

**"You can't build
a reputation on
what you are
going to do."**

(Henry Ford)



THIS DATE IN HISTORY *

Jan 1, 1879

Carl Benz operates his 2-stroke gasoline engine for the 1st time.

Jan 1, 1910

Ford Motor Co starts production in its Highland Park facility.

Jan 1, 1922

Massachusetts becomes 1st state to require automobile insurance.

Jan 1, 1942

US government bans sale of new cars and prohibits the use of chrome trim.

Jan 1, 1964

US government requires front safety belts as standard equipment on all new cars.

Jan 1, 1975

The Honda CVCC is introduced in the USA.

* from "Automobile History Day By Day" by Douglas A. Wick

BACK AT THE SHOP

The HiPo Mustang has its drive train installed.



CARS, AUCTIONS & SPACE FLIGHT IN THE FLORIDA SUNSHINE

Our annual trip to Florida for the NCRS Regional Meet in Kissimmee was a welcome getaway. Although our Cleveland winter thus far had been mild, four days of sunshine was most welcome. We also were able to meet up with a couple friends from Ohio – **Dan Hanlon** and **Tom & Ann Markewitz**.

The National Corvette Restorers Society bases its judging standard on "as it came from the factory", and in that it is similar to AACA. But because NCRS is dedicated to a single marque, its certification process involves a much more thorough inspection of the subject vehicle. At the recent Meet, over 100 cars were entered for Flight Judging – a process that takes 3 days for the various Teams to evaluate Exterior, Interior, Chassis, Engine and Operations. Cars are checked for everything from a correctly date coded Voltage Regulator to the number of stitches per inch on the seat coverings. As with any documented "standard", there are numerous disputes within the community about what is really correct: Were the tie rod ends painted or natural? Were the door latch fasteners clutch head or Phillips? For those being judged, the answers mean precious points gained or lost – its not unusual for a vehicle to lose 100 points or more (on a 4000 pt scale) just on fasteners alone. So it was a treat for us to again see our friend **Darrell Davis'** stunning '57 Fually – a car that has scored better than 99% in NCRS National judging.



There were also 2 '54 Corvettes being Flight Judged for the first time, which is always interesting. Owners generally start out very certain that everything they have is correct, but as the day progresses and they are enlightened by the judges, their outlook shifts and they end up counting carefully all those deduct points to find out if they achieved "Top Flight". It's a tough process for anyone to put themselves through. Someday we'd like to see how our '54 stacks up to NCRS scrutiny ... *but do the judges have to touch everything?*

As a bonus, this Meet was held during the Arizona auctions, so we set our clocks to watch our Pennant Blue '54 (that we sold last January) go across the block live at Barrett-Jackson. It's a very strange feeling to see a car you have crawled in, over and under there on TV under the lights being sold at no reserve. I'm told being there is an incredible rush but I'm not sure I'm up for it.



Chuck, Mom & I finished out the weekend with a side trip to the Kennedy Space Center, only 40 miles East of Orlando. We were unprepared for how big the site is but the Visitor's Center does a good job to recap the great space exploration history that has been made there.



I remember as a kid I collected the mission patches (I think they came in cereal boxes) and had a big crush on Gordon Cooper. At any rate, I knew all the Mercury Seven astronaut's names & faces, so it was a surprise when we checked out at the Gift Shop and the young lady ringing up our order had to ask us who the person was in a photo we wanted to buy. It was Alan Shepherd. Chuck and I had the chance to personally meet this delightful man when we brought him to Cleveland to tape an introduction to a video for our software business. Yes, we have shaken the hand of the First American in Space. How cool is that?

BACK AT THE SHOP

After 40 weeks of work, the Mercedes restoration is just about done. Carpet, center console and interior items to finish up; alignment, ops check and then some road testing when the weather cooperates.



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TRIVIA & TEASERS – Milestones Edition

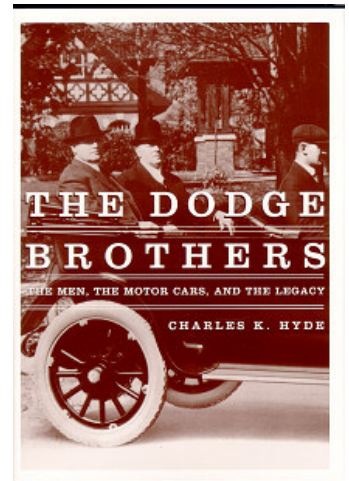
Test your knowledge of obscure car facts!

1. What year was the 7,000,000th Ford Model T produced?
2. What year was the 25,000,000th General Motors car produced? What was the car?
3. True/False – The popularity of GM’s cars in the 30’s allowed General Motors to beat Ford to the 25,000,000th production milestone.
4. How long did it take Volkswagen to get to the 20,000th car produced?
5. What year was the 2,000,000th Cadillac produced?
6. What year did the Toyota Corolla surpass the Model T’s record?

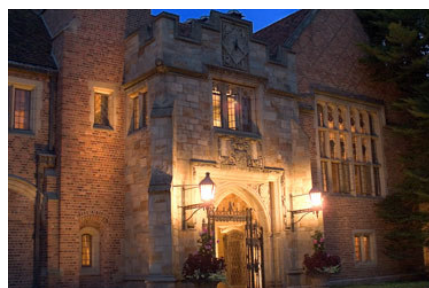
BOOK REVIEW

The Dodge Brothers: The Men, the Motor Cars, and the Legacy
by Charles K. Hyde

The Dodge Bros are another example of under-appreciated and under-represented personalities in the auto industry. This excellent book corrects much of this oversight, although like most biographies I review – I’m left wanting to know more. Written in the classic biography form, it traces the brothers’ roots in western Michigan and the series of events that found them machinists in Detroit (learning at the school of the master - Henry Leland), then principal supplier to Ford, and finally, automobile manufacturers in their own right. John & Horace Dodge were already very successful and wealthy prior to the Ford contract, but of course, Ford’s success with the Model T made them fabulously wealthy. I’d read elsewhere that their barroom escapades were famous (which combined with their “new money”, kept them out some exclusive Detroit Clubs), but didn’t know that Horace was instrumental in establishing the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Obviously the pair possessed both brains and brawn.



Perhaps the cross section is similar in other manufacturing sectors, but it seems the Automotive industry has a bumper crop of sibling ventures. From the team who established the industry – the Duryeas – to the Fisher brothers, the Studebaker brothers, and the Graham brothers, these sibling collaborations were largely successful ventures. In the case of the Dodge brothers, they assumed complementary roles in the business with minimal “overlap” (which avoided much conflict). John handled sales & marketing, contracts, finance, and what I call “the schmooze”. Horace’s domain was operations, product development and machining. They worked together to maximize



their respective talents. They were also inordinately devoted to each other: John’s untimely death (he contracted influenza at the 1920 Auto Show in New York) was followed by Horace’s a mere 11 months later.

Their legacy includes not only the marque that bears their name, but numerous metro parks scattered throughout Detroit, and (courtesy of John’s widow, Matilda) the beautiful Meadowbrook Hall, site of the annual Meadowbrook Concourse.

Answers to Trivia:

- 1) 1923 – January 12 to be exact. Ford would eventually produce over 15,000,000 Model Ts.
- 2) 1940 – January 11. The car was a silver Chevrolet Master Deluxe. Alfred P Sloan hosted the celebratory banquet attended by an elderly William C. Durant.
- 3) False – Ford reached this milestone in 1937. Despite out producing Ford in the 30’s, GM couldn’t overcome the numbers Ford laid down early with the Model T.
- 4) 1948 – The Volkswagen Beetle would go on to become the first car to surpass the Model T’s production record.
- 5) 1958 – A Sedan DeVille driven off the line by Joe Malachinski – a Cadillac employee since 1903.
- 6) 1990 – A July 4 press release announced that the Corolla had surpassed 15,040,200 vehicles.