



William Chorky of Farmington Hills stands proudly beside his 1931 Chrysler Dual Cowl Phaeton, one of three autos he displayed at the Concours d'Elegance Aug. 4 at Meadow Brook Hall



A perfectly restored auto from bygone days, the 1931 Chrysler Dual Cowl Phaeton, graces Farmington Hills resident William Chorky's garage. This auto, displayed at the Concours d'Elegance Aug. 4 at Meadow Brook Hall at Oakland University in Rochester, has a windshield in the front and back, front headlights which move in same direction as the wheels and a trunk in the rear with removable compartments.

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Antique car buff in California Concours show

By Susan Buck
staff writer

The classic antique autos that William Chorky now owns were beyond the financial reach of his family during the Depression.

But Chorky will readily admit today that fate has been kind to him.

"I'm the luckiest man in the world," he said.

For the last five years, Chorky has participated in the Concours d'Elegance at Meadow Brook Hall at Oakland University in Rochester Hills. The Concours, held

Aug. 4, displayed some of the world's most prominent automobiles.

"There are two Concours d'Elegance of equal importance — the one here in Detroit and the one in Pebble Beach, California," Chorky said.

THE EVENT at Pebble Beach is by invitation only and Chorky was more than pleased to accept.

"My 1934 Packard Victoria Coupe won a blue ribbon at the Meadow Brook Concours last year," Chorky said. "I believe that's why I've been invited to Pebble Beach this year. It's the piece de resistance."

Chorky owns Ace Controls Inc., located on Industrial Park Drive in Farmington Hills, which manufactures fluid power equipment. He and his wife, Alice, moved to Farmington Hills in 1959.

Another auto Chorky owns is a 1931 Chrysler Dual-Cowl Phaeton by LeBaron, which has a cowl and windshield in the front and the back. "This car was renovated in Australia and shipped here to L.A.," Chorky said.

THE CAR is driven locally only in good weather and for short distances.

It was one of three autos shown this year at Meadow Brook. The others are a 1934

Packard station wagon, the only one in the world (body by Bridgeport), which will be shown in early October in Hershey, Pa.; and a 1932 Auburn Boat-tail Speedster 12 cylinder, which had to do 100 miles on the track. The Boat-tail will be shown at an ACE meeting during Labor Day weekend in Auburn, Ind.

Chorky's home on Lyncroft, where he and his family moved in 1968, is a small Italian villa built in 1916. A curio cabinet sports crystal Lalique hood ornaments.

He added a large garage to accommodate his classic cars, which he began collecting 15 years ago.

MEMORIES OF older times influenced and spurred him on. "I started with Model As," Chorky said. "In my earlier days, I did all my own work."

Today, Larry McNeal of Jocko and Sons, in Dearborn, is his restorer. Transported autos are tied down in a closed trailer.

"All of the innovations came in the '30s and '40s," Chorky said. "They had all the gadgets then," Chorky, a world traveler, said.

Chorky and his wife have seven children: William, Lorraine, Susan, Janet, Karen, Nancy and Lois.

Law limits kids in motion

Farmington eyes skateboard curbs

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Whether it's skateboards or trendy rollerblades and rollerskis, the Farmington city council members want limits placed on juveniles in motion.

A skateboard ordinance draft was introduced at Monday's city council meeting. Adoption following a second reading August 19 is expected.

The ordinance would restrict the use of skateboards, roller skates and other similar devices from certain sidewalks, parking lots and other designated areas within the community.

Council tabled review of the regulations in May, pending a response from the Farmington school district as to whether they wished to control the use of these devices on school property.

On July 8, Farmington school board trustees requested both Farmington and Farmington Hills councils to approve an ordinance prohibiting the use of skateboards, rollerblades and rollerskis on school property.

THE COUNCIL reviewed similar ordinances in 11 other communities before requesting city attorney John Donohue to draft a proposed ordinance for the council's consideration.

Only bicycles are addressed in the traffic code, so the only thing police can do with skateboard or roller skating problems now is to issue a trespassing ticket.

The proposed skateboard ordinance prohibits the use of skateboards and skates on the sidewalks in the central business district, on city-owned and school-owned properties and on other private properties unless permission has been obtained from the owner.

The central business district is bounded by Oakland and Thomas street on the north, School and Grove streets on the east, Orchard and



Jeff Mahall, 14, of Farmington, skateboards at home on State Street. "If they (city of Farmington) are going to restrict us, they should build a park." The city council is considering restrictions on skateboards.

State street on the south, and Liberty street on the west.

Skateboards and rollerskates would still be allowed on all other city sidewalks as long as it does not interfere with pedestrian safety.

Deadman would be authorized to erect signs on any sidewalk prohibiting roller skating or skateboards.

PENALTIES INCLUDE impoundment and as yet undetermined fines.

"If it is a civil infraction, you can ticket minors but it is not an arrestable offense," said Frank Lauboff, public safety director. This is impossible under a misdemeanor, he said.

This ordinance addresses issues

raised by the Longacre Elementary parent group including prohibition of skating on benches and other devices, which are not intended to be used for that purpose.

The issue was first raised by Debbie Cornwell, Farmington-area PTA Council president and past-president of the Longacre Elementary PTA where problems were noticed.

"When a person is skateboarding or roller skating on a sidewalk or other area designed for pedestrian use, such person shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrians," the ordinance reads.

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