



# REDWOOD REVIEW

Regional Group #27

November 2020

Volume 51 Issue 11

## My First Adventure In Life

By Jerry Williams

This is not a story involving a Ford, This is a story of my first adventure in life involving a 1931 Plymouth 5 Window Coupe! I will really have to rack my brain on this story because it happened back in the late 40s - or early 50s when I was about 15 or 16 years old. At the time I lived about 5 miles north of Idaho Falls, Idaho. My parents Alice and George Williams ran a roadside Conoco Service Station / Restaurant on highway 50.

My adventure began when my mother decided to drive to Redwood City, California to visit with my relatives and asked me to share the driving chores with her, (As it turns out I drove the entire dis-

tance, just over 900 miles) in under 24 hours in a 1947 Chevrolet. We made it with no mis-haps. I want to make note that my 18 year old sister Beverly made the trip also!

During our stay I was able to get a job washing dishes at Johnny Mac's Restaurant on El Camino in Redwood City. While there I rode with my Uncle to Van Ness Avenue so he could buy a used Hudson, I was able to buy his 1931 Plymouth for \$50.00 Dollars, setting me free!

My original plan was to quit school, ( I would be starting my Junior year) and would stay in California to work. But once I got that Plymouth I just had to go back to Idaho to show it off! And so the decision was made to drive it back to Idaho along with help from my sister. That left my mother to drive back to Idaho by herself (not cool)!

My adventure began with very little planning, I went to a gas station and filled my gas tank and two 5 gallon cans, gas was

19 cents a gallon (Hard to believe now). I checked the water and oil, no coolant back then. So, loaded down with mine and my sisters luggage, two 5 gallon cans of gas and other items in my tiny trunk we started out! The distance we had to drive was just over 900+ miles over rough 2 lane roads and mostly desert country! It was August or September so the weather was very hot. We took off for our first stop in Reno, Nevada and made it across the Sierra Nevada Mountains with no problems. I was worried about over-heating, but not so.

The next leg of our journey was Reno to Winnamucca, Nevada, all hot desert country, no problems there. The next leg was to Wells, Nevada. Somewhere during this leg my little Plymouth began to over-heat and vapor lock. Very luckily we came upon a roadside gas station. Just prior to this stop , I poured the ten gallons of gas in the tank. When I pulled into the station I told the owner to fill -r -up, but it only took at most one gallon, man was he pissed. He opens my hood and throws a bucket of cold water over my engine, When I complained he

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## From The President:

Greetings and Hello to you all.

I can't believe it's already time for the Holidays. This year has been the hardest for us, yet time is passing quickly. The National Board of Directors for the National Club have prohibited regional groups from holding any sanctioned activity unless the regional group purchases a \$1 million dollar insurance policy. This will be enforced until the Covid19 pandemic is resolved.

We have no idea when that will be so we have decided to offer a video Zoom meeting. This way we can be safe in our homes and still feel connected. This is how it's going to work. There will be a training meeting, so we can get you all set for the club meeting. I will guide you through the process and we can make this work. You will need to download Zoom on your phone at the app store when using your cell phone. Or go to Google and type in Zoom on your computer and join a meeting. Make sure your camera and Volume is on.

My cell phone number is 707-246-4158 and I will have my phone handy to guide you through if needed.

**Meeting ID: 283 760 6253**

**Passcode: kx4Xqy**

**and Passcode for cell phones is : 098852**

You may not need the passcode, but have it handy.

The Training Zoom meeting will be Sunday Evening the 7th of November



at 7:00 pm. This will give you a chance to sign in and check cameras and speakers.

The Regional Club meeting will be Tuesday November 10th at 7:00 pm

We will hold our regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, and because we won't be having our Annual Holiday Brunch, we will have a December meeting on the 8th. at 7:00. We will use the same Meeting ID and Passcodes for all the meetings.

As you will read in the newsletter, John Thompson is ending his position as the club newsletter editor this year. He has done an amazing job and we thank him for all his work.

We are going to need to find someone to take on this position especially now to keep communication going. I am sure John will train you and the transition will move smoothly.

So update on Dave's dream car, he is still waiting for the paint and the interior to be completed. We are both anx-

iously waiting for that drive remembering those early days.

Dave and I have been busy with National book sales. You can see there is a sale on a few of the club books on page 92 of the current V-8 times.

We managed to visit the pumpkin farm this year with our little ones, Dylan and Arturo. I also managed to find time to do some pumpkin crafts with our daughters.



I hope that all of you have recovered from the fire scare and hopefully the wind will be blowing the right direction to keep us all safe. Please be safe and hopefully I will see you at our Zoom Meeting.

*Carol Rasmussen*

## Minutes of General Meeting

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

said “So what” , either cool it down or blow it up, fortunately no harm was done.

I would like to take some time to apologize for some of my information not being exactly correct or in line, but I assure you all of this happened. I think my sister was sitting on pins and needles for the entire trip. The trip from Wells Nevada to Idaho falls was uneventful thank God. I don't remember how long the trip took. I suppose you could say that attempting a trip like that at 16 years old was pretty stupid, I say it was Gutsy!!!!

## 2020 Christmas Brunch

As many of you know or have guessed, we won't be having the RERG Christmas Brunch this year because of Covid-19. However, cross your fingers and mark your calendars, we have scheduled the 2021 Christmas Brunch for Sunday, December 5. We were able to roll the deposit from this year toward next year and keep the same menu. Hope to see you before then.



and then maybe not!

My experience begins at home, home is Beaches Corner, Idaho Falls , Idaho. I had just had my 17th Birthday and I was telling my Parents that I had just quit school mid- way through my junior year. My mother responded by telling me that I had better “by God start looking for a job’! As I was not about to “just lay around the house”! Well I thought I would show her a thing or two so I hitch-hiked to town, went to the Recruiters office and joined the United States Marine Corps. But there were two hurdles I had to get over before they could sign me up, The first hurdle was I was 5ft 11inches, and 124lbs. Well seems that the USMC has a 125lb minimum weight limit, So after some coaxing I got the Recruiter to put me down as 125lbs, first problem solved! Then I was informed that I would need my parents consent, Oh boy! Well after much sniveling and coaxing my parents reluctantly sign for me. Reluctantly is putting it mildly because the war in Korea had just started!

I started my journey a snotty nosed 125? Lb., red headed kid from farm country. My mother and my sister saw me off on a Greyhound Bus, headed to Salt

Lake City where I went through a physical and was sworn into the Marine Corps. The next step on my journey was a leisurely train trip to MCRD San Diego, then a short bus ride to MCRD!!!!

As I was waiting my turn to leave the bus I started to hear a lot of yelling! I thought what are these people yelling about! Well moments later I thought I had died and gone to hell! We were instructed in very un-friendly terms to line up by putting our feet on the yellow foot prints! Then when these mean looking people were satisfied with our formation we were marched inside a building whose only furnishings was a kind of desk top encircling the entire long narrow room where as it seems we signed our life away. When we entered the room we were told to stand at attention, we stood there for a very long, long time. While we were at attention one guy got the giggles! After hearing him giggle for a while three very big men in uniform came in and took him out of the room, He was gone for quite a long time and when he returned he had a very somber look on his face, and I swear that he never smiled again all through Boot Camp!

I do not remember getting any sleep that night, the next thing I knew we were lined up in a large warehouse being issued our uni-

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forms, boots and a rifle and I remember a bucket full of stuff. We were then marched to our area which was line upon line of six-man tents with a wooden walkway between the rows.

I started Boot Camp in April 1951 and graduated June 1951 an 8 wk camp (8 weeks was war time Boot Camp) I'm so happy I only had to spend 8wks in this hellhole! My Drill Instructors were Sgt. F.J.Case, Sgt. C.R.Funk and Cpl. W.D.Spellman, three very surly characters. I was in Platoon #145.

It only took me a couple of days to learn to "keep my eyes and ears open and my mouth shut", example, about the second day I was caught not shaving at muster. Now mind you at 17 I only had a little red peach fuzz on my chin, so I along with two others were told come to the D.I.s Tent after evening muster. I noticed at the time the D.I. didn't take my name, so I took a chance and did not show up, cool move. The two others were made to shave with a bucket over their head all while smoking a cigarette, the next day the whole Platoon had to listen to the wrath of the D.I.s all because I did not show up! I felt very guilty, NOT! The second clue that I got was when I was caught walking around with my hands in my pockets! After getting a thorough ass chewing I was led to a sand pile

where I filled all my pockets with sand, which I had to leave there for three days, I received a lot of kidding over this one! That was the last stupid move I made! One very distinct disadvantage I had was being a Freckle Faced Red Head, when looking for "volunteers", for a working party it seems that I always got picked, "Hey Red" yes you! I really hated to pick-up cigarette butts when I didn't smoke. Another reason that I always caught hell was "Marching"! I don't think I ever wore out a pair of shoes my whole life time. We were ordered to turn in a pair of boots every two weeks to have the worn out heels replaced from digging in while marching! I did not wear out my heels. The D.I.s would get down real close and watch me dig in my heels, my marching always passed muster, and I always got chewed out every two weeks!

There were a number of things the D.I.s did to make us think for ourselves, the first one was after lights out on the first night was to call a muster, and getting us out as quickly as possible, where as expected we got an ass chewing for taking too long. The next time was better but still too long, another ass chewing, about this time I got smart and left my boots on in bed, so the next time we were called out to muster I had my boots on as did some others. Well once again this infuriated the D.I.s and they continued this

for the rest of the night, falling out in Skivvies and Boon-Dockers!

An other fun thing we got to do after a miserable day of marching on the parade field, and of course making our D.I.s very unhappy! Was to "Duck-Walk" all the way to the Mess Hall for evening chow. Now to explain how Duck-Walking is done, you squat down and put your hands on your hips and march all the way to chow in this squatting position. Believe me it was not easy and the result was some very sore leg muscles for the next couple days!

One thing we seemed to not do very well while marching was "Right and Left shoulder arms". The object was to keep your weapon square on your shoulders. So! Our D.I.s cure for that was to put each Squad back to back and Do right and left shoulder arms. If you did not keep your weapon square it will hit the guy behind you on the head and vice-versa. Another thing the D.I.s would do, is when we fell out for muster you must have your bolt on your M1 open at all times, (this was required while we were at rifle range), and closed at all other times. When not complying we were required to hold our arms out in front with palms down with rifle on our finger tips. I don't remember for how long but the criteria was hold it as long as you could with out dropping it,



# TAMAGNO'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

## Regional Events Calendar

**November 8 Devils Darlin's Toy Cruise:** Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Sonoma Developmental Center, Glen Ellen, cruise through Glen Ellen to Sonoma and Silveira Chevrolet. Bring an unwrapped toy to donate, bring a lunch to enjoy at Silveira. Info at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/388753372248442/>

All events subject to rescheduling/cancellation due to Pandemic.

### Sunshine Lady Report for Oct. 2020

Lori and her husband Jess are no longer members of Regional Group #27 but have continued to graciously host their annual picnic. Unfortunately, Lori had a brain tumor removed three weeks ago but thankfully the tumor turned out to be benign.

However, she is dealing with some residual problems and she is doing very well. She can still be reached at [loritodd17@gmail.com](mailto:loritodd17@gmail.com). or phoned at 707 887-7073. I'm sure she would love to hear from us.

### FastFinder Update

Just to keep everyone in the loop, the Board decided at their last meeting, not to publish a 2021 Roster. Instead we will update the FastFinder. As you all know, we have not been able to hold our once a year money-maker event, the May Swap Meet, for two years now, and who knows about next May. So our only club revenue at this time is the \$20 a year dues that each member unit pays. Even though we are not having meeting and events, there are still some expenses, e.g., the newsletter.

So if you have changed your name or

address or updated or added any phone numbers or emails that you would want to share with club members, please let me know. We will not be listing cars in the FastFinder. You can send me an email, [jrgplg@aol.com](mailto:jrgplg@aol.com) or snail mail or phone (my info is still that same as in your present roster). Or if there are any changes you want to make, just include them with the \$20 check you will be sending in for your 2021 dues. The new FastFinder will be mailed to club members as soon as all dues are collected and we have a list of current club members.

Thank you all and I hope your are staying well.

**Patty Girman, Membership chair**

### Dues Are Due!

The annual membership cost will remain \$20 for both single and couples.

*Please mail checks to:*

**Early Ford V8 Club R.G. 27**

**P.O. Box 3302**

**Santa Rosa, CA 95402**

# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |               |                          |               |                        |               |                      |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| <b>Nov 03</b> | <b>Dennis Hegerhorst</b> | <b>Nov 18</b> | <b>Ken Dyche</b>       | <b>Nov 27</b> | <b>Dennis Ripple</b> |
| <b>Nov 04</b> | <b>Diane Showalter</b>   | <b>Nov 20</b> | <b>Steve McClain</b>   |               |                      |
| <b>Nov 05</b> | <b>Lang Clary</b>        | <b>Nov 22</b> | <b>Dave Rasmussen</b>  |               |                      |
| <b>Nov 07</b> | <b>Ron Mollo</b>         | <b>Nov 22</b> | <b>Dennis McIntosh</b> |               |                      |
| <b>Nov 11</b> | <b>Terry Block</b>       | <b>Nov 26</b> | <b>Edy Sorenson</b>    |               |                      |

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drop it and start all over again. Also, while at rifle range if you are caught with your bolt closed you got to open it with your nose! Believe me it can be done! A bloody nose yes, but it will get done! Another really fun thing, and I mean fun was to have a "RAM"! To have a ram requires two Platoons, the two platoons will march out about 50-100ft from each other and then double time toward each other until they collide, this will continue 4-5 times until a couple of fights start. Then it's over!

On a more personal note, about four weeks into Boot Camp we were taken to the PX to buy any personal products we might need, shaving soap, tooth paste, hair product, comb wait a minute! Hair Product? Yes, I bought hair product and a comb. After four weeks into Boot Camp my hair had grown out enough that I thought I could comb my hair, bad idea! The minute the D.I.s spotted my combed hair with a neat part down the right side they started messing it up every time I removed my cover, intentionally giving me a good knuckle head rub at the same time, Another personal item, I got badly constipated so I went to sick bay to get something for it, the Corpsman gave me something that tasted kind of like molasses to drink then he told me with a grin on his face to double time back to my barracks (we were now housed in a Barracks) running sounded kind of suspicious to me so I walked

back, good thing because I just barely made it back to the head. If I had double timed it back I could only imagine what would have happened!

Making up our bunks was also a challenge, The blanket had to be tight enough to bounce a quarter, as I remember it, two inches in the air. (Could have been more), if not two inches you got to make up your bunk all over again, over, and over again!

Finally, we were getting near graduation, we were beautifully suntanned, looking like a brick s\_\_t house. I got my PFC stripes and sewed them on to my uniform shirt, I did such a good job that I was asked by a bunch of guys if I would sew their stripes on, which I did, late into the night! Finally the day before graduation day we were to have a dress rehearsal. We fell out all spit polished with tight seams in our new uniforms w/rifle and cartridge belt. Inspection started off then! Our D.I. found a grocery list in the cartridge belt of one of the recruits, yes I did say a grocery list! How it got there who knows, but it was there! Then while inspecting another recruit's rifle excessive cleaning oil started running out of the rifle. The inspection was then suspended and we were informed we would not graduate for another two weeks! Oh my god, another two weeks of this hell hole! The next morning, Graduation day at muster we were informed that

we would after all graduate! There was one big collective sigh of relief. Graduation went off without a hitch, and from that day forward we would forever be called United States Marines.....!

This is what I remember about Marine Boot Camp at MCRD. 1951! There is still probably much that I have forgotten but these are events engrained in my memory forever, and that's not too bad sixty-seven years later!

Pfc. Gerald J Williams 1183772  
jw383ford@yahoo.com

***From the Editor:***

It's hard to believe its been five years since I took over the newsletter editor duties from the very capable hands of Pat Brunanchon. I'll be retiring after the December issue. Which means we will be needing someone to jump in and take over the duties. It's not too difficult if you are somewhat computer savvy and I'd be happy to show you the ropes (so to speak). If you have an interest in learning more, please contact me or President Rasmussen for details.

*John Thompson, Editor*

## 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](http://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



REG #27 founding member, Mori Nelson on tour to Lorin Sorenson's home

**REDWOOD EMPIRE RG # 27 IN SONOMA, MARIN & NAPA COUNTIES, NOVEMBER 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.