

Visit our website at: [www.featherriveras.com](http://www.featherriveras.com)

*THE RETARDED SPARK* is being issued purely for our enjoyment and for those who wish to see what our MAFCA Chapter is doing to further the Model 'A' Hobby here in Quincy, Ca.

### From the Desk of the President



We hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather we have been having; however, we have a very hot spell coming for at least a couple of weeks. Stay cool.

Bernadette and Jack are the hosts for the July 17 - 18th outing. Bernadette will go over all the details again with everyone at the July meeting.

Dave and Bonnie are the hosts for the August event, but we do not have any information on what they have planned yet. And just to keep you updated, we (Shirley and Phil) are hosting the event for September; Paula and Rick are hosting the October event, Dan and Penny are hosting the November event; and Rich and Holly are hosting the December event.

No details on any of them yet, but we will keep you posted.

We hope everyone has a happy and safe 4th of July, and will see you at our next meeting on July 7th, same place, same time.



*July 2015*

Questions, comments, suggestions, contributions...  
email

**"Smokey"**

[smokeypickett@hughes.net](mailto:smokeypickett@hughes.net)

### CLUB OFFICERS and MEMBERS

President ----- Phil & Shirley Bresciani  
Vice President ----- Bill and Jennifer Seibold  
Treasurer ----- Rich & Holly Schreiber  
Secretary ----- Rich and Holly Schreiber  
Keeper of the Web..Joe and Heather Way  
Sunshine person--- Shirley Bresciani

### MEMBERS

Jack and Bernadette Brumit  
Dave Boynton & Bonnie Norton  
Rick & Paula Foster  
Dan & Penny Lambach  
Bruce & Susan Robinson  
Joe & Heather Way  
Don Schlueter  
Gary & Lynne Allan  
Dee Barbea  
Ron & Sally Grassi  
Dave & Diann Montanari  
Ron & Jean Rude  
Pete & Joyce Dryer  
Butch & Sheila Vargas  
Dwight & Karen Pierson  
Al and Erika Hansen  
Mike & Leslie Ganahl  
Clay & Janet Johnson

**FEATHER RIVER A'S**



GETTING OUT AND HAVING FUN

## June Events

### Graffiti Night



Even though it rained pretty hard at times, Phil braved the elements to make a showing at the Elks Club. I got there just in time to snap a shot of him leaving before I had to duck under cover!

### County Picnic!



There was some sunshine but the chance of rain scared off all but the strong hearted, Phil and Bill!

### Beckworth History Tour

This Museum event toured the Beckworth cabin, the Romelli Ranch and the Beckworth Cemetery



The tour started at the cabin with a history lesson, presented by Betty Folchi, on its origin and owner.



Your Host and traffic controller was the Editor of this newsletter in his alter ego of Smokey Pickett.

The group of about 60 then toured the historic Romelli Ranch and the 150 year-old two story log home before crossing the highway to hear the presentations of the cemetery pioneers. (Or at least the actors portrayals of them)



### Mike and Leslie take in the show



A "tip" of Smokey's Fedora... (in this case a pioneer flat hat) to Dee Barbea for the excellent photogs!

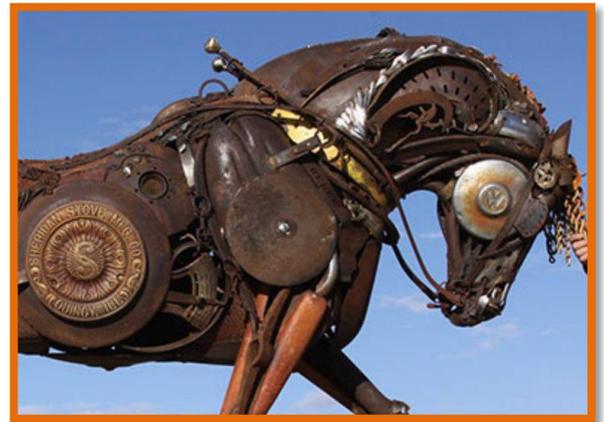
Thanks Dee!



South Dakotan sculptor John Lopez creates life-sized scrap metal sculptures with a uniquely Western American twist.



Old discarded farm equipment is recycled into sculptures of iconic creatures from the American West like a bison or a horse plowing a field,



Check out the Volkswagen hubcap cheekbone and the Quincy, Ill. shield.



Explains Lopez. "I just start grabbin' stuff from the pile and welding it in and if you weld enough of the same thing on over and over it creates this really cool texture"

While we are on the subject of old discarded farm equipment!



Just kidding Dave. Looks like the project is coming right along!

*First you have to have a lot of scrap.  
Give you any ideas, Dan ?????*

## FEATHER RIVER A'S

## 1930 to 1941 Survival of the Fittest (continuation)

Gearshifts became synchronized. Seats broadened to hold three.

Built-in trunks were adopted.



Independent front suspensions helped smooth the bumps.



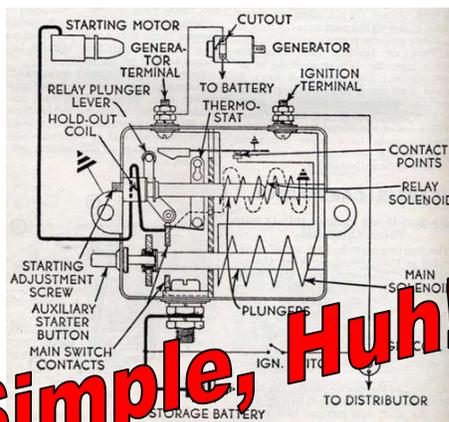
Even Henry Ford finally gave in to hydraulic brakes in 1939. By 1940, sealed beam headlights led the way, gear shifts were now on the steering column and running

boards were rapidly becoming extinct.

Not every innovation lasted long. Freewheeling faded after a few years – in part because some states made such “coasting” illegal.

Startix units enjoyed a brief fling. The Startix automatic engine starting mechanism was a relay in a small box added to the vehicle's electrical system. It automatically started an engine from cold or if stalled. It was used on the Auburn, Cord, Lincoln 1935-36, Packard, Pierce Arrow and 1935 Studebaker.

As soon as the ignition is switched on current flows to the first Startix solenoid and current flows from battery to starter. The generator delivers current once the engine starts and part of it goes to a second Startix solenoid that switches off the current from battery to starter. If the engine and generator stop, then that second solenoid switches on the current from the battery to the starter.



Over drive boosted the economy of the 1934 Chrysler Airflow and spread to other makes but never quite captured the imagination during this period.



1934 Airflow

As for automatic shifting, Reo's “Self Shifter” of 1933-34 drew only modest attention and GM's Safety Automatic Transmission made an even smaller impression. When Oldsmobile introduced the Hydra-Matic in 1940, the public was interested but widespread adoption wouldn't come until after the War.

The number of significant makes slimmed from about 60 in 1929 to 18 in 1941. A brief appearance of mini-cars started with the American Austin and its Bantam successor, the Crosley came later.



The number of paved roads more than doubled in a decade, as the automobile culture grew. Drive-ins lured moviegoers.

Tourist courts dotted the landscape.



At the New York World's Fair of 1939, GM's Futurama predicted the world of the sixties, including 100 mile per hour superhighways. The modern age was imminent but Americans had to face another World War before enjoying it

## COMEDY CORNER

### VINTAGE FORD HUMOR

Customer at telephone: "Is this the Fixum Garage?"

Man at other end: "Yes, sir."

Customer at telephone: "Well, I'm stalled out here in the country about seven miles from home; wish you would send out and tow me in."

Man at other end: "What kind of machine have you?"

Customer at telephone: "A Ford."

Man at other end: "I'll be out with a magnet and draw it in for you."

\*\*\*\*\*

Uncle: "What's the idea of all those broken alarm clocks back there in the shed, Johnnie?"

Johnnie: "Oh, father has a Ford and in case anything breaks on the engine he'll have the parts handy."

\*\*\*\*\*

### ANOTHER KIND OF HUMOR

A man and his wife are awakened at 3 o'clock in the morning by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push. "Not a chance," says the husband, "it is three o'clock in the morning!" He slams the door and returns to bed.

"Who was that?" asked his wife. "Just some drunk guy asking for a push," he answers.

"Did you help him?" she asks. "No, I did not, it is three in the morning and it is pouring outside!"

"Well, you have a short memory," says his wife. "Can't you remember about three months ago when we broke down and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself!"

The man does as he's told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pouring rain.

He calls into the dark, "Hello, are you still there?"

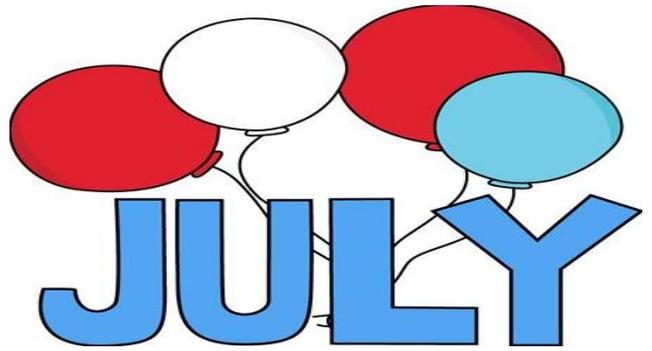
"Yes," comes back the answer

"Do you still need a push?" calls out the husband.

"Yes, please!" comes the reply from the dark.

"Where are you?" asks the husband

"Over here.... on the swing!" replies the drunk.



\*\*\*\*\*

### **July Annibirtharies**



Bonnie Norton ----- 27th

Joe Way ----- 30th



**Nobody, Nothing, Nada, Zip!**

### UPCOMING TOURS and ACTIVITIES

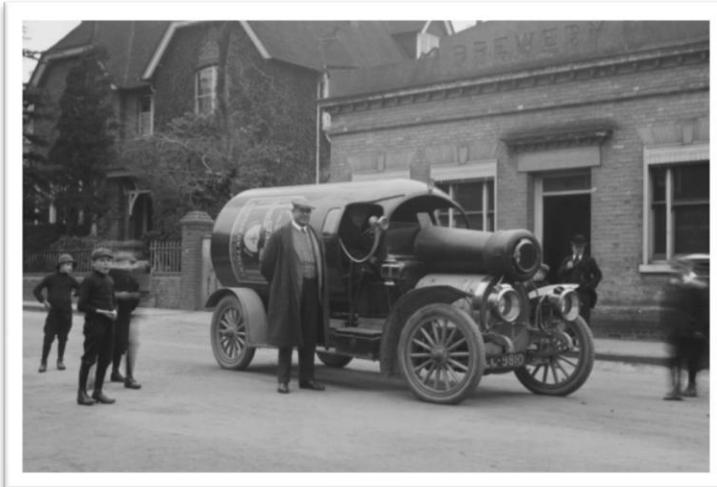
**Jul 5th Mohawk Independence Day Parade**  
Model A's welcome!!

**July 7<sup>th</sup> ..... Monthly meeting at Patti's Thunder.**

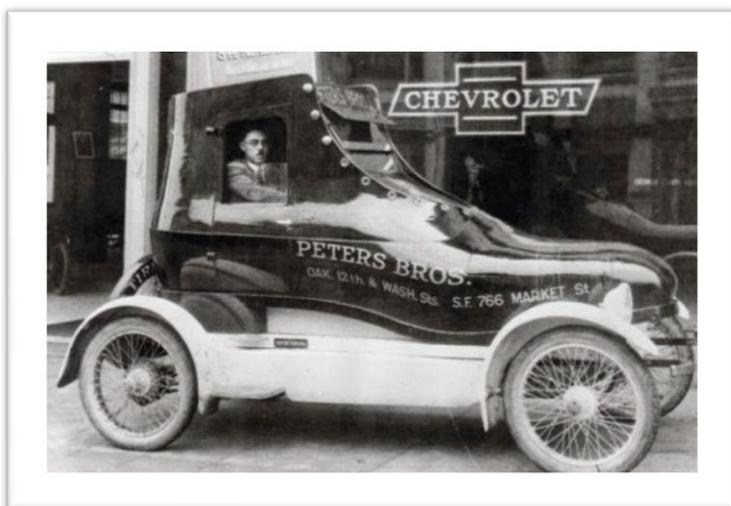
**July 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> ..... Brumits tour to Fall River Mills**

**FEATHER RIVER A'S**

## Advertising with vehicles in the 20's and 30's



*Maķin another "Beer Run!!*



*If the shoe fits.... drive it!*



*Seems like driving and drinking was "in"*

## **Automotive Trivia 1931**

As the economy stalls, output plummets to 2,472,359, from 1930's figures of 3,586,332.

A milestone is reached as the 50-millionth American motor vehicle is built..

Startix is available on several makes – it cranks the engine in the event of a stall.

The last Model A Ford is built in November, to be replaced by the first low-priced V-8.

A National Automobile Chamber of Commerce recommendation suggests grouping all new-model introduction in November or December, to stimulate fall/winter buying.

There is another recommendation for a 90 day/4000 mile warranty for new cars.

Ford added a Town Sedan with a slanted windshield and cowl lamps. Priced at \$650, it was purchased by 65,447 buyers.

## **Trivia Quiz, questions and answers**

**Q. What was the price of a barrel of crude oil in 1901?**

**A. \$.05 per bbl**

*That's five cents... for a barrel!!*



*That's a nickel..... Five pennies.....*

*For fifty five gallons!*

## **Next Month**

**Q. What was introduced in 1937 that would remain in place until 1952 on Ford automobiles?**

**FEATHER RIVER A'S**