

These old wheels keep on turning

By Louise Okrutey
staff writer

For some drivers, tooling around in the latest model off the assembly line just isn't enough of a thrill.

They're happy to put aside, at least for a while, such innovations as stereo radio and air conditioning in favor of driving in a car which sports running boards and a rumble seat.

Russ Yarborough and Dan Hall of Troy are hooked on driving a vintage model so pampered it never looked as good on the late, late show.

Yarborough, a vice president of Fourties, Inc., Madison Heights, has been carrying on a love affair with old cars for most of his life. It's a sentimental feeling about chrome and metal on four wheels which led to his acquiring a 1922 Model T roadster and a 1929 DeSoto Sedan.

Yarborough plans to drive his cream-colored 1931 Ford convertible in the Wheels of Freedom Automobile Show and Parade as part of the International Freedom Festival, June 27.

The car was acquired three years ago through a friend who had seen it in Argentina. It always had been in the family of its previous owners, Yarborough said.

"WHEN IT WAS sold, they felt they were losing a member of the family," he said.

They may have lost a member of the family, but Yarborough gained a project that kept him busy for the next few years. The gleaming car with the immaculate leather top and matching cushions came to the states in slightly less than perfect condition.

Yarborough's wife, Nancy, put a new convertible top on the car and made the matching cushions. She also accompanied her husband as he tramped through auto shows in search of parts. Other portions of the restoration were done with professional help.

For Yarborough, the thrill of driving an older car holds a greater appeal than the greasy, grimy job of restoring it. As Yarborough stands in front of his Troy condominium, the wind catching his graying hair, he looks with out-and-out pride at the Ford parked in his driveway.

"It isn't transportation," he admits. "Part of the appeal is pure nostalgia. I was a teenager when they were around," he said.

The car's equipment doesn't include a radio and only one windshield wiper keeps the driver's side of the window clear in bad weather. The ride is a little bumpy and breezier. That year, wind-downs on the side were still a styling dream. Appreciation of the car's styling is another lure for the Yarboroughs.

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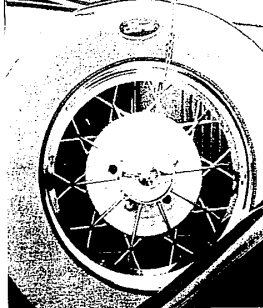


It took seven years and lots of polish for Dan Hall to restore his prized 1941 Huppmobile to the gleaming vehicle that now stands in his Troy driveway. The project, which involved his entire family, played close

attention to such details as the front grillwork of the car pictured at left.



The dapper owner of a 1931 Ford, Ross Yarborough of Troy, has a special fondness for the styling of the older models.



New wheelcovers and gleaming spokes are among the details that help make the restored 1931 Ford shine.

Photos by Dwight Cendrowski

INSIDE ANGLES

KUDOS AND a brand new deck of cards to Helen P. Davidson, of Farmington Hills, who recently attained life master rank, the highest award presented by the American Contract Bridge League. The award has been won by only 32,000 of the millions who play bridge. The rank was established in 1935.

The rank is awarded players who accumulate 300 master points awards for success in bridge play, with at least 50 won in regional or continentally ranked championship competitions. Mrs. Davidson was awarded a gold card. The contract bridge league establishes rules of play and sponsors tournaments and club play throughout North America.

PEPSI HOT SHOT, a basketball competition sponsored by the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation department, is coming next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

It's open to boys and girls 9 to 18 years of age free at neighborhood playground centers. Each participant will have a minute to dribble from half court into shooting range from designated hot spots. Points ranging from 1 to 5 will be awarded based on the position of the shot. Points will be subtracted for walking, palming and double-dribbling.

On July 6, the competition is slated for Forest, Wooddale, Woodcree and Middlebelt school playgrounds. July 7 at Longacre, Gill and Flanders. July 8 at William Grace. Larkshire and Dunckel. Winners in six categories will go onto city finals. For more information, call the recreation office at 474-6115.

LOOKING TO FILL your holiday calendar? Look to Hamtramck, site of the First Annual Kielbasa Festival July 4 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Keyworth Stadium, Roosevelt at Gallagher, two blocks east of Jos. Campau. Start off your holiday with ethnic music, food, a kielbasa eating contest and an all male hot leg contest. The evening will end with a bang of fireworks.

FORGETTABLE FILMS are on Channel 56-TV's agenda beginning July 11 at 1 a.m. The series will bring rarely seen flicks to TV viewers on consecutive Saturdays. Box office bombs include Jesse James Meets Frankenstein's Daughter, Blood and Defiance, Billy the Kid versus Dracula, Hercules versus the Sea Monster, Village of the Giants, and Messalina versus the Son of Hercules. 56 promises to feature the best of the worst films.

TEXAS MAY LOOK like the pot of gold at the end of the unemployment rainbow, but there

are five other states with lower unemployment rates — Nebraska, Massachusetts, Kansas, Wyoming and Virginia.

That's just one of many facts listed in a pamphlet-size guide to relocations published by United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit. Called "The Grass May Be Greener — Check It Out Before You Leap," offers tips on where to begin; what to consider before making a move, where to get consulting; how to gain information about benefits, and how to gather facts about other communities where job opportunities might be greater. Publication of the guide is part of a UCS project to reach out to assist families and individuals who, because of economic hardships, are undergoing considerable stress. Copies of the guide are available by writing or calling United Community Services, 51 W. Warren, Detroit 48201; 833-0622. The pamphlets are also available at public libraries, MESO offices, health and social agencies, and union halls.

WALK DOWN THE BLOCK, bicycle the nearest path, or boogie in a roller rink, urges the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission. The commission just passed a resolution endorsing "Life. Be In It," a five-year campaign to encourage more activity in the day-to-day priorities of life.

Commission staff will begin planning events centered around the theme, such as footraces, golf and tennis tournaments, ski races, senior citizens festivals and recreation tours. The program is coordinated through the National Recreation and Park Association. For more information, phone Oakland County at 858-0906.

THREE WEEKS until the 17th annual Farmington Founders Festival and the committee is still looking for volunteers to make this year's event a smash hit. The festival will run July 21 to 26. Various committees need help. Also, the committee is still looking for persons interested in obtaining space for arts & crafts booths or ethnic foods booths (a new festival offering).

Write the Founders Festival at P.O. Box 2694, Farmington Hills 48018. Or call Marilyn Dehahn at 553-0470.

AMATEUR FARMERS, you can reserve a spot now for the Farmers Market sponsored by the Farmington Community Center every Saturday in August and September, rain or shine.

Backyard gardeners and farmers can call 477-8404 for more information about the rates.

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