

Past President Gary Koser

1950–2020

WITH GREAT PERSONAL SADNESS I report the passing of Professor Gary Koser, P.E., a lifetime friend of the Model A Ford Club of America. He was with his family at the time of his passing.

Many of you knew Gary; in fact, he touched the lives of thousands. He was a friend and associate in many communities: engineering, education, publications, and, of course, the Model A hobby. A civil engineer by trade, he was a professor of engineering at the Indian River State College where he wrote the book on computer-aided design. Although Gary lived in Florida, he never forgot his roots in Wisconsin.

Gary was a visionary; he saw potential in people and encouraged their growth. He envisioned a bright future for our hobby and cultivated those concepts.

He grew up with Model A Fords. His parents, Grace and Larry Koser, were active in MAFCA from the beginning and regularly attended national meets. Gary and his sister, the late Cheryl Procnow, saw the United States from the rumble seat of the Kosers' 1931 De Luxe Roadster. In the mid-1960s, Gary and Larry tackled the restoration of what would become Gary's signature vehicle, a Model A Mail Truck that was first shown at the Milwaukee MAFCA National Meet in 1970. At that event, Gary was awarded the first of many national trophies for his truck, which he drove to those events.

Gary's youthful experiences at MAFCA national meets served him well. He was co-chair of that 1970 MAFCA National Meet. From there, he served the Wisconsin Chapter as a board member, president, event chairman, and even newsletter editor in the 1970s. Gary was elected to the MAFCA Board of Directors and served as president in 1987. For all his contributions to MAFCA, he was awarded Life Membership.

Gary was also a founding member of the Model A Ford Foundation and provided assistance in growing the fledgling group in the early years. He was there when MAFFI accepted its first donation of a Model A and when the talk of opening a museum was only a dream.

His crowning achievement came in the form of the first joint MAFCA-MARC World Meet in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. He was the driving force behind the Wisconsin Chapter being awarded the event and as chairman, he assembled an executive committee that made it into a memorable event.

Gary's idea for a newsletter prior to the World Meet took the form of the ESP News, a four page periodical that went out to chapters, regions, and potential guests. Next he embraced new technology and proposed a 16-minute promotional video entitled *Wheeling Your A The Wisconsin Way!* which was the meet's slogan. Over 250 copies were distributed. Such elements seem to be standard items today, but they sprang from the fertile imagination of Gary Koser.

We could fill this magazine with stories about adventures with Gary. He was always willing to help out. Whether slogging through a rain-drenched swap meet, painting a car, assisting meet planning, or leading a tour, you could count on his expertise. He was there, from roadside seminars to the board room, from table-pounding passion to get things right to his infectious laughter, usually injected at just the right time. Gary was a delightful and valued associate.

This is a time when these few words fail to express our feelings. The hobby has lost a true asset. I have lost a true friend. He left me a better man, just as he left the world a better place than he found it. Even if you didn't know him personally, he touched your life somehow and in some way. *Requiescat in pace*, my friend. ☹ —J.R. Manning, Germantown, Wisconsin



Grilling Wisconsin-style brats for those attending the August 1987 MAFCA Board meeting