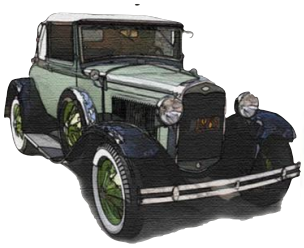


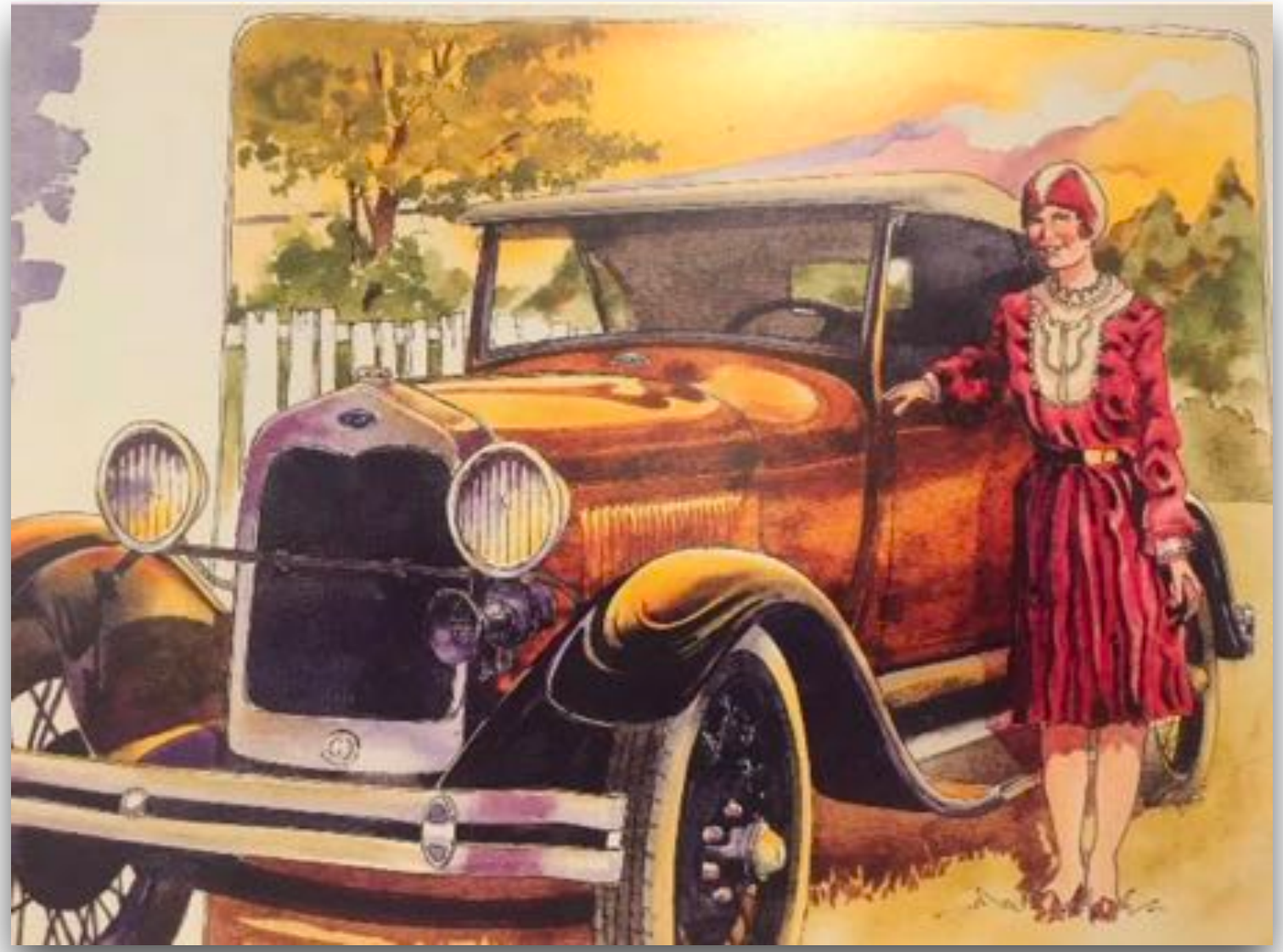
GRA-NEVA GRAM

Established 1960

ISSUE 2 GraNeva A's Model A Ford Club of America March/April 2023

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM SCHAFER, PORTSIDE A'S



From Script A News, August 2022

This is the newsletter of the Gra-Neva A's, the Grass Valley/Nevada City Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA). Feel free to use information here, with credit.

Club members may place a business card size advertisement in this newsletter for a small fee; contact the Treasurer.

OFFICERS 2022

President	Aaron Johnson	530-477-5856
Vice-President	Bill Mitchell	530-273-1620
Treasurer	Jan Elliott	310-809-2438
Editor	Bill Yanko	530-432-2579
Secretary	Sandy Yanko	530-432-2579
Membership	Gary Spencer	530-477-5570
Tour Directors	Vern Harms	530-272-4683
	Ryck Johnson	530-268-8813

SERVICE CHAIRPERSONS - 2022

ACCC	Bill Mitchell	530-273-1620
Asst. Editor	Vacant	
B'days/Anniv.	Jennifer Johnson	530-477-5856
Historian	Bill Mitchell	530-273-1620
Publicity	Donna Lichti	530-559-5368
Sunshine	Jennifer Johnson	530-477-5856
Sheriff	Steve Straw	530-432-9132
Technical	Steve Turnsk	530-274-7079
Webmaster	Bill Yanko	530-432-2579

GRA-NEVA GRAM

Club meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. We welcome all guests. ***Check our Newsletter for location.***

If you are interested in membership in MAFCA, write to MAFCA, 250 S. Cypress, La Habra, CA 90631 or go to https://www.mafca.com/membership.html.

*Not affiliated with Ford Motor Company

Items for the newsletter can be emailed to:
byanko@mac.com

Check our Website at: *granevaas.com* for past newsletters

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE
For March/April 2023

Dear Club,

Well, it sure has been an interesting month or so since we last all met. I guess the groundhog saw his shadow after all. I know the entire county got a dusting but some of us got over two feet of fresh snow. Therefore I have been unable to take my Model A out. But even with multiple days having no power, snow on the ground, and other turmoil in our lives, Adler and I were able to take a short drive in our 1915 Model T. I think it put smiles on the faces of those we passed. It must have been like a dreamscape for some, looking up in the snow storm, seeing an old car rattling down the road. It did surprisingly well. Must be all that extra ground clearance. We'll plan on getting together at the end of March back at Trailblazers. I know our tour chairs have come up with some great adventures for us. I also know that once spring hits we'll all be itching to get out. There is another extended Chico Tour in the works, a hill climb, and a parts swap. All things that I can't wait to go and do, in the sun, with warmer days. In the meantime I hope you all are safe, happy, healthy, and warm. See you soon.

Godspeed,

AJ

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bold & underlined print dates show official club events.
Italic print dates show events of general interest

Due to our winter weather, we do not have much for the schedule. If you have any suggestions for Tours or Activities, contact Vern Harms or Ryck Johnson.

There is a spring "burn up the old gas" tour in planning. It will probably include food too. So watch your email for details as soon as the weather provides us an opportunity. It won't be long. Spring & daylight savings are just around the corner.

March 23: Monthly meeting at Trailblazers Pizza in Alta Sierra. Meeting starts at 7PM. Arrive around 6 PM to have dinner before meeting.

April 27: Monthly meeting at Trailblazers Pizza in Alta Sierra. Meeting starts at 7PM. Arrive around 6 PM to have dinner before meeting.

****

- *Cars and Coffee - **every** Saturday at Target (Kmart) GV from 8-10 AM*
- *Also at Mel's in Auburn on Wednesdays from 6-9 pm. And you get your **dinner discounted**. Outdoor and indoor seating. It's fun!!*
- *See Flyers this issue for June Swap Meets*

Technical Assistance

Is your Model A grinding and thumping, or wheezing and whining? Don't panic, just call or write to Steve Turnsk and describe the symptoms. Steve will be happy to help you out to get your car humming again.

530-274-7079; saturnsk@yahoo.com

EDITOR'S NOTES

I realize the ending of an era is difficult, but it's almost here. We have to face it. The signs are all up and the doors will open next month. It is the Target Parking lot! But don't despair. K-Mart may slowly fade away. But like an e-ticket ride, the Blue Light Special will live on forever in the lore of the land.

Shifting gears, this newsletter was fun to do because we had more contributions from members. Sharon Pierce is drawing on her experience as editor to provide our "Blast from the Past" page. I hope our long time members enjoy the little stroll down memory lane. In this issue we also have an article from Calvin Campbell about making a heated seat for your Model A, and some interesting pictures from Calvin, Ryck Johnson, & Steve Turnsk documenting an impromptu lunch outing to Colfax. In conjunction with that, we have our first ever link to a short video done by Ryck during the trip. I want to thank everyone who contributed and hope you all enjoy this edition of Gra-Neva Gram. Who knows? Maybe next issue we'll get something from Ryck about Model A's in Mexico!

Stay warn & dry,
Bill

Member's Page

HAVES & WANTS

Sharon Pierce is going through Ron's collection of Books & Magazines. She would like to know if anyone wants to look at them and keep any. Contact Sharon.

Sharon Says…

Be an encourager. The world has plenty of critics already.

No specific reports this month. But heaven knows we are all ready for a little sunshine.

Happy Birthday

March

3/8 Lois Bianchini
3/12 Don Lichti
3/14 Marty Clampitt
3/17 Wayne Buti
3/30 Kay Harms

April

4/1 Vicki Straw
4/1 Buzz Elliott
4/27 Dale White

Anniversary Celebrations

March

3/22 Bob & Bobbie Whiting

April

4/13 Marty & Myra Clampitt
4/14 Ryck & Linda Johnson
4/14 Ron & Lois Bianchini

RON'S TECH TIP PAGE

OIL YOUR DISTRIBUTOR FREQUENTLY

from Hub City News, Hub City A's
& republished in Script A News, March 2023

I was called upon to visit one of our longtime members to see if I could get his 1930 Coupe running after a rollback-home incident while he was on a leisurely jaunt around the local area. The coupe hadn't been driven much in the past few years, and while out, it just quit running. No fire during cranking, eh? I missed the part about a knock recently during running. That's a symptom of a more serious problem than just dirty ignition points. Anyway, I gathered a few tools and arranged a time to see the car. Points and electric all as they should be, fresh gas was there, but no fire during cranking. In fact, the distributor rotor was not turning at all - WHAAAT? That means the timing gear was probably not turning, or the shaft driving the distributor from the cam was having a problem.

After consulting with our trusty Hub City advisor (one of many), I rounded up some Model A guys to share the blame in case I was wrong and decided to pull the timing gear cover. Sure enough, some teeth were chewed off the timing gear, and you could see, under close examination, where the gear hub was coming loose from the fiber part. That is probably the explanation for the recent noise. The distributor was next to be removed, and it was definitely tight enough to cause the teeth to be chewed off the fiber gear. The lesson here is, if your A sits around a lot, every time you take it out, oil the upper and lower oil points on your distributor. Each time you shut your car off after a drive, moisture in the crankcase eventually tends to condense around the distributor.

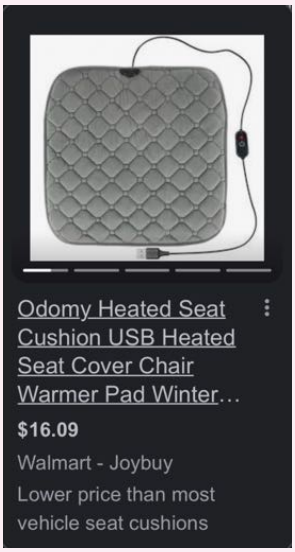
If it sits a long time between runs, the bushings and shaft corrode and get tighter and tighter. Over time, it will cause the timing gear teeth to fail. They are designed to be the weak point in the drive chain so the gear teeth on the cam are protected.

Get in the habit of oiling the distributor regularly.

Heating a Model A Seat

Calvin Campbell

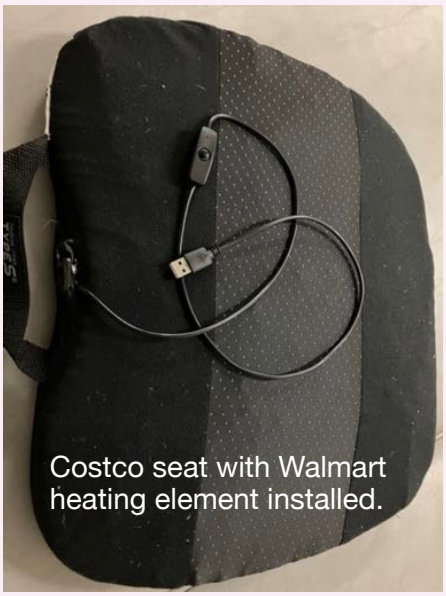
Most folks resist driving their Model A in the winter just because it is too cold to tolerate it. Then, maybe it is time to add heat to your car. So, what is the best way to heat your car and not break the budget? You can heat the air in the car or you can heat the seat in the car. I have learned you can heat a seat quicker than you can heat the cold air. Thus, the reason for heated seats in our modern vehicles. The heated seat takes the chill off the driver long before the engine can warm up to heat the air. Those of you who have Phaetons, Roadsters, or Windowless Woodies would be glad to know that having a heated seat would be welcome along with the rest of us who have enclosed cabs.



Walmart Cushion

Electric seat warmers are inexpensive and get to temperature quickly. Walmart-Online sells a thin heated seat pad that can be used anywhere. It is powered by a USB port that is normally plugged into a wall charger. However, for your Model A, the best application is to use a 3-port cigarette lighter adapter outlet extension box from your local auto parts store and wire it into your battery. Then, you will need a USB adapter plug to insert into the cigarette port outlet. When your heated cushion arrives from Walmart-Online, you have the option to use it as it comes, or adapt it to fit the size of the seat in your Model A. In our case we used an additional padded stadium seat cushion from Costco with the padding enclosed with a zipper. We then removed the heating element from the original heating pad and zipped it inside the stadium seat cushion that fit perfectly in our Model A. In some cases, additional padded seat cushions can be too thick for the car seat, but the padding can be removed, cut down to size with a bread knife and reinserted back into the seat cover.

Cigarette Lighter Adapter


Costco seat with Walmart heating element installed.

The Walmart heating pad was under $20.00, and the stadium seat cushion was $25.00. The cigarette lighter adapter outlet extension box was around $10.00, and the USB adapter plug was under $5.00. So, for around $60.00 per passenger, you have a comfortable heated seat. This made for a very inexpensive seat warmer for the Model A.

Model 'A' Crossword Puzzle

Complete the crossword puzzle below

Down

1. A Model 'A' that occasionally goes topless
2. Stores electricity temporarily
4. What your Model 'A' Loves **(three words with spaces between)**
6. The guy who designed and lobbied for the Model 'A' **(two words with space between)**
9. Old style grease fittings

Across

3. Will get that Model 'A' started
5. After market Model 'A' Carburetor
7. 19 or 21 **(two words with space between)**
8. National Club initials
10. Inside a Zenith carburetor

Answers on last page

Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

A Pop-up Lunch at Colfax

With our unstable weather it has been difficult for the club to plan any outings. But a few of our members took advantage of a nice day and did an impromptu trip to Colfax for lunch at TJ's Roadhouse.

Along the way they found a forlorn Model A patiently waiting for its forever home. Anyone looking for a project car?

The intrepid travelers were Calvin & Virginia Campbell (with their heated seats), Ryck & Virginia Johnson, and Steve Turnsk. To see a short video of some of the tour recorded by Ryck, double-click on the camera below.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Gra-Neva Model A Club
January 26, 2023
Trailblazer Craft Pizza

CALL TO ORDER: President AaronJohnson called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. He introduced our guest and new member, Doug Giles. He has a 1930 Model A coup that Ryck Johnson helped him find. Aaron introduced three more guests, Eddie Steele, Shania Pacheco, and Wyatt Malmstead, who want Model A's. Eddie recently purchased a 1956 Firetruck which had belonged to the Peardale Fire Department. Aaron helped him find this vehicle.

REPORTS:
VICE-PRESIDENT: Bill Mitchell had no report.

SECRETARY: Aaron asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from November and December. Kay Harms moved to accept them as written. The members approved.

TREASURER: Aaron read the treasurer's report in Jan Elliott's absence. At the end of 2022, the Club has about $2600 in the checking account. This is down from about $3,600 at the end of 2021. She will be giving the full report to Virginia Campbell who will go over the accounts for the year. The Board will be reviewing the numbers at the next board meeting to plan for 2023.

EDITOR: Bill Yanko asks for members to help by getting articles to him for the newsletter. Kay Harms asked him if changing the Newsletter to every other month has helped and he replied yes. It was noted that Sharon Pierce contributes beautiful thoughts to the GraNeva Gram. She reminds us to say nice things to people when we see them.

TOUR CO-CHAIRMAN: Vern Harms needs people to call him with ideas for tours. He asked if we would like to do a tour in about three weeks. He will come up with something if there is interest. Those interested were: Yankos, Turnsks, Butis, Luckinbills, & Harms.

SUNSHINE: Aaron asked for any suggestions for members needing cards sent so he can advise Jennifer. Marty Clampitt and wife Myra are back in town and a card to welcome them would be nice.

TECHNICAL: Calvin Campbell showed us how he devised heated seats for his Model A using a heating pad run by a special battery and a cushion. The battery/charger Looks like a cell phone. Virginia really appreciates this change.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Swap Meet on June 4th per Steve Straw.
Turlock Swap Meet – June 28-29
OLD BUSINESS: None
NEW BUSINESS:

GOTTS AND WANTS: Wayne Buti wants a luggage rack and trunk in good condition.

ATTENDANCE AWARD: $10 available for tonight. Karen Bansemer's name was drawn but she was absent. The award will increase to $20 for the next meeting.

January 26 Minutes cont'd.

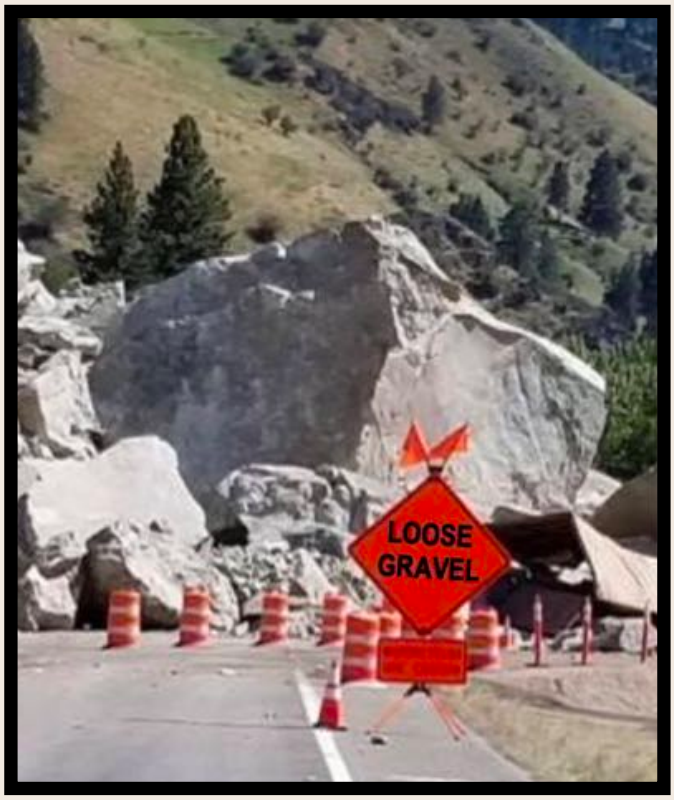
50-50 RAFFLE: Phil Starr won $47.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made and seconded by Steve Straw and Calvin Campbell. Aaron adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Yanko, Secretary

ATTENDEES: Sandy & Bill Yanko, Weldon Travis, Denise Hugenberger, Sharon Pierce, Douglas Giles, Ryck Johnson, Steve & Vicky Straw, Kay & Vern Harms, Bill & Avon Steen, Gary Spencer, Tish & Wayne Buti, Shania Pacheco, Eddie Steele, Calvin & Virginia Campbell, Jim Luckinbill, Steve & Kristi Turnsk, Aaron Johnson, Debbie Bamber & Roman Kvapil, Don & Donna Lichti, Phil Starr, Bill Mitchell, Wyatt Malmstead

Just for Fun



BLAST! FROM THE PAST

Sharon Pierce

March 2012

From Back: Steve Halverson, Sandy H., Bob Ambrose, Sharon & Ron Pierce, Jan & Buzz Elliott

From left: Sandy H, Bob Ambrose, Gary (Sharon Pierce's brother) Ron & Sharon Pierce, & Buzz Elliott.

From bottom left: Sharon Pierce, Sandy H, Gary (Sharon's brother), Bob Ambrose, No ID, Steve Halverson, Ron Pierce, Buzz & Jan Elliott. (Can anyone ID last person left side?)

Bob Ambrose, Ron Pierce, Steve Halverson, & Buzz Elliott in back.

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48th Annual Mother Lode Model T Club Swap Meet

Save the Date: Sunday, June 4, 2023

Vendor Gate Opens 6 AM – All Spaces 15x25 - $30.00 ea.
Buyer Gate Opens 6 AM --- Buyer entry $5.00.
Vendor Setup Saturday June 3, 3 PM
No buying or selling allowed on Saturday.

All spaces first come basis. No space reservations.

Vintage & Classic Cars, Parts and Memorabilia only.

Alcoholic beverages, firearm, food sales & open fires not allowed.

All Vendors must vacate by 3 pm, Sunday, June 4.

Onsite food provided by local food vendors.

Gold Country Fairgrounds, 200 Fairgate Rd., Auburn, Ca
Directions: I-80 East bound, exit Maple St. Follow signs to Fairgrounds.
I-80 West bound, exit Nevada Street, Cross over freeway, Follow signs.
Enter From Auburn-Folsom Road, Left at Fairgate Rd.

Contacts: Gary 916-599-0059 or John 916-202-5842

Profits from our swap meet will benefit local charities

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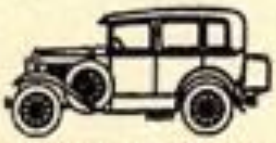

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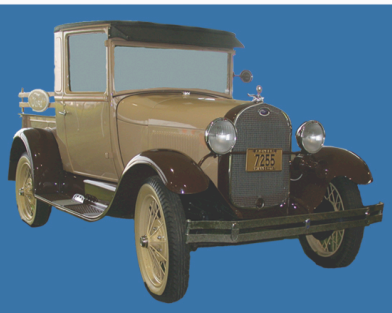

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Answers to page 7 Crossword Puzzle

Across:

3: CRANK
5: TILLOTSON
7: SPOKE WHEELS
8: MAFCA
10: VENTURI

Down:

1: PHAETON
2: CONDNSER
4: TO BE DRIVEN
6: EDSEL FORD
9: ALEMITE