



# VALVE CLATTER

Northern  
Virginia  
Regional  
Group



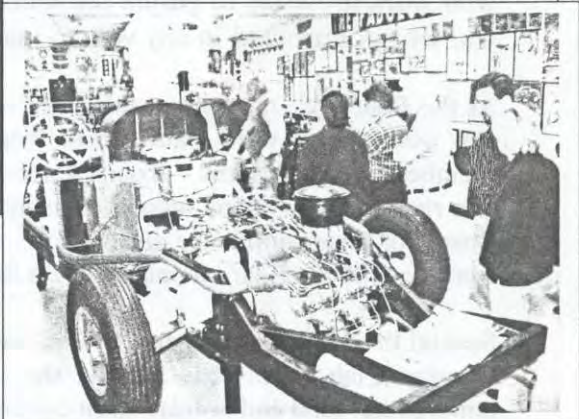
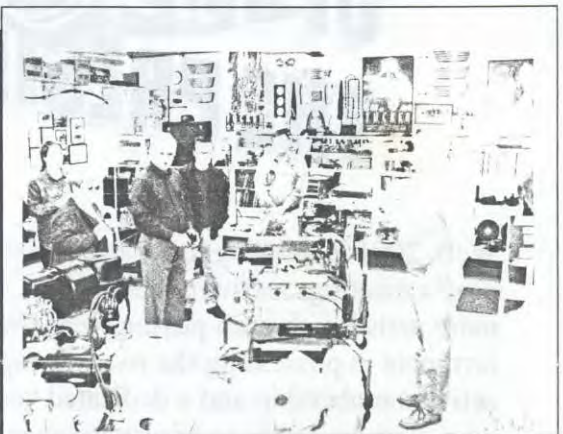
THE EARLY FORD V-8 CLUB OF AMERICA  
Regional Group 96

Volume XXIV, No. 12

December 2001

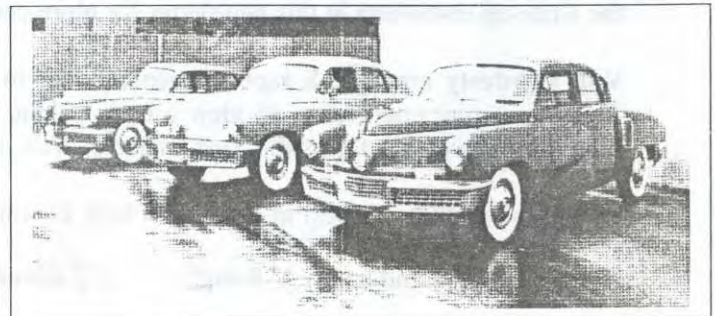
Cliff Green, Editor

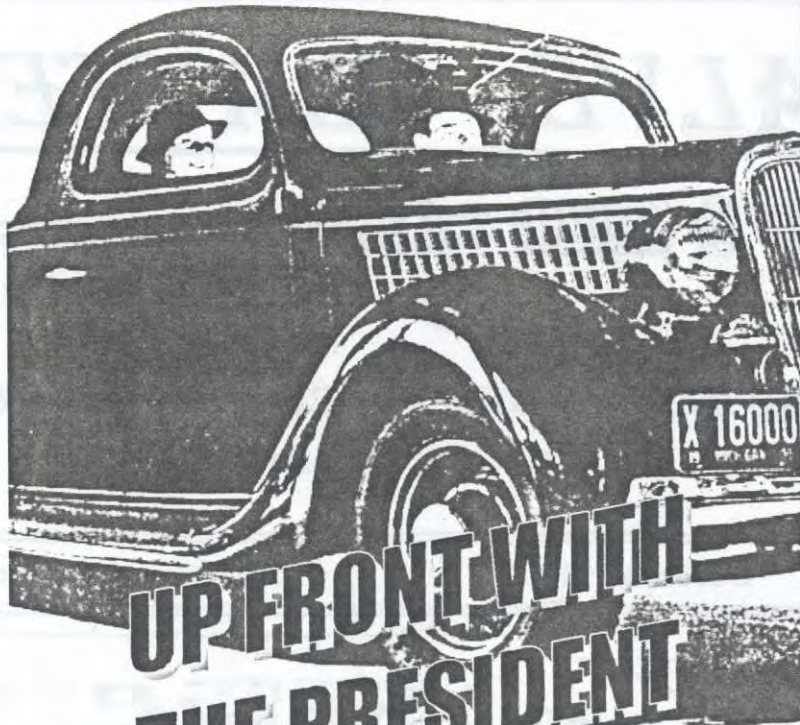
## NVRG TOURS TUCKER COLLECTION



Besides Tucker #1 and two others, NVRG members saw the Cammack Collection - a large array of Tucker parts (some still in the original packaging), eight different engines with varying transmission configurations, original blueprints used to build the Tucker 48, and a myriad of framed photographs, sketches, correspondence and articles on display. They took two hours just to scan all items of interest plus more time to view the various film clips, documentaries and movies made about the Tucker enterprise.

It was a revolutionary car of its time with a 150 horsepower rear engine built to cruise at 100 mph; an automatic transmission; and a third headlight in the center of the hood which turned with the front wheels. Dave Cammack, our host explained the details. NVRG had a wonderful experience!





# UP FRONT WITH THE PRESIDENT



## December 2001

Well, 2001 is drawing to a close and it's been a very good year for our club! As I look back at the year's meetings, activities and events, I am struck by how much our club has grown and become more active with each passing year since I first became a member nearly 15 years ago. We are very fortunate in possessing the two key ingredients that have made this possible: an enthusiastic and active membership and a dedicated "core" of members made up of long-time and newer members who work tirelessly to ensure the success of the club. I would like to thank each and every one of you who contributed in any way to making 2001 a great year for the NVRG.

At the Board of Directors meeting last month, responsibilities were divided up for 2002 and the following new assignments were made: Steve Pieper - Vice President, Jim La Baugh - Secretary, Von Hardesty - Membership. Ken Burns - Tours, Dave Gunnarson - Programs and Eric Sumner - Property/Refreshments. The remaining positions remain unchanged. I will be serving as President for another year and I thank the Board for their confidence and support. It is an honor to serve in this position again and I look forward to working with the Board to make 2002 a fun and fulfilling year for all of our members.

Special thanks to **Sandra** and **Cliff Green** who again arranged and hosted the Holiday Party at the Fairfax Country Club. This has become the club's social highlight of the year and rightly so! The setting, atmosphere, food and holiday spirit combine to make this a truly special event. If you couldn't go, please read the write-up elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

**Von Hardesty** arranged a super November tour to Dave Cammack's Tucker Museum in Alexandria, VA. This was a rare opportunity to view a truly unique collection and it was representative of the kind of tours Von has put together for us this year. Thanks, Von, for a job well done!

I wish you all the very best in 2002 and I look forward to seeing you at club functions and events.

Happy Holidays and happy V-8-ing! *Hank*





## EDITORS OF THE V8 TIMES, WE SALUTE YOU - Jim Roebuck

Each year in the pages of the Roster of Members of the Early Ford V8 Club, all of the past Presidents of the Club are listed. But when did you ever see a complete list of all of the editors of the *V8 Times*? Herein we try to correct this oversight.

1. Dick Green	Dec. 1963 - Jan. 1965	(Vol. 1 No. 1 - Vol. 2 No. 1)
2. Mike Carlston	Feb. - Apr. 1965	(Vol. 2 Nos. 2 - 4)
3. Dick Green	May 1965 - Nov./Dec. 1967	(Vol. 2 No. 5 - Vol. 4 No. 6)
4. Lorin Sorensen	Jan./Feb. 1968 - Jan./Feb. 1971	(Vol. 5 No. 1 - Vol. 8 No. 1)
5. Mikal Pruitt	Mar./Apr. 1971 - May/June 1973	(Vol. 8 No. 2 - Vol. 10 No. 3)
6. Roger Neiss	July/Aug. 1973 - Sep./Oct. 1978	(Vol. 10 No. 4 - Vol. 15 No. 5)
7. Roger Neiss, Jr.	Nov./Dec. 1978 - Jan./Feb. 1981	(Vol. 15 No. 6 - Vol. 18 No. 1)
8. Bob McCoppin	Mar./Apr. 1981 - July/Aug. 1995	(Vol. 18 No. 2 - Vol. 32 No. 4)
9. Jerry Emery	Sep./Oct. 1995 - Mar./Apr. 1996	(Vol. 32 No. 5 - Vol. 33 No. 2)
10. Jerry Windle	May/June 1996 - current	(Vol. 33 No. 3 - current)

Mr. Carlston wasn't in there for very long, - not even in the Club for very many years, apparently; he's not listed in the 1969 Members' Roster, the earliest I have - but gave Mr. Green a needed break the year he became President of the club in 1965. (Most of that year, Mr. Green had to wear two hats.) And, as best as I can tell from my early reprints of the magazine, it was during Mr. Carlston's term as Editor that the name of the publication changed from the awkward and clunky "Early Ford V8 Club of America Newsletter" to *The V8 Times*. (Can anyone confirm this?)

Mr. Green, of course, was Editor during the magazine's inception, and was responsible for changing it from a variable-page typed monthly newsletter to a bimonthly, professionally typeset and printed magazine. Volume 2 No. 7 (July/Aug. 1965) was the first professionally produced issue. (It was monthly before that, skipping only March and May of 1964.) Four pages long at first, it was just a single 10" x 14" sheet of paper folded over to make four 7" x 10" pages. And 7" x 10" it has been ever since. Tradition! It's also in the July/Aug. 1965 issue that the first photographs were reproduced in the magazine - a picture of a rough but restorable '34 Station Wagon (wonder if anybody ever bought that old gem in the rough and restored it?), and a '33 or '34 Victoria with balloon tires.

The *Times* grew fast in those early days, from the initial 4 professionally printed pages of Vol. 2 No. 7, to 12 pages by the end of 1966 (Vol. 3 No. 6), double that by Mar./Apr. 1968 (Vol. 5 No. 2), and double *that* by July/Aug. 1970 (Vol. 7 No. 4). By this time, the Editorship had passed to Lorin Sorensen. What superlatives have not deservedly been written about him? Not a charter member of the Club, but a very early recruit, he may be the Ford chronicler *extraordinaire*. Very soon - perhaps by the time you read this - his new book on the 1932-48 Fords will be available. (I've already ordered a copy.) During his tenure as Editor, he used "wrap-around" photographs covering the front and back covers of the *Times*, and started using HEAVY glossy cardstock for the covers, a much-needed improvement. In 1970, the Board of Directors packed Mr. Sorensen off to the Ford Archives at Club expense and asked him to take pictures. And take pictures he did - thousands of 'em. This was the nucleus of the Club photo archives.

Mr. Sorensen had too much work to do, having just begun his own magazine, *Ford Life*, among other things, and Mr. Pruitt was brought in as Editor. He initiated the "feature issue," with several articles and pictures devoted to a single model year in each issue. Mr. Pruitt stirred up a hornet's nest of controversy by advocating inclusion/ representation of "modified" Fords and Mercurys in the club.

Enter Roger Neiss (pronounced "nice"). Always witty and erudite, he once wrote that others accused him of writing like he'd "swallowed a dictionary." Mr. Sorensen wrote that it was Neiss he wanted to recruit as Editor in 1967 to replace Mr. Green when he stepped down, but Mr. Neiss begged off at the time, citing his duties as the editor of the *Early Bird*, the publication of the Classic Thunderbird Club Intl. But by 1973, Mr. Neiss had retired from those duties. His issues are fun to read - lots of interesting touches. The "fake ads" he included as filler were fun to spot and read ("Combination funeral and ambulance coach in sad shape. If used for pickup, body must be removed. Will I. Cheatum, Outfox, ME.").

But Mr. Neiss must be remembered for a more lasting contribution to the *Times* and the Club: The Technical Advisory Panel. It was he who thought of the idea, after some false starts of a similar idea by earlier editors. It was too much work for just one advisor, so Mr. Neiss had the idea of splitting the work among more than one volunteer by model years. From there, the idea just grew. It is, I believe, his design of the "CARrespondence SHOP TALK" logo that is still used in the *Times* today. Alas, Mr. Neiss was the first Editor to pass away during his tenure as Editor, in October of 1978.

His son then ably took over the reins. Mr. Neiss *fills* did more than just fill in and get the mag out on time for a couple of years; he won the *Old Cars Weekly's* Golden Quill Award for 1980 during his tenure. Regrettably, the pressures of other work and demands on his time forced him to step down.

Probably the best known, much loved, and now much missed Editor was Bob McCoppin, the Board's choice as Mr. Neiss's replacement. A charter member, his "Grease Pit Poet" work graces the pages of many early issues before he became Editor. He was fond of his trucks - the reason he is memorialized in an annual trophy for trucks in the National Meets. Mr. McCoppin knew more than just about anybody about the differences among 1946-48 Fords; his article about that subject in the pages of the *Times* is entertaining and thorough. He was instrumental in bringing about inclusion of 1941-48 Fords and Mercurys in the Club in the early '70s. He had a wonderful sense of humor, and it was he who initiated the "Parting Shot" on the inside back cover ("Kiss My Foglamp!"). He can almost be regarded as the spirit of the Club. The *Times* went from triumph to triumph during his tenure. It will be a LONG time before anyone surpasses his 14 years as Editor - if anyone ever does - and he was greatly missed when he passed away. (Would that I had met him!) The July/Aug. 1995 issue, Vol. 32 No. 4, is dedicated to the memory of Mr. McCoppin (he edited most of it, his son Mark completed it), and is a lasting tribute to his work and life. Alas, it is no longer available from the Club.

Mr. Emery stepped in as interim Editor while the Board solicited applications for a permanent one to be named. He and Mr. Windle both offered their services. The Board chose Mr. Windle - not any reflection on Mr. Emery's abilities, as club President Bob DuPont was quick to point out in the Mar./Apr. 1996 issue (Vol. 33 No. 2). Mr. Emery's issues are excellent, and in fact, it was while he was Editor that the *Times* began using high-gloss covers (dig that gorgeous '46 Sedan Coupe on the cover of Vol. 32 No. 6!).

Which brings us full circle. Our current Editor, Mr. Windle, has won just about every hobby magazine award you've ever heard of. His issues are wonderful to read, and a treasure of useful information. The number of color pages has increased during his tenure, he's increased the number of pages to achieve their most recent "doubling" (to 96, with the Sep./Oct. 1999 issue, Vol. 36 No. 5), and is President of the Early Ford V8 Foundation. But, to avoid giving him a swelled head if he ever reads these words, I hasten to add that he's been plagued by the usual editing gremlins (and uses CAPITAL LETTERS and exclamation points a tad bit much for my taste!).

Editors of the *V8 Times*, we salute you.

I'll end this with a thought by Roger Neiss the elder, who in his first issue (July/Aug. 1973; Vol. 10 No. 4) printed a poem about editors that many of us can relate to (I was an editor of a newsletter myself for a few years, where I work; been there, done that):

A man knocked at the Pearly Gate,  
His face was scarred and old.  
He stood before the man of fate  
For admission to the fold.

"What have you done," St. Peter asked,  
"To gain admission here?"  
"I have been an editor, dear sir,  
For many and many a year."

The gates of Heaven swung open wide,  
St. Peter rang the bell,  
"Come in and choose your harp," he said,  
"You've had your share of Hell!"



**NVRG HOLIDAY GALA – JANE WILD**

There was a full house again at the NVRG Christmas party at the beautiful Country Club of Fairfax. Following an hour of attitude adjustment the diners were greeted by



our own clansman **Jim McDaniel** in full Scottish kilts with bagpipes playing Amazing Grace. It was a sobering moment. "Chaplain" **Morrison** gave the blessing which again included a prayer for our old Fords.



Again the dinner served by the Country Club of Fairfax was outstanding, a real "dining out" experience. A choice of filet mignon or chicken oscar followed the salad course. Dessert choices were sherbert or chocolate pie.

Prior to the friendly competition of the gift exchange **Mike Gall** announced that he had some wine goblets and booklets entitled "The Cuisine of Southern California"; a collection of special recipes compiled by the Early V8 Club of Southern California Chapter, sponsors of the Western National Meet "California Surf 'n Shine, Dana Point in '99". Numbers were drawn and many members went home with a great cook book or beautiful wine glass commemorating the 1999 Meet. Thanks Mike.

President **Hank Dubois** welcomed the members and their wives/guests and announced that he would continue as President for the upcoming year and received a round of applause in appreciation. He also announced that **Cliff Green** would continue as Editor of the VC.



**Bill Simons** took the floor as master of ceremonies for the gift exchange. Most of the gifts must have been "keepers" since only a few changed hands as the evening went on. Again the gifts were auto related and will be enjoyed.

We were honored again this year to have **Vern Parker** of the Washington Times with us.



Everyone enjoyed a beautiful evening and thank **Cliff** and **Sandra Green** for their efforts. Everyone had a great evening out.







Lt. to Rt.: Don Lombard – Historian, Ken Burns – Tours, Dave Westrate – member, Cliff Green – Editor, Steve Pieper – Vice President, Dave Gunnarson – Programs, Jim La Baugh – Secretary, Tom Shaw – retiring, Bill Simons – retiring, John Girman – Activities, Eric Sumner – Property, Hank Dubois – President. Missing: Von Hardesty – Membership, Bill Selley – retiring.

These are the people who work in the background to keep your club full of fun!

**MYSTERY MEMBER IDENTIFIED**

It is sometime in December, 1948. I am thirteen months old and sitting on the hood of my father's brand new 1949 Ford sedan in the parking area near our apartment in Fairlington Village, Arlington. Not long after that, my father retired from the Navy, completed law school at GW, at which point we moved to New York City where he practiced nautical law... at least that's what I think was going on!

You can't see it in this pic, but somewhere lurking around is my tabby cat, "Einstein". In one of the other pictures, he's sitting on the windowframe while I am pretending to drive the car! Now I know why I love the bulletnose!

*Liz Simons*



**John Sweet**  
20 Jeremy Court  
Sterling, VA 20165

**NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

105 images of Hershey were viewed by a full house of V8'ers. Digital images taken by **Cliff Green** and projected by **Jim McDaniels** gave the group a good glance at the experience. This was followed up with a visual restoration review of Butch Myricks '46 sedan delivery using the same medium.

**FOR SALE/WANT**

Although it isn't an EFV8, I do have a beloved and faithful FoMoCo treasure that I must find a new adoptive home for: our 1995 Escort LX Wagon. The vital statistics are: AT, PS, PB, AC, AM/FM/CD. 101K mi (with many more to go). Exceptional

through-out. Super clean, straight, reliable, always maintained, and loved.

The sad time has come. "Adoption fees" are in the neighborhood of \$3400. If you think you would like to provide a good home for this faithful little companion, Please apply to Don Lombard at 703-690-7971.

1921 Cadillac Touring- in great condition -\$39,500.00  
1972 Chevy low mileage-V8 \$6,500.00. Gene Welch  
540-869-7475

**LAST VC LATE!**

The November issue took a week at (Priority postage!) to get to Bill Simons. I had Kinko's print 110 copies the night of the meeting and the members folded and addressed them. Members started to receive them the next day (14<sup>th</sup>).

**RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

CARROT PUDDING

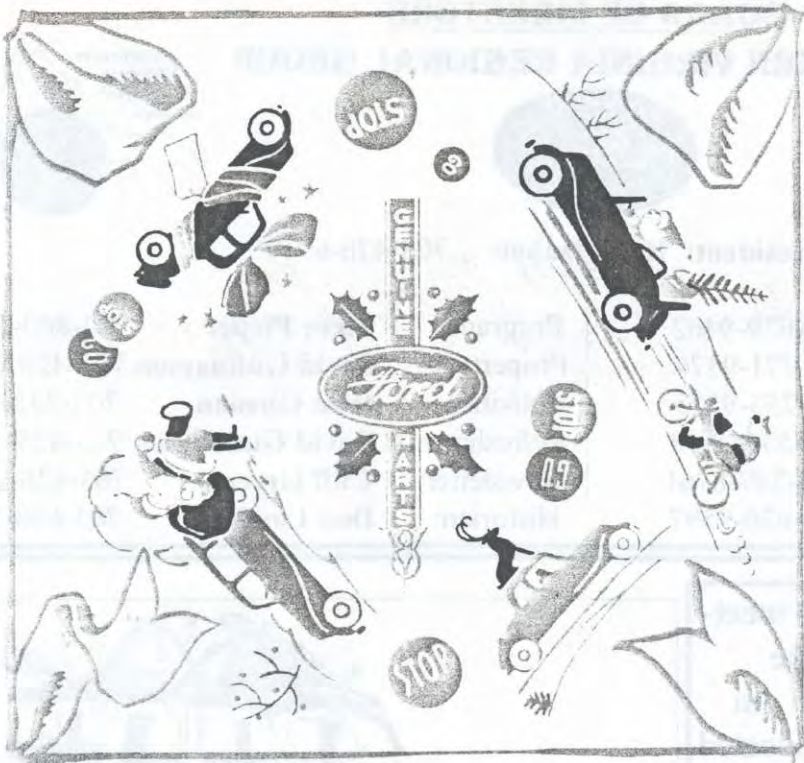
A sweet accompaniment to any roast.



- 2 cups cooked, pureed carrots
- 1 cup sugar
- ¼ cup butter
- 1 cup milk
- 2 heaping tbs flour
- ¼ tsp cinnamon
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 tsp baking soda and pinch salt

Combine all ingredients. Bake in buttered casserole at 350 until set, approximately 1 ½ hours





## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NVRG

WISH YOU AND  
YOUR FAMILY A  
VERY HAPPY  
HOLIDAY AND A  
JOLLY NEW YEAR

This is one square of a multiple pattern on Christmas wrapping paper that probably dates in the thirties. The colors are red, green and blue on white. From the Cliff Green collection.

# TIME TO RENEW

**\$15 ANNUAL DUES BY JANUARY 1**

Mail your check to Hank Amster  
8543 Foal Court ,Gainesville, Virginia 20155

Names (include spouse) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Car one: Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ BodyStyle \_\_\_\_\_  
 Car Two: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Car Three: \_\_\_\_\_

You must be a member of the National Club to join the NVRG



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL GROUP



President: **Hank Dubois** ...703-476-6919

Vice President: **Bill Selley** 703-679-9462  
 Secretary: **Tom Shaw** 703-771-9374  
 Treasurer: **Hank Amster** 703-753-9575  
 Membership: **Bill Simons** 703-536-3648  
 Tours: **Von Hardesty** 540-249-8761  
 Past President: **Dave Westrate** 703-620-9597

Programs: **Steve Pieper** 703-860-2801  
 Property: **David Gunnarson** 703-425-7708  
 Activities: **John Girman** 703-242-1459  
 Refreshments: **David Gunnarson** 703-425-7708  
 Newsletter: **Cliff Green** 703-426-2662  
 Historian: **Don Lombard** 703-690-7971

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**



## FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Cliff & Sandra Green  
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