



The picture was taken when I was a senior in high school with my Model A pick-up.

Mike Kelley: My Life with Model A's

I know that many of our club members can say that their first car was a Model A, but not many can say that they still have their first Model A. I'm fortunate in that I still have my first Model A.

I grew up in Selah, Washington, where my grandfather was a businessman in Yakima. He had an employee whose only transportation was a '29 Model A Closed Cab Pickup.

When he upgraded to a more modern car, my father offered to buy his Model A. His asking price was \$35; however, my Dad gave him \$50. As you can see, my Dad was a real wheeler dealer. I was about fourteen at the time and anxious to learn to drive. During the day I would drive that Model A back and forth in our driveway and on Sunday afternoons I would spend the day with my Dad driving the dirt roads on the hills between Selah and Yakima.

When I turned sixteen, my Dad said the pickup was all mine. For the next four years, that Model A was my only transportation; to and from school each day, jobs after school and weekends, dates with girls, deer and elk hunting in the hills, college in Yakima During those years, I never went anywhere without my Model A.

In 1965, I moved to Federal Way to attend Green River Community College. Three months later, I went to work for The Boeing Company in Renton. Not only did I drive the Model A from Federal Way to college and then to work at Boeing in Renton, but I would often leave Friday night for my parent's home in Selah to spend the weekend. I thought nothing of driving across Snoqualmie Pass in the snow with no tools other than a screw driver, pliers and a crescent wrench. How things have changed.

In 1966, I bought a 1964 Nova Super Sport and, pretty much retired my Model A. It wasn't until 1973, between my junior and senior year in college that a roommate and I decided to restore my Model A. We completely disassembled and sand-blasted all the parts. I had it back on the road when I graduated in 1974.

In 1974, I moved back to Renton and back to The Boeing Company. At Boeing, I met a longtime Evergreen member, Stan Coyle, and he talked me into joining the Evergreen A's. I immediately got involved in club activities and participated in numerous parades and tours with my pickup.

In 1976, I purchased a '29 Standard Coupe from club members, Cecil and Betty Meyer. Four years later, I drove that Coupe to my first National Meet in Reno, Nevada. Over the 26 years since I restored that Coupe, I've driven 10's of thousands of miles with numerous club members. Most of our travels were with Carl and Helen Sertz and Merlyn and Gladys Rogers. I've bought and sold numerous other Model A's over the past 30 years, but my real love has always been the pickup and the coupe.

Twenty years ago, Terri and I got married and she was immediately accepted by my Model A family. Pat Watson and Char Crawford got Terri involved in the Era fashions. Over the years she has competed in numerous era fashion events and judging, but is mostly remembered for the time she was featured on the back cover of the Restorer magazine in her '30 wedding dress that she wore in Calgary.

I can honestly say that the Model A Ford has literally influenced my whole life; from my High-school days in Selah to today's involvement with the Evergreen A's. Unfortunately, my pickup has been in pieces in my garage for the past 20 years, but I've recently enrolled in an Auto Body and Paint class at Green River Community College with plans to have my first car, that '29 Closed Cab Pickup, back on the road soon.