



# THE FRANKLIN LINE

## HHFC MIDWEST REGION NEWSLETTER

**Fall 2019**

### Greetings Franklin Friends,

I hope everyone had a great touring season this past year and your cars were running in tiptop shape.

We just finished our Meet in Elkader, IA. And it was another one of my favorites. The town rolled out the red carpet for us and everywhere we went there were announcements on business doors welcoming us to their town. Tom has a very diverse collection of cars as you will see in the news letter. Thanks to Barb and Tom Chandler for putting on a **GREAT** Meet!

Roy Nelson compiled his next installment of our Region's history and how the Region started, find it on page 6 in this issue. Thanks Roy. I always look forward to seeing the continued story.

**Spring of 2020** will bring us back to the Gilmore for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Collection and the Air Cooled Gathering. It's going to be a big meet so **make your reservations soon!** I'm sure Roger and Lisa will have some exciting places for us to visit.

Geri and Bill Eby are working on something very special for the **Fall 2020 Meet** that will take us to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in the first week of October.

It sure is nice to have some meets planned for the future I always look forward to seeing all my Franklin friends.

If anyone has ideas for a Meet please let me know, we have been to a lot of places and it has probably been a long time since we were in your back yard.

Don't forget we now also have our very own Midwest Franklin Club shirts available from an embroiderer in Minnesota, they have our artwork and they have picked out some very nice shirts for us to choose from. Franklin

Automobile Club Midwest Region apparel available online at [Bagy-Jo](#). On the website you can see styles, colors, sizes, and cost of clothing available with our own unique to Midwest Region logo. You can also always contact them by phone at 763-479-3848 or by webmail at [bagyjo@aol.com](mailto:bagyjo@aol.com). Just make sure you mention Franklin Club Midwest Region in any communication. I hear several of you are already showing off our new apparel.

That's all for now and fell free to contact Me, Joan or Jeff if you are interested in hosting a meet in your area, PLEASE help us keep this great Region active and strong.

### In This Issue

◇ President's Message	1
◇ Elkader IA Meet Report	2-3
◇ Business Meeting	4
◇ Updates	5
◇ Region Historian	6
◇ From Our Members	7
◇ Photo Collage	8-12

Thanks and have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season



**Dean Dorholt**  
**Aura Vincit**  
**612-803-0836**

## Midwest Franklin Fall 2019 Meet in Elkader, IA

By Tom and Barb Chandler



*Welcoming Smiles!*

The Fall meet for the Midwest Franklin region was held in Eldader IA October 2 - October 6, 2019.

We would like to thank Dean Dorholt and Jeff Hasslen for suggesting that we host the meet and then gently badgering and encouraging us until it happened.

We would also like to thank our community and local friends who were a great help in the planning and hosting the event.

### WEDNESDAY

Following check in early Wednesday evening we gathered for food and drinks at **Fennelly's Irish Pub**.

### THURSDAY

After breakfast on Thursday morning, provided by the Chamber of Commerce, and a brief driver's meeting, it was a short drive to the Chandler home to spend time with cars and projects waiting attention. From there it was a few blocks back to **The Garage** to see where the "magic" happens.

At 10:30 we departed for the day's drive which took us through the scenic hills and winding roads of Clayton County. A brief stop at **Pike's Peak State Park** offered a stunning view of the Mississippi River with its many islands and backwaters. After a lunch at a variety of restaurants in McGregor, we drove 1 mile north to Marquette and boarded the tour boat, **Maiden Voyage**, for an interesting and educational trip through the backwaters. Our guide was very informative about the culture, history wildlife and the river. His delivery was very laid back and entertaining. The afternoon drive back to Elkader took us through several small towns in the Iowa countryside. Thursday evening, we gathered in the back room of **Deb's Brewtopia**, a local microbrewery for snacks, pizza and drinks. The **Central State Bank** kindly provided the pizza.

### FRIDAY

Friday morning, we again gathered at the **Freedom Bank** community room with a breakfast provided by the bank and served by the bank president. From there it was a short walk to the historic **Elkader Opera House** for an informative guided tour. The morning drive took us on a scenic ride through the towns of Volga and Wadena with a stop in Elgin at **Dotzy's Restaurant** for lunch. The local Dodge dealer visited and told about his family history with the building and graciously treated the group with a dessert of brownies and ice cream. The afternoon drive included a stop at **Safari Land Taxidermy** with great displays of local as well as exotic wildlife. From there it was a short drive back to Elkader to tour **CJ Moyna & Sons, Inc.** that included a massive collection of historic Caterpillar tractors and heavy equipment, much of it fully restored. Friday evening began with a public display of the Franklins in the **Central Bank** parking lot. After a catered meal in that bank's community room, we all went across the street to the **Elkader Opera House** to attend the community theatre production of "The Producers".

## Midwest Franklin Fall 2019 Meet in Elkader, IA (Cont.)

### SATURDAY

Saturday breakfast was provided by the local Napa store. Today's route took us through **Strawberry Point** and into **Backbone State Park**. We were in and out of rain the whole day, some of it quite hard. The creeks through the park were high and in four places, the Franklins had to ford the creeks. There was a very nice **Civilian Conservation Corps Museum** that offered a good rest stop. The rest of the morning drive wound through several more small villages and an area of Amish farms. We arrived for lunch at the historic **Motor Mill** on the Turkey River. Our guide portrayed the founder of the mill as well as the owner of the first car in Clayton County, a 1902 Crestmobile. (It was a terrible car which we still have.) The group was well fed at the Saturday evening banquet with an "all you can eat" buffet at **Johnson's Restaurant**. A business meeting followed. (There was one deserter who did not stay for the business meeting but returned to the theatre to see "The Producers" for a second time.)

### ATTENDEES:

Rand Patterson	1914 6M Roadster
Dean Dorholt	1923 Demi Sedan 10C
Jim and Debbie Reed	1924 10C
Tom and Barb Chandler	1924 Speedster
Bill and Geri Eby	1928 12B Brougham
Bruce and Amelia Levy	1929 130 Sedan
Tom Rasmussen	1931 153 Sedan
Gary and Pat Greenwood	1932 Airman
Jeff and Joan Hasslen	1932 Club Sedan Series 16

### SUNDAY

For a send off gathering, an impromptu breakfast arranged, cooked and donated by Julie at the **Jail House Inn**, where several of our members had been guests. The town of Elkader had a special connection for Roy and Cathy Canfield. Cathy lived in Elkader during her elementary school years and reunited with several classmates and friends during their stay. They also delayed their departure to attend the Sunday matinee of "The Producers". To kill time before the play, Roy and Cathy "played" with some of our cars the Lotus Super Seven and the Franklin Speedster.

*We would hope that any Franklin members that find themselves in our area would touch base and maybe spend some time.*

Dan Russell	Bouvard Hosticka
Margaret Canfield	Deverly Gerst
Roy and Cathy Canfield	Payton Lund
Greg Drufke	John Moss
Arthur Einstein	Lee and Nancy Nelson

Roy Nelson



***Speedster in the Lead!***

## Business Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2019

**Business Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2019**  
Elkader, Iowa

**Call to order: President Dean Dorholt** began the meeting by telling “how we ended up in Iowa for this meet.” (See the President’s message for the story.) A hearty round of applause followed as we all thanked our hosts Tom and Barb Chandler.

**Tom** popped up enthusiastically from his chair: “Thanks to all of you! I always said I have the best group of friends. And now I include you in that list.”

**A moment of silence** was observed for deceased Region member Frank Hantak (past Region Secretary/Treasurer and past HHFC President).

**Recognition: First time attending a Region Meet:** Arthur Einstein, Stuart, FL; Gary & Pat Greenwood, Leslie, MI; Amelia Levey, Ottawa, ON. **Brought a Franklin to this Meet:** Tom & Barb Chandler, Dean Dorholt, Bill & Geri Eby, Gary & Pat Greenwood, Jeff & Joan Hasslen, Bruce & Amelia Levey, Rand Patterson, Tom Rasmussen, Jim & Debbie Reed. **Drove their Franklin to this Meet:** Tom and Barb Chandler, Jeff and Joan Hasslen, Tom Rasmussen and Arthur Einstein. **Drove their Franklin the furthest to attend:** Jeff & Joan Hasslen drove 265 miles from Elk River, MN. **Traveled the furthest to attend:** Bruce and Amelia came 1100 miles from Ottawa, Ontario. Honorable mention: Arthur Einstein from Stuart, FL

**Host report: Tom Chandler** thanked everyone for coming and for asking him and Barb to host. He reported 9 Franklins and 29 people in attendance. “And how many inches of rain?” asked one member of the group. :>) 10 states and Canada were represented: FL, IL, IN, IA, MD, MI, MN, NE, OH, VA and the province of Ontario.

**Secretary report: Current membership** is 117. No new members at this time.

**Treasurer report: Current balance** is \$1,168.82. Since the Spring Meet, expenses totaled \$73.55 for printing and mailing the spring Franklin Line. Our only income was .31cents interest.

**Old Business: Dean** reminded the group that shirts with our Region logo can be ordered directly from Bagy Jo’s in MN. You can find the information in the Midwest Region section of the Franklin website.

**New Business: 1) Tom Chandler** mentioned that gratuity was not included in the price of our banquet dinner, but the generator man in Elkader wanted to give something to our group. Tom said he used that cash gift to pay our gratuity that evening. **2) The term for our current slate of Region officers** expires in spring 2020. We’ll vote at the Hasting, Michigan meet in June, 2020.

**Midwest Region Reports: 1) Regional Director - Jeff Hasslen:** a) New HHFC board members are: Steve Braverman,

Susan Reeve, Dan Russell and Chuck Steffensen; b) HHFC membership has declined slightly over the last few years but that seems true of all car clubs and not necessarily because of the Club’s decision to increase dues. c) Region members should contact Jeff if they have questions/concerns to bring before the Club. **2) The Franklin Line – Dean** (in Cinda’s absence): Email your pictures from this meet to Cinda at [midwestfranklin@gmail.com](mailto:midwestfranklin@gmail.com). She wants to have different sets of pictures for The Line, the website and ACN. Bill Eby does a good job of getting pictures on the website.

**Other Business: Franklin Collection:** a) In Phil Weisenbarger’s absence, Jeff Hasslen reported that the committee is working to freshen up and rearrange the cars on display. We now have a beautiful 1933 Olympic Coupe on loan from Dan and Anne Russell. b) The Air Cooled Gathering is Sat. June 20. It’s the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Collection. It was announced at the Trek so we are hoping for a good turnout. c) The Franklin Club played a big part in the growth of the Gilmore Museum and The Collection. Thank you for your support. d) We are still in negotiations regarding income from Father’s Day weekend.

**Future Meets: 1) Spring 2020, June 18 – 20, return to Gilmore Museum area,** hosted by Roger Moffat and Lisa Christenson. We tour a few days then participate in the Air Cooled Gathering on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup>. Details will be in CAN, on the website and mailed to Region members. Rooms are already reserved at the Hastings MI Holiday Inn Express under “Franklin Car Group.” Please reserve your room well in advance of this meet. It’s a popular area with other activities happening that same weekend. **2) Fall 2020, Oct 1 – 3,** hosted by Geri and Bill Eby. Geri reported that we’ll be touring the Keweenaw Peninsula in the Upper Peninsula of northern Michigan - - “trying to catch fall colors but not waiting until it gets cold. Last year they got 26 feet of snow.” Possibly we’d be staying at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, an old but privately owned and renovated 1930’s vintage resort. There is a restaurant, bar and community room. Lodging options: 7 rooms in a typical motel fashion (probably the least expensive) and cabins with 1, 2 or 3 bedroom units that share a bathroom and have a commons area. Sharing a cabin allows you to also share the cost and is cheaper than a single cabin or single room in the motel section. The drives will be terrific for touring but there are some steep hills. Possible stops: Copper Mine Tour, Fort Wilkins, town of Calumet, fire truck museum, copper mining museum, Lake Superior Light-house, maybe something at Michigan Tech University. **3) Spring 2021 – TBD.** Let Dean know if there is an area you are interested in touring and/or if you wish to host a meet. **Additional Announcements/Comments: 1) Tom Chandler** announced breakfast is served at the jail at 8:00. Julie, the proprietor, providing it free to us.

**Meeting adjourned.** Thanks again to Tom and Barb for a great meet. Safe travels.

Joan Hasslen, Region Secretary



## FROM OUR REGION HISTORIAN

Roy Nelson



**Milton Asher was a vital key in the formation of the Midwest Region.** His father, Samuel, was a Franklin dealer in Evanston, near Chicago. The star of Milt's collection of 5 Franklins was a '33 V-12 5 passenger sedan that he bought from long time club member Bill Miller from New York in 1958. Bill had purchased the "barn find" in the early 50s. The body was rough, and the motor was stuck from sitting for many years. Bill sought the help of Al Nippert who was a V-12 owner and a good mechanic. Al got some stuck valves and rings freed up, and got the motor running well. Though originally gray, Bill gave the Franklin a new tan paint job and drove it to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trek in 1955. He felt the car was too heavy and cumbersome, and it sucked fuel like crazy: 3 MPH! Bill learned to hate V-12s and after buying a smaller, peppier, and much more nimble Olympic convertible, he offered the V-12 for sale in the Dec. '57 ACN; he was very anxious to get rid of it. See Miller's ad in issue #15, p 23, offering it "completely restored" for \$975. Ironically another V-12 with 6 wire wheels was advertised in the same issue for \$1050! Asher bought the Franklin and drove it from the New York area to his home near Chicago. A year later he added a set of Trippe lights and took the picture that appears in the last "Line". Milt drove it to the first Midwest Region meet at Galesburg, IL in 1958. My brother, Lee, & I rode part way with Harold & son Bob Finley in "Frankie", their '25 S10-C. We met up with Milt, and then Lee & I rode the rest of the way in the V-12. Milt had no intention of selling the car, but Bill Harrah heard about Milt's Franklins, and wanted to add a V-12 to his growing collection. Quenton Craft was a scout for Harrah and worked under Ed (Bud) Catlett. Bud served as curator of the Harrah collection and was in charge of acquisitions. Craft sent 2 letters to Milt in May of '59 (see accompanying picture) and must have been excited because he sent them by "air mail"! Now Milt had never heard of Bill Harrah, and he had no idea who he was dealing with. If a price of around \$1,000 was agreeable, Milt offered to drive the car halfway to Nevada, or as far as Kansas City from his home in St. Louis. In the end, Harrah's transport trailer picked the Franklin up. Now, without a running Franklin, Milt used the money to buy a nice original '30 Dietrich Speedster. Fast forward, Milt saw his car when he attended one of the first Westreks. In 1974 Bill Harrah hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Westrek and took 13 Franklins out of the museum making them available on the tours. The Nelson brothers flew out and rode in a S10-C touring car (and rode in this same car again recently at the Troy, OH meet. It is now in the Franklin Museum). So, on the way back from touring to historic Virginia City, the Franklin (and another one) broke down. Harrah graciously came to the rescue, bringing 2 more cars out of the collection to get the people back to Reno. The car that Lee & I rode in was Milt's V-12!

After Bill's untimely death at age 66 from cancer, Holiday Inns bought the Harrah empire. They had no interest in maintaining a car collection so there were 3 auctions liquidating about 1800 cars between 1984-86. In the collection were 4 V-12s were auctioned off; and only 1 was a 5 passenger sedan (body style L-11). It is uncertain who bought this Franklin, but Bob Carey from Washington had it stored in a garage in Long Beach, CA for many years. Eventually he moved to Alabama and bought a chicken farm. Bob painted the body and had Odyssey Restorations overhaul the motor. He finished in time to drive to the 49<sup>th</sup> Trek in 2002 – the centennial year when 143 Franklins attended (see ACN #146). Upon Bob's death his daughter didn't want the Franklin, so his brother contacted Jeff Hasslen. Jeff knew that member Roy Bernick was looking for a V-12. Roy promptly purchased the S17 in 2005 and added it to his collection.

Besides the picture in the last Line, there are 5 more views of Milt's car in these issues of Air Cooled News: In #8, p.15 are 2 photos showing the V-12 after a major restoration by Bill Miller. There is an additional picture in #25, p6 & p8 showing his car at the 1955 Trek. It is parked next to Clifford Boram's '22 S9-B (now owned by the Nelsons). Then #146, p31 shows the car while Bob Carey owned it. He painted it an ugly metallic brown, and then in #156, p14, see the Franklin sporting a new silver paint job applied by Roy Bernick shortly after purchasing it.

All ACNs are available on the club website in the Member's Only section.

## ELKADER IN PICTURES & WORDS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN MOSS, DEAN DORHOLT, AND JOAN HASSLEN



Will it go round in circle?

*I loved everything. It was special because of the location, but I would have enjoyed it even without the connection with friends. The play was wonderful! The closeness and hospitality of the community were outstanding! Really enjoyed Tom's cars & shop. Jailhouse Inn is quite a place. Tom & Barb did a great job as hosts. Thank you!*

Cathy Canfield



Lovely to see you again my friend

*It's almost impossible to decide on one favorite part of this meet. The hospitality & generosity of Tom, Barb & their entire community was heart-warming & fantastic. A heartfelt Thank You to Tom & Barb. And reconnecting with Franklin friends is always a "plus".*

- (1) *The Mississippi boat tour was freezing but informative and fun. We had a great guide. The information on shell button industry plus Willow, the dog, are memorable.*
- (2) *We loved seeing Tom & Barb's turntable and collection – ingenious & impressive. The shop demonstrates Tom's energy & enthusiasm and Barb's patience. J*
- (3) *The Opera House tour was wonderful – Barb & Tom giving many hours to its restoration. Their craftsmanship displayed through woodworking and costume creativity.*
- (4) *"The Producers" musical – who could forget that! Such talent! Great fun! Perfect example of community support & involvement.*

Joan Hasslen & Jeff



First tour in the 1923



Speaking of firsts! Welcome Pat (& Gary)!

*This was our first trip and everybody has been so friendly. I love the positive energy in this town. The play was the BEST.*

Pat Greenwood

*Outstanding meet – super 3 days of travel. Well planned & led.*

Gary C Greenwood

## ELKADER IN PICTURES & WORDS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN MOSS



Jeff Hasslen If I disconnect the tach maybe it will run



Pikes Peak signage



Roy Nelson and Bouvard Hostika "Cruising Down the River"



That's a lotta clams!



If we didn't know these were pearls, this might look kinda suspicious!

*Elkader was a wonderful town. Everyone has been so friendly & accommodating. I would live here! I especially enjoyed the river trip. Learning about the biological and physical changes of the river. And of course, the opera house and play were outstanding.*

*Gerri Eby*

*Mexican restaurant in McGregor. Boat ride on Mississippi. First tour with the demi-sedan. County museum in Elkader is very cool.*

*Dean Dorholt*



*We don't need no stinking casino to blow our money, we have old cars!*

## ELKADER IN PICTURES & WORDS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN MOSS



The Breakfast Nook

*Wonderful community. Very welcoming. Had a great time.*

*Debbie Reed*

*Virtually all small towns claim to be special or have nice people. Elkader is special and does have truly nice people. Tom & Barb developed & ran an enjoyable meet. Well done – thank you!*

*Roy Canfield*



It's been hours since we've eaten and we're STARVING!



Bill Eby's license plate topper social media ca. 1928

### Speaking of the Eby's



Can't touch this!



Hammertime!



Shake it Down!

*What can I say? Tom & Barb, thank you, thank you, thank you. As usual whose car breaks down? Mine. Who fixed it? Tom was right on it and Napa came to the rescue, and had it up and running in no time. In the meantime though, he chauffeured us all around. Thank you Guys!!*

*Bruce Levey*

## ELKADER IN PICTURES & WORDS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN MOSS



Arthur Einstein reading up on a 1934-35 R-c Caterpillar



Caterpillars just look like all of this STUFF!



Dean studying a Caterpillar



Joan & Barb really like the repair shop!



Best of the best—Jeff, Bouvard, & Greg

*There was a lot to love about this meet. The "CAT" museum. The fabulous performance of "The Producers" at the Opera House. But the way the Elkader community welcomed us and made us feel at home was extraordinary. Tom and Barb Chandler led the charge with terrific support from their friends and fellow citizens. I can't say enough about their spirit and generosity.*

Arthur Einstein



NO Max, Agent 99 isn't here & the Cone of Silence is broken!

*Elkader opened their town to the club, not only did the town appreciate the fact that we were there, but their hospitality was over and above, but my most memorable moment was the escort we had back to our rooms late one night because we had not lights on our car. So one car with their 4 ways led us back.*

Amelia Levey



A lot of iron!



Viewing military dozer



Chuck showing a yard preview

**ELKADER IN PICTURES & WORDS**  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN MOSS & DEAN DORHOLT



Don't wig out it's just the dressing room!

*The OPERA HOUSE and theatre production were extraordinary and exemplify the spirit of your community. The contributions you have made and the friendships you have forged are a wonderful testament to your generosity and character. The community's response to us with kindness and welcome is a direct reflection of you. Thank You!*  
John Moss



THE Opera House

*We here highly resolve (ha-ha) that our favorite part of the meet was:*  
\* Willow the "River Dog" on the wonderful Miss River Cruise & Pikes Peak  
\* the friendliness of the people of Elkader  
\* the great tour routes  
and  
\* the FABULOUS production of The PRODUCERS!!!

Rand Patterson

*Elkader is a cute little town that really has its act together. So I enjoyed the town's vibe. Some other hits were Tom's car turntable, the Caterpillar collection and the opera house tour. The musical Friday night was a fun treat.*

Bill Eby

*Nice meeting. Wonderful opportunity to see the "Producers" and the community was so welcoming.*  
Nancy Nelson

*A memorable Franklin meet with great friends.*  
Greg Druflke

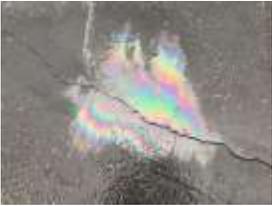
*Great time touring the winding roads of Elkader Iowa. Gracious hosts, wonderful scenery. Enjoyed meeting everyone!*  
/\_\_\_r\_\_\_d James R. Reed

*The most memorable moment for me was driving through the state park on the way to the CCC camp. The pouring rain, thunder & lightening, and not knowing what was around the next corner was thrilling. Taking photos of the cars crossing the creek was fun.*  
Dan Russell

(1) The Community Theatre Production of The Producers far exceeded any 'community' theater production I have ever seen.  
(2) Backbone Park is a perfect place to drive an old car, many forks, beautiful road but the hurricane limited visibility.  
(3) The 10C speedster brought out the maniacal motorist in me. GREAT! (but cold)  
Bouvard Hosticka



Ooh laughing in the rain walking hand & hand



Rorschach Test for Franklin Owners



More rain

HHFC Midwest Region  
c/o Cinda Dorholt  
7895 County Road 15  
Maple Plain, MN 55359

**ELKADER IA—THANK YOU!! ONWARD TO HASTINGS MI!**



**DON'T MISS OUT!**  
**Book your room**  
**NOW for June 2020!**