

Fox Tales

Fox Valley Region Model A Restorers Club

March 2007



Blarney Days

The 2007 St. Charles St. Patrick's Day parade saved the very best for last. The Fox Valley Region pulled number 84, slotting us after the politicians, high school bands, ponies, unicyclists, tractors, Civil War re-enactors, fiberglass chevys, green-garbed dancing girls, and a gigantic fake ice cream cone.

It didn't matter. The kids of all ages lining Rt. 64 waited in eager anticipation for Henry's Ladies. They no longer expect to be showered with candy. But there are no rules against ahooga horns. Not even bagpipes say St. Patrick's Day like the treasured sound of a Model A. Little arms (big ones, too) pumped the air in that universal gesture that says ... "honk your horn." The MARC double-clutchers obliged!



Modern Model A Secrets: Don't Make a Mess, Don't Clean Up a Mess.

While renewing the transmission and differential for his newly-acquired Phaeton, Fox Valley Chapter member, Phred Hollister, concocted an easier and neater way to get the extra-heavyweight "600-W" oil into the differential and trans cases. He commandeered a suction gun with a 12" hose, a microwaveable 2-cup measurer, a convenient microwave oven, and the

necessarily extra-thick gear lube.

Here's Phred's time-saver.

- 1) Drain the differential oil. Replace the threaded plug and tighten.
- 2) Pour 2 cups 600-W* in the microwaveable measuring cup and heat on high for 6 - 7 minutes (place several layers of paper towels under the cup, one layer over the cup, and be careful of who sees you place your "coffee" in the microwave).
- 3) Unscrew the hose end of the suction gun, pull the plunger all the way back, and pour the warm (nearly hot) oil into the suction gun. Tightly screw the hose end back on the suction gun. Force the oil into the differential case fill hole with the suction gun's plunger.
- 4) Repeat steps 2 and 3 as often as necessary. The differential holds about six cups. The transmission takes about two.



Demonstrating the woman's touch, Mary Karpen neatly fills the differential with the microwave-warmed 600-W using the suction gun.

Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosion), and did not leave any residual smells. The 21st Century "A-Experimenter" reports that the suction gun plus the heat made the oil easy to push accurately into that little hole.

* Henry Ford's exact formulation for 600-W gear lube has been lost to the ages. All that is really known is that the thick, black, messy stuff flows like honey on a January morning. If you bring up "600-W" in the presence of several Model A guys, expect several divergent opinions and maybe even a raised voice or two!



Fox Valley Chapter member, Steve Thoren, covertly places the 600-W into an up-until-now immaculate microwave. Note that he has some extra-absorbent paper toweling in place, just in case he misjudges the micro time.

Phred's initial field tests did not result in oil boil-over or BLEVE (Boiling