



F A L L
Weekly

Reader

Volume 22, Issue 31, September 8, 2022

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

The Automobile Industry by Ray Huffines

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sep 8th

Jeff McKissack

"UFO's, the Media & the Military"

Sep 15th

Marjorie Lewis - Author

"When the Men Were Gone"

Sep 22

Be an Angel

Sep 29

RYLA Students Share Their Experiences

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Hubert Aaron

Sep 17



Johnny Lewis gave the invocation and **Nancy Humphrey** gave the US pledge. We don't recite the Texas pledge, probably because most of us don't know it. Here it is: Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, **Texas**, one state under God, one and indivisible. (say Texas loudly)



We welcomed **Rick Horne** and **Mavis Everett**. It's good to see old friends.

Joe Camarena put \$5 in the Bubba Bucket to honor the University of Iowa women's wrestling team <https://hawkeyesports.com/sports/womens-wrestling/> and Iowa's Little League victories.

Your editor this week is **John Caldwell**. **Chris Parr's** wife, **Pat**, fell and broke both her ankles. She now has two walking boots. Contact Janelle to deliver meals.

Last week, we inducted **Jeff McKee**. This week **Janelle Twyford-Silvis**

presented him with his membership material.



Our speaker was long time member **Samuel Ray Huffines Sr.** Here's his family history: My grandfather, J L Huffines, Sr. opened his Willys-Overton dealership in downtown Denton on **May 5, 1924**. He founded the company on two principles which are still the benchmark for all decisions made at our dealerships - treat the customer the way they want to be treated and support the local community. In 1927 he moved to Lewisville and began Huffines Chevrolet. My father, J L, Jr. acquired the Chevrolet franchise in Commerce,



Texas in 1950.

When I was a teenager we only had Chevrolet dealerships. My first car was a Camaro SS which was a really cool car for a teenager. Then my grandfather let me order a demonstrator when I was a freshman in college. A Chevelle SS 454 with a 4 speed manual transmission was my choice. It was plenty fast, although I didn't get to drive it much since I was in the Corps of Cadets at A&M and didn't have much time off campus. (BBA in Business Management 1974) I opened the Chevrolet dealership in Plano in 1984. In 1986 we added Chrysler & Plymouth in Plano and Dodge in Lewisville. That started the gradual expansions to 9 locations.

The 9 Huffines dealerships have been recognized and praised by JD Powers, Dallas Morning News, and the Consumers Choice Award program. Ray has been on many boards, including the Hendrick Scholarship Foundation, Salvation Army of Collin County, and Plano Chamber of Commerce (Chair). He was the Plano Chamber's Corporate Citizen of the year in 2013.

Ray spoke about the automobile industry. He had three main topics: **low inventory**, **autonomous vehicles**, and **electric vehicles** (EVs)

Low inventory - Cars are becoming rolling computers. Cars and SUVs today have between 100 and 1,000 microchips that control everything from engine timing to cabin temperature. Electric vehicles can have between 400 and 4,000. If there aren't enough chips, vehicles can't be built. Starting in early 2021, there was a shortage of chips, which reduced supply and increased prices. Ray's friends were concerned because his new car lots were almost empty. Microchip factories

are being built and supplies will be significantly increased in a few years. For example, Intel is building \$20 billion factories in both Ohio and Arizona.

Autonomous vehicles - The new technology is called Advanced Driver Assistance Systems.

There are 5 levels of autonomy, with Level 5 being a driverless car. We are currently at level 2. **GM** has lost close to \$5 billion since 2018 on a company called Cruise that is developing a driverless taxi in San Francisco. Losses are about \$5 million/day. The biggest issue is to have safe travels in all conditions. Interstate highways are easy, stop and go driving in cities is difficult. Tests in Texas are on I45 between Dallas and Houston. The 18 wheelers have a safety driver.

Tesla has a feature called "Auto Pilot" that works well, but is not autonomous. The biggest issue is that drivers believe that the car can drive itself. It can't. For \$15,000, Tesla will upgrade the car to "Full Self Driving". The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has urged Tesla drivers to not use their children to see if the auto-braking system works. <https://jalopnik.com/dont-test-teslas-full-self-driving-on-children-safety-1849427978>

Electric vehicles - There are 3 categories of EVs: **hybrid** (such as Prius), **plugin hybrid** and **battery electric**.

Pros of battery electric:

- You don't need gasoline
- To charge your vehicle costs less than the equivalent range with gasoline
- You're driving something new and innovative
- You believe you're helping the environment
- The vehicle requires less maintenance (no oil changes, etc)
- The selection is rapidly increasing, with vehicles from Chevrolet, Hyundai, Kia, Nissan, Mercedes, Tesla, BMW, Volvo, Jeep, and Ford
- You can charge your vehicle (Level 2) at night when the rates and electric demand are low.

Cons of battery electric:

- The initial cost is much higher than a gasoline or diesel vehicle
- On long trips, the driver worries about finding a compatible charger (especially when using the A/C or heater)
- There may be lines at public chargers
- Few models can use the high speed chargers
- It's quick to charge a battery to 80%; 100% is much slower to avoid overheating
- The batteries use rare earth elements (REE) such as cobalt and lithium. China controls about 90% of the world's supply. The latest figures show the US with 4%
- We don't have a comprehensive process to recycle the batteries from obsolete EVs.

Future of EVs - Last year about 4% of new cars sold in the US were EVs. The Biden administration has set a 2030 goal - 50% of new cars should be EVs. Six major manufacturers, including GM, Ford and Mercedes, have pledged to stop sales of new gas and diesel vehicles by 2040. California is banning the sale of new gasoline powered cars by 2035. California has often lead the nation with clean air rules.

Toyota believes that the world does not have the rare earth elements and electrical generation infrastructure to support these 2030 and 2040 goals.

Member questions:

- How can today's smaller engines have so much power? Turbocharging
- Are stick shifts dead? No, but they're breathing hard
- Where do you get technicians that can work on today's complex engines and transmissions? We start them out in maintenance and train them. Also, Collin College has special programs. https://www.collin.edu/academics/programs/AUMT_Cert2_AutoTech.html
- If an autonomous car has a wreck, who's at fault? That has not yet been decided.
- Why are car manufacturers reducing the # of sedans? There are still a limited number of chips and SUVs have a higher profit margin.

We thank Ray for his insight!

There will be no Rotary meeting September 1.



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J. MARC LEWIS JD, LL.M., EA
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5045 Lorimar Drive
Suite 280
Plano, TX 75093

MARC@MARCLEWISTAX.COM
TEL: (972) 618-8224
FAX: (972) 618-2021



Maria Mott

Owner
(O) 972-612-6220
(C) 214-454-6780
mmott@signsbytomorrow.com

1101 OHIO DRIVE
SUITE 117
PLANO, TX 75093
FAX 972-985-7822
signsbytomorrow.com/plano
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1001 Coit Rd @ Plano Pkwy
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Hector Guzman, Music Director

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1635 Dorchester Dr. Plano, TX 75075
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The Plano Rotary Club

P.O. Box 864316

Plano, TX 75086

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