hobby. Congratulations Hank.

Other board moves brings **Bill Selley** to Vice President, **Steve Pieper** to programs and new member **Dave Gunnarson** to Property/refreshments. **Dave Blum**, after a long tenure, retired from the Board - he will be missed for his dedication and service.

### VC PUBLICATION

The Valve Clatter (VC) is edited on a 333mh computer using a scanner and a digital camera to insert pictures. The pictures are processed (cropped, lightened, sized) and formatted in with the text. The pages are printed on one side using quality paper and are used as masters. The quality of the masters appears very good, although some photos are lighter than others. The copy is than mailed to Bill Simon's office where one of his secretaries, on his dollar, runs off copies on an expensive Xerox. Usually the first page is corrected for quality of the pictures and the remainder at that setting. Bill try's to monitor the publication as the person doing the coping changes from time to time. The problem occurs when he is gone from the office and a new person runs the VC off. This is what happened with the November issue that was printed on single pages. Many of the members received only the cover page with the others missing. The editor will strive for the best quality of photos to insert and Bill will attempt to correct his machine to produce good results. We have had good quality in the past and will work to produce it again.

Bill's office handles the address labels and receives information from the Editor and the Treasurer as to corrections. Additional copies are not available to the editor until up to a week after publication.

### FOR SALE

- ◆ 17' open car trailer. New brakes, tires and electric's. \$600 Located Ellicott City, Md. Jerry Lunt 540-667-3422
- ◆ Ford News - year 1940, missing January \$14 each. Cliff Green 703-426-2662

## NATIONAL BOARD DOINGS

- Report from Waymond Brownlee
- Web page in the works
- Club Accessories are available
- 20-25-30 year recognition pin will be available for the members to buy
- New Regional Group - RG #158 - Mojave Desert RG
- Technical Book Update
  - 1932 - Dave Rebore is working with J. Windell
  - 1933-34 Volunteers coming forth
  - 1937 - four chapters done - Dave Cole edition
  - 1938-39 - Close to being finalized
  - 1941-48 - Ken Brown editing
- Western Meet approved - Sept 17-21
- Video Program - Subject to be discontinued unless used
- National Tour pins - subject to be discontinued
- Youth Restoration Awards Program - need participants
- 1941-42 Tech Advisor - Ken Brown

### WESTERN MEET

A group of long time National members have applied to hold a National meet in Pismo Beach, Calif and has been approved by the National Board. The Hq hotel will Be the Best Western Shore Cliff 1-800-441-8885 at \$109 per night September 17 -20

### MYSTERY MEMBER

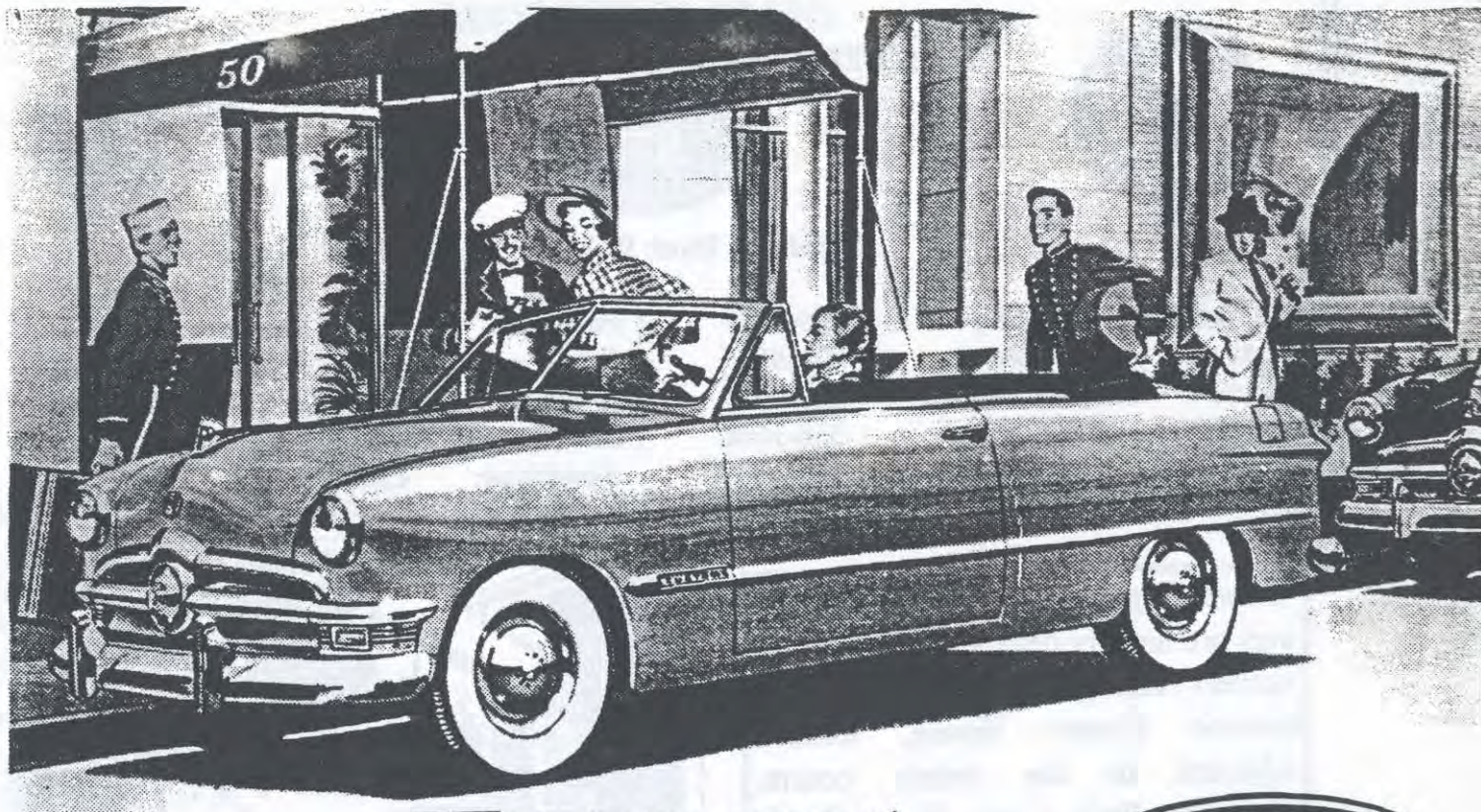
The young man born to drive is Steve Pieper at the wheel of a 1941 Mercury Convertible.

### NAME TAGS

At last name tags have been ordered! The cost will be \$5 for members and \$8 for spouse - new members will pay the \$5 in addition to dues. If you wear your name tag to the meeting, \$2 will get you four tickets for the 50/50 instead of three!







**TIME TO RENEW!**



**PLEASE MAIL YOU \$15 CHECK TO: Hank Amster  
845 Foal Court  
Gainsville, Va. 20155**

The Early Ford V8 Club of America rules states that you must be a member of the National to renew with NVRG. Only paid up members will receive the February "Valve Clatter".

Names (include spouse): \_\_\_\_\_

FILL IN ONLY PARTS THAT HAVE CHANGED: NO CHANGE, CHECK HERE

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Work): \_\_\_\_\_

| Year | Model<br><small>(Standard, Deluxe, Super Deluxe, Custom, etc.)</small> | Engine | Body Style |
|------|--|--------|------------|
|      |  |        |            |
|      |  |        |            |
|      |  |        |            |



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL GROUP

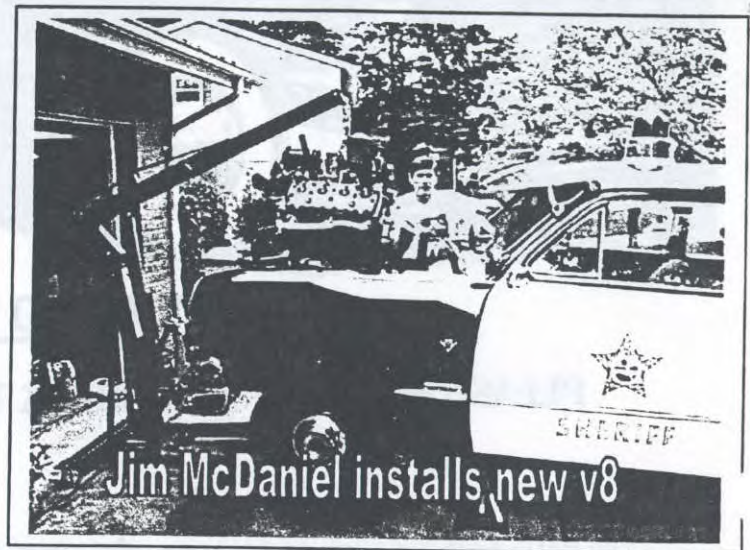


President: **Hank Dubois** .....476-6919

|                 |                     |           |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Vice President: | <b>Bill Selley</b>  | 679-9462  |
| Secretary:      | <b>Tom Shaw</b>     | 771-9374  |
| Treasurer       | <b>Hank Amster</b>  | 753-9575  |
| Membership:     | <b>Bill Simons</b>  | 536-3648  |
| Tours:          | <b>Von Hardesty</b> | 276- 7579 |

|               |                        |          |
|---------------|------------------------|----------|
| Programs:     | <b>Steve Pieper</b>    | 860-2801 |
| Property:     | <b>David Gunnarson</b> | 425-7708 |
| Activities    | <b>John Girman</b>     | 242-1459 |
| Refreshments: | <b>David Gunnarson</b> | 425-7708 |
| Newsletter:   | <b>Cliff Green</b>     | 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**



Jim McDaniel installs new v8



## FIRST CLASS MAIL

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