

## President's Message

**T**he Board of Directors met last night and have made a decision to cancel both our Downtown Burlington Car Show that was scheduled for August 22 and also, the Hospice Show for September. The number of unknowns, such as how many people will be allowed to be at either of these events is still up in the air. Ability to get trophies is also a concern as well as additional sponsors are also a concern. We also discussed our meetings. At this time we will not have meetings in June, July or August. We hope to start meeting in September and this might be an outdoor event. Social Distancing would be very difficult in the Club House. All sponsors that have already given their money will be refunded as well as any pre-registered cars.

We lost some members from years gone by recently - Adam Lambe and Ann Stoffel. Also, please keep Annie Compton in your prayers as she has been at Alamance House since March. Wallace Compton also needs your thoughts as he is unable to see Annie and it has been just the two of them for a long time.

I want to thank Bruce Anliker for getting The Weak Spark out last month through e-mail and Rick Holmes got it on our website. That being said, we will need articles more than ever for our newsletter. If you want to write about your first car or a current project (Ben Boney, we would love to hear about your Plymouth). Do you have a recipe that you would like to share with our group (Pat Burke, how about your Chocolate Pies?). Have you taken a road trip that was fun and you can share. Without minutes of meetings and very little from the Treasurer, we need more than a President's message to make our newsletter interesting and something you want to read.

For the first time in history, the Flea Market at Hershey has been cancelled. They are still hopeful of having a Car Show but are awaiting approval from the Governor of Pennsylvania. All other National Meets have been cancelled. Also, Charlotte Auto Fair was rescheduled from April to June and they have cancelled as well.

Get your articles together and submit to Bruce Anliker! While we are apart, know that we will be together again and keep the interest in your old cars alive. Crank them up and go for a ride. Plenty of time right now to wipe the dust off. Stay Safe and Stay Well.

*Elizabeth Coble*

## May 2020 Treasurer's Report

**W**e have two more sponsors (Carolina

Supply and Woody's Body Shop) who have sent in checks for our August car show. I will send out a list of all our sponsors when

we get closer to show time. We really need to support these fine businesses! I made our annual donation to the Alamance County Rescue Squad this week. That is all our financial news for the month!



*Jeannie Johnson*

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## Next Weak Spark Deadline

July Issue 6/20/20

## Next Club Meeting

To Be Determined  
AACAA Clubhouse, Burlington, NC

## Hosts

To Be Announced

## Please Volunteer to Host a Meeting!

Stay tuned!

## Automotive History Quiz

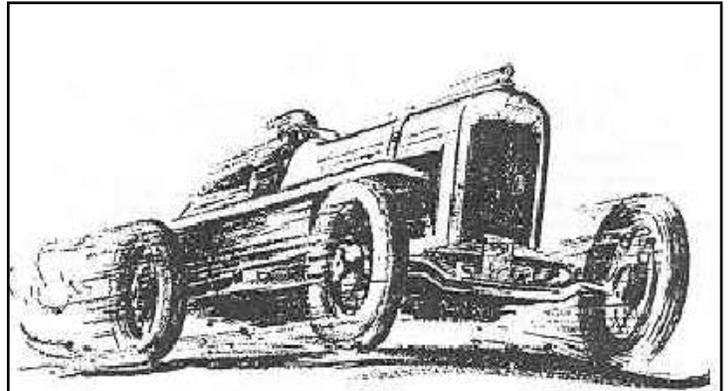
**M**any of the early innovators in the automobile industry did not succeed in their first businesses or careers. Some had some very interesting interactions and intersections of their careers before (and some after) they found success.

Questions- Match the names to the questions below:

1. **Bicycle racing champion**
2. **Founded a car company to make racing parts for Ford Model T's**
3. **Worked for Westinghouse as a steam engine service technician**
4. **President of Buick, and later ran Willys-Overland**
5. **First to use a stationary assembly line for automobile production**
6. **Co-founded Chevrolet**

- A. **Billy Durant**
- B. **Walter Chrysler**
- C. **Louis Chevrolet**
- D. **Albert Champion**
- E. **Ransom Olds**
- F. **Henry Ford**

*Rick Holmes*



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**Look for the answers  
located elsewhere in  
this newsletter.**





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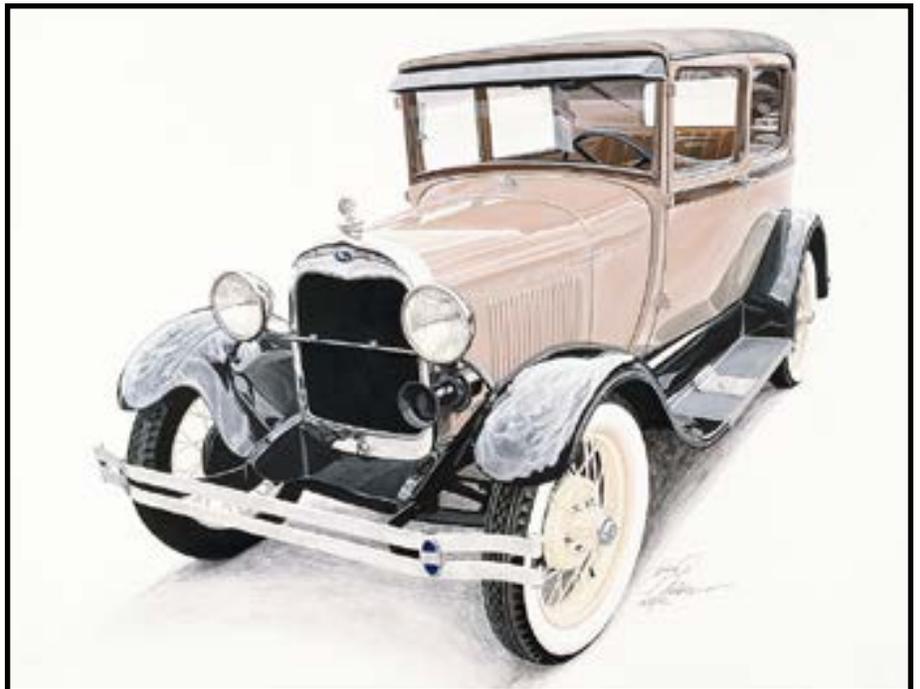
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## Automotive History Quiz Answers

- 1. (D) Albert Champion-** Champion was a bicycle racing champion (no pun intended!) in France before coming to America to start the Champion Spark Plug Co. Billy Durant brought Champion Spark Plug into the General Motors fold, and eventually Albert left due to differences of opinion. Champion started the AC Spark Plug Company after leaving (AC for Albert Champion). Champion knew Louis Chevrolet since they were both bicycle racers.
- 2. (C) Louis Chevrolet!-** Chevrolet was a bicycle and automobile racer, and raced Buicks for Billy Durant. In 1916 Louis and his two brothers founded the Frontenac Motor Corp which used a Ford Model T chassis and his own six cylinder engine for racing cars. Louis finished seventh in the 1919 Indianapolis 500 in a "Fronty Ford". The Chevrolet automobile company was founded in 1911 by Louis Chevrolet and Billy Durant, after Durant was forced out of his General Motors Corp by stockholders. Louis Chevrolet beat Albert Champion almost to death after confronting him about Champion's affair with Chevrolet's wife.
- 3. (F) Henry Ford-** Ford worked for Westinghouse as a service technician on their steam engines before he started working as an Engineer for the Edison Illuminating Company of Detroit. After meeting Thomas Edison, and receiving his encouragement about experimenting with automobiles and gasoline engines, Ford eventually resigned from Edison and founded the Detroit Automobile Company in 1899. After the DAC failed, Ford started the Henry Ford Company in 1901. Ford left after Henry Leland was brought in as a consultant, and Leland changed the name of the company to the Cadillac Automobile Company. Ford's third time was the charm, as he founded the Ford Motor Company in June 16, 1903. Note the similarities between the 1903 Cadillac and the 1903 Ford Model A.
- 4. (B) Walter Chrysler-** Chrysler was a master machinist and locomotive mechanic before being hired by Billy Durant (after regaining control of GM) to run the production at Buick. He was later hired as president of Buick at an amazing rate of \$10,000 per month! Three years later, he resigned and was hired as the head of Willys-Overland to bring them out of financial trouble. He acquired a controlling interest in Maxwell Motor Company in 1925, and absorbed it into his newly founded Chrysler Corporation.
- 5. (E) Ransom Eli Olds-** Olds claimed to have built his first steam car in 1887, and his first gasoline engine car in 1896. He founded the Olds Motor Vehicle Company in 1897. The company was bought by Samuel Smith in 1899 and renamed the Olds Motor Works, with Ransom Olds as VP and General Manager. In 1901, the Curved Dash runabout was put into production. Olds brought the concept of the stationary assembly line to the auto industry to improve the standardization of assembly. Henry Ford improved the concept by making the assembly line move, setting a standard pace for each assembly station. Ransom Olds left Olds Motor Works after clashes with Frederic Smith, son of Samuel Smith. Olds then formed the R.E. Olds Motor Car Company, which was quickly changed to REO Motor Car Company. REO produced automobiles and trucks, eventually merging into White Motor Company, and becoming Diamond Reo Trucks. Diamond Reo filed for bankruptcy in 1975.
- 6. (A) Billy Durant-** The founder of General Motors, which revolutionized the automobile manufacturing and marketing industry. In 1904 Durant assumed control of Buick Motor Company. General Motors Holding Company was founded in 1908, and soon bought Cadillac, Oldsmobile (formerly Olds Motor Works), and Oakland (eventually named Pontiac). After buying numerous other businesses that provided automotive accessories, GM was overextended, and Durant was forced out in 1910. In September 1910, Durant and Louis Chevrolet formed a partnership in Canada that became the Chevrolet company. Louis Chevrolet left his namesake company in 1914, allowing Durant to buy out his stock. Durant was able to acquire enough General Motors stock by 1915 that he was able to reclaim control of GM, and eventually combined Chevrolet into the GM fold.



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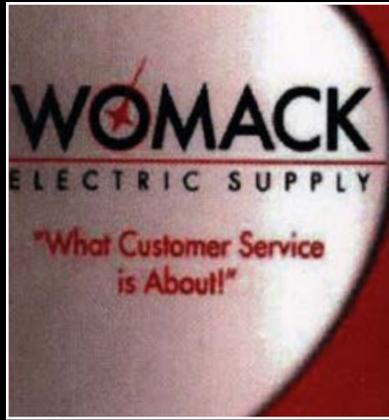
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