



# GRA-NEVA GRAM

Established 1960

ISSUE 5

GraNeva A's Model A Ford Club of America

September/October 2023

## LETS GO FOR A SUMMER DRIVE



## SUMMERTIME FUN

## MOUNTAIN TOUR IN A MODEL A

OK, so it's not really a Model A. It's the thought that counts.

Gra-Neva Gram



This is the newsletter of the Gra-Neva A's, the Grass Valley/Nevada City Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA). Feel free to use information here, with credit.

Club members may place a business card size advertisement in this newsletter for a small fee; contact the Treasurer.

**OFFICERS 2023**

President	Aaron Johnson	530-477-5856
Vice-President	Bill Mitchell	530-273-1620
Treasurer	Jan Elliott	310-809-2438
Editor	Bill Yanko	530-432-2579
Secretary	Sandy Yanko	530-432-2579
Membership	Gary Spencer	510-502-9329
Tour Directors	Vern Harms	530-272-4683
	Ryck Johnson	530-268-8813

**SERVICE CHAIRPERSONS - 2023**

ACCC	Bill Mitchell	530-273-1620
Asst. Editor	Vacant	
B'days/Anniv.	Jennifer Johnson	530-477-5856
Historian	Bill Mitchell	530-273-1620
Publicity	Donna Lichti	530-559-5368
Sunshine	Jennifer Johnson	530-477-5856
Sheriff	Steve Straw	530-432-9132
Technical	Steve Turnsk	530-277-1922
Webmaster	Bill Yanko	530-432-2579

**GRA-NEVA GRAM**

Club meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. We welcome all guests. Check our Newsletter for location.

If you are interested in membership in MAFCA, write to MAFCA, 250 S. Cypress, La Habra, CA 90631 or go to <https://www.mafca.com/membership.html>.

\*Not affiliated with Ford Motor Company

Items for the newsletter can be emailed to: [byanko@mac.com](mailto:byanko@mac.com)

Check our Website at: [granevaas.com](http://granevaas.com) for past newsletters

by Terry Horlick, Penn Valley CA

The car driven on the ground was a 1915 owned by Don Jennings, a frequent contributor to the HCCA Gazette many years ago and author of "Three Pedals Down Main Street". Unfortunately Don passed away but the car is now in his son Bill's barn here in Grass Valley. It is a lovely green touring restored by Don and used in many commercials. I bet you couldn't tell it was green by looking at the film!

(Model T Ford Forum 2014) Click for more info.

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

**FOR SEPT/OCT 2023**

Dear Club,

Well it appears as if Summer has temporarily left us, and I think we are all ok with that. A little rain and cooler temperatures never hurt anybody. I'm still getting prepped for the Beat the Heat tour to Chico. There are only two potential weather outcomes at this point, 115 degrees or 4 inches of rain, only time will tell. I'm still working on all my cars, and will move Model A's to the front of the list. I missed out on a very cool Phaeton, those that are interested, just ask, and I'll let you in on the cool factor. Remember we have one more meeting at Starr and then we're back into the Holiday swing of things. So get out there, have some fun, maybe even drive a Model A. I'll see you out there.

Godspeed, AJ

Legend has it that AJ's new Model T is one of the cars used in the movie *Absent Minded Professor*. See note lower left.





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**Bold & underlined** print dates show official club events.  
Italic print dates show events of general interest

*9/9: FAST Hill Climb Event - Contact Steve Straw*

*9/9: Roman Angels Car Show - NC Tech Center*

**9/16-17:** Chico Beat the Heat Tour - AJ Johnson

**9/23:** Monthly meeting at Sierra Star Winery.  
Meeting at 7PM. Picnic dinner at 6 PM if you wish.  
Wine available to purchase.

*10/6-8: Woodland Tour - Invited by Chico As*

*10/14: Lake Wildwood Car Show*

**10/19-20:** Plymouth (Shenandoah Valley) Wineries  
& Sutter Creek Blacksmith - Ryck Johnson

**10/26:** Monthly meeting at Trailblazers Pizza. (To  
be confirmed) Arrive by 6 PM if ordering dinner.  
Meeting at 7 PM

\*\*\*\*\*

\* *Cars and Coffee - every Saturday at Target  
(Kmart) GV from 8-10 AM*

\* *Also at Mel's in Auburn on Wednesdays from  
6-9 pm. And you get your **dinner discounted**.  
Outdoor and indoor seating. It's fun!!*

## Technical Assistance

Got a question? Call Steve Turnsk  
530-277-1922

From Ryck Johnson:

What is the hole used for on the Model A and  
B carburetors choke lever? Stay tuned for  
answer next month.



## EDITOR'S NOTES

It's Labor Day weekend and I'm looking out my window at what looks like a winter day. A week ago we were worrying about it being too hot at the Miner's picnic at Empire Mine. But we found a beautiful shady spot near the Bourne "Cottage" and it was absolutely perfect. Unfortunately we only had 3 cars from our club. But we had a good time and got some great pictures as you'll see later in the newsletter.

Our September 28 meeting will be the last one this year at Sierra Starr Winery. We want to thank Phil & Anne Starr for hosting the club meetings again this summer. The ambience at the winery is lovely and having a nice glass of wine and picnic makes our meetings a special event. Guess it will be back to beer and pizza in October. That's not so bad either!

Club membership is doing well as new people discover us or get drafted. Next issue we plan to start some articles introducing the new members of our Model A family.

Don't forget to send material for the newsletter, and always take care of each other.

Enjoy,  
Bill





# Member's Page

## HAVES & WANTS

Phil Starr is still looking for 16 inch wheels for Model A. If you see or hear of any available, let Phil know.

Debra Bamber has free parts to give away from her late husband's collection, She also has a Studebaker for sale. Contact Debra for more info.



*Sharon Says...*



Hi Ya'll from Texas. Well, still moving boxes. The house is great. My sister Linda is here helping. No hurricane yet. Still in the 100's. 🤔  
I miss you all a lot! Hugs 😊🌻😊



*Please keep Kay Harms in your prayers for a speedy recovery from her surgery. Hopefully we'll see her at our next meeting, if not sooner.*

## Happy Birthday



### September

- 9/11 Kristi Turnsk
- 9/17 Denise Hugenberger
- 9/28 Anne Starr

### October

- 10/5 Roy Lebeck
- 10/17 Virginia Campbell
- 10/19 Jim Luckinbill
- 10/21 Tim Walker
- 10/24 Irene Travis

\*\* Click the cake above on your birthday for a birthday song

## Anniversary Celebrations



### September

- 9/6 Don & Donna Lichti
- 9/10 Steve & Vicky Straw
- 9/10 Bill & Karen Mitchell

### October

- 10/19 Steve & Kristi Turnsk





# RON'S TECH TIP PAGE

This month's article was submitted by Vern Harms. It was written by Chris Pelikan, the Model A carburetor guy from [www.model-a-org](http://www.model-a-org) and previously published in *Model A Times*, Summer 2005.

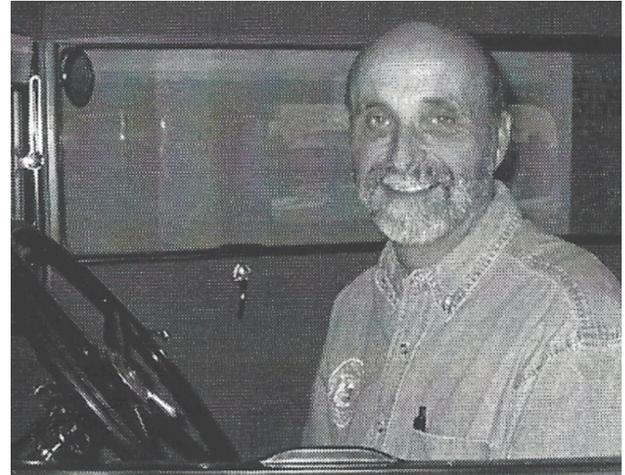
## Don't Let Vapor Lock Turn Your Face Red When the Traffic Light Turns Green

Gasoline engines operate by igniting a mixture of air and gasoline vapors. Therefore, a gasoline's tendency to vaporize, or its volatility, is important. Gasoline formulations are varied by season and geographical locations. Mixtures that do not vaporize readily may cause hard starting of cold engines and poor vehicle drivability during warm-up and acceleration. Conversely, gasoline that vaporizes too readily in fuel tanks, lines and carburetors can cause decreased liquid flow to the engine, resulting in rough engine operation or stalling (vapor lock). It is more complicated than I am going to make here, but today's common gasoline formulations for winter start to transition to vapor at about 105°F, and the summer mixture is changed to transition at 140°F.

The Model A engine was designed to utilize the 40 to 50 octane fuel of the 1930s, leaving the engine susceptible to vapor lock with the high octane gasoline of today. This typically occurs in a 4th of July parade or when we have to sit through a series of long stoplights on a hot day. The airflow through the radiator slows down, the engine gets hotter, and the fuel starts to "boil" in the carburetor. When traffic picks up and we want to go, the engine hesitates and tends to stall with vapor lock (that's when your face turns red). If the problem isn't too severe, a quick pull and a little counter clockwise turn of the choke rod will enrich the mixture enough to let the engine accelerate. With more air now moving through the radiator, the engine soon cools down a little and you are on your way. If the problem is severe, hopefully you can find a shade tree to park under so you and your Model A can cool off.

I have conducted a series of engineering experiments to evaluate many suggested techniques to minimize the risk of vapor lock, and here are the five that I have found to be most effective.

1. Drive your Model A regularly so that you're not still using winter formulations of gasoline in the heat of summer. Be aware that you can unknowingly fill your tank with a



winter blend of fuel at a gas station that is late in restocking with the summer blend.

2. The cooling and timing systems must be properly maintained to keep your engine temperature under 190°F and the fuel in the carburetor under 140°F. A four-core radiator and a 160°F thermostat installed in the upper radiator hose will both improve cooling.

3. A copper gasket will improve the conducted heat transfer from the exhaust manifold back to the block and water jacket, and will reduce heat transfer to the intake manifold and carburetor.

4. A couple of stacked, copper-clad asbestos gaskets between the carburetor and the intake manifold will reduce the conduction of heat to the fuel in the carburetor. Some people install a machined phenolic block to increase the thermal insulation between the carburetor and intake manifold even more. However, these blocks can diminish engine performance in very cold weather.

5. A quart of diesel fuel added to a nearly full gas tank, will reduce fuel volatility and thus vapor lock tendency, and not significantly affect your engine performance on a hot day in a parade.

Keeping your engine cool will help you maintain your own cool when driving your Model A this summer, and your face won't be turning red when the light turns green.

By: Chris Pelikan, the Model A carburetor guy from [www.model-a.org](http://www.model-a.org).

Ryck Johnson sent us a copy of this document he found on the MAFCA web site providing detailed information about the Model A electrical system. The document contains 85 pages of pictures and diagrams of Model A wiring.

## MODEL A FORD WIRING

*Keeping the Current Flowing*

by Alex Janke

Click the link below to  
open the document.

[MAFCA WEB LINK](#)

### Who Says Seniors Aren't Tech Savvy

#### Texting Abbreviations for Senior Citizens

- ATD** - At the Doctor's
- BFF** - Best Friend's Funeral
- BTW** - Bring the Wheelchair
- BYOT** - Bring your own teeth
- WIW** - Forgot Where I Was
- GGPBL** - Gotta Go, Pacemaker  
Battery Low
- GHA** - Got Heartburn Again
- TFT** - Texting From Toilet

Shhh... She's fixing the world ❤️



# The Annual Miner's Picnic Returns at Empire Mine



Top Row: Bill Yanko's Roadster shows off with pretty ladies arriving at the Bourne "Cottage". Left, Sandy Yanko and right, Jean Rhyne, Empire Mine Event Coordinator.



Above: AJ's Model T with Jean Rhyne's son taking her for a drive. Below: Our small group with AJ, Jennifer, and Adler Johnson, Sandy Yanko and Jim Luckinbill in a beautiful shady garden spot chatting with visitors.

Above: Jim Luckinbill with his Model T parked in the driveway leading up to the Bourne cottage. Below: A Model T and a Hudson belonging to some fellows who are not in the club.



# Model A Lubrication Workshop at Vern Harms' Barn - August 29, 2023



Ryck Johnson, Calvin Campbell & Gary Spencer met at Vern Harm's workshop to change oil and lube their Model As. What a difference a lift makes!  
Bottom: Happy faces of well lubed guys. Maybe I should rephrase that? Immediately below, click on image of Paul Shinn for instructional video on how to lube a Model A.



# GraNeva A's Tours/Car Shows

## 2023 Scheduled Tours/Events:

9/16-17/2023: Chico Beat the Heat Overnight Semi-Mystery Tour – AJ\*

10/6-8/2023: Woodland Tour via backroads, invited by Chico Model A Club. Activities include Woodland Opera House play, stroll through history where cars will be displayed, vineyard tour, BBQ & tour of Gross tractor collection, possible tour of Hendrick Ag Museum. Past deadline for block of reserved rooms, but many motels in area. Other events require reservations. If interested, contact Patti Taylor\* ([acebedo58@yahoo.com](mailto:acebedo58@yahoo.com)) to check if still possible to join tour.

10/14/2023: Lake Wildwood Car Show. Commodore Park by the lake.

10/19-20/2023: Plymouth (Shenandoah Valley) Wineries & Sutter Creek Blacksmith, Overnight Tour – Ryck\*

11/18/2023: Souper Saturday (Tentative Date)

11/?/2023: No tours planned due to variable weather. Watch email about possible pop-up drives.

12/16/2023: Christmas Party/Dinner, Tuscany Gardens, Grass Valley. Details will be provided later.

\*=individual(s) responsible for setting up the event

Updates will occur as needed to the schedule and sent out to everyone.

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

### Gra-Neva Model A Club

August 24, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Aaron Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:15.

#### **REPORTS:**

**PRESIDENT:** Praise for the ACCC, Association of California Car Clubs. California requires smog checks now on all cars newer than 1976. ACCC is working to push legislation to change this to cars after 1982.

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Bill Mitchell had no report.

**SECRETARY:** Copies of the minutes were distributed to the members. It was moved and seconded by Tish Buti and Vern Harms to approve the minutes as written and they were approved.

**TREASURER:** Aaron reported in Jan Elliott's absence. The Club's checking account balance is \$2,509.94. Cash fund balances are: Attendance award = \$40, Petty Cash - Sheriff collection = \$100.80

**EDITOR:** Bill thanked everyone who sends him information for articles in the newsletter.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Gary Spencer announced we have new members Randy & Janet Webb.

**TOUR CHAIRMAN:** Vern reported that the Campbell's Tour & Potluck turned out very well. Linda Johnson helped Virginia with the potluck and Bob Ambrose led the car tour.

Upcoming: Aug 26 **Jim Luckinbill** - Miners' Picnic. Meet Union Hill School 9 am, all day event.

Aug 29 - **Vern** - Workshop at Harms Barn 9 am;

Sept 9 - Fall Hill Climb; Roamin Angels car show

Sept 16-17 **Aaron** - Chico Beat the Heat overnight tour. Stay at Quality Inn Chico \$119 - two queen beds. One day only option. Meet Target parking lot Sept 16 at 8:30 am.

Oct. 6-7-8, **Joint tour with Chico Car Club** - to Woodland.

Oct 14 - Lake Wildwood Car Show

Oct 19-20 - **Linda & Ryck Johnson** - Shenandoah Valley Wine Tour to include Sutter Creek.

**PUBLICITY:** Donna Lichti says she will put an article into the upcoming Restorer.

**SUNSHINE:** Cards are needed for Kay Harms (back surgery) and Steve Straw (a fall).

**TECHNICAL:** Sharon Pierce and her son Joseph have now moved to Texas. Many car parts remain in the Pierce garage will all be free for any member through the next weekend.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Debra Bamber has free car parts from her late husband to give away. She also has a Studebaker to sell.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Club Christmas Dinner will be held at Tuscany Gardens in Grass Valley on Dec. 16.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Person in Placer County has 1956 Ford Pickup Truck they want to trade for a Model A.

**GOTS & WANTS** : Debra Bamber has free car parts for people to take. She also has a Studebaker to sell.

**ATTENDANCE AWARD:** Tish Buti wins \$10.

**50-50 RAFFLE:** \$25 won by Anne Starr.

**ADJOURNMENT** It was moved and seconded by Vern and Wayne Buti to adjourn. Aaron adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Yanko, Secretary

**ATTENDEES:** Sandy&Bill Yanko, Doug Giles, Debra Bamber&Roman Kvapil, Wayne&Tish Buti, Ann&Phil Starr, Aaron Johnson, Donna&Don Lichti, Vern Harms, Bill Steen, Denise Hugenberger, Kristi&Steve Turnsk, Bill Mitchell, Jim Luckinbill

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Gra-Neva Model A Club**

July 27, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by President Aaron Johnson. He welcomed and congratulated Chris and Beth Buti for rejoining the Club. He then thanked Kay Harms for bringing her delicious peach cobbler to share.

**REPORTS:**

**PRESIDENT:** Aaron welcomed our guest, Jim Miller who has a 1927 Chevrolet truck.

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Bill Mitchell reported he had nothing from the ACCC.

**SECRETARY:** Sharon Pierce made a correction to the June Minutes. It was not Jerry Norville but Jerry Norwell, a local machinist and former member who had a stroke. After a motion and second by Kay and Calvin, the minutes were approved as corrected.

**TREASURER:** Jan Elliott was not present. Aaron indicated there was little change in the club account.

**EDITOR:** Bill Yanko thanked members Ryck Johnson, Calvin Campbell, Vern Harms and others for sending him information to publish in the Newsletter. Comments followed regarding the picture of the Studebaker in the newsletter. Bill Mitchell stated he had been the winner of a Newsletter quiz in May. He wondered if he should have won a bottle of wine. A motion was made by Steve Turnsk for the Club to purchase a bottle of wine for Bill M. The motion carried. A suggestion was made to add Sierra Starr Winery to the advertising section of the Newsletter.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Gary Spencer noted that Chris Buti and his family have rejoined the Club.

**TOUR CHAIRMAN:** Vern Harms announced the Club participation in the July 4th Parade in Grass Valley was the best ever with 18 cars participating and we were #1 car club in the parade. Ryck Johnson reported the Grass Valley Downtown Car Show went well and the Harms Farm Tune-up Workshop on July 18 went really well with Bill Yanko receiving a lot of help with his 1931 A. He noted the Colfax brunch tour for July 24 had been cancelled due to extreme heat.

Upcoming events: 8/13 Tour & Potluck at Campbell's home to start at Raley's parking lot 11 am; 8/29 Workshop Lube & Oil Change at Harms'; 9/9 Auburn Hill Climb per Steve Straw; 9/16-17 Chico Beat the Heat Overnight Tour planned by AJ; 8/26 Empire Mine Picnic Jim Luckinbill getting details.

**PUBLICITY:** Donna Lichti was absent

**SUNSHINE:** Jennifer was informed that Kay Harms will be having back surgery in the upcoming weeks.

**TECHNICAL:** Bill Luckinbill said he had information on electrical system. He would send to Bill for the Newsletter. Steve Turnsk discussed a Model A engine vibrating due to pistons being heavier than originals. Steve T. Asked about the magnetic signs with club name and how we can obtain more.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Sharon Pierce announced this is the last meeting she will attend. She is moving soon to Texas.

AJ noted that Mitchell Transmissions is very backed up and anyone interested in a Mitchell transmission or overdrive should consider ordering soon.

Jim Luckinbill announced Hot Summer Nights is coming up in Nevada City.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Christmas Dinner: Kay and Linda have been looking into different options for our Christmas dinner event. They talked to Rory at Tuscany Gardens in Grass Valley and it appears they can accommodate up to 55 people. They can provide a wine table where you can buy wine by the glass. A motion was made by Ryck, seconded by Jennifer Johnson to try Tuscany Gardens and was approved. A tentative date for the Christmas dinner is Dec. 16.

**GOTS & WANTS** Steve Straw has opener/pourer for oil can and he wants 21" tubes. Steve Turnsk has a riveter and rivets and brake shoes. The Club will buy these from Steve T and store them at Starr's Winery.

**ATTENDANCE AWARD:** Attendance award was \$70 and Bill Yanko won.

**50-50 RAFFLE:** Linda Johnson won \$35

**ADJOURNMENT** - Kay moved that the meeting be adjourned and the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Yanko, Secretary

**ATTENDEES:** Bill&Sandy Yanko, Ryck&Linda Johnson, Denise Hugenberger, Sharon Pierce & Joseph, Kristi&Steve Turnsk, Beth&Chris Buti, Bill&Avon Steen, Kay&Vern Harms, Jim Luckinbill, Steve&Vicky Straw, Aaron,Jenn&Adler Johnson, Wayne&Tish Buti, Bill Mitchell, Phil&Ann Starr, Calvin Campbell, Doug giles, Jim Miller (guest).

\*\*\*\*\*

## Campbell's Potluck & Tour August 13, 2023



The Campbell's hosted a backroads tour in the Alta Sierra hills followed by a potluck at their home overlooking a large pond. Unfortunately Calvin had to leave to attend a Memorial Service in Oklahoma. Rather than cancelling the event, Virginia motored on with the help of her trusty sidekick Linda Johnson to coordinate the potluck. Bob Ambrose volunteered to lead the

tour in his hot rod Model A with Denise Hugenberger riding in the right seat as co-pilot. Also attending were the Harms, Spencers, Turnsk, Ryck Johnsons, Lichtis, Straws and our newest member Randy Webb. The tour ended at the Campbell home where tables were set up inside and outside overlooking the pond. The Spencers brought a ham for the pot luck which was complimented by a large variety of other dishes and salads. A garden tour added to the ambience. It was a good day for everyone.



Linda & Virginia

## Poetry in the Gra-Neva Gram?

Why not? As they say, variety is the spice of life, and gear heads can have culture too. The light verse on this page is from Richard Armour (1906-1989). Armour's *Armoruy* was a weekly column that was syndicated in 300 newspapers. His humorous reflections of life were also found in many magazines. The poems on this page are examples of his observations about automobiles. I know the filling station below will bring back memories for most of us. These were cited from a 2010 article in *Westways Magazine* by Morgan P. Yates.

### The Filling Station

The filling station's full of bustle  
And men with arms all grease and muscle  
Who leap about on limbs elastic  
And wear bow ties of stainless plastic.  
On driving in, a bell is sounded,  
And instantly the car's surrounded  
By men with rags and cans and hoses  
And smiles drawn high beneath their noses.  
You sit, and while you watch and listen  
The windshield starts to gleam and glisten  
And tires grow firm as air comes hissing  
And water's added if it's missing  
And oil is checked by gauge removal  
And holding up for your approval ...  
The gas pump's figures stop their whirring,  
The bill is paid, the motor's purring,  
And bells—as if upon one tether—  
Of till and parting chime together.  
(January 1955)

### Little by Little

New battery, new spark plugs,  
New tires on front and rear,  
New valves and rings and gaskets—  
All new within the year.

New carburetor, fan belt,  
And lining in the brakes ...  
Why should I buy a new car,  
What's old, for goodness sakes?  
(December 1948)



### Lines to Static Electricity

I touch the handle of my car  
And there, old static, there you are.  
You leap upon me from the handle,  
As brutal as a Goth or Vandal.  
My friends all smile at me and mock;  
They say you're just a puny shock.  
But they've not felt, as I, your voltage,  
They don't appreciate your joltage.  
They think it strange, no doubt, my dove,  
My right hand sports a rubber glove ...  
Why you're called static, I've forgot,  
But when I feel you, I am not!

# ADVERTISER'S PAGE

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# ADVERTISER'S PAGE

**1909-48 Ford Parts & Accessories**  
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**www.gaslightauto.com**  
Urbana, Ohio 43078



Gaslight Auto Parts

The advertisement features a photograph of the Gaslight Auto Parts storefront in Urbana, Ohio. The building is dark blue with a white sign that reads "Gaslight Auto Parts" and "Urbana, Ohio 43078". Several vintage cars from the 1909-48 era are parked in front of the building. A person is standing near one of the cars. The text "Serving You since 1962" is written in a curved font on the left side of the image. The phone number "800.242.6491" and website "www.gaslightauto.com" are prominently displayed in the upper right. The company name "Gaslight Auto Parts" is written in a stylized font at the bottom of the image.

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**1-800-866-3443**      **www.EGGE.com**

The advertisement for Egge Machine Company features a large, detailed image of a piston on the right side. The piston is silver and has a distinctive shape. The company logo, "EGGE PISTONS", is in the top left corner. The text "Egge Machine Company" is in the top right, followed by "Made in the USA Since 1915 Santa Fe Springs, CA.". Below the piston, there are three lines of text describing the product: "E1104-Model A Piston", "Main Bearings Rebabitt Service", and "Complete Engine Kit Available". At the bottom, the phone number "1-800-866-3443" and website "www.EGGE.com" are listed.