



# THE FRANKLIN LINE

## HHFC MIDWEST REGION NEWSLETTER SPRING 2020

### Greetings Franklin Friends,

I would really like to say I hope everyone has had a great season so far this year but in most cases this is not what happened as we haven't had a normal season due to the Covid 19 pandemic and most of the major tours and events are canceled. I have seen a good number of you are still getting out and driving our wonderful Franklins or partaking in smaller tours with the recommended social distancing guidelines in place. Good for you!

We had to postpone our meet in June at the Gilmore to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Collection but I'm sure we will have a great time in 2021. As Roger Moffat points out later in The Line, the Air Cooled gathering is still going to happen this year but it will be August 8<sup>th</sup> rather than our usual Father's Day weekend.

As of now, Geri and Bill Eby are still working on the fall 2020 meet that will take us to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in the first week of October.

Roy Nelson compiled his next installment of our Regions history and how the Region started, keep an eye out for it in this issue. Thanks Roy. I am always looking forward to the rest of the story.

If anyone has ideas for a Meet please let me know, we have been to a lot of places and it has probably been a long time since we were in your back yard.

Don't forget we now also have our very own Midwest Franklin Club shirts available from an embroiderer in Minnesota, they have our artwork and they have picked out some very nice shirts for us to choose from. Info is included in this issue of the line on how to work direct with the company, **Bagy-Jo**. I hear several of you are already showing off our new apparel.

That's all for now and feel free to contact me, Joan or Jeff if you are interested in hosting a meet in your area, PLEASE help us keep this great Region active and strong.

Thanks, have a great rest of the summer and *stay safe*.

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**Dean Dorholt**  
**Aura Vincit**  
**612-803-0836**

## MIDWEST REGION BUSINESS

### Secretary/Treasurer Report for The Franklin Line, June, 2020

**Secretary report:** a) **Current membership is 119.** Newest members: Mason Polston & Alaina Johnson, Forest Lake, MN; Gary & Donna Sanders, Nixa, MO; Clint Scott & Roseshel Howe, Sammamish, WA. They own a 1928 12A Convertible Coupe; James and Vicki Ware, Bonner Springs, KS. They own a 1925 11A Coupe and a 1926 11A Sedan b) In April, three new HHFC members (living within our Region boundaries) got a welcome letter and an invitation to join the Region. Four more new Club members will get letters when their addresses are published in the next ACN.

**Treasury report: Current balance is \$1,276.92.** Since the last meet, our income totaled \$630.74; expenses totaled \$522.75. The greatest expenses were for printing The Line and the 2020 Region Directory.

Joan Hasslen, Region Secretary/Treasurer

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### 2020 IS OFFICER ELECTION TIME!

**ATTENTION MEMBERS:** Our Region By-laws state that we must elect or re-elect Region officers every 3 years. Therefore we will be voting during our **2020 Fall Meet** business meeting.

Our current slate of officers are:

Pres. - Dean Dorholt, Vice Pres. – Bill Eby, Sec/Treas. – Joan Hasslen

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### SAVE THESE DATES!

**August 8 2020** - Air Cooled Gathering at the Gilmore

**October 1-3 2020** - Midwest Fall Meet - Northern Michigan

**June 18-20 2021** - Midwest Spring Meet - Air Cooled Gathering at the Gilmore



## UPDATES & OTHER INFORMATION

### WELCOME! New & Re-Joining Members who are in the 2020 Directory

<p>Mason Polston &amp; Alaina Johnson                  4845 217th St N                  Forest Lake, MN 55025                  620-794-0103 Cell                  mpolston766@gmail.com</p>	<p>Clint Scott &amp; Roseshel Howe                  4380 232nd Ct SE                  Sammamish, WA 98075                  425-557-9080 Home                  206-940-9098 Cell                  clintscott28@gmail.com</p>
<p>Paul &amp; Vanessa Zuraw                  3302 E 12th St                  Joplin, MO 64801                  417-499-1960                  mastiffman64801@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Wilford Taylor                  17451 White Wing Rd                  Canyon, TX 79015                  806-655-3607 Home                  806-679-6604 Cell                  wilfordt@sbcglobal.net</p>

### WELCOME! New Members who are NOT in the 2020 Directory

<p>Gary &amp; Donna Sanders                  216 N 36th St                  Nixa, MO 65714                  417-582-0608 Home                  417-569-3866 Cell                  gsanders@cebridge.net</p>	<p>James &amp; Vicki Ware                  3110 Loring Dr                  Bonner Springs, KS 66012                  913-422-8463 Home                  816-912-8861 Cell                  J.ware66@yahoo.com</p>
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We must also sadly say goodbye to one of our longstanding members.



## Mary Rose Hufnagel

Mary Rose Hufnagel passed away April 30, 2020 in Buffalo General Medical Center. She was an active member of the Franklin Antique Car Club. Mary Rose was loved and respected by many friends and will be greatly missed.

Mary Rose is survived by her husband, John Hufnagel.

## OUR REGION HISTORY



### From our regional historian: Roy Nelson

The Midwest Region dates all the way back to 1957 with a couple of restaurant meetings in Chicago. The next year a small but successful picnic was held, and in 1959 Clifford Boram and his mother, Dr. Catherine Logan, hosted a lunch at their home near Chicago. Unfortunately no one took the initiative to put on a meet the next year, and there was no newsletter to draw club members together. So in the summer of 1961 Lee and Roy's father, Walter Nelson, and Harold Finley saw the need for an activity to unite Franklin enthusiasts. The result was a well attended show at a park in Lockport, Il. Surprisingly 8 Franklins drove to the meet; people didn't consider using a trailer in those days. One was a totally original 1915 S.8 from Chicago. The owner had a coal business and found the car preserved in a coal shed in one of his yards. Two of his employees brought the car, and it was not running well. The carburetor was leaking and running very rich (loading up). Henry Gray owned a S.9-B and had knowledge of Wilkinson designed carburetors. He offered to help and took the cover off the float chamber. Inside were 3 fingers that the float pressed on to raise and lower the needle valve. The levers were made of pot metal, and a couple were broken! The car has since vanished-never to be seen again.

Lockport is a canal town and has a set of locks. An afternoon tour went to the locks to watch a set of barges be "locked through". Member Frank Beck was a farmer and remarked to Henry, "Some of that corn may be mine!". The group toured through a large wooded park with many winding roads. They stopped at a naturally occurring artesian well that has been flowing for centuries, then visited 2 large greenhouses.

Milt Asher drove his S.11-A doctor's coupe, and Paul and Keith Halverson came in a S.13 sport sedan. The Nelsons had their S.9-B vee-windshield sedan, and Harold Finley brought "Frankie", his '25 S.10-C. Henry Gray was a new member, and his '19 S.9B was only half restored-it was in pieces in his basement! He wrote to my father asking if it would be allowable to come (his first meet) in a modern car. We said, "Yes, by all means", so Henry and Alice drove their '57 Peugeot. But when it was time to leave the battery was low, and the car wouldn't start. Would you believe the tool kit came with a hand crank, and that's how Henry got the Peugeot started!

The day ended with a home-cooked dinner at a local church. Everyone agreed that the Midwest Region was off to a new start, and that an activity should be held each year!

Hear from Cliff Boram in the next Franklin Line...

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Air Cooled Gathering for 2020 is still on!!!!

From Roger Moffat

After discussions with the Gilmore Car Museum, and keeping in mind when things might start re-opening in Michigan, the Air Cooled Gathering scheduled on our normal day of the Saturday of Fathers' Day weekend was postponed to later in the year.

It is now being held on  
**Saturday, August 8 2020 at the Gilmore Car Museum**

*BRING YOUR FRANKLINS, OTHER AIR-COOLED CARS, OR AIR-COOLED MICRO-CARS*  
for a day of fun in the wide open spaces of the Gilmore Car Museum

**Museum admission fees:**

Franklin Club members with Franklin Membership card FREE  
Non-Franklin Club members with car \$10  
All others \$16

Any questions about this event, please contact  
Roger Moffat by email [rogerkiwi@gmail.com](mailto:rogerkiwi@gmail.com) or by phone (616) 554-7266

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F i n g e r s c r o s s e d

**Mark your calendars for Thursday thru Saturday, Oct 1-3**

**Bill & Geri Eby will let us know in plenty of time to plan a trip to Michigan**

**Stay tuned...**

## The Adventure Continues - Betty and Mario Cuniberti

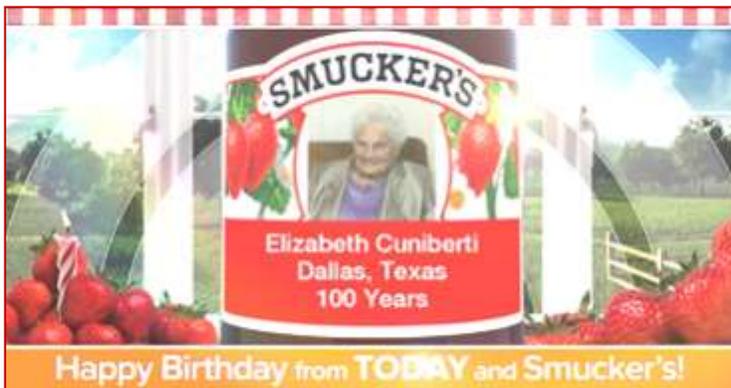
By Marilyn Cuniberti Schwartz

Betty and Mario Cuniberti met in Betty's hometown of Corning, NY when they both worked at Corning Glassworks. Corning is also where they married in 1950. It was 1951 when Mario found a 1932 Franklin green convertible abandoned in a farmer's field and likely overpaid \$50 for it! A bit later he found his 1932 Franklin sedan advertised in New York City and wanted it for parts for the convertible, but found it was in good enough condition to warrant its own restoration. About the same time Betty noticed an advertisement for a 31 touring LaSalle, so that was her gift on her first wedding anniversary. From that point, she was hooked into the antique automobile game. Naturally, she drove a stick shift and was the co-driver of Mario's Franklins. She was however smart enough to never learn to operate a lawnmower!

Today Betty is enjoying her super-senior years in Texas at an active senior residence where she amazes her new friends with her energy and charm. February this year she celebrated birthday 101. Last year she achieved her longtime goal to fly in a hot air balloon. We kids are happy that she has no desire for skydiving! At 95 she ziplined in Costa Rica, continuing her lifetime sense of adventure that was demonstrated previously when she flew a glider and when in the late 1940s, she earned her pilot's license.

Mario and Betty Cuniberti's 1932 Franklin is now in Texas with my husband, Jim, and me. The "favorite" green convertible resides in Detroit with my brother, Perry. Jim and I are active in the Texas Classic Car Club and caravanned in the Blue Ridge mountains in the back of a friend's Packard in 2018. We plan to enjoy touring in the Franklin when restoration is complete. Meanwhile we love reading about our Franklin friends and have visited Kathryn and Richard Harry in Wisconsin on family vacations to their area.

Mario has been quoted that his 3 antique cars and his 4 children were equally expensive and troublesome. Sometimes we kids wondered which he loved most...



NBC's Today Show celebrates 100 with Betty!



Betty celebrates 101 with cake



Betty flies up up & away at 100

## The Adventure Continues - Betty and Mario Cuniberti (cont)



Jim works on the 1932 Franklin



*Editor's note: If you're interested in hearing about Betty's life in her own words, see a 2016 interview with her at <https://gbctv.net/betty-cuniberti>*

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## That's it folks!

Feel free to send pictures or stories that you have about your Franklin cars and your experiences with them especially during this challenging once in a lifetime time! We'll use them in our Fall 2020 **The Franklin Line!**

Email them to [midwestfranklin@gmail.com](mailto:midwestfranklin@gmail.com)

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**ONWARD TO THE GILMORE!**

