

The Hyphens

A Newsletter for E-M-F, Flanders
and Everitt Owners Everywhere



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Editor's Column

I can feel spring right around the corner here in Illinois. We have had a pretty mild winter here and there have been several weekends when I nearly put the coolant back in the Model T to take it for a ride. But I resisted. And now that I have said this, I imagine I can expect a few feet of snow.

Though I have not been able to work on the E-M-F, I have done some work on both of my high-wheelers. It helps that I have these in my family room in the house.

It has been a few years since we had an E-M-F Registry tour, mostly because of the chaos created by the COVID-19 silliness. To rectify this, Tom Ruggles is attempting to set up a tour for this summer, June 14th-18th in Atchison, Kansas. There are not many details available at publication time, but if you are interested in participating in the tour, please contact Tom ASAP so that he can plan accordingly. You can find his contact information in the **Upcoming Events** section on the last page of this issue of *The Hyphens*. I was able to attend the last E-M-F tour Tom planned and it was phenomenal. I am sure this one will be no exception.

Thanks to those who donated at the Hershey meeting (sorry, I do not have a list of who donated), and the donation of **Bruce Boggess** to help fund the E-M-F Registry activities. It is because donations like these that the E-M-F Homepage website and the E-M-F Registry itself is able to exist. I deeply grateful the help.

If you are planning to attend the Chickasha, OK swap meet, please attend our meeting, or stop by my swap space and say hi! Hope to see you down the road!

Happy Motoring!!!

John M. Daly

Don't Forget

Chickasha E-M-F Registry
Meeting. Fri 3/15 @ 4:00 PM
Chickasha time. Look for
signs at the show for location.



View of Flanders electric car traveling on the Bardstown Pike, Kentucky, during the pathfinding expedition for the 1912 Glidden Tour.

1912 Glidden Tour Pathfinder

By John Daly

Imagine navigating 1,500 miles of uncharted American byways in a nascent electric car, months before a prestigious automobile endurance race. That's the remarkable feat accomplished by the 1912 Glidden Tour pathfinding expedition, a forgotten chapter in automotive history that deserves a closer look.

Setting the Stage

The Glidden Tour, established in 1904, was an annual American endurance race for automobiles, testing their reliability and performance over challenging routes. In 1912, the ambitious organizers planned a grand southward trek from Detroit, Michigan, to New Orleans, Louisiana – a distance of 1721 miles, unheard of for such a competition.

However, the South's road infrastructure in 1912 was abysmal. Many stretches were unpaved, muddy tracks, winding through sparsely populated rural areas. To ensure the main tour's success, a pathfinding team was dispatched months ahead.

Meet the Pathfinder Auto

The chosen chariot for this daring mission was a 1912 Flanders Colonial Electric, a far cry from the gasoline-powered behemoths that dominated racing at the time. This innovative electric car, built by the Flanders Manufacturing Company of Michigan, was a sleek four-seater with a top speed of around 25 mph. Its power came from a 60-cell Exide battery pack, offering a range of about 75 miles on a single charge.

The Pioneering Pathfinders

Four intrepid souls manned the Flanders during the pathfinding adventure:

- W. O. L. Westgard – Chief Pathfinder.
- Ralph Hamlin: A veteran Glidden Tour competitor known for his mechanical ingenuity and calm demeanor under pressure.
- Harold L. Huston: A skilled driver and photographer, documenting the expedition's progress with stunning images.
- Edward R. Chapin: A seasoned engineer and navigator, responsible for plotting the course and overcoming technical challenges.

Onward, Through Mud and Mountains

The pathfinders left Detroit in July 1912, facing grueling conditions from the start. The trip took 28 days to complete with an actual driving time of 21 ½ days. Poorly marked roads, flooded rivers, and treacherous mountain passes became their daily companions. They spent long hours repairing breakdowns, charging the battery with makeshift generators, and even pushing the car through impassable stretches.

Their journey wasn't just about mapping physical routes. They documented

Pathfinder

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cultural encounters, photographing rural communities, interacting with locals, and recording their insights on road conditions, fuel availability, and potential accommodation points for the main tour.

Glimpses of a Bygone Era

Some of their most interesting stops included:

- Toledo, Ohio: Witnessing the early stages of the city's burgeoning automobile industry.
- Indianapolis, Indiana: Visiting the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway, then under construction.
- Mammoth Caves in Kentucky: Dinner, the night of arrival, will be served in the cave, and a visit and ride on Echo Lake, 360 feet below the surface will follow.
- Nashville, Tennessee: Experiencing the vibrant Southern hospitality and cultural richness.
- Birmingham, Alabama: Navigating the bustling industrial center and its network of iron mines.
- Vicksburg, Mississippi: Vicksburg National Military Park which commemorates the siege of the city that happened in 1863 and would include an immense barbecue.

Reaching the Crescent City

After weeks of battling the elements and pushing the limits of their electric car, the pathfinders triumphantly reached New Orleans in late August 1912. Their detailed notes, maps, and photographs proved invaluable, paving the way for the successful completion of the main Glidden Tour later that year. But unfortunately, the Glidden tour that year did not happen.

The official cancellation of the Glidden Tour after 1913 stemmed from several factors:

- Safety concerns: The increasing speeds and power of automobiles raised worries about accidents and public safety during the tours.
- Criticism of road damage: The tours caused significant wear and tear on public roads, drawing criticism from local communities and authorities.
- Shifting industry focus: As car manufacturers grew and competition evolved, the need for such promotional events diminished.

While the Glidden Tours played a significant role in early automotive history, their eventual end reflects the changing landscape of the industry and evolving societal concerns.

A Forgotten Legacy

Despite its crucial role in the Glidden Tour's history, the 1912 pathfinding expedition remains largely forgotten. However, their story offers a glimpse into the dawn of American automobility, showcasing the determination, resourcefulness, and spirit of adventure that defined the era.

The Flanders Electric, a silent pioneer in the world of electric vehicles, deserves its place in the spotlight. Its journey through the untamed American South stands as a testament to the potential and resilience of early electric cars, paving the way for their modern-day resurgence.

So, the next time you see a sleek electric car gliding down the road, remember the 1912 Glidden Tour pathfinders and their pioneering spirit. They were the silent heroes who helped pave the way for a future of electrifying possibilities.

Editor's Note:

I decided to get into the Artificial Intelligence (AI) trend by having an AI write this article.

I asked the following of the AI: *"write me an article on the 1912 Glidden tour pathfinding expedition which is approx. 1800 words"*.

The data that was returned was the base for this article. I had to correct a few problems and I added some details, but 90% of this article is what came from the AI. I will admit, that scares me a bit, and I am in the high-tech industry. Maybe you can write an article for the next issue, so I do not have to resort to an AI next time?



President's Message

*By John Daly,
Not the E-M-F Registry President*

Why is John Writing this Article too?

Excellent question. I am glad you asked. As you remember in Daryl's President's Message in the last Hyphens, it is his hope that someone else would step forward into the president's role to help guide the E-M-F Registry into the future.

Response to his request has been amazing... and by "amazing" I mean it has not generated much of a response. I cannot say I am all that surprised. I have been involved in car clubs my entire life it seems, and it is always a challenge getting people to step into such roles.

So, I decided to write this article in an attempt to encourage a couple people to step up and partner with me to further the registry.

Some Background and History

The E-M-F Registry was the dream of Daryl and Kathy Kemerer and Floyd Jaehnert. Their hope was to have a club centered around the E-M-F family of marquees.

I had just acquired my E-M-F and was gung-ho about getting involved. I had started the E-M-F Homepage and had started to consolidate several lists of E-M-F and Flanders owners. I compiled a database with the information and that became the foundation of the current registry.

I decided to start putting out a newsletter twice a year in an attempt to pull people together and share information. I put together a list of ideas and topics which would

enable me to get five years of material. That was 20 years ago, so my list of article ideas ran out long ago!

Daryl also wanted to have member meetings at the Chickasha and Hershey swap meets. These were started in 2003.

The other desire was to have a 100th birthday celebration in 2008 to honor the legacy of the E-M-F. In order to build up to this, Daryl started coordinating E-M-F Registry tours in 2004 and again in 2006. The E-M-F registry has continued to organize tours ever since, until COVID interrupted things, and we are hoping to get these back on the schedule.

But all of this requires people to step up and serve in specific roles to keep all of this going.

The Need

As an affiliated registry of the Horseless Carriage Club of America, we are required to have people identified in several positions. Daryl has filled the President position brilliantly, but is ready for new blood to step in.

Floyd Jaehnert, who had filled the vice-president's position since the beginning, is no longer able to do this, and actually has sold his E-M-F to a new caretaker.

I am planning to continue in the role of the Main Contact for the registry, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Secretary and Treasurer, unless someone is feeling called to any of these. I will admit though, I do not expect to do this for the rest of eternity.

So, the current need is to fill the president and vice-president positions. Now you may be wondering, what are the expectations of these positions? Well, that is another great question.

Here is a list of responsibilities that Daryl has taken care of as president over the years: write a president's message twice a year for The Hyphens, coordinate and run a registry meeting at Hershey, kept up with the Chickasha registry meeting leaders (Typically Tom Ruggles or John Daly), drummed up volunteers for the bi-annual tours, and he helps answer questions I would receive via the website which I could not answer.

As far as the vice-president position, Floyd was involved in the planning of the 100th Birthday tour and celebration, and I would often send E-M-F related questions I received via the website to Floyd who would help people out. I think this is a position which could grow and change going forward.

Long story short, I am looking for a couple of people to work with me to keep this registry going. Daryl has indicated that he will work with a new person in the president's position to help them get started.

The Request... or Desperate Plea

So, what do you say? Would you be willing to step up and work with me by filling one of these positions? I will admit, I am sad to see Daryl and Floyd move on. I have enjoyed working with them over the last 20 years. But I am also excited to get to know someone new in these positions and work with them to guide this registry into the future.

If you would like more information about these positions, please reach out to Daryl or myself. We would love to talk to you about these positions and hope you would consider helping the E-M-F Registry move forward into the future.

In closing I would just like to say I am 73% sure I am not the catalyst for Daryl desiring to step down.



A line up of Flanders Colonial Electrics at the Flanders estate to celebrate the end of the pathfinding expedition. I would just like one of these.

Interesting E-M-F Video

By John M. Daly

If you are a fan of “Jay Leno’s Garage”, then perhaps you saw the episode on the E-M-F Factory Racer. But if you have not, then I thought I would inform you of this episode. It is available on YouTube at the following URL:

https://youtu.be/1Zze5ss0hvU?si=CUsQjh5dZZf_nS-q

You can also find it by doing a search on YouTube with the string “**Jay Leno’s garage E-M-F**”. It is well worth the time to watch.



Flanders Electric Photos

All the photos of the Flanders Electric used for the Glidden tour pathfinder came from a collection of photos on the Detroit Public Library website. This is a FANTASTIC archive of photos with pretty good search capabilities. It looks like the 1909 Pathfinding E-M-F pictures are there as well. Be ready to spend hours there. Here is a URL:

https://digitalcollections.detroitpubliclibrary.org/islandora/search/catch_all_fields_mt%3A%28flanders%29%20OR%20catch_all_fields_et%3A%28flanders%29?page=1

E-M-F Parts For Sale

Two **EMF carburetors** for sale. Less complete one \$175, more complete \$375. Happy to answer any questions. **Layden Butler** Danville, CA CONTACT INFO REMOVED

The following E-M-F Items for sale:
2 **EMF logo headlight chimneys** \$50/pr
4 **EMF Hubcaps** - good condition \$100/4
EMF Wrenches Hubcap A-1309 \$25 (5 available)
Wrenches A-1310 1" X 1" \$20 each (6 available)
Wrenches A-1312 5/8" X 1/2" \$15 each (2 available)
Pictures available. **Jim Wayman** CONTACT INFO REMOVED

Pair of **E&J Model 577 Headlights** with E-M-F Tags. **Bob Hargraves**, CONTACT INFO REMOVED

Flanders carburetor. \$225. **Layden Butler** CONTACT INFO REMOVED

E-M-F Parts Wanted

I would like to find a **restore-able hood appropriate for a 1912 E-M-F**. I am not sure if they are different than other years. I assume the hoods on the Demi-Tonneau are the same as a 5-Passenger touring or Roadster. I do not see a different part listed in the parts manual. Please let me know if you have a spare laying around you would be willing to part with.
John Daly –CONTACT INFO REMOVED

EMF steering box and pitman arm and EMF cylinder jugs. Will take partial or complete engine or chassis.
Michael Germane -CONTACT INFO REMOVED

E-M-F Autos For Sale

1912 Flanders 20 roadster - \$27,000.
Steve Creager - CONTACT INFO REMOVED

E-M-F Services

Metal spinning's one inch to 96 inch's, all metals for early cars. Brass lights and other parts. Call me to discuss your needs! **Larry Gibson** CONTACT INFO REMOVED

A Thought to Ponder

The fact that Kansas and Arkansas are pronounced differently bothers me way more than it should.

“**The Hyphens**” is the official publication of the “**E-M-F Registry**” – an affiliated registry of the **Horseless Carriage Club of America**. There are no membership dues at this time. Donations are accepted to help with the cost of the newsletter and Website.
President: **Daryl Kemerer** - CONTACT INFO REMOVED
Vice President: **Person Needed for this position!!!**
Main Contact/Newsletter Editor/Webmaster/Secretary/Treasurer: **John M. Daly** - CONTACT INFO REMOVED - Visit us online at <http://EMFAuto.org>

Upcoming E-M-F “30” Events

March 15th, 2024 4:00 CDT - E-M-F Registry Meeting at Chickasha Pre-WWII Meet on the Friday afternoon of the show. It will be in one of the meeting rooms in the south building. This will be a time to meet up with other owners, register your E-M-F with the E-M-F Registry, check/update your E-M-F Registry information, and discuss the future of the E-M-F Registry. If you are going to Chickasha, please plan on attending. **For more information contact: Tom Ruggles** CONTACT INFO REMOVED

June 14th - 18th, 2024 – E-M-F Outing on the Mighty MO. - Tour towns along the Missouri River in Kansas and Missouri, June 14-18, 2024. Based in Atchison, Kansas. More info will be available at the EMF meeting at the Chickasha Pre-War Swap Meet. **If you have any interest in all in participating in the tour, please contact Tom Ruggles ASAP so he can estimate how many to plan for.** **Tom Ruggles** at CONTACT INFO REMOVED

October 9th, 2024 4:00 PM Hershey Time - E-M-F Registry Owners Meeting at 2024 Hershey AACA Fall Meet – at Jim Gorel's spaces CI 73-75. If you are going to Hershey, please plan on attending. **For more information contact: Daryl** CONTACT INFO REMOVED

NOTE: If you have received this issue via US mail, and have an email address, can you please send me an email at CONTACT INFO REMOVED so I can save some money and start delivering *The Hyphens* by email?