

# *THE FRANKLIN LINE*

## *HHFC MIDWEST REGIONS REPORTS*

### *SPRING 2015*

#### **Greetings' Franklin Friends,**

It was so nice to see every one at our meet in Preston, MN. We had 10 Franklins and 35 people make the trip to southern Minnesota and every day of the meet we had everyone in a Franklin for the tours. Eric and Sue Swenson did a great job setting up tours and great places and points of interest to visit. I think everyone had a wonderful time.

Cinda and I suffered a bit of a problem on the way home with the Olympic when it made a lot of noise and rolled to a stop along the side of the highway. Thanks to Bob and Grace wanting to take the fast way home spotted us on the side of the road and stayed with us until the flatbed arrived.

Next meet will be hosted by Linda & Dennis Radford in Clinton MO. I hope to see you all there.

We have meets planed through 2016 and possibly will be going back to the Gilmore in the spring of 2017 in conjunction with the Air Cooled Gathering. If anyone is interested in hosting a meet in the Midwest Region, please let one of us know, it's really not that hard. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Missouri.

Dean Dorholt (deandorholt@frontiernet.net)

#### **Secretary/Treasurer Report, Spring 2015 Meet**

A) Call to Order by Dean Dorholt, mid-afternoon on the patio of Mystery Cave State Park. Thank you to Eric and Sue Swenson, wife Cinda and himself for hosting this meet "although Eric and Sue did most of the work." It all came together really well. Thanks were expressed to those in attendance.

B) Recognition: 1) 4 people attended a Midwest Meet for the first time - Marshall Larson from Foley, MN; Rolly Kemp from Andover, NY; Dan & Anne Russell from Wake Forest, NC.

2) We had 10 Franklins at this meet (see the meet report for names of those who brought their Franklin). We had no modern cars on the tours. All attendees rode in Franklins. 3) Jeff and Joan Hasslen drove their Franklin the furthest to the meet. 4) Bill Eby brought his Franklin the furthest distance traveling with Wendell Eby. 5) Dan & Anne Russell, and Rolly Kemp traveled the furthest to attend.

C) Secretary's Report: 1) We currently have 117 Region members. 2) New members in 2015:

Region members 2) New members in 2015: Tom & Barb Chandler, Elkader, IA; Gary Greenwood, Leslie, MI; Bill & Beverly Myers, Bedford, TX; Norm & Rhonda Olson, Sandwich, IL.

**D) Treasurer's Report:** 1) Current balance - \$1,378.63 2) Expenses since last report totaled \$292. 21 for printing, postage and other mailing supplies for our 2015 Addendum and the fall issue of "The Franklin Line". 3) 62 members will now accept "The Franklin Line" and the Region renewal notice by e-mail. This saves money as postage keeps rising. Two requests: please let Joan Hasslen (MN) or Hazel Wade (IL) know when/if your e-mail address changes. **E) Old Business:** In November, at the request of the Midwest Region, the HHFC board approved adding 4 states to the Region - ND, SD, NE and KS.

**F) New Business:** 1) Jack and Mary Stang from Hammond, LA, sent the Region a written invitation to come to Hammond for a Spring Meet when a date is available. Jack and Mary have supported and attended many Midwest Meets and their willingness to host is greatly appreciated, but it was decided that they could ask the HHFC to sanction that meet as an independent gathering rather than a Region meet since it is too far out of our Midwest boundaries. All Midwest members would still get the registration information and several indicated they would attend because they had never been to that part of the USA.

**G) Midwest Region News:** 1) Hazel Wade, "Line" Editor, would like members to send pictures taken during this meet (and any Region meet in the future). Send to her via jpeg or pdf. 2) Roy Nelson, who is working on the history of our Region, reports the Region started in 1955. (For one evening's entertainment, he showed a DVD of an early Midwest Meet hosted by Milt Asher, IL.) Roy will compile more DVDs and continue to gather information from old ACNs.

**H) Future Midwest Meets:** 1) Fall meet is in Clinton, MO, Sept 16 - 19. Hosts are Dennis & Linda Radford. Registration will be mailed in July. 2) Spring Meet, 2016, June 2, 3, 4, Lincoln, Nebraska. Hosts John Moss and Jason Newby reported tentative plans: In Lincoln - Museum of American Speed. (Moon Car Club members and Inliners International will be touring and probably have some cars present.) Visit Speedway Motors office and warehouse. In Ashland - possibly visit the Strategic Air and Space Museum. John also mentioned the Lincoln Nebraska museum wants a Franklin engine to display. Pass the word.

## Secretary/Treasurer Report, Spring 2015 Meet (cont'd)

**I) The Franklin Collection:** Phil Weisenbarger, committee chair, reported that the annual "Air-Cooled Gathering" is June 20th at the Gilmore Museum. They are expecting some rare cars: 2 Subaru 360s, a Morgan, 2 Peels. The Collection will also display Franklins. Jeff Hasslen commented that we should all make an effort to support this event.

**J) HHFC News:** **1)** Bill Eby, Club president, reported the Trek is all planned. Many volunteers stepped forward to assist Andrew and Missy. "It should be a good Trek." **2)** New HHFC membership chair is Megan Metro, NJ. E-mail: franklinmembership@gmail.com. Thanks to Anne Russell for her many years of service as membership chair. **3)** New ACN editors are Jeryl Schriever and Alex Huppe, (ME & FL). E-mail: jeryl77@mac.com. Bill Eby commented that these members stepped up to take this important position and they are asking Club members to provide articles regarding Franklins - historical interest, how did you get involved with the Club, fun and interesting escapades experienced in your Franklin, etc. **4)** A current HHFC Roster/Registry is nearing completion. Reminder from Joan Hasslen: when a Franklin is bought or sold, the past and/or current member should list that change on their HHFC renewal notice and e-mail Marlene Zimmerman (CA) to insure that future registry updates are accurate.

**J) Additional Announcements:** **1)** Bill Eby reminded us: When planning a meet, send your information to the Club webmaster, Ben Oakes (TX) and to Bob Metro (NY), Club calendar coordinator. **2)** Check the Franklin website for information on future Franklin events such as the Westrek and the Maple Leaf Event both in June, 2015.

**K) Meeting adjourned.** Another round of applause for hosts Eric & Sue Swenson, Dean & Cinda Dorholt.

Joan Hasslen, Secretary/Treasurer

## 2015 Midwest Spring Meet Hosted by Dean and Cinda Dorholt Eric and Sue Swenson

Midwest Region kicked off with registration at the Country Trails Inn located in Preston, MN on Wednesday, June 3, 2015.

### **The total of 35 people attended:**

Eric & Sue Swenson, Dean & Cinda Dorholt, Wendell & Bill Eby, Phil & Pam Weisenbarger, John Moss, Jason Newby, Greg & Ben Lundeen, Jim & Hazel Wade, Lee, Nancy & Roy Nelson, Richard & Kathryn Harry, Jim & Debbie Reed, Jeff, Joan & Eric Hasslen, Bob Erickson & Gracie Knoblauch, Bill & Nancy Swenson, Gregory Drufke, Dan & Anne Russell, Rollie Kemp, Tom Rasmussen, Marshall Larson, and Cassie Swenson  
10 people brought their Franklins

Tom Rasmussen 1910 Model H Close-Coupled  
Touring

Jim & Debbie Reed 1924 10C 4 Door Sedan

John Moss 1924 10C 2 Door Sedan

Bill Eby 1928 12B Victoria Brougham

Phil & Pam Weisenbarger 1930 145 Victoria  
Brougham

Greg & Ben Lundeen 1930 147 Salon Special

Richard & Kathryn Harry 1931 153 Club Sedan

Jeff & Joan Hasslen 1932 16 Club Sedan

Dean & Cinda Dorholt 1933 18A Olympic Sedan

Eric & Sue Swenson 1933 18B Olympic Sedan

### **DAY 1**

The flexibility of our group was evident from the get-go when at the brief drivers meeting we decided to bypass the first stop of the day rather than disrupt cemetery workers as they put the final touches on the new **Veterans Cemetery** in Preston.

The 10 Franklins headed out on the winding roads around Preston without the company of a modern car. It was through a stroke of genius that Eric Swenson took a different route than planned (okay - he took a wrong turn) guiding us on roads surrounded by seemingly never ending farm land in awesome and varied hues of green. We didn't lose any of the 10 cars along the way!

Our first stop was in Peterson, MN to visit **Stan Agrisome's Car Collection**. In a building constructed in 1901, where among other things Stan keeps his Maxwell, two Packard's, an MG, and two Ford Model Ts - including one speedster with an overhead valve cylinder head. Stan was unsuccessful in his effort to start his Model T Speedster but he was able to catch a ride in Tom Rasmussen's 1910 Model H.

Then we traveled to **Ernie's Station** in Whalan. While gasoline is no longer on sale at the station, the structure built in 1917 is filled to the brim with memorabilia. We quickly read about the history of this quaint location where at the turn of the century it was a bustling area that took a downtown turn as a result of the depression

## 2015 Midwest Spring Meet (cont'd)

and the withdrawal of the railroad, and the flood of 2000 where the water was up to the door. Now bicycle trails in and around Whalan bring new visitors and hope for the future to Ernie's.

The majority of us raved about our lunch at **Pedal Pushers** in Lanesboro. With few exceptions, the food was fresh and delicious, the service was fast and thorough, the coffee was ground on the spot, and dessert was to die for!

Our next stop was at the **Lanesboro State Fish Hatchery** where our tour guide, Jonathon Gustafson, talked us through a slide show that demonstrated all phases of trout culture at the hatchery including spawning and hatching. Then he walked us through a tour of the hatchery buildings.

The **Fillmore County History Center** in Fountain was our last stop of the day. Here we saw some items displayed as they were used like a print shop with press and other tools used to print materials at the turn of the century; a church with pews, an organ, prayer books; a post office with wanted posters, mail slots with envelopes ready to be picked up or delivered. Other items were clustered like the area with Masonic memorabilia including a large painting of George Washington. In the back building were other farm related items along with two airplanes built by Bernard H. Pietenpol, known as the "Grandfather of the Experimental Aircraft." He became world famous for designing home-built airplanes powered by an automobile engine. Not to be forgotten were the four life-sized mannequins who met us as we entered the first floor of the museum – they were John, Paul, George and Ringo – the Beatles!!

On the evening of Day 1, an additional tour, 12 attendees and 4 Franklins traveled to Wilson, MN. Ernie Tuff met us at his museum, previously open to the public. Ernie built a 1961 Ford with a 482 C.I. Mopar Hemi engine. It was NASCAR's fastest car in 1964 and the Modified Ford car broke the speed record at the Daytona 500. Driven by Fireball Roberts, it reached 170 mph —5 mph faster than the previous record holder. He was proud to start it up for us after reconditioning it and not running it for several years. Ernie's collection also included a 1932 Packard, a 1904 Cadillac, a 1913 Stutz bearcat replica, an early 30's Duesenberg and over 100 early phonographs.

**DAY 2** We left the hotel at 8:30 with 9 cars for the **POET Ethanol Plant** 2 miles away. Jeff Hasslen has been instrumental in the development of these plants in Minnesota for close to 20 years. We arrived and were given a presentation by the General Manager of the plant, then a tour. The plant consumes approximately 16 million bushels of corn and produces 46 million gallons of ethanol annually. The plant also captures and sells feed, corn syrup and carbon dioxide

from the by-product of the ethanol production. We then went on a tour of the plant to see the entire process including the operation center, lab, truck delivery area and the holding tanks for the ethanol.

We left the ethanol plant and drove 50 miles to the **Schech's Mill** in Sheldon, MN. The mill was built in 1876 for about \$14,000 and was sold to the Schech family in 1883, and has been in the family since then. The Mill is the only water-powered mill in operation in Minnesota. It is all run with a flat belt and pulley system throughout the 3 floors of the mill. There are 3 water turbines that power the mill process for milling oats, wheat, buckwheat and corn. Everyone left with 2 bags of flour.

Everyone jumped in the Franklins after that for lunch at **Good Times Restaurant** in Caledonia, MN. After lunch we drove 40 mile to the **Yoder farm**, they are an Amish family that raise bees for the honey and they make leather goods. They have 10 hives of bees spend over a 20 mile radius around the farm, and are shipped to California for pollinating almond trees. They are shipped back to the Yoder's in May. They also make leather goods using a diesel engine powering a flat belt system throughout the shop.

The last stop of the day was at the **Village Green** In Harmony, MN. As soon as we arrived a line formed in the Sugar Plum house (built by Eric Swenson's Great-grandfather) for ice cream. There were many others shopping for Amish and craft goods.

### **DAY 3**

Our last day started with a pleasant ride to the **Mayowood Mansion** in Rochester. Built for Dr. Charles H Mayo in 1911 as a summer place for he and his family, it was some time later when they decided to live in the mansion year-round. Dr. Mayo designed the unique building without an architect. We enjoyed a tour of the living quarters that included dining rooms, sunrooms converted to a sitting room, children's dining room and bedrooms. Opulence was visible throughout the mansion with huge mirrors brought to MN from Mexico, walls of books, artwork, Persian rugs, ivory tusks, stained glass, and much more.

Next our group moved on to **Tarsilla's** in Stewartville for lunch. Good conversation and food reenergized us so we headed out for our next stop.

We arrived a bit late for our tour at the **Mystery Cave** in Forestville and found that we had an hour wait until they could accommodate us. Again the group quickly adapted and decided to hold the **Midwest Region Spring Meeting** right then and there.

With the meeting finished, we split into two groups and climbed 75 feet under the surface into the mystery cave with our tour guides. The cave was discovered in the 1930's and is managed by the DNR

## 2015 Midwest Spring Meet (cont'd)

Pathways meandered down and then up through the cave with views of stalactites, stalagmites, fossils, pools, and even a chain (used long ago to tie up a donkey) that is now part of the rock formation. Yes, the tour guide did turn off the lights for a brief time so we could get a good feel for how dark the cave can be. It was really dark!!

The successful 2015 Midwest Spring Meet closed out with dinner at the **Branding Iron Restaurant** in Preston.

### **Door prize raffle:**

Greg Drufke – coffee mug

Jeff Hasslen – salsa

Lee Nelson – honey

Jason Newby - candle

### **QUICK SUMMARY:**

5 Franklins were driven to the meet

5 Franklins were trailored to the meet

One was trailored to the meet all the way from Virginia

1 modern car came from North Carolina

**Restate** – NO modern cars on any of the tours – everyone had an opportunity to ride in a Franklin!

### **Special notes:**

Hats off to Roy Nelson who participated in all of the meet tours and events. Good to see that he has taken control of the physical challenges he faced over the past couple of years. Way to go, Roy!

### **Lastly a recap of vehicle issues**

Only four of note on this trip

- Ignition adjustment (condenser) for Dean Dorholt's 1933 Olympic on 6/3
- Engine rod for John Moss's 1924 10C on 6/6
- Engine rod for Dean Dorholt's 1933 Olympic on 6/7
- Dead battery for Bob Erickson's Ford Taurus modern car 6/7 (went dead while assisting Dean Dorholt and waiting for the tow truck for his 33 Olympic)

### **Upcoming Midwest Meets**

#### **Fall 2015 (September 16-19), Clinton, MO, —**

Come to Clinton, MO and see the sights. See an antique car collection at Downtown Desoto. Peek through Buck Harness's car barn. His collection even includes a 1915 Franklin touring car. Tour a restored DX gas station and soda shop. Tour the Henry County museum, a winery, eat some good food. Bring your sweet tooth for the 30 foot long dessert bar. Need directions on how to get to Clinton, give Dennis and Linda Radford (Hosts) a call at 660-492-0431.

**Spring 2016 (June 2-4)** Lincoln, NE, Host—John Moss and Jason Newby

### **In Remembrance of our Franklin Friends**

**Paul Hedburn—February 2015**

**Milt Smazik—July 2014 (We apologize for inadvertently leaving Milt's name off our previous Franklin Friends list)**



**What a great looking group!**

2015 Midwest Spring Meet (cont'd)



**Drivers Meeting**



**Tom discussing his car w/  
Frankliners**



**Rounding up Franklins for the tour**



**Stan Agrisome's Car Museum built  
In 1910**



*So, what is this?*



**Lee, that is not a Franklin!**



**Ernie's Station in Whalan**



**What doesn't Ernie Collect!**



**Lunch at Pedal Pushers**



**The Line-up at Lanesboro  
Hatchery**



**Really! Is that what those fish eat!**



**Look who we saw at the Fillmore County  
History Center—Yes, the BEATLES!**



**Ethanol 101—POET Ethanol Plant**



**Is it true that you can make Ethanol  
from corn or is it soybeans?**



**Schech's Mill built in 1876**

**HHFC Midwest Region  
C/O Hazel Wade  
25 N. 31st Street  
Belleville, IL 62226**



**Anxiously awaiting a tour of Shech's Mill**



**Lunch at Good Times Restaurant**



**Yoder Farm**



**Sugar Plum House**



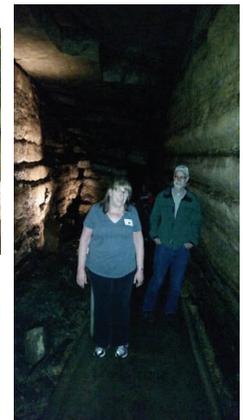
**Yummy Good Ice Cream**



**Wonderful Maywood Mansion**



**Making "Bid Decisions"  
Midwest Region Spring Meet**



**Cinda and Bill  
looking for the  
Mystery at Mystery  
Cave!**



**GUILTY for a Great Meet!**



**Is there a problem?**



**1961 Ford —Nascars fastest**