Reminisent

Wagon Wheelin'

On the day I received the May/June issue, with my father's picture in it ("Motoring Memories"), I received a call from Mr. Neil Holcomb of Elba, Wisconsin. He said his father worked for International Harvester, and in his book was the car my dad was driving in the picture.

The car, called an Auto Wagon, was made by International Harvester from 1907 to 1909.

—Charles O., Grayslake, Illinois

Robert Rosengarten of Bellbrook, Ohio adds that the Auto Wagon's license plate appears to be a Pennsylvania (designated by a keystone-shaped badge) truck plate issued between 1910 and 1915. Robert has been a plate collector for 45 years.

Public Service Jukebox

I sure do remember remotely operated jukeboxes ("Does Anyone Remember?", Aug/Sept).

In 1941, an Army buddy and I were at a movie in Oakland, California. In the middle of the movie, the film stopped and a man walked onto the stage, announcing that "all soldiers, sailors and Marines should report back to their bases," explaining that Japan had just attacked Pearl Harbor.

We decided to take our time, stopping at several bars on the way back to the base, thinking we'd be confined for a number of days to

come. At each bar, there was an Automatic Hostess jukebox, and every 10 minutes or so, the operator would announce over the jukebox speaker the same order given at the movie theater.

So, in addition to playing music, these jukeboxes were also used for public announcements.

—Joseph P., Henning, Minnesota

Muntz Was Born a Kurtis

The lineage of the 1952 Muntz Jet featured in “Name That Car!” (June) was only a partial truth. The car was actually a creation of Frank Kurtis, a renowned designer and builder of the most successful race cars of the day.

Mr. Muntz somehow negotiated a deal to sell this car—originally designed and built in Glendale, California—under his name.

—Dale H., Riverside, California

Minding Your A’s and B’s

The caption under the picture of the boys going for a joyride in “Short Memories” (Aug/Sept) lists the car as a Model A. The car is actually a slightly modified 1932 Model B Ford with larger tires and fender-mounted parking lights.

This particular car had the new Ford flat-head V-8 engine, as indicated by the symbol on the front of the grille.

—Fred D., North Providence, Rhode Island

Political Sham

As one of your contributors and admiring readers, permit me to point out in, I hope, a helpful way that the statement noting that "(e)lections g(a)ve Hitler's party a slim majority" ("Time Capsule: 1933," May/June) is not entirely accurate. If you mean rigged elections after 1932, then yes.

By 1933, Germany's Nazi-ruled Reichstag had become a mere rubber-stamp parliament manipulated by the single ruling party. Hitler's party won only a plurality of seats, but never received a majority in the several free elections to the Reichstag before 1933.

—Albert Weeks, Sarasota, Florida

Ultimate in Clemency

In reference to the so-called "crime of the century" in the March/April issue ("Time Capsule: 1924"), my father, Nels Benson, was a private chauffeur to Jacob Franks, father of Bobby Franks, the boy who was kidnapped and murdered. We lived in the coach house on the Franks property at Hyde Park Boulevard and Ellis Avenue in Chicago.

In 1959, 35 years after the hearing, my father told me that on the night before the sentencing, he drove Jacob Franks to the Edgewater Beach Hotel to see John R. Caverly, the judge hearing the case.

Upon departing the hotel, Mr. Franks told my father that he had pleaded with the judge to spare the lives of the two students, Nathan Leopold Jr. and Richard Loeb, who had murdered his son.

To my knowledge, this story is not known to anyone else and so adds to the lore of that journalistic event. But, more importantly, it exemplifies the forgiving nature of Jacob Franks and his belief that forfeiting lives does not resurrect a life already gone.

—Nelson B., Evanston, Illinois

Don't Leave Out Dad

I appreciated your running the photos of our family and of the future queen of Great Britain in "As You Were" (Aug/Sept), but you omitted my father's name, Cpl. Daniel L. Cavaluzzi. Thanks.

—Antoinette D., New Windsor, New York

Starboard Surrender

A picture in "Time Capsule: 1945" (Aug/Sept) shows the Japanese surrender ceremony taking place on the port side of the USS Missouri, not the starboard side, where it actually took place. Apparently, the picture was reversed. —Mike R., Peoria, Arizona