

Quail Call

San Diego Model A Ford Club Inc.
Dedicated to the memory of Valarie Basham

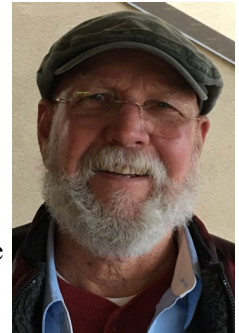


P.O. BOX 19805 SAN DIEGO, CA. 92159

APRIL 2024

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Guy McElroy*

To all members of The San Diego Model A Ford Club, I hope you don’t mind if I devote most of my report this month to the Passing of our Latest Past President, Valarie Basham. Probably 90 percent of you who are reading this knew Val better and longer than Judith and I did. When Judith and I joined the club the meetings were at the San Carlos Rec. Center and Stan Boyer was the president. Now I don’t want anyone to misinterpret my next statement. Stan was The President, and I think he was a great president, but we could sense another force at play. As soon as we came through the door Val was there to welcome us as if we were family she hadn’t met yet. I don’t remember if she had any official position or title in the club then but she was “The Welcomer”. We are sure that Val was the spark plug in the engine that drove the club forward.



I personally felt that Val had singled me out to be in her inner circle of “best friends”. It was a special feeling and I think she made everyone in the club feel that same way. I have noticed over the years that some people have a gift that is hard to define. She had a way of asking you to do things that made it almost seem like it was your idea and no one says no to their own ideas, right. I had no aspirations of holding any office in the club. I wanted to meet fellow Model A enthusiasts whose brains I could pick for valuable information on repair/restore matters. Val had other plans. She sweet talked me into being in charge of Parades and Displays. I didn’t know when I agreed that she had talked me into the Vice Presidency. Sometime in 2023 Val tipped her hand, she wanted me to be president. I never agreed to this idea, nor did I disagree to Val. In August, when Val found out she had cancer, she asked if I would take over some of her duties, like presiding over the meetings, she also asked Kris Francis to take over the Quail Call. Who could say no in a situation like that? So, here I am your president, but let’s face it, it will look good on my resume, right?

It looked to all of us like Val was going to whip this cancer thing. She was strong, cheerful and in good spirits every time we saw her. Val had a strong support group and her faith to help her during the fight. Val did such a good job of hiding her condition that I really was surprised when I found out she had been taken to the hospital by ambulance. Her son, Michael, really stepped up to the plate, towards the end he put his personal life on hold to help his mother in her hour of need. Just over one week of hospitalization and being bedridden, that’s pretty amazing. She fought a good fight. I’m sure Val used the last six months to get her personal stuff in order and we know she was thinking of club stuff. “Paul, don’t forget to do the taxes”.

I was planning on having Val on “speed dial #1” so she could help me as president, but I don’t have her new area code. Good bye Val, gone but never forgotten,

Love, Guy.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Save these dates!

- | | | |
|---------------|----|--|
| APRIL: | 2 | Board Meeting at the Biebers |
| | 12 | Business Meeting—Santee 7 PM |
| | 13 | Overnight at Orange County |
| | 14 | Orange County Pancake Breakfast |
| | 27 | Lakeside Western Days Parade & Car-B-Que |
| MAY: | 5 | All Ford Picnic |
| | 10 | Business Meeting—Santee 7 PM |
| | 18 | Tierrasanta Parade & Tour to Hansen’s Garage |
| | 27 | Kensington Parade |



QUAIL CALL

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before the 25th of each month. All articles become the property
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or revisions. Permission granted to reprint articles.

We guarantee mistakes in every issue !

You will find past and present issue of the Q.C. on the website

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2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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TOURS	Dave Kelsen	(619) 772-2625
TECHNICAL	Arlyn Bieber	(858) 530-2336
PAST PRES.	Valarie Basham	(858) 278-6317

Board meetings are held quarterly: see *Quail Call* for
dates and location. All members are welcome to at-
tend, just let the host or hostess know you are coming.
Board members must belong to both National Clubs.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership	Patty Winchester	(619) 504-4508
Fashions/Era	Cliff Hughes	(858) 231-5610
Refreshments	Dave Sohr	(858) 449-0117
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Property	Jim Taber	(619) 447-7801
Ways & Means	Tina Weisenseel	(858) 228-7547
Merchandise	Julie Halter	(858) 382-3528
Defender,	Ray Beardslee	(619) 465-9513
Mail-box	Ray Beardslee	(619) 465-9513
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Web Master	Chris Halter	(858) 382-3529
Q.C. Editor	Kris Francis	(619) 895-5610

CLUB MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 19805 SAN DIEGO, CA. 92159

BUSINESS MEETING HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 PM

**Carlton Hills Lutheran Church;
9735 Halberns Blvd.,
Santee, CA. 92071**

The San Diego Model A Ford Club was first founded in 1957 by a few dedicated Model A owners. Our purpose is to help preserve the Model A, which was in production by the Ford Motor Company from 1928-1931. Ownership of a Model A is not a requirement for membership in the club. Membership dues are \$30.00 per calendar year. Membership in one of the National Clubs is mandatory (either MARC or MAFCA) and the responsibility of each member. Contact information to join a National Club is listed below:



Model A Restorers Club

6721 Merriman Road,
Garden City, Michigan 48135
(734) 427-9050

E-mail: modelarestorers@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.modelaford.org

Dues are \$50.00 per calendar year.

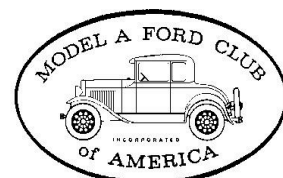
Model A Ford Club of America

250 S. Cypress Street
La Habra, Ca. 90631-5515
(562) 697-2712

E-mail: info@mafca.com

Website: www.mafca.com

Dues are \$50.00 per calendar year.



Celebrating Valarie Basham

April 28, 1954—March 11, 2024



SAN DIEGO MODEL A CLUB, INC

General Business Meeting – March 8, 2024



Meeting called to order by Guy McElroy at 7:00 PM on March 8, 2024.

President: Guy McElroy led the Pledge of Allegiance. Guy asked if there were any corrections to the February 2024 Quail Call minutes; no corrections were needed. A motion by Steve Lovell was made to approve the minutes and seconded by Ron Neimeyer; approved by all members.

Update on Valarie – Valarie Basham is now at a Board & Care facility in La Mesa, with 24/7 access to visitors. Guy will visit her on Sunday and bring the card we will be signing tonight.

2024 Rosters & Maintenance Log Books: Are now available- See Judith McElroy for your copy. Extra Log Books can be purchased from Julie Halter at \$5.00 each.

Tours: [Dave Kelsen] **On Saturday February 10th**, John and Tina Weisenseel led the tour to the Hawkwatch Wildlife Research Institute in Ramona. We had 23 people and 3 Model A's attending. Bird handlers provided a lecture and demo, followed by lunch. **On Saturday March 9th**, Zachary and Rochelle Svelling will lead a 2-part tour to Granite Lion Cellars in Jamul. Part 1: Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Kiwanis at Tractor Supply. Part 2: Winery tour, with food truck available for lunch. We will have a mini-car show at the winery, and you will receive both tour and display miles for this event. **April 14th**, is the annual Orange County Pancake Breakfast. Some members will travel on Saturday and stay over. Details are in the Quail Call. Dave Kelson circulated a sign-up sheet for future tour ideas.

Parades/Displays: [Ron Niemeyer]. **St Patrick's Day Parade** will be held in Hillcrest on March 16th. Our application was paid and approved. Waiting for parade info. **Lakeside Western Days Parade** is April 27th. **Hansen Garage** will hold a technical day on May 18th, inviting the Palomar Club to join us. Cost is \$10.00 to cover food/supplies. Aryln Bieber moved that the club pick up any deficit up to \$500.00. Ray Beardslee 2nd; motion passed. **Kensington Parade** is May 27th. **Flag Day Parade** is June 8th. **Father's Day** on June 16th, has 2 displays. **July 4th**: we have the option of 3 parades: Scripps Ranch, Julian and St. Miguel Covent Village (they feed us). **Eastlake Display at the Village Walk** is July 21; We will receive \$200.00 for our display participation.

David Frazee spoke about 2 opportunities for Model A parts, both on March 23rd located in Moreno Valley & Newhall.

Treasurer: [Nayola Bieber] Checking account balance included money deposited for: \$30.00 membership dues, \$430 from Ways & Means, \$25 from Quail Call advertisements and \$18.00 for refreshments. **Bills to pay.** \$35.88 to Kris Francis (March Quail Call printing); \$75.00 for the St. Patrick's Day Parade; \$50.69 Refreshments. A motion was made by David Frazee to pay these invoices and seconded by Guy McElroy, which was approved by all members.

Old Business: Flyer available for San Bernardino Swap Meets on April 13th and September 28th.

New Business: Guy McElroy, Zach Svelling and Ahna Holder had a zoom call with Will at MAFCA about ideas to attract new members. (1) It was noted the #1 way is through Social Media (Facebook, Instagram & YouTube.) As we now have a club Facebook page, members were encouraged to take many photos & post to social media – also send to Chris Halter to add to the website. (2) Attend local "Cars & Coffee" events. (3) Suggested was a club sign/sticker with a QR code that will launch to our website. As we need to educate our members, suggested was a presentation at a future club meeting on how this works. (4) Other suggestions were to formulate a 30 second "Elevator speech" that quickly describes our hobby and carrying club business cards (adding your personal phone contact.)

Michael Dainer informed us that the El Cajon American Legion will have a mobile, ¾ scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Wall on display at Wells Park from March 20-25. Visit www.thewallelcajon.com for further info.

Defender: [Ray Beardslee] Nothing new to report.

Merchandise: [Julie Halter] Julie is working with 2 vendors. One choice is the classic navy jacket we have had in the past with large embroidered patch on the back and club logo on the front. Other option is to purchase any jacket, vest, sweatshirt, etc of your choice and then the vendor will embroider large design (approx.\$40.00 on back and small design (approx. \$20.00) on front. No final pricing yet.

Membership: [Patti Winchester] 65 members are in attendance at tonight's meeting with one visitor. Don't forget your name badge!

Webmaster: [Chris Halter] Website is undergoing an overhaul.

Property: [Jim Taber] Nothing to report.

Correspondence: [Kris Francis] Submitting articles to the national magazines.

Ways & Means: [Tina Weisenseel] Six raffle items with a Rubio's gift card for the Door Prize. Fred Crone won the 50/50 raffle.

Era & Fashions: [Cliff Hughes] Paul Winchester shared slides & stories of his road trip to Alaska in his Model A. Cliff is looking for future presenters.

Technical: [Arlyn Bieber] Presented a video on Model A engine numbering. Arlyn still has the Hard Luck trophy and is waiting to pass to Victor Figueroa (not in attendance tonight.)

Membership drawing prize [\$10]: Ross & Susan Ramsey Nelson's names were drawn, but were not present. Next month's prize will be \$20.00.

Entertainment: Ric Bonnoront shared some jokes.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM by Judy Norman and seconded by Judy Jo Beardslee.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Francis (Recording Secretary)



TOURS COORDINATOR: *Dave Kelson*

MARCH TOUR TO JAMUL: On Saturday, March 9th, Zachary & Rochelle Svelling, led us on a 2-part Tour to Jamul. We met at the El Cajon Target and drove the back roads out to the Tractor Supply store in Jamul for the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast. They served us delicious food and it was a really nice event. Afterwards, it was a short drive to the Granite Lyon Cellars Winery. Some Club members met us at the Winery.



In addition to our Club's Model As on display, there were some other vintage cars and Hot Rods at the Winery for everyone to enjoy. Ahna Holder's Dad, Curt, drove his Plymouth Prowler.



The Svellings know the owner and arranged a wonderful, informative Tour of the wine making process from vine to bottle. It's very



technical, but our Tour Guide, Miriam, did an outstanding job explaining what they do at Granite Lyon Cellars to create their product. I kept thinking about their battle with bugs, squirrels, gophers, and the rest they have to deal with to compete in the wine making market. We had lunch and a nice time visiting each other. Attendees earned points for both driving their Model As, and also for participating in the impressive static display for the winery customers to enjoy viewing. Zachary gave a couple of Rumble Seat Tours of the roads and homes above the winery. He also drove a few kids around the

winery in his Model A. They loved it! Thanks to Zachary & Rochelle for a great time. (*More Jamul Tour photos on Page 9*)



Mileage goes to: Arlyn & Nayola Bieber, Fred Crone, Mike & Joan Dainer, Ahna Holder & Dad, Cliff Hughes, Betsy Johnson, Larry & Carolyn Kaiser, Dave & Sherill Kelsen, Guy & Judith McElroy, Ron & Linda Niemeyer, Zachary & Rochelle Svelling, Bud & Judy Swartwood, Ben Taravella, John & Tina Weisenseel.

Participation Points: Ric Bonnoront, Stan & Judy Boyer, Chris & Julie Halter, Ken & Jane Hatfield.

Upcoming April Tour: Orange County Model A Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, April 14, 2024, from 7:30am – 11am, at Hart Park, 701 S. Glassell Street, Orange, CA. Cost is Adults \$10/Children \$5 (Ages 2-

10) Includes: Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs, Juice, Hot Cocoa & Hot Coffee. For more information contact Aaron Magdaleno, Orange County Model A club at (714) 862-5773. (Brochure available at the April 12th meeting) If you plan to make a reservation for Saturday, April 13th (night prior to the Breakfast, call ASAP, to make your reservation). Call the Best Western DIRECTLY at (714) 633-7720 and mention to them you are with the San Diego Model A Club. Valerie said the Club has been going to this Motel for many years. It is located at 1302 W. Chapman Avenue, Orange, CA. There will be a sign-up sheet at the April 12th meeting. Please indicate on the sign-up sheet if you will be arriving on Saturday or Sunday. You may also call Sherill Kelsen at (619) 997-0598 to be added to the sign-up sheet.

SAVE the DATE : SATURDAY, MAY 18th, 10:00 am for TOUR – TECHNICAL SEMINAR – LUNCH, Hansen Ford Garage, 14755 Mussey Grade Road, Ramona. More information regarding this event will be shared at the April meeting.

PARADES & Car Displays: *Ron Niemeyer*

Awesome April to everyone!

Looking Back out the Rear Window:

Month of March ended with a “pot full” of...8 club members and their A’s participating in the annual **St. Patrick’s Day parade**. Decorated and dawned with Irish attire we putted down 5th and 6th Ave. bringing smiles to attendees and even attention of the “live morning coverage” on the KUSI news channel. A few of us were interviewed and I anxiously anticipated the evening broadcasts to see how we all looked on camera- apparently our leprechaun, Fred Crone, was the only worthy one!! Must have been the orange beard. **Those in attendance with their A’s were:** Mike and Jen Baehr, Fred Crone, Ahna Holder (and her parents), Tim and Theresa Johnson, Guy and Judith McElroy, Ron and Linda Niemeyer, Vic and Joyce Patterson, Jim and Gene Train. Zachary and Rochelle Svelling and Ben Taravella were enjoying the festivities as spectators and rooting us all on! Mike and Jen came down from Escondido trailing their A to the meeting point in North Park as it was a bit chilly to drive down that time of the morning! A professional photographer, Duane Chevalier, friend of both the Kelsens and Pattersons, made an appearance to snap a few beautiful photographs of the members and their cars.



Looking Forward out the Window Ahead:

- April **April 14**, Sunday- Orange County Pancake Breakfast
- April 27**, Saturday- Lakeside Western Days Parade and Car-B-Que at the Weisenseels
- May **Sunday, May 5**- All Ford Picnic (Santee Lakes)
- Saturday, May 18**-Tierrasanta Parade OR
- Saturday, May 18**- Technical seminar @ Hansen’s Garage
- Monday, May 27** (Memorial Day) Kensington Parade
- June **Saturday, June 8**- La Mesa Flag Day Parade
- Saturday, June 16**- Father’s Day Car Displays@
Skyline Church AND Shadow Mountain Community Church
- Saturday, June 29**-Wings and Wheels (Gillespie Field)
- July **Thursday, July 4**- Scripps Ranch Parade
- Thursday, July 4** -Mt. Miguel Covenant Village (lunch provided)
- Thursday, July 4**, Julian Parade
- Sunday July 21**, Village Walk Car Display (Eastlake)



Looking Forward to the Road A-head!!

Ron Niemeyer



Saturday April 27
After the Lakeside Parade
Cookout Lunch & Beverages

John & Tina Weisenseel
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More St. Patrick's Day Parade photos on page 9



Jim Cannon's Tech Tips: "Preventing Problems with the Starter Switch Rod"

The Starter Switch Rod passes through the firewall and screws into the Starter Switch. You step on the head of the rod to start the car. You will find that today's reproduction rods screw quite easily into and out of the switch. This can be nice when you are assembling things.

But I have found on more than just a few cars the engine vibration can cause the rod to unscrew itself and back out of the switch. You hit a bump and the rod drops down and makes contact with the post on the starter switch, where the battery cable connects. Yikes! That's a direct short to ground, with a LOT of amps behind it.



So you want to make the rod a bit harder to turn when installing it in the switch. Add a small drop of blue thread locker to the rod before you screw it in, or gently tap the threads a little with a hammer to deform them and make them harder to screw in and out.

Another simple solution, if you are not doing a car for Fine Point Judging (because it is not how the switch was originally done), is to add a 5/16" nut to the threaded end of the rod before screwing it into the switch. When you have the rod where you want it (desired button height inside the car, etc.) use that nut as a jam nut and lock the rod to the switch. It will not back out while driving, but you can easily undo it when you need to take it apart.

Whichever approach you choose, you will have more trouble-free miles if you get ahead of this potential problem. Until next time... *Have a Model A Day!*

FOOL HUB CAPS—Submitted by Cliff Hughes

Here's an interesting factoid for all you newbies. Back in the 1960's and 1970's, there were a lot of replacement parts available from aftermarket vendors. One in particular that I thought was interesting is a series of hub caps that instead of having the "Ford" script on them, they had the word "Fool" or "Food" or sometimes "Bool" on them. There was a popular auto parts company known as "J.C. Whitney (that is now defunct) that sold all sorts of things for vintage cars, and they had a Model A Ford section in their catalog. Their replacement hub caps had these mis-spelled scripts on them. I pointed a mis-spelled hub cap on a vehicle (Model A) of a friend of mine and he said it was because they were made by companies that did not want to have to pay Ford commission for the use of their name/logo/script, so they would purposely mis-spell Ford's name on the hub cap. At the time, Model A owners who strove for authenticity in their vehicles looked down at these off-market, non-Ford hub caps because they were not original. Now-a-days these hub caps are no longer on the market, but are actually becoming somewhat of a novelty and desired for the mere humor of the back story on them. Whenever I am around large groups of Model As I always keep an eye out for these mis-spelled hub caps on vehicles as they are always a conversation piece at car shows and gatherings.



WOMEN IN AIR RACING

Ever since humans invented motorized flight, they have attempted to race airplanes in the sky. Air racing thrived in the 1920s and 1930s when air travel was a novelty to the American public. Thrilling narratives of the races appeared on the front pages of leading national newspapers and periodicals. The popularity of air racing—which lifted to a high altitude in the early decades of the twentieth century—was grounded by the end of World War II.

The popularity of the air races and exhibitions expanded across gender and race lines. In 1906, the first woman flew an aircraft. In 1921, Bessie Coleman became the first African American (man or woman) to earn a pilot's license (she had to travel to France to receive it, as no domestic institute would offer her one).

The First Women's Air Derby was a transcontinental race that began in Santa Monica, California, and culminated in Cleveland, Ohio, for the 1929 Cleveland National Air Races. Amelia Earhart, Pancho Barnes, Louise Thaden, Bobbi Trout and other women aviators of the era brought international attention to women in aviation. That same year, The Ninety-Nines Women's Aviation Organization was born... literally under the wing of an airplane in Cleveland.

The organization was founded November 2, 1929, at Curtiss Field, Valley Stream, Long Island, New York. All 117 women pilots at the time were invited to assemble for mutual support, the advancement of aviation and to create a central office to keep files on women in aviation. In 1931, Amelia Earhart was elected the first President, and the group selected the name "Ninety-Nines" to represent the 99 charter members.



Seventy women held U.S. Department of Commerce licenses in August 1929, but only 40 met the race requirements. Participants had to have 100 hours of solo flight including 25 hours of solo cross-country to points more than 40 miles from the starting airport. The pilot also had to hold a license from the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) and an annual sporting license issued by the contest committee of the National Aeronautics Association (NAA). Each participant also had to carry a gallon of water and a three-day food supply. Twenty women entered the Derby. The course took eight days to fly and navigate using only dead reckoning and road maps. Undaunted by route changes, sabotage, and death, 14 women completed the Derby with Louise Thaden finishing first.

Prior to the Bendix Trophy Race, air racing officials just would not believe that women were skilled enough to compete against men. Women were encouraged to hold their own competitions. From this came competitions such as the Women's International Free-For-All. Occasionally, women were allowed to compete with the men, such as the National Air Race and Transcontinental Handicap Air Derby, but any accident gave race officials one more excuse to exclude women.

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More Granite Lions Winery Tour Photos



More St. Patrick's Day Parade Photos



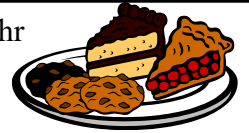
Leprechaun Fred

SUNSHINE AND RAINDROPS



We've received news that Ron Engen is again battling cancer and started Chemo treatments last Monday. Ron is getting around well, and on Wednesday he took Paul Winchester for a drive in his 1940 Ford when they went to lunch. Ron is hoping to join us at the April club meeting. Our prayers are with you Ron for successful treatment!

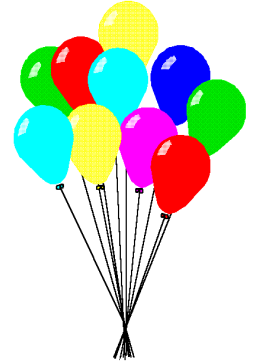
REFRESHMENTS: Dave Sohr



Judith McElroy
Karen Machado
Sherill Kelsen
Betsy Johnson

April Birthdays

- 2 Bill Corson
- 2 Jerriann Taber
- 2 Karen Oropeza
- 7 John Ravits
- 10 Ron Engen
- 11 Anne Di Napoli
- 11 Nicole Curtis
- 20 Nayola Bieber
- 23 Nina Taravella
- 24 Kris Francis
- 24 Fred Crone
- 26 Meripa Corson
- 26 Bill Hansen
- 26 Jim Train
- 27 Steve Cordtz
- 28 Valarie Basham
- 29 Paul Winchester



April Anniversaries



- Mike & Joan Miley April 12, 1969
- Mark & Tamara Williamson April 26, 1986
- Ron & Linda Neimeyer, April 4, 1981
- Ben & Nina Taravella April 24, 1982
- Ray & JudyJo Beardslee April 25, 1998
- Zachary & Rochelle Svelling April 10, 2021

Condolances

Our condolences to Clyde Marion and his family on the passing of Kathy Marion on January 16th. Clyde relates that they were married 58 years and Kathy was an active member in the club in years prior attending many Laughlin and other long distance tours. Kathy has been interred at Miramar National Cemetery. Our deepest sympathy.



MEMBERSHIP DRAWING



The March Membership Drawing was \$10.00. Ross & Sue Ramsey Nelson's names were drawn, however they weren't present at the meeting. In April the pot increases to **\$20.00** and the next winner could be **YOU!**

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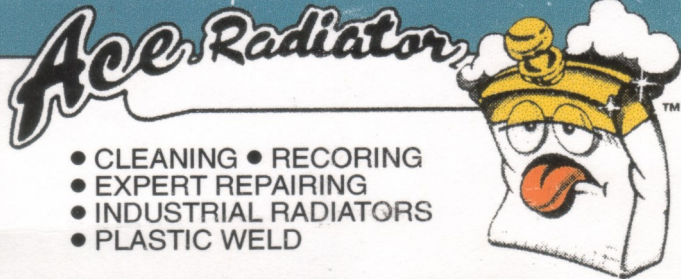
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