

# MODEL A FORD HALL OF FAME



Model A Museum  
Gilmore Car Museum Campus  
Hickory Corners, Michigan



# Welcome to the Model A Ford Hall of Fame



The Hall of Fame exists to recognize the people who developed, produced, sold and maintained the Model A Ford vehicles. It also recognizes the many people who developed supporting and derivative tools, accessories and machinery; authored and published articles, magazines and books; and organized and led national organizations devoted to the Model A Ford.

The Hall of Fame is located inside the Model A Ford Museum. It is an evolving element within the museum and is expected to grow in size and importance with each new induction ceremony.

# 47<sup>th</sup> INDUCTEE



**Bill Edstrom, Sr**

Inducted September 19, 2026

# Bill Edstrom, Sr

## Nominating Narrative

Bill Edstrom was a man of many interests and capabilities. Bill was born in the small mining town of Galena, Kansas on June 12, 1930, at the start of The Great Depression. He was the first child born to Arthur and Dora (nee Hatcher) Edstrom, the eldest of three brothers

Bill and his brothers lived with their father until their father's death in 1942. Bill then moved in with his aunt Lula and uncle Gene Moffet in Joplin, MO. Bill trapped rabbits, plowed fields behind a horse, picked tomatoes for a local farmer and did chores both before and after school. He attended school in a one-room schoolhouse through 8th grade.

Bill's youth was spent in an era of limited resources during the Depression. This caused him to feel like he was separated from the other, more affluent, children. These experiences awakened in Bill a determination to succeed, to make his own way, and instilled in him a lifelong commitment to hard work and innovation.

After graduating from Joplin High School in the class of 1948, he served four years in the US Navy, three and a half of those at sea on the destroyer "Tucker" during the Korean War. Following his wartime service duty, Bill returned to Joplin, MO where he met his future wife - Sylvia Bruff. Bill moved to Milwaukee, WI to study at the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) on the GI Bill. Sylvia soon followed. Bill and Sylvia were married on March 26, 1954.

### Nominating Narrative (cont.)

Bill initially studied refrigeration technology at MSOE but, finding himself to be a successful student, he pushed himself further and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1957. He subsequently worked for Caterpillar Tractors in Peoria, Illinois. He later moved back to Wisconsin to work eleven years for AC Spark Plug, a division of General Motors.

During his time at AC Spark Plug, he and Sylvia became interested in growing chinchillas, an animal with a delicate biology, and an exceptionally dense coat a fur. Bill became an expert on the care and feeding of chinchillas. Bill served a term as president of the Empress Chinchilla Association in the U.S.

As the Edstrom chinchilla operation grew to hundreds of cages in the barn, Bill turned his engineering training toward the difficulties of maintaining such a large herd. This resulted in his invention of an automated watering valve and delivery system that replaced the need for glass drinking water bottles for the animals. He successfully filed for a patent and subsequently formed Edstrom Industries, Inc, in 1969. Eventually, Bill quit his job with AC Spark Plug to dedicate himself full time to this new business.

## Nominating Narrative (cont.)

Edstrom Industries grew from the kitchen table) to the garage and the barn, to construction of a 114,000 sq. ft. Edstrom Industries office and factory in their small town of Waterford, WI.

Bill furthered his education and earned an MBA from the University Wisconsin - Milwaukee. He later graduated from Harvard Business School's Owner/President Management executive education program. Today, Edstrom Industries is the largest employer in Waterford. His inventions have enabled and streamlined lifesaving research in medical, pharmaceutical, and educational institutions all over the world and have created jobs and quality products for decades.

Following retirement from Edstrom Industries, Bill and Sylvia moved to Northern Wisconsin near Presque Isle. Bill and Sylvia discovered a new interest in collecting and restoring Ford Model A vehicles. They attended numerous tours and car shows and went on to win the highest national award for Ford Model A restoration - the coveted "Henry" award. As he had earlier in his career when he became a judge to better understand the requirements of the chinchilla field, so too did he become a judge for Model A restorations to better understand the intricacies and requirements of that field.

## Nominating Narrative (cont.)

This knowledge and dedication to excellence culminated in awarding his restoration of a black Model A400 with the highest number of total points in the history of the competition. Bill would later say some of his favorite times of his life were those he spent with Sylvia – the two of them exploring the back roads of northern Wisconsin in one or another of their restored Model A cars.

Bill exemplified and valued education as a path to personal betterment and that showed in his expressions of philanthropy to Alverno College, MSOE University, St. Rose Center, and Rawhide Boys Ranch.

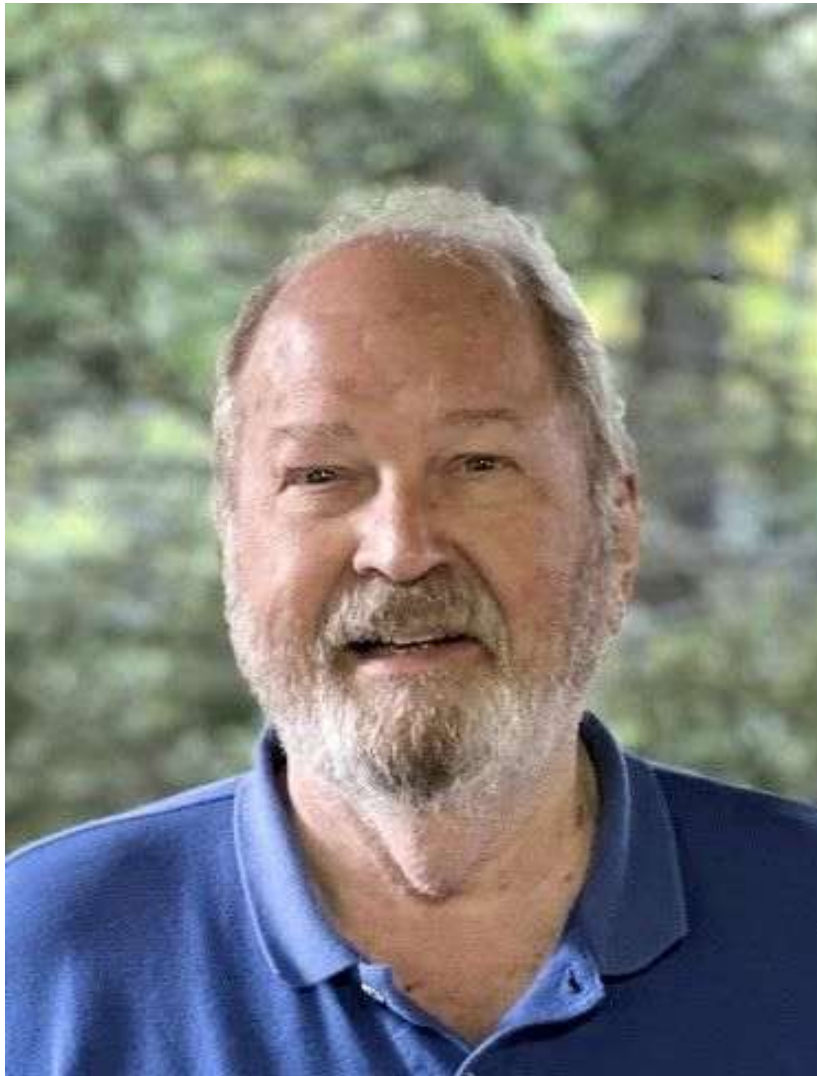
Inc Magazine named Bill a “Master Entrepreneur” at the 1993 Entrepreneur of the Year awards for the state of Wisconsin. He served as a Regent of The Milwaukee School of Engineering. He has been an accomplished private pilot, skydiver, certified scuba diver, mountain climber, and a member of the Chinchilla Hall of Fame.

## Nominating Narrative (cont.)

Bill was a huge supporter of the Model A Ford Foundation, Inc. and the Model A Museum at the Gilmore Museum complex in Hickory Corners, Michigan. He was a major donor for creation of the museum building, and then donated multiple award-winning Model A's now on display, including a Model A Taxi, Convertible sedan (A400), and several rare body styles like the delivery van and wide bed pickup.

For his exemplary life, his entrepreneurial spirit and his generous support of the Model A hobby, Bill Edstrom deserves to be enshrined in the Model A Ford Hall of Fame.

# 48<sup>th</sup> INDUCTEE



**James W. Thomas**

Inducted September 19, 2026

# James W. Thomas

## Nominating Narrative

Few individuals have contributed more to the preservation and documentation of Model A Ford history through research, writing, and education than James W. Thomas of Cincinnati, Ohio. For decades, Jim has devoted countless hours to ensuring that future generations of enthusiasts have access to accurate historical information, original advertising materials, and well-researched publications that enrich the Model A hobby.

Jim's service to the hobby has been extensive at both the national and local levels. He served as Director of Publications and Library for the Model A Restorer's Club (MARC) from 1994 through 1997, helping guide one of the organization's most important functions: the preservation and dissemination of Model A knowledge. He later served two terms as a Trustee of the Model A Ford Foundation, Inc. (MAFFI) and continues to serve the organization as a Special Advisor, providing valuable guidance and institutional knowledge.

Perhaps Jim's most enduring legacy has been his dedication to research and authorship. Over the years, he has produced an extraordinary body of work focused on Model A Ford advertising and literature. His long-running series on Model A advertising recently reached its 92nd installment, a remarkable achievement that reflects decades of careful research and scholarship. His articles have earned numerous awards and recognition throughout the hobby, establishing him as one of the foremost authorities in the field of Model A advertising history.

## Nominating Narrative (cont.)

Jim's passion for preserving original literature is further demonstrated through his involvement with the Advertisement and Literature Special Interest Group alongside fellow collectors Jordon Beller and Howard Minners. Through this work, he has helped identify, document, preserve, and share some of the most important printed materials associated with the Model A Ford.

Among his most significant contributions is the publication of his landmark book, Advertising the Model A Ford. This comprehensive 304-page hardbound volume contains more than 400 photographs and documents every known Model A Ford magazine advertisement produced between 1928 and 1932. The book catalogs more than 300 individual advertisements, lists over 900 ad appearances by publication and date, includes rarity ratings, and documents more than 40 magazines that featured Model A advertising. The book has become an invaluable reference for collectors, historians, restorers, and enthusiasts seeking to better understand how Ford marketed the Model A during its production years.

Jim's dedication to the hobby has earned him many honors, including the prestigious Kenneth G. Brady Award from the Model A Restorer's Club in 2025. The Brady Award is one of MARC's highest recognitions and is presented annually to an individual who has given unsparingly of their time and energy to the national organization.

## Nominating Narrative (cont.)

Often regarded as MARC's lifetime achievement award, it recognizes sustained and meaningful contributions to the hobby. Jim's selection as the recipient speaks volumes about the respect he has earned from his peers and the impact of his decades of service.

Beyond the Model A community, Jim and his wife Pam share a passion for preserving history. Together they have assembled an impressive collection of antique Christmas decorations dating back to the late nineteenth century. For many years, they volunteered their time and expertise with Cincinnati's Taft Museum of Art, helping create historically accurate Christmas displays that allowed visitors to experience holiday traditions from generations past.

Those who know Jim personally appreciate not only his knowledge but also his enthusiasm and dedication to the hobby. One memorable story from his early years with the Ohio Valley Region Model A Ford Club involved an overnight tour during which torrential rain poured through the roof of his November 1930 Victoria. As water found its way into the car, Pam resorted to holding an umbrella inside the vehicle in an effort to stay dry. After arriving at the hotel, soaked from the journey, she famously used an iron to dry their clothing. Rather than discouraging them, the experience became one of many cherished memories and demonstrated the spirit of adventure and commitment that have characterized their involvement in the hobby ever since.

## Nominating Narrative (cont.)

Through his leadership, research, publications, collecting, authorship, and unwavering dedication to preserving Model A history, James W. Thomas has made a lasting contribution to the Model A Ford community. His work has educated thousands of enthusiasts, preserved irreplaceable historical information, and strengthened the hobby for future generations. For these reasons, James W. Thomas is highly deserving of induction into the Model A Ford Foundation Hall of Fame.

# 49<sup>th</sup> INDUCTEE



## **Andy Honiotes**

Inducted September 19, 2026

## **Nominating Narrative**

Andy joined the Model A Restorers Club in 1970 at age 15, riding his bicycle to meetings as he wasn't old enough to have a driver's license. In 1971 he became a charter member of the Joliet Region in Illinois and in 1974, at just 19 years old, was elected president of the Region, keeping that position until 1998 - an impressive run of 24 years! In 2004, Andy was again elected to serve in that highest regional office.

Andy's automotive interests were far reaching, and his love of antique Fords included Model Ts (a hobby shared with his brother) as well as Model As - especially the driven car. To that end Andy became an original committee member of the now popular Mileage Program, helping to write its rules and to be an integral part of the program in its earliest days.

Although Andy is a champion of driven cars, his love of the Model A extends to its authenticity and accurate restoration as well. This gave him the motivation to form the first MARC Judging School, which led to the formation of the MARC Touring Class, the most popular of the club's judged classes. In 1995, Andy was a founding member and early Chair of Touring Class and was instrumental in the efforts to recognize these driven cars not only as the backbone of the organization, but also as remarkably well-restored machines exemplifying what a Model A could be – even with daily use.

Through the years, Andy has remained active in Touring Class as an advisor and mentor to those who have taken the lead in his stead toward the advancement of this important segment of the club.

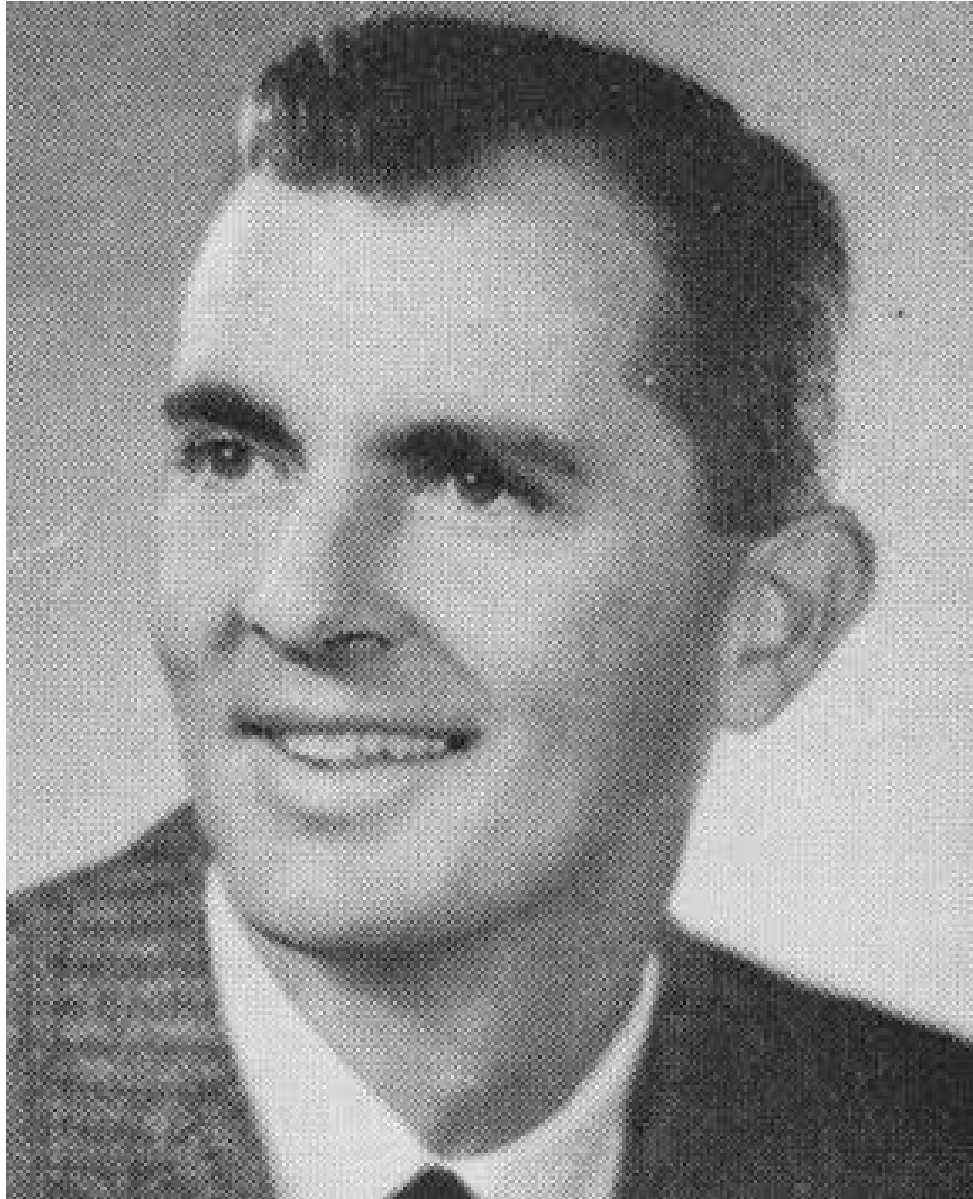
## Nominating Narrative (cont.)

Although TC is a judged class and has its own book of standards, Andy never lost sight of the primary objective of its members and participants: To have fun and enjoy Model As to their fullest extent!

As a counselor and avid supporter of the Model A Restorers Club youth, Andy generously hauled his 1928 phaeton chassis to no less than three national meets for our youngsters to disassemble and reassemble as a learning experience. The youth chassis program was a resounding success, and Andy coupled those work/fun sessions with seminars geared for the youth at these national events.

Andy was elected to the then four-member MARC Board of Directors and served as Vice President during 1984 and 1985 and became Regional Organizer from 1990 through 1992. Following the formation of the seven-member board, he was appointed Director of Regions for 1993. These prestigious positions were aptly carried out by a man dedicated to the preservation and well-being of the beloved Model A Ford and to the success and proliferation of the Model A Restorers Club.

# 50th INDUCTEE



**Bill Reeder**

Inducted September 19, 2026

## **Nominating Narrative**

Bill began his involvement in the Model A hobby in 1963. With his wife Marylee and his children Patti and Jim, Bill drove his 1930 sedan to numerous national conventions, including several cross-country trips. Bill also attended almost every National Banquet where he often served as Installing Officer for the newly elected Board.

Bill was an active member of the Jewel City club, where he served as Treasurer before being asked to fill a vacancy on the MAFCA Board of Directors.

Bill served on the MAFCA Board of Directors from 1967 to 1970, holding positions as publications and technical director, serving as Secretary, and elected as President in 1969.

Bill was a dedicated advocate for hands-on repair and restoration, encouraging others to experience the satisfaction of completing their own work.

In that spirit, Bill became especially well known for the outstanding restoration articles he authored for The Restorer magazine. Over a 14-year period, he contributed numerous detailed, well-written, and carefully illustrated articles on a wide range of restoration topics: wheels, lamps, running boards, maintenance, etc. Eight of his articles were reprinted in the “How to Restore Your Model A” books.

### Nominating Narrative (cont.)

His contributions were so exemplary that, following his passing, MAFCA established the “Bill Reeder Literary Award” to recognize outstanding technical articles by members published in The Restorer, honoring the high standards reflected in Bill’s own work. Bill passed away in 1981, but his legacy of hands-on restoration continues to inspire Model A enthusiasts today.