

Biography of Howard Eckstein



I got my start with the Model A hobby in 1965 when my dad bought my car for me. He passed the 1931 standard coupe that was chained to a billboard in front of a chiropractor's home and office in North Hollywood on his way to work every day. When we knocked on the door, the crusty old man looked me over and declared that he wouldn't sell it to us. He didn't want the car turned into a hot rod. After swearing that I wanted to keep the car original, he finally relented and sold it to us for the asking price of \$350; top dollar for a Model A in those days. I still have that car. It's the car I learned to drive in.

In 1969 I bought a wrecked 1930 Fordor sedan for \$150 and got it roadworthy. In 1972, I bought a 1931 deluxe coupe that was in pieces for \$250. Within two years that car was restored and roadworthy.

Since retirement, I've spent a lot of time restoring or repairing other people's Model As.

I became involved with MAFCA about 2015. A local chapter was started about that time, and I soon found myself on the board where I've served in various capacities since then. I submitted an article to the Restorer which earned the Bill Reeder Literary Award. This necessitated that my wife, Gemma, and I go to Medford, Oregon to get it. It was there that we were encouraged to go to the convention in Loveland where Gemma competed in the era fashion contest.

In Reno, I attended a seminar about the Restorer's Class. I responded to the invitation to join in the evaluation of cars under the watchful eyes of the senior evaluators. I've since been invited to serve on the committee.

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