

THE OCCASIONAL

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

A PUBLICATION OF THE MODEL T FORD CLUB OF
GREATER ST. LOUIS, INC.

WINNER, MODEL T FORD CLUB OF AMERICA 2016 NEWSLETTER AWARD - FIRST PLACE; 2014 NEWSLETTER AWARD - THIRD PLACE ; THE 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 AND 2019 OLD CARS WEEKLY GOLDEN QUILL AWARD



Left to right: Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, and Harvey Firestone. The three were very good friends, frequently camping together, and in this case resting at Edison's Florida retreat.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Cancellations, cancellations! As you know, all the car events of the Fall were canceled. And we are not alone - the President of the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain had announced that the Veteran Car Run, aka The London to Brighton Run, was canceled, as were many of the antique auto events in Great Britain. The Horseless Carriage Club has announced that the BBC 2021 (Brass in Berks) has been canceled. And at this writing our Annual Meeting is iffy.

See the article elsewhere about our Annual Meeting, and Sam Atkinson's endeavors regarding that event. Even though the various vaccines are rolling out, who knows when the general public will be able to receive the vaccine, and what will happen with the various lockdowns. Right now St. Louis County restaurants are still locked down. It just makes it nigh on to impossible to plan! Your Board of Directors appreciates your patience and forbearance with us as we work to move into 2021.

Personally I have missed our fellowship, parades, and events this past year. While I have great hopes for 2021, at this point who knows what the future holds for us?

In a related note, automotive clubs across the board have been expressing concern about aging and declining membership. Various ideas regarding the best ways to address this have been floated, including expanding or opening up the make/model/year requirements for membership. We have chosen to maintain our focus on the stock Model T Ford, to the exclusion of other makes/models. Quoting Adrian Goding, Chairman of the VCC: "A number of clubs have either had a policy of rolling eligibility or have opened up acceptance of later machines in an attempt to increase their scope. What I have seen from that is it leads to a confusion of purpose where catering for more diverse machines means that events suit none of them well. Ultimately this can lead to break away groups which bring the circle back to the start." (P. 840, *Veteran Car, The Gazette of the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain*, October 2020.)

I suggest to you that 2021 is going to be a very difficult year for us, and challenge us to work hard to move forward into 2022 and beyond. We have been open to and encouraging of new members who are interested in the Model T and our Club. We need to continue this and discover ways to expand upon it.

Of more serious and immediate concern is the 2021 Swap Meet. Covid may once again work against us, and the weather might turn against us. Our financial reserves MIGHT last through 2021, but what then? An idea has been tossed out for discussion elsewhere in this issue of *The Occasional*. Please read it carefully and thoughtfully. We need other ideas to address our financial needs. This is truly a time for "all hands on deck," as they say.

Steven

EDITOR'S NOTES

Dear Fellow T Enthusiasts -

My efforts to improve the picture reproduction in the last issue came way short of my hopes. I'm trying again in this issue. When I retrieve the issue from the printer I'll know how successful I've been. In the meanwhile, the color pdf issue will continue to be emailed to all the club members for whom I have an email address.

Once again, to remind you of the future of **THE OCCASIONAL** - It will continue to be published, but remember, you will not receive a print issue in the mail, unless you notify me you want the print issue. Otherwise, a pdf of **THE OCCASIONAL** will be emailed to you IF I have your email address. Otherwise you will find a copy posted on our website.

I had hoped that by now the Covid-19 lockdowns would be easing, but that is not the case. The number of articles and photos will continue to be governed by our page limitations under our financial limitations. Because of cancellations, I've had to use some "filler" which I hope you will find interesting. Needless to say, hope springs eternal regarding next May's Swap Meet! So when Kent Gilbane starts talking about workers for the Swap Meet, be sure to volunteer...this is going to be a time when we're going to truly need "all hands on deck!" We Model T folks are resilient, so let's work together for our future! Steven G. Williams (email - steven1912@charter.net; cell 636-575-1469)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2021

Considering the uncertainties caused by the coronavirus, events of our club will be announced via email to the club members, in case we have to cancel anything. Regarding events sponsored by other organizations, I suggest you contact that organization regarding cancellation before you leave town for the event. Do not hesitate to call or email the Club President if you have any questions. Also check our website: www.stlmodeltclub.org.

- January 8 - Board of Director's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Freedom Masonic Lodge
16 - Annual meeting/Banquet, noon to three, see page 3.
- February 10 - Board of Director's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Freedom Masonic Lodge
12 - Membership Meeting, 8 PM, Freedom Masonic Lodge, 4557 Lemay Ferry Rd., St. Louis
13 - Tour de Frost, SPORTS CAFÉ, 3579 Pennridge, Bridgeton MO, see page 3.
26 & 27 - Annual meeting of the Model T Ford Club of America, hosted by our club!
- March 7-12 - MTFCA Winter Tour, Howey-In-The-Hills, Florida
10 - Board of Director's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Freedom Masonic Lodge
12 - Membership Meeting, 8 PM, Freedom Masonic Lodge, 4557 Lemay Ferry Rd., St. Louis
13 - Annual St. Patrick's Parade, noon, downtown.
19-20 - Pre War Swap Meet, Chickasha, OK
- April 4 - Easter Sunday Concours, Forest Park
9 - Board of Director's Meeting, 6:30 PM, Freedom Masonic Lodge
Membership Meeting, 8 PM, Freedom Masonic Lodge, 4557 Lemay Ferry Rd., St. Louis
- July 9-14 - Spokane, Washington, MTFCA 2020 National Tour. See *Vintage Ford* for details.

From *Rattling Ford Jokes No. 40*, Royal Pub. Co., Philadelphia, 1915

Mabel - Her father declares that the day she marries that college football player she will lose a million dollars.

Tom - And only get a quarter-back.

A boy walked into the office of the telegraph company at Chicago and asked for a job. He said his name was "Missouri." The manager happened to want a messenger boy just at that moment, and gave him a message that had to be delivered in a hurry. "Here's your chance, my boy," said the manager. "These people have been kicking about undelivered messages. Now, don't come back until you have delivered it."

A little while afterward the telephone rang. On the other end of the wire there appeared to be a building watchman somewhat terrified. "Have you got a boy they call "Missouri?" inquired the watchman. "We did have ten minutes ago," replied the manager.

The watchman continued: "That 'Missouri' feller came over here and said he had to go to one of the offices. We don't allow no on up at that office at this hour, and I told him he couldn't go." "Yes, sir," said the manager. "Well," said the watchman, "he said he would go, and I had to pull my gun on him."

"But you didn't shoot him?" exclaimed the manager. "No," meekly came back the response over the wire, "but I want my gun back."

The sergeant paused in his nightly round and prodded the sleeping policeman. "What, asleep again?" he growled. "Can it be from force of habit?"

"No sir," answered the drowsy constable, "it's just a habit of force."

"Do you expect to catch anything in that filthy pond?"

"No sir, we've been vaccinated."

Tour de Frost

By Sam Atkinson

I hope everyone will plan to attend this year's annual "Mid-winter attitude adjustment," the Tour de Frost. It's an opportunity to get together with like-minded people, have a good meal, swap lies, renew old friendships (and maybe make some new ones), have a few drinks and make plans for the upcoming touring season.

This year's 'tour' will be Saturday February 13 from 11 to 2, same place as last year, SPORTS CAFÉ, 3579 Pennridge, Bridgeton MO 63044.

Feel free to drive whatever the weather will permit, it would be great to drive your 'T' but there is no shame in driving 'modern.' Just BE THERE!! It is always fun and I look forward to seeing you there.

(President's note: IF the county restaurants are still in lock-down mode, Sam and I will get word to everyone via email. If you DON'T have an email address and are planning to go, give me a call a day or two before and ask if it's been canceled. I wish there was a different way for this, but...)

Annual Meeting - Christmas Banquet

This year's Annual Meeting/Christmas Banquet will be Saturday, January 16th at Candicci's Restaurant, 100 Holloway Road, Ballwin, MO 63011. Use your GPS to locate the restaurant if unsure of the location.

Time: Noon to 3:00 PM.

Cost: \$25 per person (member or non-member)

Cash bar available

Tickets for the raffle will be sold at the registration table that day

Clip and return this form with your check (made out to the Greater St. Louis Model T Club) to:
Dave Kuenzel, 1128 Lariat Trail, Ellisville, MO 63011

MAIL THE FORM AND CHECK TO ARRIVE BY JANUARY 8TH!

Banquet Reservation Form:

Name/s: _____

(Add more names if necessary)

Total names x \$25.00 = \$ _____

Enclose the check, mail to arrive by **JANUARY 8TH**

IF COVID FORCES A CANCELLATION, WE WILL NOTIFY YOU VIA EMAIL. CHECKS WILL NOT BE CASHED UNTIL AFTER WE ARE SURE THE EVENT WILL OCCUR.

STANLEY EDDINGTON PASSES

Stanley Eddington, of Brighton, IL, club member since 2002, died Thursday, December 10, 2020 at St. Anthony's Hospital in Alton, IL. Born November 19, 1938 at Woolburn, IL, he married in 1959. His wife, Carolyn, preceded him in death on January 8, 2013. He retired from Granite City Steel in 1998 after 37 years as a millwright and welder. His affiliations listed him as a trustee of the Brighton Cemetery Association; Life Member of the NRA; member of the Model T Ford Club of Greater St. Louis; and a U.S. Army veteran.

He is survived by two daughters; a son and daughter-in-law; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and other family members.

A private family service was December 22 in Brighton with interment in the Brighton Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Brighton Cemetery Association.

Sam Atkinson reports that Stanley was never at any meetings or events, but knew Les Flautt and Jim White. He also helped unload Les' T from the trailer when club members returned from the trip to Dearborn. Please make the necessary change in your directory.

Thank You

To my Model T family:

I want to thank you for your thoughts, prayers and kindness during my recovery. The lovely flower arrangement was a nice surprise and definitely brightened my day. I think there has only been 1 ½ days of sunshine since my surgery. So it is quite pleasant to look at the colorful flowers. I'm on the road to recovery and hoping it doesn't take too long to get back to my old self again. I'm looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely, Suzanne Pourcille

(Ed note: Her card was received shortly after the November/December issue went to print.)

SOME OLD CAR IDEAS, COURTESY OF SAM ATKINSON



FUND RAISING IDEA

By Steven Williams

I had an idea the other day, which I floated by Kent Gilbane, who thought it was worth considering. I have shared it with the Board of Directors, and there were many concerns expressed. We felt that it needed to be discussed by the Club at large, because in order for this to work, it will take a lot of work on everyone's part.

I contacted the sales manager at Dave Sinclair Ford in South St. Louis County, and discussed the idea with him. My plan was to raffle off a new Ford, one I found on their web site selling for \$22-26,000. We price the raffle tickets at \$20 each, 3 for \$50.00. We'd have to sell 2,700 tickets at the 3/\$50 price to make \$45,000... \$25,000 for the car, \$20,000 for our treasury.

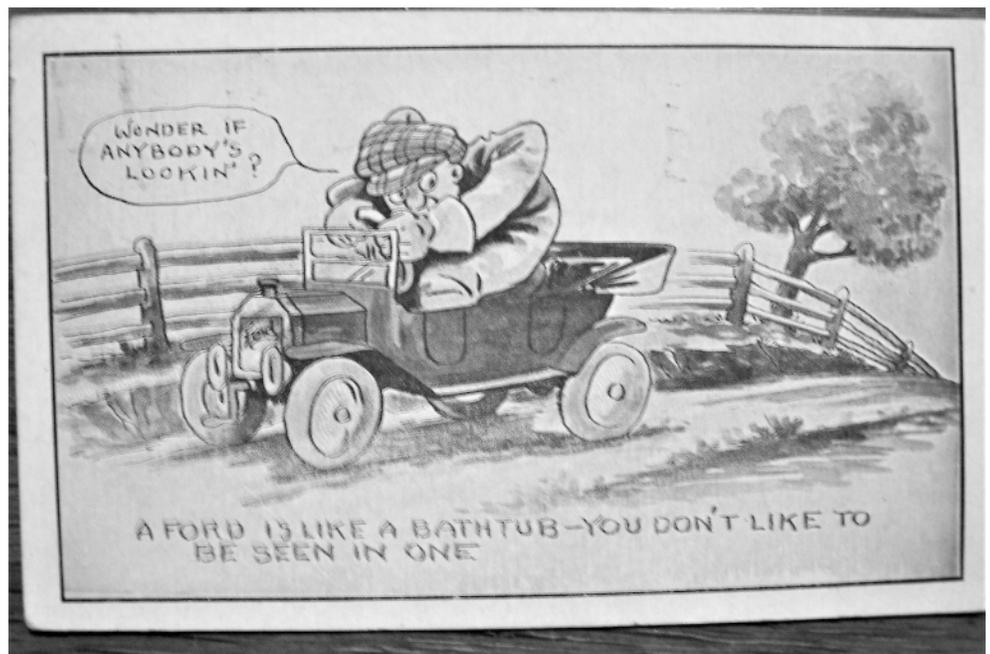
The sales manager has done this for several organizations over the years. He told me if we could pull this off he'd like to go into business with me. lolol He believes that is WAY too many tickets to try to sell, even at that price. What works is to offer the basic Ford Mustang, MSRP \$31,000 +/- OR \$20,000 cash. Almost all people take the cash because they don't want to deal with taxes, title, etc etc. And when they take the cash, that's where you make your money. You limit the amount of tickets to 300, and sell them for \$100 each. Those kind of sales have success, they make between \$5 and \$10,000. Furthermore, he says we do not buy the car until after the drawing is over, that way the winner gets the car and is responsible for taxes etc. and if the winner doesn't want the car but takes the cash, we're not out buying the car.

But if we do 400 tickets, that would get us a total of \$40,000, minus the 20 we give the winner leaves us \$20,000. Kent suggested we start publicity before the Easter car show, sell there, and sell up to and thru our Swap Meet. We could have the drawing during the Swap Meet, say 2 PM out there in public. Get a youth from the crowd to draw the winning ticket for instance.

Would club members and their families be eligible to win? Or would folks think it was rigged?

At this point, NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE. We need to give it consideration, or think of another plan to raise money for our club expenses. No (legal) idea should be off the table. Do you have any experience with such a raffle, or know someone who has? Email me - steven1912@charter.net. When a decision is made, it will be a total club decision.

MODEL
T
POSTCARD
HUMOR



Parade Honors Bethesda Veterans

By Steven Williams

Because of the Coronavirus, the annual Veterans Day Parade was canceled. However, Bethesda Hospice's Support Services Manager, Leslie Schaeffer organized a drive-through parade at the various Bethesda care facilities, and invited local car clubs to participate. Russ Frailey, one of our Club members and a Bethesda Hospice counselor extended the invitation to our club.

Sam Atkinson reports that on November 11, 8:30 am, he with his '27 Roadster and Jerry Ellerbeck Jr. in his '23 Touring car joined 15 other highly decorated (and more modern!) Cars in a parade to honor and lift the spirits of all the veterans residing in Bethesda's chain of nursing homes. They started at the facility in Kirkwood, then went to four others, each with varying numbers of residents/Veterans on the sidewalk outside the entrance waving and cheering as the parade passed by. They made two passes at each location and everyone, including the folks driving the parade cars, seemed to love it. Sam reports that he felt honored to be a part of this event and hoped he brought a smile and some dignity to these nursing home resident most of whom were probably WWII or Korean War Veterans.

KSDK Channel 5 had a segment on the parade showing Jerry's touring car. Fox 2 news only showed the modern cars. And the *Webster-Kirkwood Times* newspaper had an article which showed Sam's roadster.

The Volunteer Voice, the monthly volunteer newsletter of the Bethesda Hospice centers featured the Model T's and our club, quoting Sam Atkinson at length about how the club got involved.

The photos below, of Jerry's Touring car and Sam's Roadster, were taken by Steve Dodson. Steve also had two of his cars in the parade representing the American Legion Post to which he belongs. Steve reported that they drove through five of the Bethesda centers, and "each home had all their veterans out in front to see us. They really enjoyed the old cars."

Thanks to Russ, Steve, Sam and Jerry for helping make this a great experience for these veterans!



From *A Book of the Best Ford Jokes*:

The young lady was out for an afternoon spin in her shining new Ford coupe. Suddenly, on a lonely country road, the lizzie developed a racking cough and a quivering convulsion, and after panting along for a few rods came to a dead stop.

The young lady descended from her seat, raised the engine hood, and poked about the flivver's innards with a wrench. She then tried the starter, but her newly acquired Ford coupe refused to budge. She descended again, gave voice to several choice unlady-like mono-syllables, and the result was the same. At last she called to a farmer, plowing in an adjoining field – "Say, do you know anything about a Ford?"

"Nope – nuthin' except a lot of stories, ma'am – giddap!"

SPECIAL DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

To assist club members in planning for 2021, based on previous year's plans and dates, and as best as I can ascertain from other sources, I've constructed the calendar here for your use. Regular club and board meetings are not listed. Due to Covid, etc, dates/events may change.

February 8 - Tour de Frost

March 13 - St. Patrick's Parade

April 4 - Easter car show, Forest Park

May 2 - Swap Meet, Worldwide Technology Raceway, used to be Gateway Motorsports Park
16 - Annual Spring Tour

June 5 - All Ford Show, Museum of Transportation
26/27 - Annual Overnight Tour

July 4 - VP Parade, downtown

August 1 - Model T Picnic
15 - DARE car show, Edwardsville

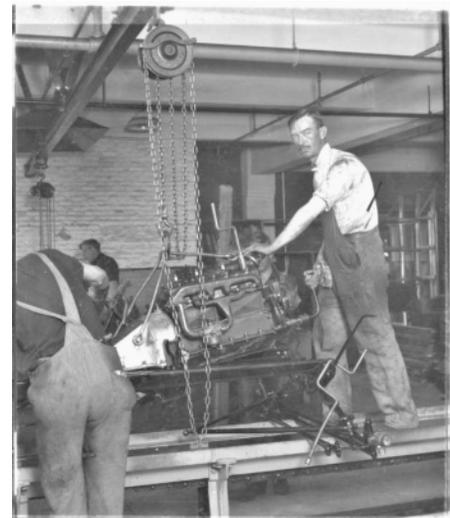
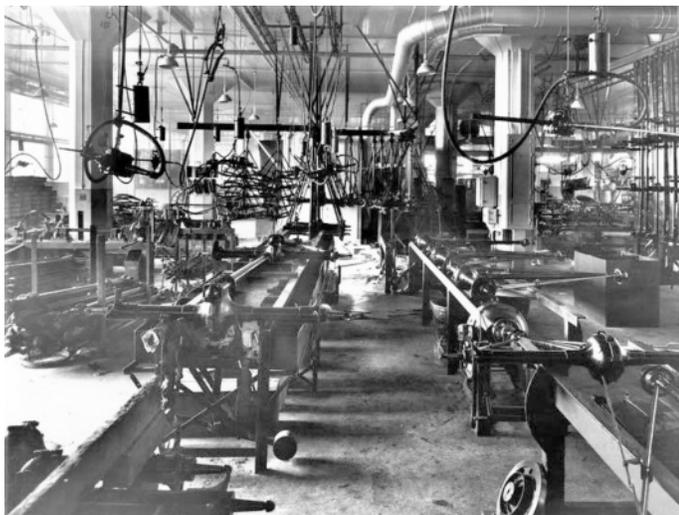
September 11 - Brass & Nickel Show, Museum of Transportation

October 10 - Chili Cook Off
24 - Annual Fall Tour

November 6 - Veteran's Parade
25 - Christmas Parade

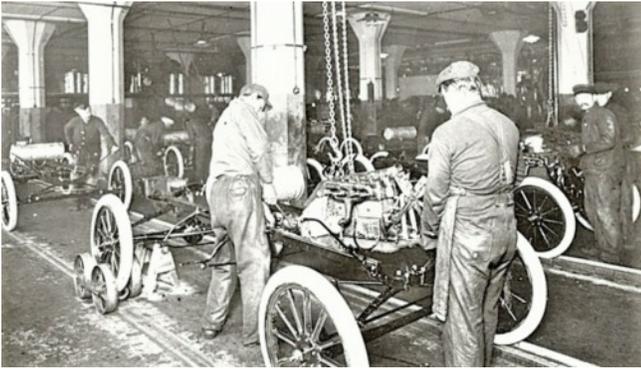
December 11 - Annual Christmas Banquet

Ford Model T Factory Photos



More Ford Factory Photos

If you've been to a modern automobile assembly plant, you can certainly appreciate how far we've come. And what the workers did to manufacture our Model Ts.



Minutes of the November 13, 2020 Club Meeting

President Steven Williams called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm

Treasurer's Report given by Bonnie Dattoli. Report was approved.

Don Spaeth reported the paper library is here and available to anyone who is interested. Regarding the website - Mike Flaherty reported the latest edition of the OCCASIONAL is now on the website.

Health update on members: Dave Groerich was involved in a car accident in late October. His car was hit head-on by a City of St. Louis trash truck. His car was totaled and he was injured but is on the mend now.

Cindy Atkinson said she is taking orders for the 2021 club calendar. Tonight is the last time to order. The cost is \$12.00 per calendar and must be prepaid. They will be distributed at the Christmas Banquet.

Sam Atkinson reported the Veteran's Parade and the Christmas in St. Louis parade on Thanksgiving Day have both been canceled for this year. As of today the 2021 St. Patrick's Parade is set to go on as scheduled.

Sam also reported the MTFCA National Meeting will take place Feb 26 and 27, 2021 and is being hosted by our chapter. Plans are going well and we have already started receiving out-of-town registrations.

Christmas Banquet: Due to Covid-19 restrictions have been placed on indoor dining at all St. Louis County restaurants starting next week and continuing for the next 30 days. This affects our Banquet scheduled for December 12 at Candicci's restaurant. After discussion club members voted to postpone the banquet to January 2021. Dave Kuenzel, committee chairman, made a motion to reschedule the banquet to January 16 subject to restaurant availability. Steve Thum seconded and motion passed unanimously. Dave will contact Candicci's to get the OK regarding our change of plans and will report his findings to Steven Williams.

Fees for the banquet are \$25.00 per person. Make your check to "MODEL T FORD CLUB" and mail it to Dave Kuenzel—DO NOT make your check payable to Dave. Steven Williams will send a blast email updating the membership about the date change.

Sam Atkinson made a motion the December meeting not be held. Daniel Mullis seconded, motion passed.

The next Board Meeting will be January 13, 2021 7:00 pm, at the lodge.

Dues: If you are a Local Member only your dues are \$25.00 If you are a National Member you must pay National dues as well as local dues of \$20.00. All local dues are due January 1 of each year and should be mailed to Keith Sanders. National dues MUST be mailed to MTFCA in Richmond—not Keith!

Bonnie Dattoli had Pecans for sale at \$12.00 per bag.

Since the club is not making a donation to the Shriners Hospital this year due to budget cuts, a free-will offering was taken tonight and President Williams placed a container on a table in the middle of the room to accept the proceeds. The club will write a check for the accumulated amount and present it to the Shriners.

Jerry Ellerbeck Jr announced the "Moolah Shriners Festival of Trees" is 11/21-28 and that he is playing Santa a couple of times during that week. There are many raffle prizes and include the decorated Christmas trees. All proceeds go to Shriners Hospital.

Steve Thum mentioned that Sam Vitale is looking for a T any year between 1909-1912.

There were 21 members present.

The 50-50 drawing was \$33.00 per winner. Mary Ellen Stevenson and Don Spaeth were the evenings winners.

Don Spaeth made the motion to adjourn. Jerry Ellerbeck Sr seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned and dessert was served.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Atkinson, Acting Secretary

OFFICERS

President - Steven G. Williams
(2020-2021) 636-575-1469

Vice President - Kent Gilbane
(2019-2020) 573-424-2599

Treasurer - Bonnie Dattoli (2019-2020)
314-849-0906

Secretary - Ruth Baker (2020-2021)
636-282-1810

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020-2021:

Gerald Ellerbeck, Sr., 314-638-6137

Daniel Mullis, 314-416-4954

Keith Sanders, 314-329-6377

Steven Thum, 314-374-7005

2021-2022

Sam Atkinson, 636-346-7910

Dave Groerich, 314-607-7071

Don Spaeth, 636-285-0851

Paul Diebold, 314-210-7778

From *A Book of the Best Ford Jokes*:

When you feel all shaken up, its probably flivver complaint.

MARCH/APRIL OCCASIONAL DEADLINE

The deadline for news and items for the March/April issue of **THE OCCASIONAL** is February **15th**. Please submit any information to Steven Williams, steven1912@charter.net or call 636-575-1469. Pictures and articles are wanted, but we need names with photos please. Thanks!

TEAM LEADERS

Annual Meeting - Jenny Sanders (314-401-9047) and Dave Kuenzel (636-230-5887)

Calling Chain - Buffy Baker (636-577-3220) and Gayle Ellerbeck (636-337-5584).

Flowers and Cards - Sherry Williams (636-548-8256)

Membership - Keith Sanders, (314-329-6377)

Parades - Sam Atkinson, (636-346-7910)

Picnics and chili cookoff - Flo Reichardt (314-939-6619) & Daniel Mullis (314-416-4954)

Promotional Appearances - Steven Thum (314-374-7005)

Rapid Assembly Teams - Sam Atkinson (636-346-7910)

Refreshments - Daniel Mullis (314-416-4954)

Swap Meet - Director - Kent Gilbane (573-424-2599)

Registration - Sam Atkinson (636-346-7910)

The Occasional - Editor - Steven Williams (636-575-1469)

Proof-reader - Sherry Williams (636-548-8256)

Photographer - Cindy Atkinson (636-386-2088)

Tours - Spring - Steven Thum (314-374-7005)

Overnight - Sam Atkinson (636-346-7910)

Fall - Steve Stevenson (314-640-0048)

Tour de Frost - Sam Atkinson (636-346-7910)

Webmaster - Mike Flaherty (314-968-8574)

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE MODEL T FORD CLUB OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

Meetings are held the second Friday of each month, 8 PM, at the Freedom Masonic Temple, 4557 Lemay Ferry Road, south St. Louis County. Membership: Keith Sanders is the membership chairman, and you may contact him regarding membership in both the Model T Club of Greater St. Louis, and our parent organization, the Model T Ford Club of America. Contact information: Telephone: 314-329-6377. Email: jenkeith4@att.net. Annual dues (due January 15th each year) are \$25, \$20 for members of the MTFCA. Dues helps pay the rent, cost of *The Occasional*, and refreshments, among other expenses.

We also strongly encourage national membership. Dues are only \$40 to the Model T Ford Club of America (P.O. Box 996; Richmond, IN 47375-0996).

The advantage of belonging to the national organization is a bi-monthly award-winning publication - *The Vintage Ford*. It is a great publication, full of valuable information for Model T owners. Also, check out the national club's website at www.mtfca.com and especially the forum which is full of great information.

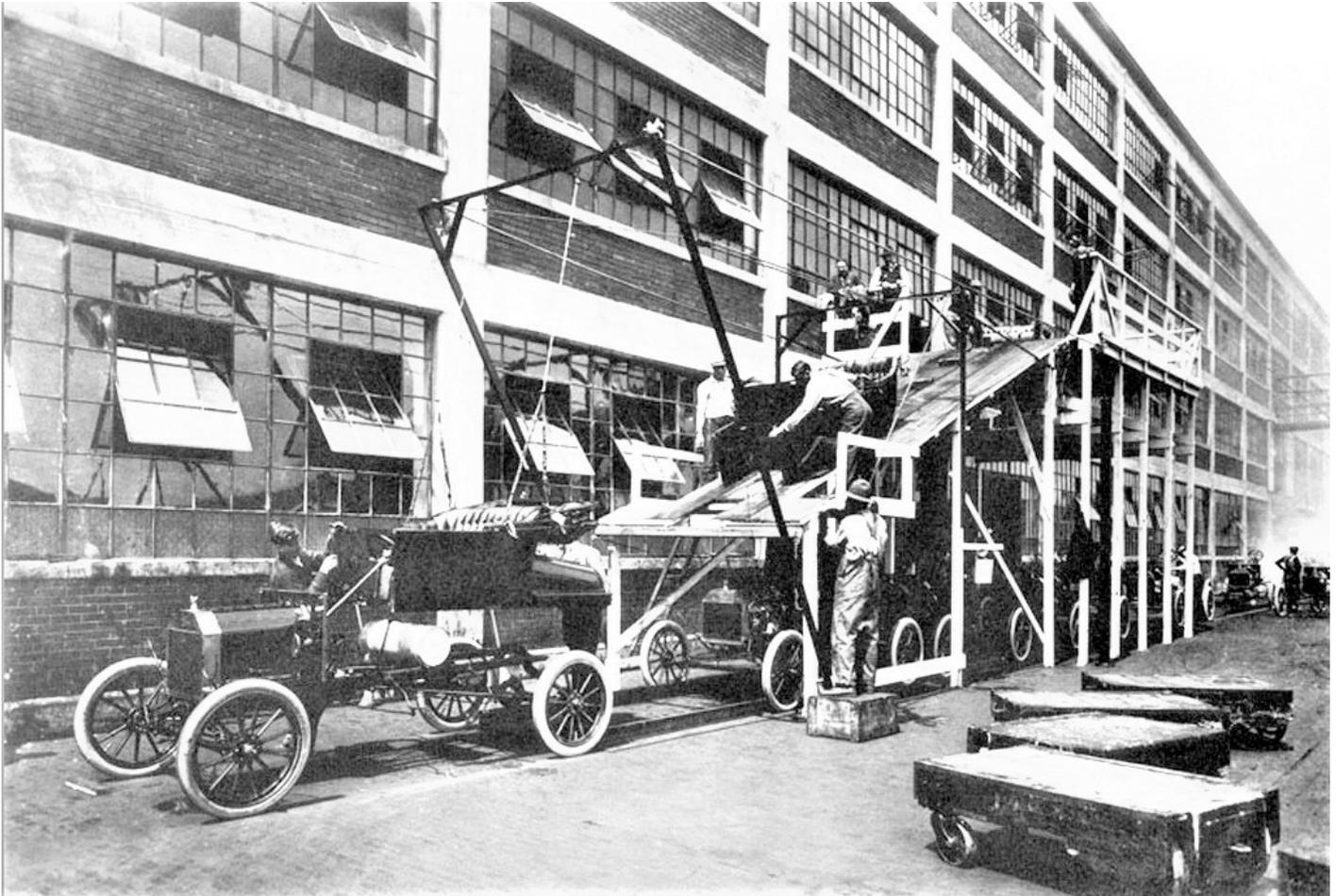
Our website is www.stlmodeltclub.org.



WWW.STLMODELTCLUB.ORG

MODEL T FORD CLUB
OF GREATER ST. LOUIS, INC.

P.O. BOX 2251
FLORISSANT, MO 63032



Perhaps the most publicized photo of the early Ford assembly line - Model T bodies onto chassis.

The Model T Ford Club of America (P.O. Box 996; Richmond, IN 47375-0996) was formed to encourage and promote active interest in the Model T Ford and its history by membership unrestricted as to location. It is non-profit and non-discriminatory, and is dedicated to widening the base of the hobby by providing information, assistance, and direction to interested parties. Sample copies of their magnificent magazine, *The Vintage Ford*, are available free upon request at the above address. Active touring chapters are encouraged, in order to spread interest and participation events. Regional and national activities are provided by the chapters. Members of the MTFCA may be members of the Model T Ford Club of Greater St. Louis with discounted local dues. For further information on joining, see inside the back cover. Also check out our website: www.stlmodeltclub.org.

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