



The Froehlich Ford Story

By: Charlie Froehlich

To start in the beginning we must go back to the year 1923 in McClusky, North Dakota. In that year Grandfather August J. Froehlich added the Ford dealership to his Northside Garage and Livery Stable, hereafter to be called Froehlich's Ford. Over the years the dealership changed hands several times within the family. My father, J. Arthur Froehlich was the co-owner when I was in elementary and high school. So my exposure to Fords comes very honestly. I helped service them at the dealership. In 1961 Art sold his share of the dealership to his brother, my uncle Donald C. Froehlich. In the early 2000s my cousin Barry owned the dealership when it no longer became practical to operate in the small town with a small trade area. The franchise was then released and sadly Froehlich's Ford no longer exists.

So now we get to the history of the three automobiles that are participating in the 2013 Founders Tour. All have family connections since day one and two of the three have been continuously owned by the family. The oldest of the vehicles is the 1964 Ford Fairlane 500 which was originally sold by Froehlich's Ford to a Mr. Parsons. Several years later Art Froehlich purchased the car from Mr. Parsons and used it for a "work car". Art worked four blocks from the house so the car did not get a lot of driving. When I inherited the Fairlane in 1999 it had only 46,000 miles on it and is still low mileage at 81,000. This car is being driven on the Founders Tour by our daughter Lynn Froehlich Standifer with Jeff Standifer being the official navigator.

Next we have the early 1965 Mustang which I bought new in Kermit, Texas in June, 1964. (Early Mustangs were hard to come by and my uncle was unable to deliver one to me on a timely basis.) For many years the Mustang was our family car and it now registers 210,000 miles. The Mustang was born at close to the same time as daughter Leslee Froehlich, so appropriately she is the driver. Deanna Eichler is navigating in the Mustang.

The final Tour car in this story is the 1983 Ford Crown Victoria. This was the last new car that Art purchased. It also came from Froehlich's Ford. I am proud to be driving this car that has 100% Froehlich history. Its odometer reading was only 75,000 miles in 1999 and we have driven it another 110,000 miles. Dear wife Ardie is navigating as we participate in our 24th of the 25 Founders Tours.

While I am proud of our three “Family Fords” I am much more proud of our two daughters and their families for joining us on this tour. They are AACA members and have occasionally accompanied us as passengers on other tours, but this is the first time they have registered a car in their names. Join us in welcoming them to the joy of touring.

Addendum to The Froehlich Ford Story

By: Charlie Froehlich

I suppose nothing can go exactly as planned, especially when you have been planning for two years. First son-in-law Jeff came down with a kidney stone several days before they were to meet us at Madison. It was finally broken up in the Franklin, TN hospital and they were able to meet us on schedule on Saturday. A surprise to us was that Jeff's son showed up in Madison Saturday night to join us for the Sunday early bird tour – I drafted him as driver and he enjoyed that. Then daughter Leslee was caught with an important political commitment at work in Austin, TX and did not get to our house until one day late to pick up a car, but she made it in time for the tour. (Ardie and I drove two cars to Madison on Saturday and Leslee drove the third car there on Sunday.) All during the week daughter Lynn had to cover some of her work obligations – she has a major function that reached its peak the week of the tour. If that wasn't enough, Jeff's kidney stone had apparently not been totally broken up the previous week and it gave him trouble again – 3AM Thursday morning to the emergency room for pain medicine. Jeff and Lynn left after three days of the five day tour and went back to his hospital in Tennessee for another treatment.



A fellow should probably have better sense than to take three old cars 400 miles from home and not expect trouble. But after all they were relatively new Fords and I did not expect trouble. At any rate we parked the Mustang at the hotel Saturday night and left it alone in the rain all day Sunday. Monday morning it was still raining and I fortunately decided to check under the hoods of all three cars. Two were A-1. But the Mustang had no water in the radiator recovery tank and no visible water in the radiator. As mentioned it is raining and I start pouring water in the radiator and it keeps running out some place, but with all of the rain I could not see where it was going. Eventually as the engine warmed up the leak slowed down enough so that I felt comfortable driving to a repair shop. Due to circumstances this repair ended up taking two days so the Mustang missed two days of touring. Then with Jeff in the hospital the '83 and '64 missed one day each. (We drove different cars on each of those two days.)

To sum it up, we had three beautiful days of touring, two and one-half rainy days of touring and no more car troubles. Jeff was repaired at the hospital too late to resume touring but was able to return to work on his Sunday fireman's schedule. The trip home was uneventful. One of the highlights at the closing banquet was that the Froehlich family received the Family Participation Trophy. From my standpoint it was all worth it.