



REDWOOD REVIEW

Regional Group #27

May 2020

Volume 51 Issue 5

Soybean Seats in the 2020 Ford Explorer!

By Patty Girman

What did Samuel Bowen have to do with Ford? Well, nothing really, except he is the man who in 1765 smuggled soybeans into the U.S. from China which eventually made it into your Ford cars. During the Great Depression, Henry Ford noticed a drop in the sales of his tractors, trucks and cars. He had made them affordable for farmers but since they now had less income, they just weren't buying. What to do? Henry, never being one to let a problem go unsolved, had chemistry labs built in Greenfield Village in 1929 and had his technicians start looking for ways to put the farmers crops to use. These chemists found that they could do something with soybeans. Soon Ford was using the oil extracted from the soybean as an auto body enamel. Before this, putting the



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lacquer on the car included five to eight coats, with each coat needing to be sanded and smoothed by hand. In 1934, a synthetic baked enamel paint, which included about 35% soy oil was being used, saving money and especially time. They were able to convert the soybean to produce a plastic which was used to make over twenty parts, including the horn button, gearshift knobs, coil cases, distributor heads, accelerator foot pedals, glove compart-

ment doors, and tractor seats. By 1935, because of the paint and molded plastic parts, every Ford car contained a bushel or 60 pound of soy beans.

In 1941, the Soy Bean car was unveiled. Although the car had a steel frame the exterior panels were made of soybean plastic. Besides holding on to the idea of helping the agricultural industry, Henry thought the plastic panels were more durable and with this being the

Continued on Page 3

From The President:

Greetings to all our Shelter in Place Members.

I hope this message finds you well and staying safe at home. This next few months are going to be hard for us because our club members love to get together and have fun. We will be cancelling our Regular Club Meetings for May and June. Our annual Swap Meet will be cancelled along with the Burney Tour. I encourage all of you that have planned on attending Burney, to call or contact Tom Johnston. Tom has another tour up to Burney planned in July for those that are interested. You will need to contact Tom and let him know if you are interested. All Board meetings along with Anniversary Meetings will be postponed until further notice. I encourage all of you to



call a friend or club member and check in to make sure they are OK. They will probably be home and happy to visit.

Take care and stay safe. I miss you all.

Carol Rasmussen



Minutes of General Meeting

With the April meeting cancelled, there are no minutes to publish.



V8 Memories

Dave Rasmussen and his 1935 pickup, Western National Meet, Whistler, B.C., 1991.

Photo: Don Couch

Soybean Seats continued from Page 1

beginning of World War II, metal was starting to be in short supply. When the USA joined the war and all car production was suspended, the idea of the soybean car went by the wayside.

Henry was also interested in soy food products. This first was introduced to the public at the 1934 World's Fair held in Chicago. Included were such delicacies as soybean crackers, bread and pies made with a soybean crust, soybean cheese, roasted soybean coffee, soybean milk and ice cream, and much more. Most did not go over very well. But, Henry was a proponent of soy milk and of course that is still used today, as are other soy products.

In the early to mid '30's synthetic materials such as Rayon were being introduced. Robert Allen Boyer, who was the head of Ford's Soybean Research Lab, developed soybean "wool", one of his most important inventions. This product not only felt like soft, warm wool, it had 80% of the strength of wool,

did not wet easily and took the same dyes as wool. Soon a fabric was developed that contained 25% of this soybean "wool" and 75% sheep's wool and was being used in the upholstery and sidewalls of many Ford cars. Henry even had a tie made using half the soybean "wool" and a few years later he was sporting a suit made with 25% soybean "wool" made special for his 78th birthday. Eventually the pilot plant for making soy protein fiber was shut down because of the war and was used then for producing aircraft engines.

Today, the Chief Engineer of the Vehicle Research and Technology lab at Ford is a woman, Cynthia Flanigan. She heads a team of 275 researchers. This team is using left-over crops from farmers to develop products that are lighter in weight to produce better fuel efficiency and reduce carbon dioxide emissions including a soybean-based seat foam now used in Fords. The 2020 Ford Explorer, for example, uses soybean foam in place of petroleum-derived foam in its seat cushions,

backs and headrests. In addition, this vehicle contains castor oil in the instrument panel. Today Ford and other manufacturers also use soy, rather than petroleum to make wire insulation and some owners have had rodents find their way into their cars to nibble on the edible insulation. Although this is not new, infestations seem to be higher with soy products. Besides using traps, a few sheets of "Bounce" fabric softener in your car and engine department may help to deter these pests. Just be sure to remember to remove the sheets before driving.

Information in this article obtained from a 2002 "Lone Star T's" newsletter article, the website of "SoyInfo Center", "thedrive.com" website and 2020 January issue of "Better Homes and Gardens".



46th Annual Swap Meet May 17, 2020



Early Ford V-8 Club
Redwood Empire Chapter



Mike Chase, Photo

ALL MAKES - ALL YEARS
BUY, SELL, TRADE - CARS & PARTS

**NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN -
ROOM FOR ALL**

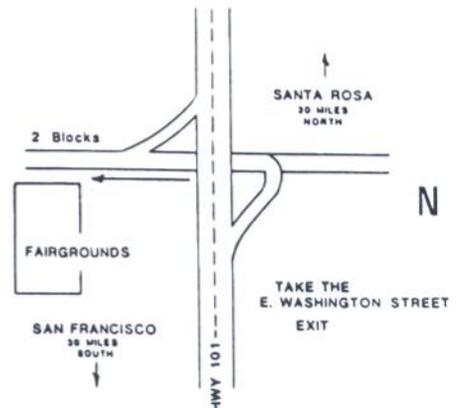
***Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds
Petaluma, California***

20' x 25' SPACE \$30.00

Information:

Dave Peterson
(707) 527-9183
E-mail: 1davepete@comcast.net

SUN-UP TO 2PM



TAMAGNO'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For More Information Contact Rick Tamagno at 707-539-2876

V8 Events Calendar

Regional Events Calendar

May

17 CANCELED—Swap Meet-RERG 27—Petaluma fairgrounds

June

20 Drive your V-8 Day. Take pictures and send to the V-8 Times

May

2 CANCELED—Swap Meet—Golden Gate RG 1. Alameda Point, Alameda

12 CANCELED—R.E.R.G. Monthly Meeting – Round Table Pizza

15-17 CANCELED—American Graffiti—Petaluma

17 CANCELED—Swap Meet at Petaluma Fairgrounds, Redwood Empire R.G.

21-24 CANCELED—Burney Falls Tour, Redwood Empire R.G. – Johnston

June

9 CANCELED—R.E.R.G. Monthly Meeting – Round Table Pizza

20 Fort Bragg Car Show—North Coast Rodders-Downtown Fort Bragg

21 Julliard Park Car Show—Santa Rosa

Please make the following changes in the Fast Finder:

CASTLE: Countryside LANE, Should be CIRCLE

PALLO: 5379 Should be—5579 on the first phone number

From the Sunshine Lady...

I am sorry to report that John Girman's mother, Eva Girman passed away on April 23rd at the age of 98 years. She lived in Ohio and there will be a celebration of life at a later date when the family will be able to gather together.

Please Note!

Burney Tour Participants
Remember to cancel your room reservation

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 01 Merle Winton

May 03 Gina Crackbon

May 04 Barbara Owens

May 05 Jim Abate

May 07 Patty Girman

May 10 Barbara McFarland

May 14 Al Lawson

May 13 Paul Cocolos

May 17 Michelle Cambra

May 19 Julie McClain

May 22 Dave Trabucco

May 24 Marilyn Boese

May 24 Yvonne Westberg

May 24 Pam Johnston

May 26 Kathy Cahill

May 26 Lynn Mattos

May 26 Lynn Mannwieler



2020 National News

Early Ford V-8 Club of America

May I



BUSTED!



I bought the Woodie at our Spring Annual Car Show and Swap Meet in 2008.

Knowing that my wife would not be too happy about bringing home another "old car", I decided to keep it a secret. Maybe not one of my best moves.

I'm fortunate to have a large barn and at that time - plenty of space.

Karen rarely goes out to the barn. I could go as far as saying she never goes out to the barn. So, who's going to see a Woodie in the barn? Perfect camouflage or so I thought.

Well, it lasted about three months.

One nice summer day, I decided to take it out for a spin.

You guessed it, BUSTED.

I got the "look" and three words ... "Don't Tell me".

Well after a bit of negotiating, (it cost me a new bathroom), she mildly warmed up to it. The good news, twelve years later, I still have them both - the Woody and my wife that is.

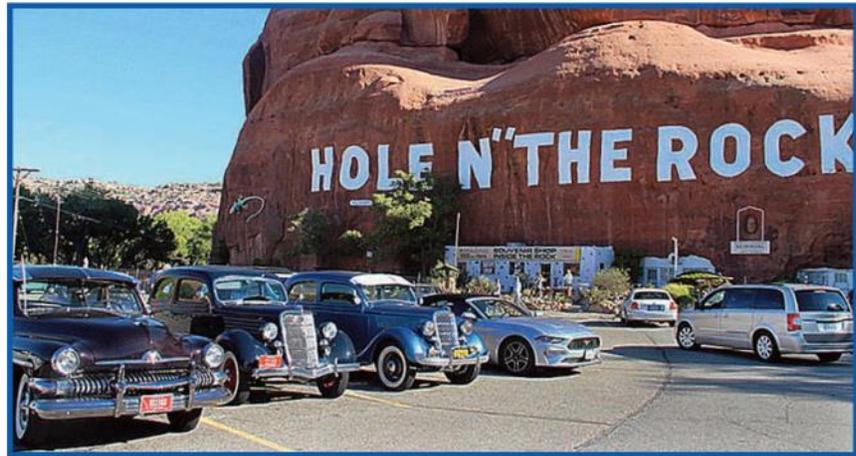
The really good news, is that I have space for one more. I know, I know, I'm living on the edge.

Kit Tucker

V-8 PAST-TIMES
Geraldyn Miller, Editor
New England RG #5

**V-8 Club
The Online Store
Books & Accesories**

**The Forum
Restoration Help
www.efv8.org**



V-8s on the 2019 National Parks Tour. Complete story in the May/June V-8 TIMES.

2020 Membership Drive

Given the magnitude of "Stay-at-Home" orders issued by states across the nation, the Early Ford V8 Club Officers and Directors regret to announce postponement of the 2020 Membership Drive. Considerations driving this decision include:

- Inability of club members to meet in groups for planning and implementing crucial Drive details
- Cancellation of all meetings, shows and outings eliminate the primary attraction for prospective members
- Impacts of social-distancing restrict opportunities for club members to recruit neighbors, friends and new acquaintances
- Effective recruitment requires face-to-face contact, not the impersonal phone call affording an easy "No thanks."

Chances for implementing a successful Drive with significant membership growth will remain impacted by current Covid-19 conditions for an unknown number of months

The National Club Officers and Directors Will announce in November plans for the 2021 Membership Drive

The future 2021 Drive will be a motivator to bring back members with new memberships, enthusiasm and fresh ideas. Be thinking now of ways to use the 2021 Spring Drive to the benefit of your Club

Raffle Car Update



Due to the cancellation of the Eastern National Meet in Morgantown, Pennsylvania in June, National Capital RG #36's raffle of a 1957 Mercury Montclair has moved to the Early Ford V-8 Museum. Proceeds from the raffle will still benefit the Museum, but now the Museum will run the raffle.

All tickets already sold have been entered into the drawing.

Tickets are \$10 each, 6 for \$50 and 15 for \$100. To purchase tickets using a credit card, call 260-927-8022, or send a check payable to the Early Ford V-8 Museum, P.O. Box 284, Auburn, IN 46706. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the stubs sent to you.

The drawing date has been moved to Sept. 5, 2020.

License #145296

**For The Latest News About
The V-8 Club
Visit The Website
www.efv8.org**

Redwood Empire Regional Group #27

2020 Officers

President:	Carol Rasmussen	(707) 226-5256
Vice President:	John Girman	(707) 992-0730
Secretary:	Steve McClain/Charlene Trabucco	(707) 575-3504
Treasurer:	Dennis Ripple	(707) 838-4331

Committee Members

Tour Coordinator:	Rick Tamagno	(707) 539-2876
Swap Meet Chairman:	Dave Peterson	(707) 527-9183
Historian:	Mike Buegeleisen	(707) 217-8751
Sunshine Lady:	Pam Johnston	(707) 255-1230
Newsletter Editor:	John Thompson	(707) 318-3520
Roster:	Patty Girman	(707) 992-0730
Club Clothing:	Mike Buegeleisen	(707) 217-8751

Board Members

Charlene Trabucco, Steve McClain, Rick Tamagno, Sterling Cousins, Richard DeCroff, Ron Mollo, John Girman, Bill Crackbon

All Members are invited to attend the Board Meetings; call any of the above Board Members for dates, time and meeting place.

Red's Vintage Parts



**Specialty Supplier of Engine
Parts for Flathead Ford V8
including V8-60**

**info@reds-vintage-parts.com
707-964-3230—Fort Bragg, CA
Red Hamilton**

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The membership dues to REDWOOD EMPIRE REGIONAL GROUP #27 are \$20.00 per year (single or couple). You may sign up at a meeting or mail in your application (with a check) to the address on the form below.

(You are required to be a member of the national Early Ford V8 Club, for membership information refer to : www.earlyfordv8club.org)

RERG #27 MEMBERSHIP FORM (mail to RERG #27 P.O. Box 3302, Santa Rosa, CA 95402)

NAME _____ Your Birth Date: Month _____ Day _____

SPOUSE _____ Spouse Birth Date: Month _____ Day _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell Ph # _____ E Mail _____

Early Ford V8'S You Own (Give Year, Model, Body Style and Engine Type)

(Attach additional sheets with V8 information as needed)

John Thompson, Editor
The Redwood Review
478 Woodley Place
Santa Rosa, Ca 95409



Dave Kibler, Ford Tri-motor visit, Napa, May 2015

REDWOOD EMPIRE RG # 27 IN SONOMA, MARIN & NAPA COUNTIES, May 2020

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 PM at Round Table Pizza- Exit Hwy 12 & Stony Point Road to 2065 Occidental Road, Santa Rosa. All interested V8-ers are invited to attend! This newsletter is a monthly publication of Redwood Empire RG # 27 of the Early Ford V8 Club of America. Other Regional Groups may reprint material, provided proper credit is given.