



CLUTCH CHATTER



FROM As

VOLUME 29

ISSUE 4

APRIL, 2026

TO Zs

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2026 CALENDAR

- APR 2** - Monthly Meeting, 6:30 P. M.
Peaslee Tech Center
- MAY 7** - Monthly Meeting, 6:30 P.M.
Peaslee Tech Center



CELEBRATIONS

- April 1 - Passover Begins**
- April 1 - April Fool's Day**
- April 3 - Good Friday**
- April 5 - Easter Sunday**
- April 22, Earth Day**

EDITOR'S NOTE

Just a friendly reminder - all items for our newsletter are due by the 15th, monthly.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month my thoughts are on the need for volunteers to step up to shadow some of our event leaders and learn about and back them up for our clubs main events. The swap meet and car show take time to organize, plan, and work up meetings of volunteers from the club plus all the time Joe, Jack, and Daryl put in of their own time to put on every year.

I would like to form a steering committee of club members to figure out how we could support these functions and worst case have a way to step in if something should happen that our current leaders can't do this task any more.

Your thoughts and suggestions are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Lagerstrom, President

LRAACA WEBSITE

Website: www.lraaca.org

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P.O. Box 442006
Lawrence, KS 66044

Phone: (785) 843-AACA or
(785) 842-7982

FAX: (785) 843-2222

Here you can find information on being a member, upcoming events & general information about the club.

2026 LRAACA OFFICERS

President: Robert Lagerstrom
(785) 766-9847
Vice President: Jack Todd
(785) 917-2372
Secretary: K. L. Homolka
(785) 865-8503
Treasurer: Pete Maxon
(785) 608-4222

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(3 year terms)

Russ French - through 2026
(785) 766-9847
Darrell Workman - through 2027
(785) 979-4562
Doug McNichols - through 2028
(785) 243-0883



APRIL CELEBRATIONS

MEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS

Shirley Cormack

MEMBER'S ANNIVERSARIES

Stanley & Linda Hayden
April 27, 1968 - 58 years
Jack & Delores Todd
April 8, 1966 - 60 years

CLUTCH CHATTER is the official publication of the Lawrence Region Antique Automobile Club of America. CLUTCH CHATTER is published monthly and any reports, articles or pictures must be submitted by the 15th of the month. They can be emailed to:

kstrunkguy@yahoo.com

Please use the above email as it goes directly to the Club's computer.

Shirley Cormack, Editor
715 Wellington Road
Lawrence, Ks 66049 (785) 841-6033

COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2026

CAR SHOW - Daryl Barnes
SWAP MEET - Joe Arneson
SCHOLARSHIP - Tony Mitchell
TRAILER - Joe Arneson
SUNSHINE - Margaret Barnes
CONTRIBUTIONS - Pete Maxon
HISTORICAL - **Vacant**
MEMBERSHIP - Pete Maxon and
K. L. Homolka
PROGRAMS - Jack Todd
REFRESHMENTS - Daryl Barnes

EDITOR'S NOTE

If we have missed a birth or anniversary date it is because we don't have the information. Please ask K. L. Homolka for the "Information Form" and return to him. This will provide the dates to be in your newsletter at the appropriate time.

Your Editor needs articles to put in the newsletter, so please send anything you have that you'd like to share. Send items to **kstrunkguy@yahoo.com** (by email).

**LAWRENCE REGION AACA
MONTHLY MEETING
March 5, 2026**

CALLED TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by President Robert Lagerstrom with the Pledge of Allegiance, February 5, 2026 at 6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: (29) Joe & Janice Arneson, Daryl Barnes, Jace Bayless, Shirley Cormack, Tim Craig, Chris & Joanne Eichhorn, Stanley Hayden, K.L. Homolka, Steven Hubbard, Robert & Karen Lagerstrom, Darrell & Linda Lamer, Sean Lewis & Jessica Felton, Pete Maxon, Dave & Barbara Maycock, Tony Mitchell, Carl Peer, Aiden Schmitz, Tom & Sharon Stallings, Ken & Donna Tibbits, Jack Todd, Darrell Workman.

MINUTES: Motion to approve as posted in February. 2026 Clutch Chatter by Tom Stallings, second by Stanley Hayden, no corrections, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pete stated the expenses, income & balance of our account. Motion to approve report by Tom Stallings, second by Ken Tibbits, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **SWAP MEET PLANNING MEETING** will be Wednesday, March 18, at 6:30 P.M. at Joe's garage. Reported that some club members will be needed to assist in public parking Friday and part of Saturday. Jack stated that vendor-spot sales are very strong.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jack gave us an update on Delores's knee operation & rehab.

J. B. HODGDON CLASSIC CAR AUCTION was discussed. For further details, see (bids.auctionbymayo.com). It is an on-line auction.

Shirley gave the club two albums of car shows of past years, local and other. Daryl Barnes has the albums, if you know the history of any of the cars, write it on the back for our club's history.

OLD BUSINESS: Sean & Darrell gave the club information on upcoming St. Patrick's Day Parade.

NEW BUSINESS: None

DOOR PRIZE: Sean Lewis won the door prize.

REFRESHMENTS: Thanks for Ken and Donna Tibbits for the refreshments.

Chris and Joanne Eichhorn will host refreshments in April.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Tom Sallings, second by Ken Tibbits, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

K. L. Homolka, Secretary

EDITOR'S NOTE

Due to computer problems the minutes of the Swap Meet meeting on March 18th are unavailable and will be posted in the May newsletter.



2026 SCHEDULED NATIONALS - NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

Apr 9-11 - Southeastern Spring Nationals, Charlotte, NC

Apr 23-25 - Annual Grand Nationals/Western Spring Nationals, Las Vegas

May 28-30 - Eastern Spring Nationals, Indiana, Pa

Jun 11-13 - Southeastern Fall Nationals, Oak Ridge, TN

Jul 23-25 - Central Spring Nationals, Green Bay, WI

Aug 19-22 - Annual Grand Nationals/Zenith Awards, Allentown, PA

Oct 6-9 - Eastern Fall Nationals, Hershey, PA

ADDITIONAL EVENTS FOR 2026 - NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

May 1-3 - 62nd Lawrence Swap Meet, Douglas County Fairgrounds, Lawrence, KS

Jun 11-14 - Petit Jean Swap Meet, Petit Jean, AR

Oct 4 - Lawrence Region AACA Car Show, Lawrence, KS

2027 SCHEDULED NATIONALS - NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

Feb 18-20 - Winter Nationals, Melbourne, FL

Apr 8-10 - Southeastern Spring Nationals, Charlotte, NC

Jun 3-6 - Eastern Spring Nationals, Fredericksburg, Va

Jul 22-24 - Central Spring Nationals, New Ulm, MN

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Information can be found on the National AACA website:

<https://aaca.org/events/category/aaca-national-calendar>

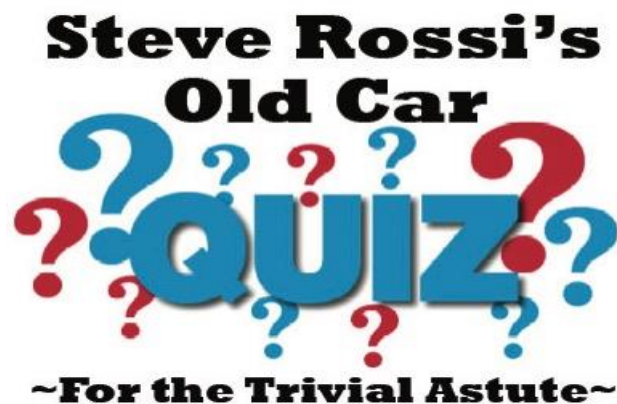
Reprinted from the AACA Speedster

QUESTION

Answer on page 13

As automobile speed increased, engineers were challenged by a critical component that went round and round and could deform at the most inopportune time, particularly when it was being called upon to perform at its utmost.

What was that vulnerable rotating mass?



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SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Photos by Darrell Workman and Jesse Felton

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 was Saint Patrick's Day and the Lawrence Region Antique Automobile Club of America was a large participant of the parade. Many of those beautiful vehicles received positive comments about the vehicles from viewers. Shown below are the vehicles in various order at different locations prior to the parade.



(Continued on page 6)



ALL ABOUT APRIL

1. Did you know April used to only have 29 days? The 30th day was added when Julius Caesar established the Julian calendar. The Romans also called it “Aprillis”.
2. For our friends in the Southern Hemisphere, April is the seasonal equivalent to October.
3. If you were born in April, your zodiac sign is either Aries or Taurus.
4. It is thought that the word “April” comes from the verb “aperire,” which means “to open”, which makes sense since April is the season of trees and flowers beginning to bloom.
5. The April birthstone is a diamond and the birth flower is either a Daisy or Sweet
6. After a 1,500 year break, the first Olympics of the modern era took place on April 6, 1896, in Athens.
7. The Titanic hit the now famous iceberg on April 15, 1912.
8. George Washington was inaugurated as the First President of the United States on April 30, 1789.
9. Noah Webster copyrighted the first edition of his Dictionary in April, 1828.
10. Other April holidays are National Burrito Day on April 1st (this is no April Fool's Day Joke); Pinata Day is April 18th and World Penguin Day is April 25th.
11. The second biggest diamond in history was discovered in April, 2019 in Botswana. It weighed in at an astonishing 1,758 carats!
12. Three well known people were born in April - Leonardo Da Vince on April 15th, 1452; playwright William Shakespeare on April 26, 1564; and British monarch Queen Elizabeth II on April 21, 1926.
13. The death of Abraham Lincoln occurred on April 14, 1865 at a crowded theater in Washington DC when John Wilkes Booth assassinated the President of the United States. Lincoln died the next morning on April 15th.



THE ICONIC SNAP-BRIM FEDORA HAT

Advertised in 1928 as being "Blocked in one of the most approved styles." this description reflects the legacy of a hat with a history spanning more than a century. During the Model A Era the fedora was the favorite of men ranging from the fashionable young collegiate to the conservative head of the family. It was the most adopted of available hat styles both for social daytime and business occasions. Its popularity can be attributed to a rugged workable design combined with a perfection of curvature and dimension.



During the Model A Era social expectations dictated that the well-dressed gentleman's wardrobe included hats and caps appropriate to their circumstance. The wearing of a head covering upon leaving home was the accepted practice, only to be removed indoors as appropriate or being engaged in conversation with women. Further, it was a strong economic statement about the wearer and status symbol.

The fedora is a soft felt hat with wide brim and features a prominent crown. Its styling descends from the traditional brimmed hat worn as part of the customary costume of Tyrol, a mountainous region of the Austrian Alps. The hat's name was derived from French dramatist Victorien Sardou's successful 1882 tragic romance stage play *Fedora* which starred the extremely popular actress Sarah Bernhardt as the heroine Lady Fedora. To the delight of her numerous French, German, and English fans, she was reported to have worn a stylish soft felt hat replete with a crease in the crown which the fans quickly emulated in their own wardrobes. The fedora then made its way across the Atlantic and was being advertised in New York by 1884 as a newly offered hat style.

It is fair to state that the early fedora could have easily become a footnote in history, but subsequent events interceded. Italian hatmaker Giuseppe Borsalino, his legacy still a world-wide force in the hat world, turned his attention to the then new hat. His creative genius transformed it by undertaking innovative improvements resulting in the 'modern fedora' styling available in the Model A Era. Borsalino's styling improvements met with ever increasing popularity including the attention of England's Prince Edward VIII, a fashion icon in his own right. A 1924 visit to the United States influenced the fashion world when he wore a fedora with dressy suits. Americans embraced the fashionable boldness of a royal socialite. Sears, Roebuck and Company also noticed; mass production of the fedora was quickly undertaken. This resulted in the eroding popularity of homburg and derby hats.

(Continued on page 9)

The fedora was the most popular men's hat of the Model A Era. Its style remained constant during those years, as did all other aspects of men's hats. This was in sharp contrast to the constantly changing contemporary designs encountered by women. Reinforcing the popularity of the fedora was its fashionable choice in contrast to the previously stiffer hats, enhanced versatility and the emerging influence of theatre palaces that portrayed Hollywood's leading men wearing a fedora. This suggested that the purchase of a good quality hat would ensure years of service with no fear of becoming dated.

While original fedoras can be sourced (online, antique stores or swap meets), there are often challenges as to condition and fit. Fortunately, there are many quality fedora hats for sale through haberdashers or online. The challenge is to select a hat that closely adheres to what was available during the Model A Era.

The 'modern fedora' of the Model A Era encompasses several key stylistic components and materials. The Fedora is fashioned from a soft felt material: fabric made from animal fur such as rabbit, or wool, processed to form a smooth or napped finish. The felt is typically dyed black, brown, or gray with blue, green and tan sometimes at offer. A prominent crown of over five inches features a crease (also termed a bash or dent) in the form of a lengthwise trough but also commonly available is the teardrop (also known as the 'C') style. In addition, the crown has a "pinch" at the front sides, claimed to have been originated by Borsalino in order to facilitate a gentleman undertaking to doff his chapeau. A one and 3/4-inch-wide grosgrain ribbon featuring a bow completes the crown.

The brim of a fedora is also a defining feature. There are three distinct edge finishings associated with the fedora style: raw or unfinished, finished with a sewn overwelt or underwelt or bound with grosgrain ribbon. These finishings allow the brim to be worn in a variety of angles resulting in the 'snap-brim' designation. Width of hat brims range from two and 3/8 to two and 2 5/8 inches. Rounding out the construction of the hat is the lining. Quality products feature satin or silk material, often with a top plastic protector, combined with a leather sweatband. An unlined fedora with fabric sweatband is a summer alternative.

The fedora hat continues to be an enduring fashion favorite. This popularity still makes it possible for a gentleman to acquire an authentically styled Model A Era hat as a fundamental component of his everyday period wardrobe.

*By Brian Carlson
(reprinted from The Flying Quail)*

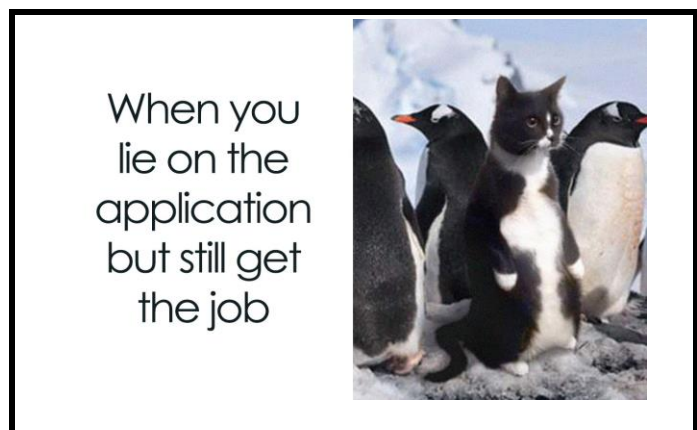


BRANDS WE STILL KNOW

Brothers William, Asa, and Simeon Rogers, worked as silversmiths in Hartford, Connecticut in the early 1800s. Asa began experimenting with a new technique of electroplating process in the 1840s. It made silver-plated items more affordable to the middle class. His success led to designs of silverplated flatware with the brand name "1847 Roger Bros." The 1847 in the name stands for the year the brother were successful in getting a trademark. In 1862, the Meriden Britannia Co. acquired the tools and dies from the brothers, including the trademark. The brand was known for their marketing strategies such as celebrity endorsements; and their and lovely patterns. Their antique and vintage silver plate pieces are still sought after today.

Interesting note. The "Ancestral" pattern just happens to be the editor's latest purchase for her collection of flatware used in her annual tea parties! It's a lovely design!

Copied with permission from Sherry Wink.



EATING IN THE FIFTIES

Pasta had not been invented. It was either macaroni or spaghetti.

Curry was a surname.

A take-away was a mathematical problem.

Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All chips were plain.

Oil was for lubricating; fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.

None of us had ever heard of yogurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

Cooking outside was called camping.

Seaweed was not a recognized food.

"Kebab" was not even a word, never mind a food.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.

Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly muesli was readily available. It was called cattle feed.

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.

Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than gasoline for it, they would have become a laughing stock.

The three things that we never ever had on/at our table in the fifties... was elbows, hats and cell phones.



My Dad never cooked. Did yours?

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FASHION ERA FROM YESTERYEAR EDWARDIAN WINTER COAT

The Edwardian Winter coats from this era were functional, a significantly fitted silhouette, with 8-panel construction and princess seams. This design eliminated the horizontal waist seam, allowing for a seamless, flowing line that complemented the hourglass figure admired during this period. They typically had a longer length, extending to mid-calf, providing ample coverage and warmth.

Many coats featured a double-breasted front with decorative buttons that added a touch of flair enhancing the coat's aesthetic appeal and providing additional warmth and protection.

The straight-standing collar provided structure and a polished look. Sleeve designs varied, with a preference for fitted two-piece sleeves that allowed for movement for the active lifestyle of Edwardian women. The sleeves were slightly puffed or bell-shaped at times, echoing the romanticism of the era.

The detachable cape served both functional and stylistic purposes. The cape added warmth and could be removed.

Fur collars and cuffs were commonly used, bringing warmth and a sense of luxury to the coat. Faux fur became an increasingly fashionable alternative, catering to changing attitudes towards animal products.

Apart from fur, coats were often embellished with intricate needle lace, embroidery, or soutache braiding. Soutache, a decorative trim made from natural fibers like silk or viscose, adorned hems, pagoda sleeves, and capes, often in colors that complemented the base fabric. These decorative elements added depth and richness to the coat, embodying the artisanal craftsmanship of the time.

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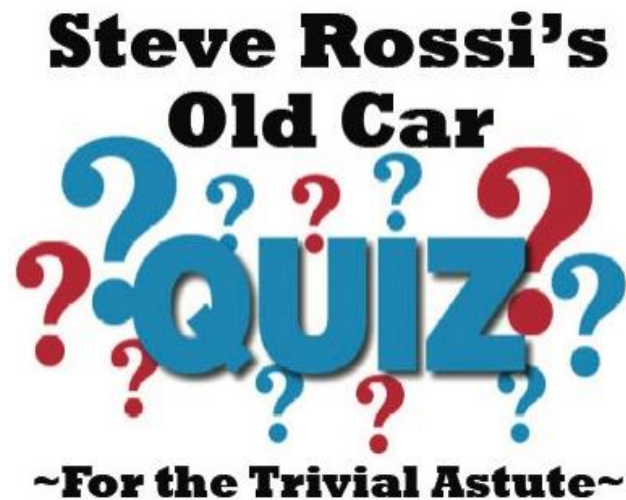
ANSWER

Automobile speeds increased faster than than road wheel integrity, which is why wooden wheels disappeared sooner rather than later. For example, when Hudson went racing, it had to reinforce its steel wheels to sustain the high cornering loads that could deform or even break them.

It makes you wonder about modern radial tires on antique wheels, doesn't it? So watch out for those disappearing wheel covers if you are running radial tires on old car wheels (which can flex). They weren't originally specified for them at what are now routinely higher speeds.

Excessive lug nut and mounting hub strain was also a concern. In NASCAR competition, Hudson wheels included a secondary steel insert welded into the primary wheel. This created what was essentially a two-in-one, severe-duty variant. Meanwhile, on the road, wheel covers would also routinely dislodge during aggressive cornering as steel wheels flexed.

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**62nd ANNUAL
LAWRENCE SWAP MEET**

FRIDAY NOON TO SUNDAY NOON

MAY 1, 2, 3, 2026

AT DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
¼ MILE NORTH OF EAST 23RD ST ON HARPER ST.

PUBLIC ADMISSION - FREE

PARKING:

\$5.00 per vehicle
Trucks with trailers: \$10.00

PARKING AREAS

North end of fairground

**PARTS SHUTTLES
AVAILABLE**

ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS

Featuring hand crafted, antique
and market day type items.
Free vendor booths;
Call Jeanna 785-393-1388



VENDOR FEES

RESERVATIONS- BOTH DAYS

\$40.00/space - Advanced
\$50.00/space -At Gate

Car Corral— same as above

Space Sizes

Inside: 12 x 12 feet
Outside: 15 x 20

SET UP

Friday: 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Saturday: 6:00 am to 2:00 pm

No admittance to fairground

10:00 pm to 8:00 am
At 12:00 to Vendor

**KANSAS' OLDEST AND LARGEST SWAP MEET
SPONSORED BY
LAWRENCE REGION ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA**

WEBSITE: www.lraaca.org

PHONE: 785-843-2222

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HANDICAPPED CONVEYANCE MUST REGISTER AT MAIN GATE.