



THE FRANKLIN LINE

HHFC MIDWEST REGION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2023

Greetings my Franklin friends,

Our fall meet for 2023 was in an area of the United States with the most interesting history. At one time the Upper Peninsula of Michigan was the leading source for copper in the world.

Geri and Bill, along with their friends, Mark and Gail, who live there, did a fantastic job putting together this meet in Copper Country.

Once again, we drove our 1929 135 Sedan along with the Hasslen's in their 1932 Club Sedan from Minnesota to Houghton, MI (365 miles) and had no problems.

We had a wonderful time, and it was great to meet new and see old friends again.

At our business meeting we took care of the usual items, and we are in great shape as a Region with over 100 members.

We have meets for 2024 in the works, on Father's Day weekend we will be going back to the Gilmore in conjunction with the Air-Cooled Gathering. That would just leave the fall meet, plans are being made at the writing of this for a meet in the Amish Country of Ohio, details and date will be forthcoming.

Wishing everyone a very happy holiday
season and new year.

If anyone has any questions, concerns or just wants to say hi give me a call our write me a note.

**Aura Vincit
Dean Dorholt
612-803-0836**

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MIDWEST FALL MEET 2023 IN HOUGHTON, MI

SEPTEMBER 27 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

HOSTED BY GERI AND BILL EBY

THE 2023 FALL MEET

BY BILL EBY

An Overheard Conversation

Hi Dad, how are you doing? Doing pretty good. I'm moving apartments, so things are pretty hectic. How did the Midwest meet go last week? Went pretty good. We had great weather. Well, we did have some rain on Saturday morning, but it didn't really mess up any of the tours. Of course, being the UP it was cool in the mornings. But the afternoons were all really nice.

So how many cars showed up? We had a nice turn out. There were 7 cars. Geri and my Series 12 Victoria Brougham of course. We had a couple Series 9's like yours. Like mine? Well, OK, not LIKE yours, but one was a 1920 V-window that Jeff Pahl and his wife Kim drove. It had a nicely done engine and I guess what you'd call vintage patina. The other was Tom and Ann Kleinschmidt's 1916 green Touring Car. Say, wasn't your Series 9 green once? Yes. I painted it John Deere green, but Betty said she wouldn't ride in it that color, so you and I and the other kids painted it black the next weekend. Ha, ya I remember that.



So Jeff and Joan Hasslen had their 1932 Series 16 Club Sedan and the Dorholt's, Dean and Cinda, had their 1929 135 Sedan. Those two cars drove to the meet from the Twin Cities. They should have gotten a prize for driving, but the hosts spaced out on that.

Bob and Darla Metro brought their pretty 1926 11A Oxford Sedan all the way from New York, and Phil Weisenbarger brought Pam and their 1930 Victoria Brougham from Ohio for their 50th anniversary – Pam's not the car's.

Lee, Nancy, and Roy Nelson brought their Buick wagon, so, not a Franklin, but it is vintage. Ha. Sounds like it made for a good convoy on the tours. Where did you go?

Well, we drove pretty much all over the Keweenaw peninsula over the 3 days. There are tons of buildings, facilities, and ruins from the copper mining industry that was huge there at the turn of the 20th century.

On Thursday we started with a long drive that went through the village of Gay, home of the Gay Bar. The tour host didn't really think through the astrophysics of the tour because we



ended up driving right in to the rising morning sun. But once the route turned back West toward Calumet, with the morning sun behind us it was a gorgeous drive. The leaves had turned spectacularly on that side of the peninsula and that leg was really like driving in a picture post card. So after a nice tour, we arrived at a National Park Visitor Center in Calumet.

Yes, the colors in the UP can be pretty. We made a bunch of family vacations up there, but not in the Fall, so I never saw them in person. I did drive my Franklin through the UP as a kid, but no bridge, so had to take a ferry across the Mackinaw Straits. So what did you see in Calumet?....

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AN OVERHEARD CONVERSATION CONTINUES

...It was a busy day. There were three stops there exploring the history of Calumet. First was a guided walking tour by a Park Service Ranger. Next we had a talk at St. Anne's Church, which back in the day was the Catholic church for the French Canadian residents. We learned about the religious history of the many Catholic and other denominations and their church buildings. The final stop of the day was the Copper Country Firefighters Museum. There was a short talk and then we were able to check out their antique fire engines. The father (or was it grandfather?) of the docent was in charge of the horses back before the LaFrance trucks showed up.



When the fire bell rang the horses knew to walk up to the front of the fire equipment where they got hitched up.

So were the fire engines drivable? Or are they just on display there?

The docent said that they do drive them in parades, so they do run. He said that he wanted to have a volunteer come in to start one up for our group. He couldn't find one, but he said if we wanted to try and start the 1919 LaFrance we could. So as a great surprise to me, none of our gear-head Midwesterners took up the challenge. Oh well.



That would have been something to hear.

It sounds like a full day for the first day of a

Midwest meet. Yes, a full day.

So that's Thursday, tell me about Friday's tour. Three more stops?

No, Friday was a day of long drives. We drove something like 120 miles on Friday, with only one scheduled stop. We headed out at 8 sharp again and drove to the lighthouse at Eagle Harbor. On the way we made a pit stop at the snow board where it records the highest (390 inches), average (240), and last year's (276) snowfall. Good to be here before the snow fell.

Well I don't know, when I was a kid we drove through snow drifts higher than the Franklin hood and did just fine!

Right Dad, heard that story before. But not sure that our folks were up for driving in a UP snow storm. Anyway, there is a historic site managed by the Keweenaw Historical Society that has a lighthouse that is restored to represent the living arrangements of keepers in the past. We, unfortunately couldn't climb to the top as it is still an operating light. There was three other museums on the site to noodle in. There was one exhibit that was engaging about a shipwreck off the light in the winter of 1926 that had 248 brand new Chrysler's on board. How they got them off the boat marooned in the ice in the middle of the winter was quite a story.



We used to say that Houghton only had two seasons: Winter, and a couple weeks in August when

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....The director of the site wanted us to line up all 7 of our Franklins for a photo opportunity for them. And that worked pretty good, except as it ended up we had a nice line up along the lake of 7 Franklins and 2 outhouses. Oh well. But then it was off to Copper Harbor for lunch and then after lunch, a scenic drive. We tested the hill climbing of the Franklins with some 15% grades as we climbed over 700 feet to the top of



Brockway Mountain. The Brockway Mountain Drive is a scenic roadway build in the 30's. The views from up there were pretty spectacular. Unfortunately the weather turned a little, so it was overcast and windy and the Fall colors didn't really pop like they did on Thursday.

Did you have any trouble climbing those steep grades?

Funny that you ask. I had Jeff's Series 9 behind me and he was pulling hills better than me and at one point I told my passengers that Jeff was probably yelling the same thing I was, "Don't downshift! Don't downshift!" But thankfully it all worked out, no need to downshift, no blown clutches, no hill starts. Sounds good. My Series 9 will out drag your Series 12, which I am pretty sure your.... brother proved. OK, OK, moving right along. Some of us made a stop at the Jampot, a little ...



roadside shop run by an order of monks that sell jams and stuff. We got a brownie for the road there. Then on Saturday we made two stops, both close to Houghton, so not much driving. First we toured the Quincy Copper mine. They closed operations in the 20's and they have a bunch of stuff left over. The hoist is the largest in the world, and it is a monster steam engine connected to a round hoisting drum. It could hoist 20,000 pounds of copper rock from the bottom of the 9,000 something foot deep mine at 36 miles an hour. That was a machine and a half.



I would have liked to see that. Sounds like its bigger than anything we used to look at at the Henry Ford Museum, and they had a lot of steam stuff.

Well, you would have also liked the ride on the cog railway off a cliff down to I think it was the 7th level of the mine. Well, it looked like a cliff. Anyway, the cog trolley goes down to an adit that takes you into the mountain, and via another trolley back in to the shaft itself. Once there the docent gave us a talk on mining at the turn of the last century. At one point we walk on this little boardwalk over some water to look at another part of the excavation. That water is the mine shaft



itself, which is filled to, wait for it, the 7th level. Funny that the docent didn't mention it, but if you fell in that water, you'd go down 9,000 feet before you hit bottom. Makes your knees a little weak

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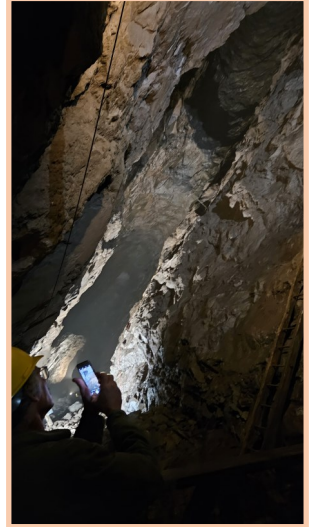
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AN OVERHEARD CONVERSATION CONTINUES

“...that’s why they don’t say anything as you step over. So was that a little scary, going under the mountain and back in there? We’ve been in some old mines on our family vacations, and I didn’t really enjoy it.

Ya, well, compared to the cog railway ride, the mine itself was fine. Come to think of it, compared to the Secret Caverns we went through on the Trek this year, Quincy was a 4-lane highway. Anyway, we noodled around the Quincy mine facilities until noon, headed off for lunch and then back into Houghton for the Seaman mineral museum. The director gave us a short introduction to the museum and then we were free to explore the 40,000 specimens they have on display. SO have you heard of Yooperlite? Huh? Well I know a Yooper is someone that lives in the UP, and a troll is Yooper-speak for someone that lives under the bridge in the lower peninsula. Well, they have this cool rock they call Yooperlite that has spots of some kind of mineral in it that glows when you hit it with a UV flashlight. Apparently trolls from all over come to the UP and you can find it almost everywhere along the shorelines. So, big learning experience for me, I saw my first Yooperlite.



Woohoo for you.

Saturday evening we had our banquet and business meeting. Have to say that the meal was a little underwhelming. But the group had a lot of fun reliving the meet and sharing stories.

OK, so how many folks in total were there. Ya, 34 total, so besides those I mentioned, there was my friend from high school Mark Kaley and his wife Gail Gingrich who helped set up the meet. They aren’t club members, but they have a place up there and sort of co-hosted. Brother Jim and his wife Therese were there, sans his 27 hot rod...sadly. Bouvard Hostica came up from Virginia, Derek Kleinschmidt and Jen Czaja were there and had fun driving Tom’s 1916 Series 9. Jack and Mary Stang came up from Louisiana, and almost didn’t have a room at the hotel, that was a little nerve wracking until it got straightened out. Roger Moffat and Lisa Christensen were there and it was good to see him and his new kidney up and around and jolly as ever. James and Lydia Roberts made the trip from Massachusetts, and I believe James said that they were long time Midwest members, but that this was the first meet they had been to. So it was nice to visit with them. Ted and Ellie Chaney were there and served as great ambassadors for how to live life and not get old. Finally Rolf and Janice Anderson were registered and had life get in the way of our meet, but did make it to the banquet so that they could visit with everyone.

SO all in all a pretty good meet, lots of friendship and rekindling connections, and no breakdowns on the road. Wish I could have been there. Yep, me too Dad. It was a good meet, and everyone is looking forward to next spring at the Gilmore. Maybe you and I can make that one. See ya.

Bill Eby

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Attendees with Franklins at the Meet

Bill and Geri Eby	1928 12V Victoria Broughan
Dean and Cinda Dorholt	1929 135 Sedan
Jeff and Joan Hasslen	1932 Club Sedan
Tom and Ann Kleinschmidt	1916 9A Touring
Bob and Darla Metro	1926 11A Oxford Sedan
Jeff and Kim Pahl	1920 9B Sedan 2dr
Phil and Pam Weisenbarger	1930 145 Victoria Broughan

All Attendees

Rolf and Janice Anderson	Bob and Darla Metro
Ted and Ellie Chaney	Roger Moffat and Lisa Christensen
Dean and Cinda Dorholt	Lee and Nancy Nelson
Bill and Geri Eby	Roy Nelson
Jim and Therese Eby	Jeff and Kim Pahl
Jeff and Joan Hasslen	James and Lydia Roberts
Bouvard Hostica	Jack and Mary Stang & Isabel
Derek Kleinschmidt and Jen Czaja	Phil and Pam Weisenbarger
Tom and Ann Kleinschmidt	



**Hosts
Geri & Bill**

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Business Meeting Minutes – Sept. 30, 2023

Call to order: Region President, Dean Dorholt started the meeting by thanking Geri & Bill Eby and Mark & Gail Kaley for hosting.

A moment of silence was observed for recently deceased Region members: Neil Sugermeyer and Evelyn Edwards.

Recognition:

Past HHFC Presidents in attendance – Bill Eby and Bob Metro.

First time attending a Region Meet: Rolf & Janice Anderson, Michigamme, MI, own a 1914 4M Touring; Derek Kleinschmidt & Jen Czaja, Elgin, IL, enjoyed the challenge of driving Tom & Ann's 1916 9A Touring on many of the tours; Jeff & Kim Pahl, Newton, WI, own a 1920 9B Sedan; Jim & Lydia Roberts, Wilmington, MA have a 1929 135 Sedan.

Brought a Franklin to this Meet: Dean & Cinda Dorholt, Bill & Geri Eby, Jeff & Joan Hasslen, Tom & Ann Kleinschmidt, Bob & Darla Metro, Jeff & Kim Pahl, Phil & Pam Weisenbarger.

Drove a Franklin to this Meet: Dean & Cinda Dorholt, Jeff & Joan Hasslen

Drove their Franklin the furthest to attend: Dean & Cinda - 365 miles

Traveled the furthest to attend: Jack & Mary Stang and Isabel (pup) traveled from LA - 1,299 miles. Jim & Lydia Roberts from MA - 1218 miles.

Host report: "Geri and I thank you all for coming. We hope you had a good time and enjoyed the area. We tried to include good driving roads and interesting history of this area. And we were fortunate to have some colorful scenery. There were 34 people throughout the weekend and 7 Franklins. It was amazing to have so many states represented." (Attendees called out their state: FL, IL, LA, MA, MI, MN, NY, OH, VA, WI)

Secretary report: Current membership is 113.

We have 1 new member and 2 members who rejoined since the June 2023 meet: Michel & Jill Bechstein, Bowling Green, OH, own a 1925 11A Touring & a 1931 152 Roadster; Tom & Angel Webb, Crystal Lake, IL; Jeff & Kim Pahl, Newton, WI, own a 1920 9B 2door Sedan.

Treasury report: Current balance is \$1,930.10. We publish a complete directory in February 2024. Please watch for a letter or email asking for dues and updated information.

Old Business: Dean Dorholt is still looking for someone to take over as Region president. He has held this position for 12 years. Please let him know if you are interested.

New Business: Jeff Hasslen/Jack Stang – moved and seconded that we extend the terms of the Region officers for one more year due to Covid and no meets. Voting will take place at the fall 2024 Region meet.

Midwest Region Reports: Jeff Hasslen (HHFC Region Director): 1) The website password changed in April. Call Darla Metro if you need to know what it is. She is the website communications person. 2) Clint Scott and Andrew Sullivan created the new email newsletter The Franklin Dashboard. Its purpose is to keep the members in touch with Club activities.

Cinda Dorholt – Editor The Franklin Line: Please send photos and stories from this meet to her - midwestfranklin@gmail.com.

Other Business: The Collection – Roger Moffat (FACHC Chair) reported that the Collection was given a Series 9 Demi-sedan. Jeff Hasslen commented that it was John Rendemonti's contribution from the Mark Smith estate. Bill & Geri Eby brought it to the Gilmore from VA. It will be on display at the Gilmore through January.

Future Meets: Spring 2024 – Hastings, MI, June 13, 14, 15 in conjunction with the Air-Cooled Gathering at the Gilmore Museum, Hickory Corners. Fall 2024 – TBD

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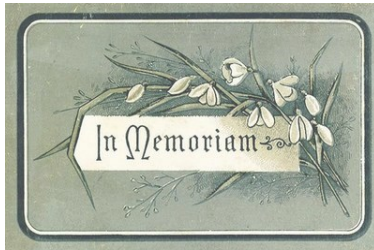
Business Meeting Minutes – Sept. 30, 2023 cont.

Additional Announcements/Comments: Region member, Carol Norton, is a new HHFC board member. Jim Eby, in attendance at this meet, is also a new board member.

Meeting adjourned. With a round of applause for Bill and Geri Eby for a terrific meet.

Joan Hasslen, Midwest Region Secretary

UPDATES



Neil Sugarmeyer

September 13, 2023

WELCOME BACK!

Thomas III and Angel Webb

609 Ryan Way
Crystal Lake, IL 60012
815-900-8858 Cell
Chassis 0251@yahoo.com

Michel and Jill Bechstein

17518 Euler Road
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
419-575-9063 Cell
Bechsteom.michel@gmail.com
192511A Touring 152346-1
1931152 Roadster 52-206414L2

69th Trek Tid Bits (Provided by Janet Kilmer, HHFC Secretary)

- 1954-1968 Treks at Hotel Syracuse. (15 Treks) (Confirmed 1954 with Lloyd Davis)
- 1969 Trek Randolph House, Liverpool
- 1970-2022 Treks at Cazenovia College (52 Treks, lost 1 due to COVID)
- 2023 Union

College - 1st Trek

2023 Trek:

Total of 205 Trekkers attended (7 children under age 15 and 34 First time Trekkers)

Boyer Report: 54 Franklins and 2 VWs (2022: 42 Franklins)

The afternoon auction totaled \$689.00.

Merchandise Gross Sales \$5,440.00

The "E-Newsletter" naming was announced: *The Franklin Dashboard*. Submitted by Jeryl & Alex.

Andy Wittenborn has been taking photos for over 60 years. WOW!

Lloyd Davis has attended 65 Treks and Hank Manwell has attended 61 Treks.

The Fashion Show had 39 costumes. Marty did a wonderful job.

Service Award: Steve Braverman

Guy Rose Long Distance Driving Award: Scott Arnold (160 miles!) *Next year's winner could get their round trip gas paid for by Scott!*

Driver's Choice Award: Joan & Jeff Hasslen with their 1928 Boattail Sport Runabout.

Jr. Trekkers Choice Award: Keith & Janet Kilmer with their 1930 Victoria Brougham.

The Scholarship Program: 9 new students this year and 8 returners.

2024 Trek Dates: July 27-August 3. Hosts: Steve Braverman, Rachel McNaughton, Sara Schopmeier and Dick & Connie Roth

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THE Midwest Franklin "BUZZ" Vol 1.0

Where owners comment on their Franklins and/or their current projects

- ⇒ **Rolf & Janice Anderson** said that their 1914 4M Touring was his grandfather's car. He has helped maintain it since 1953 when he was only 10 years old.
- ⇒ **Tom Kleinschmidt** - regarding his son driving on the tours and the problems with the 1916: "Limits of machine and driver were revealed. On the drive up Brockway Mountain, the clutch was overheated. After cooling down it completed the ascent. Minor roadside repairs were made as well. Thursday the hand throttle linkage came apart and jammed at full throttle momentarily as ignition was quickly shut down. Fortunately, we coasted into the parking lot of a Goodyear tire dealer and made repairs. Friday the foot throttle linkage stuck at no throttle: linkage "pad" and peddle plunger jammed. Finally, the accidental battery switch shut-off by a pant leg over-voltage the GM ignition module. There was a spare under the driver's seat. All took only a few minutes and we carried on"
- ⇒ **Jeff and Kim Pahl** drove their 1920 9B Sedan for all 3 days of touring. He said, "We inherited it from a Franklin friend who realized he would never be able to get the car on the road again. Since taking possession of the car last summer, it was our goal to have it ready for the fall Franklin meet. With the help of Jeff Hasslen, we were fortunate to get it on the road and to this meet."
- ⇒ **Jim & Lydia Roberts** had their 1929 Sedan at the Trek from 2001 – 2004. They enjoy driving it. However, "it currently has a valve problem."
- ⇒ **Dean & Cinda Dorholt** have a "new" Franklin. They now own Bob Erickson's 1929 Sedan. Bob's partner, Gracey, wanted him to have it. "Bob owned it since 1968. He drove it 4 times to the Trek and to all the Midwest meets."
- ⇒ **Jeff Hasslen** commented that the Schenectady NY Trek was a success.
- ⇒ **Roger Moffat** – more remarks regarding The Collection: Michael Spezia is back as director of the Gilmore as of April 2023. The Air Cooled Gathering made \$10,478 for the Club. "Bouvard (Hosticka) and John Straway were a huge help with the cars. Tom (Kleinschmidt) took many people for rides. Lisa (Roger's wife) does the gardening, I do the cars."



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Photos courtesy of Geri & Bill Eby and Joan & Jeff Hasslen



Calumet



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Calumet

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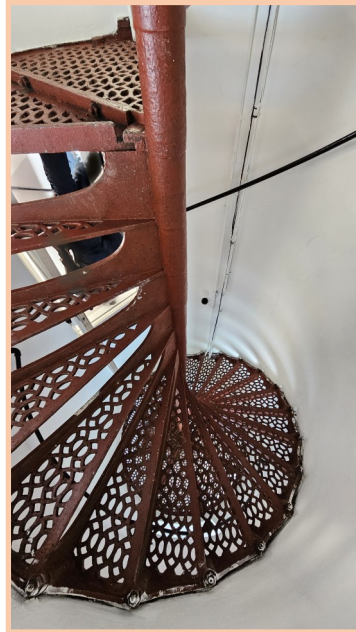
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Eagle Harbor



Copper Harbor



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Brockway Scenic Drive

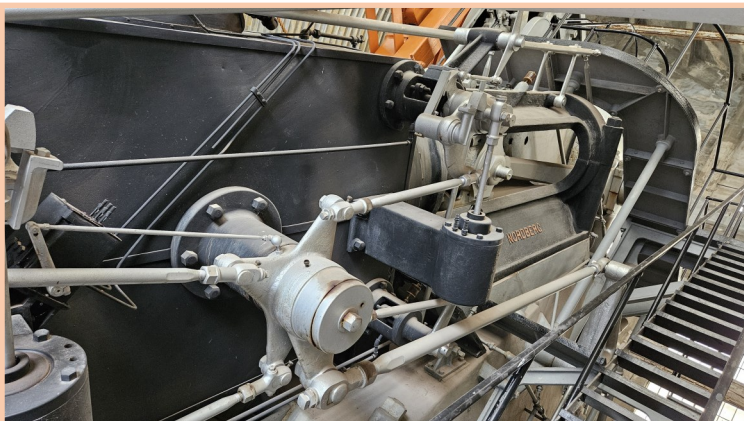
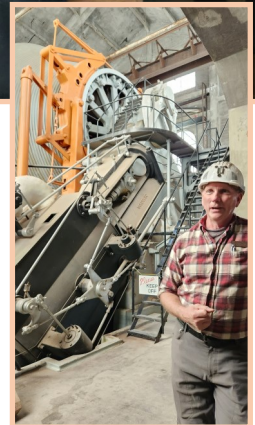


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**Quincy
Mine**



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Quincy Mine



A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum



Side Stop



HHFC Midwest Region
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