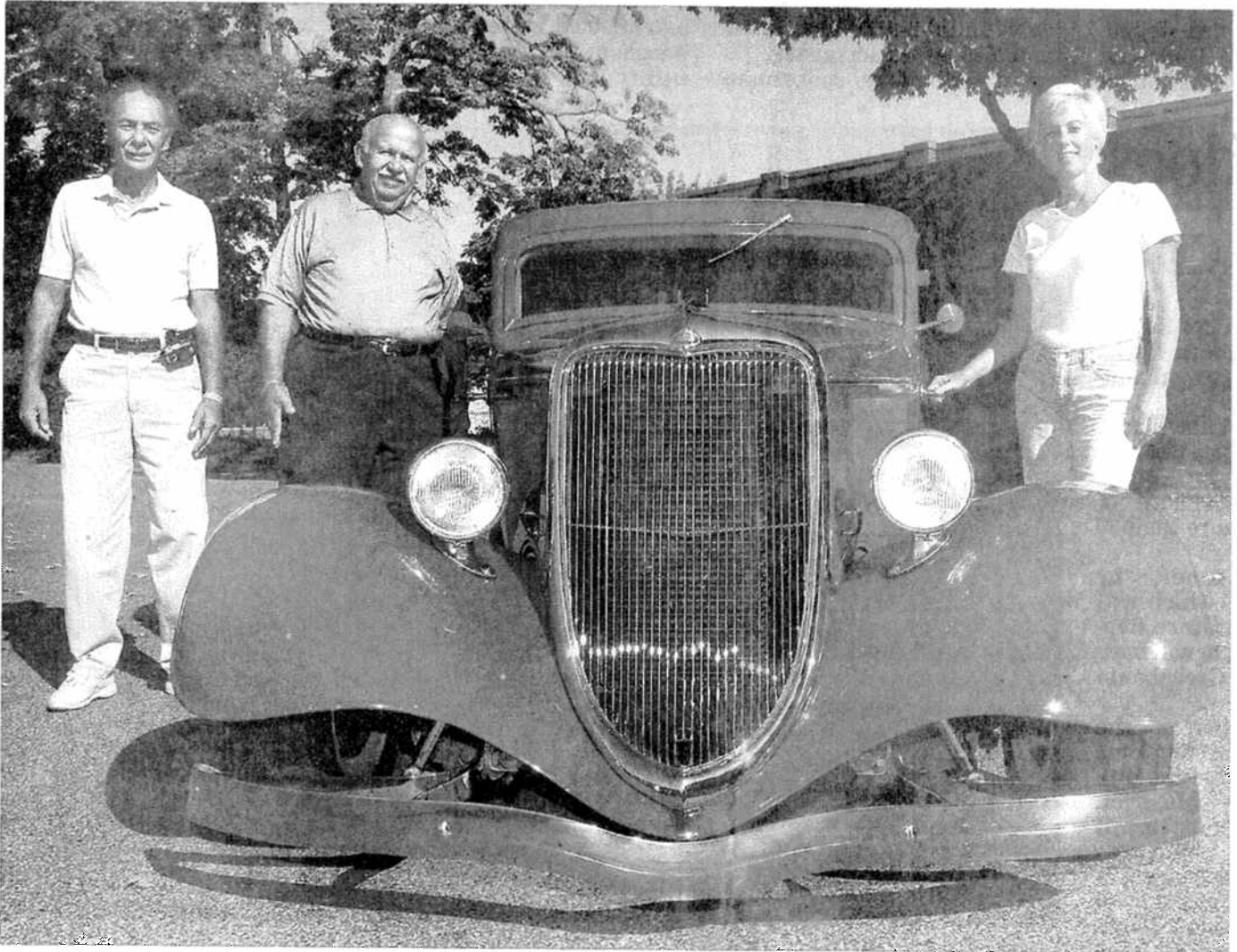


Hot rods and cool guys



Hour photo/HAROLD FCOBIN

Jennifer Veno on Saturday showed the 1934 Ford sedan hotrod she just received to fellow Coachman Rod and Custom Car Club members Nick Allegretta and Fred Bondi. The car was a gift from her father, Robert Ruf, and was delivered on a trailer Thursday from Wisconsin. The car was chopped into a hotrod in 1990. Allegretta said the conversion may have cost \$50,000. Veno said she did not know what her father paid for the car.

Classic car show evokes memories of the good times

By **JAMES WALKER**
Hour Staff Writer

NORWALK — Some memories and the good times that created them just won't go away — at least for Fred Bondi and Nick Allegretta.

The two original members of The Coachmen, an organization of men and women who enjoy classic cars, remember the days of their youth in the 1950s and 1960s.

The music of the era will provide the rhythms and beats and at least 200 vintage hot rods will define the era when the cars are put on display Aug. 22 at Calf Pasture Park.

Each summer, The Coachmen organize three car shows in conjunction with summer concerts sponsored by the Department of Recreation and Parks as part of its summer entertainment series

"It's a way to get back to old times."

Fred Bondi

Original member of The Coachmen

This year, "Sharkey and the Unknowns" will provide the music for the concert that will start at 6 p.m. The event is free to the public, but a parking fee of \$5 will be charged for cars without a Norwalk beach sticker.

But for Bondi and Allegretta, the event is a time to re-live the good times of their youth.

"It's a way to get back to old times," Bondi said.

It was the time of DA haircuts, leather jackets and engineer boots and if you were a teenager who didn't own a "hot rod" to go cruising on the town, you just weren't

considered "cool."

The DA (duck's arse) was a hairdo worn by young, white guys that was slicked back and came to a point, resembling the rear end of a duck.

As one old-timer put it, "You needed a lot of Brylcreme (hair gel)."

"We thought we were bad," laughed Allegretta. "But it's nothing compared to today."

The shows attracts car owners from throughout the region and each participant contributes non-perishable food or makes a donation to the St. Vincent De Paul Food Bank at St. Thomas Church in Norwalk.

Allegretta said the organization began in the late 1950s with a group of high school students who liked to get together to talk about