The Occasional

November/December 2026

A publication of the Model T Ford Club of Greater St. Louis, Inc.

Winner, Model T Ford Club of America 2014 Newsletter Award - Third Place ; 2016 & 2023 Newsletter Award - First Place; 2022 Newsletter Award - Second Place.. The 2014 - 2017, 2019 -2025 Old Cars Magazine Golden Quill Award

Celebrating the Model T in St. Louis Since 1963



A Quiet Day on Main Street, Eagle Bend, Minnesota, 1911

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EDITOR'S NOTES



Dear Fellow T Enthusiasts -

I knew this day was coming, I just thought it was years away. However, my wife's health has taken a turn for the worse, as I indicated last month. I discovered I no longer have the time or the energy to continue editing The Occasional. And Sherry has not proofed the last issue or two. So for that reason, I told President Sam Atkinson that I am resigning as Editor.

The January/February issue of *The Occasional* will be my last one - I could not turn it over to someone over the holidays. The Club owns the software I have been using, thus I will turn it over to the new editor. And I will be available to help him or her get it set up and get started. It is not a difficult task once the templates are set up. Just take some time every two months. But time I no longer have to myself.

I am also secretary and trustee of our neighborhood association, and I have resigned from that task as well.

One of our daughters has volunteered to stay with Sherry while I attend club meetings, thus I will continue to be active in the club. Stephen Heatherly is working on our 1911 Model T, and I plan to tour with it next year. I can put Sherry's wheelchair on the running board - I am determined to keep us both going…. We turned 78 this year, and when I'm 80, I don't want people to look at me and think, "What a nice old man." I want them to think, "OMG, what in the hell is he up to now?"

Seriously, we need a volunteer to take over the editorship. If you are willing to consider it, give me a call and I'll answer all your questions. Just as I took this task over from my predecessor and made it my own, I encourage my successor to make the publication your own, for the sake of the club. The only thing you cannot change is the title.

This is a fulfilling task that allows your creativity to take flight!

– Steven G. Williams, steven1912@charter.net. 636-575-1469

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2026

November 7 - Fall Tour, see page 3.
13 - Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Freedom Masonic Lodge
Membership Meeting, 8 PM, Freedom Masonic Lodge, 4557 Lemay Ferry Rd., St. Louis
26 - Annual *Thanks for Giving Parade,* downtown St. Louis. Watch your email for details.

December 12 - Annual Christmas Banquet, noon to 3, Helen Fitzgerald's Irish Grill and Pub, 3650 S. Lindbergh Blvd., near Lindbergh & Watson Rds.
25 - ***MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!***

2027

January 1 - ***HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!***
9 - Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Freedom Masonic Lodge
Membership Meeting, 8 PM, Freedom Masonic Lodge, 4557 Lemay Ferry Rd., St. Louis

From *The Fordowner,* September 1916, p. 35. Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

"If your farm is infested with the gopher, you can easily eradicate them with the aid of "Ford hot air." Attach one end of a rubber hose to the Ford exhaust pipe and poke the other end into the gopher hole, making the joint tight with a little dirt pressed down with the foot, thus filling the hold, says the County Agent. Run the motor for a few minutes, enough to fill the tunnel and the gopher passes. Be sure to watch and see if the vapor is escaping anywhere, as often the same tunnel has more than one opening. If this is the case, close up all the other outlets, so that there is no chance of the gopher receiving fresh air. It takes very little gasoline to do this, requires very little labor, is rapid and very effective."

From *The Auto Joke Book,* Baltimore, MD I. & M. Ottenheimer, 1913.

Chauffeur - What are you doing Anne-Marie? You've let all the air out of the tyres.
A.M. - Yes, master had them all blown up at Landerneau, so I an getting a breath of my native air.

Wifey - What in the world is a joy ride?
Hubby - It must be the kind a married man takes when he travels alone and rides in the smoking car.

Novice - It must be a dreadful sensation to run over a man!
Chauffeur - Not nearly so dreadful as to run over a cow - and it doesn't injure the machine so much.

"Is your chauffeur an expert?"
"Yes, indeed," replied Mr. Chuggins. "He can explain in a most interesting way exactly why the car isn't running most of the time."

Marsh - Bagley has gone into bankruptcy.
Mallow - That so! Automobile or boy at college?

"What did you give your boy for Christmas? "
"A toy automobile. He's already killed six chickens and a dog."
"Call that a toy? That looks like the real thing!"

First motorist - How far did you drive last night?
Second motorist - I did seventeen roadhouses.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS!

It is that time of year again! At our last meeting President Atkinson asked for volunteers to serve as the nominating committee, which now consists of Gayle Ellerbeck, Dave Groerich, and Cindy Atkinson. Offices that need to be filled are: Vice-President, Treasurer, and 4 Directors. All of these folks will serve 2027-2028. If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please contact one of these nominating committee members ASAP. They are going to be working hard to fill the slate of officers for election.

FALL TOUR - NOVEMBER 8

This year's Fall Tour will be pushed back a bit later due to the leaves changing color later in the year and will cover portions of the Mother Road in honor of its' 100 year anniversary. We will meet in Ellisville at the Aldi's parking lot, corner of Manchester and Clarkson Roads. Heading west we will find our way thru Pacific MO on our way to our destination at the "Indian Harvest Trading Post," a Route 66 style attraction near St. Clair MO. After visiting we will head back to the historic town of Labadie MO for lunch at the Hawthorne Inn. Please join us for the last tour of the year celebrating Route 66.

We will meet at 7:30 AM Sunday November 8th After a quick drivers meeting we will get on the road by 8:00 so we can enjoy the fall weather at a leisurely pace.



Above, Model T repair shop



A Book of he Best Ford Jokes, by George Milburn. Girard, KS: Haldeman-Julius Publications, nd.

"Why do you turn out for every road hog that comes along?" asked Mrs. Henry, rather crossly. "The right of way is ours, isn't it?"

"Oh, undoubtedly!" answered Mr. Henry calmly. But as for our turning out, the reason is plainly suggested in this epitaph which appeared in a newspaper recently:

'Here lies the body of William Jay,
Who died maintaining his right of way;
He was right, dead right, as he sped along,
But he's just as dead as if he'd been dead wrong.'"

This apt reply so completely cooked Mrs. Henry that she maintained a complete silence for sixteen telegraph poles.

Hill and Valley Antique Auto and Americana Show

By Varon Fugman

On Saturday, September 19, 2026, I attended the **Hill and Valley Antique Auto and Americana Show** in Cross Plains, Wisconsin. This one-day show (advertised in *The Vintage Ford*) is put on annually by the Wisconsin Capital Model T Club. Cross Plains is a small town a few miles west of Wisconsin's capital, Madison. This marks the 43rd year the club has put on this show.

Unfortunately, as Saturday morning dawned there was a persistent rain. I expected the show would be much smaller than normal due to the weather, but I still headed to Cross Plains. I was coming from my wife Amy's hometown of Lake Mills, located about 24 miles east of Madison. Even in the rain, it was a lovely drive through the Wisconsin countryside. I skirted north of Madison (avoiding the city), taking county roads to reach Cross Plains.

The 1994 Mazda MX-5 Miata convertible I was driving is not the ideal rain car. I had to be very careful on turns to not spin out on the wet roads! I made it to Cross Plains about 10 am, just in time to get a pancake breakfast before they stopped serving.

As expected, the show was much smaller than normal. Due to the rain, there were only about 10 antique cars on display. This included three Model T's, two Mustangs, a couple vintage Jeeps, one 1930s Plymouth, and my '94 Miata (if 1994 is old enough to count as "antique"!) A club member told me that normally they have about 15 Model Ts and over 100 other show cars.

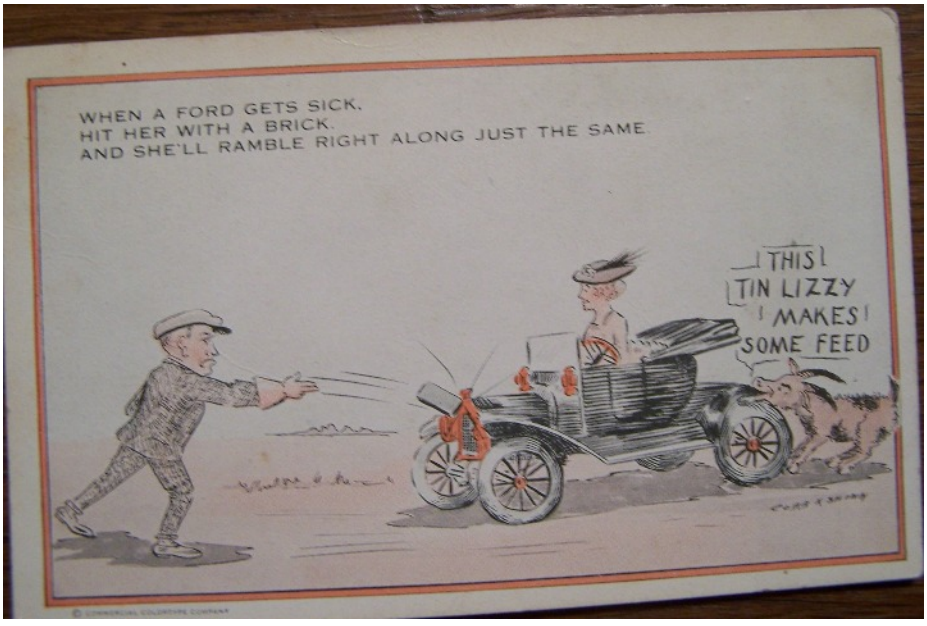
One of the T's was a gray '26 coupe. Another was a '17 touring, which had some very nice "after market" side-curtains made by the owner's wife. They were very nicely made to fit the car, and they featured much more clear area than original side-curtains, making touring in the rain much more pleasant. The owner told me he and his wife had taken a 700-mile round-trip to the Amana Colonies in Iowa in their T.

The third Model T didn't stay still long enough for me to get a picture. It was coming and going, giving rides to people. One of the "Jeeps" on display was a Ford-built WWII model. There was also a collection of Cub Cadet garden tractors, a vintage camping trailer, and a VW Bus Westfalia Camper.

The rain let up for maybe an hour during late morning, giving a brief respite to walk about and look at the few show cars that were present. Fortunately, the venue included a nice pavilion for people to stay out of the rain. Many of the planned activities, including a Model T rapid assembly demonstration, were canceled due to rain or low attendance.

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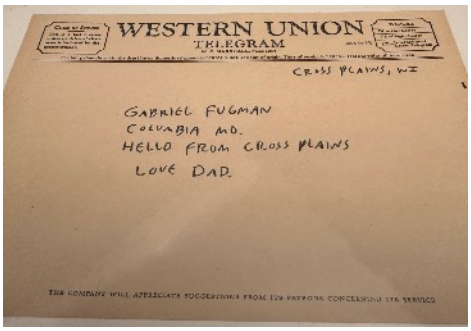
Model T Postcard Humor



While the lunch that was to be provided a by local Boy Scout Troop did not materialize, there was ice cream available at the pavilion. A club member had both his HCCT and ECCT set up and was doing some coil turning for another club member.

Finally, I sent a telegram! There was a working telegraphy exhibit set up. The head telegrapher Don had worked as a railroad telegrapher when he was a young man. I asked if I could send a telegram to my son in Columbia, Missouri. He said yes, so I wrote out my message on an official form. Don transmitted it across the table, where it was received and transcribed on official Western Union paper. However, I had to complete the final delivery to my son in Missouri myself!

It was disappointing that the weather disrupted the WI Capital Model T Club's show, but I'm glad I attended anyway. I hope to go again in the future—on a nice dry fall day!























MINUTES OF THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE MODEL T FORD CLUB OF GREATER ST. LOUIS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Acting President Steven Williams. Because of low attendance, the consensus of the members was to skip the 50/50 this evening.

Steven Williams informed the members that the printed version of the upcoming Occasional is going to the printer this week.

The Treasurer's Report was given. Dave Becherer made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Dave Groerich, and carried unanimously.

Minutes of the August 14, 2026 meeting were read. Bill Tabor made the mo on to approve the minutes. Steve Dodson seconded the mo on, and it carried unanimously.

Steven Williams reminded the membership that Club dues need to be paid. Local dues are $20.00 with National membership. Local dues only are $35.00. Steven Williams also reminded the membership that the Club will have a rummage sale at the October meeting. Please remember to bring your items to be sold and money to buy. Money from the sale of the donated items will go to the Club.

Jerry Ellerbeck, Jr. reported on the August 22 Rapid Assembly for the Montgomery County Old Threshers Show. He said there was a nice display area prior to the show, and there were about 80-100 people. There was an offer to do two shows next year, and instead of on dirt, the show will be on asphalt. He recommends doing the disassembly and re-assembly at shows in the future. He said there were thunderstorms during the DARE Show, so that one was not done. There will be two shows on October 10, one in Hamill, Illinois at 11:00 am and one in Mt. Olive, Illinois at 4:00 pm. Cindy's family is donating a ceramic rolling pin to the gas station.

The announcement was made that the Club will be replacing the annual picnic with a get together at a winery which Jerry, Ellerbeck, Jr. will pick.

Steven Williams stated that next Sunday from 9:30 am un l 3:00 pm is the Brass, Nickel, and Pre-War Show at the National Museum of Transportation. He said he would provide a list of requirements, and the Club will need a group to go.

The Fall Tour information is in the upcoming Occasional.

The Club has received no word yet on the Veterans Day Parade on November 7 nor the Thanksgiving Day parade. Steven Williams has sent a message to Scott Francis, because the Veterans Day Parade is the same day as the plans have been made for the Fall Tour.

Continued next page

From *The Auto Joke Book,* Baltimore, MD I. & M. Ottenheimer, 1913.

"Where are you going, my pretty maid?"
"I'm going a-motoring, sir," she said.
"May I go with you, my pretty maid?"
"You may if you pay for the car," she said.

"Your Honor," said the arrested chauffeur. "I tried to warn the man, but the horn would not work."
"Then why did you not not slacken speed rather than run him down?"
A light seemed to dawn upon the prisoner. "That's one on me. I never thought of that."

Satan – What are those two automobile fellows fighting about?
Assistant – They've just got into an argument over whether this place ought to be air cooled or water cooled.

The Club's Membership Directory needs to be updated; the last Directory was for 2024-2025. Paul Diebold did the last Membership Directory; Jerry Ellerbeck, Jr. has the database. Steve Stevenson wants to keep receiving the Occasional, but he can be taken off the roster.

Steven Williams stated that if he receives $4,000, he would donate anything above that in a raffle to the Club for his 1926 Tudor. He said we need to start working on it. It needs to be ready to drive by the Easter Show so it could be at the Car Show. He said tickets could be sold on Easter Sunday and at the Swap Meet.

At 8:48 pm, there being no further business, Dave Groerich made the motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Bill Tabor and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ruth E. Baker, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE MODEL T FORD CLUB OF GREATER ST. LOUIS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026

Minutes of the September 11, 2026 meeting were read. Paul Diebold made the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Dave Groerich and carried unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report was given: Daniel Mullis made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Mike Thum and carried unanimously.

Scott Francis gave a report on the National Hillbilly Tour. He said that this year's tour had a Route 66 theme and was hosted by Joplin. He said it was a lot of fun, and there were people there from all over the country. He said they drove several hundred miles over 4 ½ days. It is interesting to meet different people and see their cars. There were activities every night; the tour was family oriented.

The "Thanks for Giving" parade will be November 21. The Veterans Day parade will be November 7. The date for the Fall Tour will be Sunday, November 8, starting at 8:30 a.m. in Ellisville. The cars will be driven to St. Clair and then to Labadie and lunch will be at the Hawthorne Inn.

Mike Thum reported that at the Brass and Nickel and Pre-War Show, there were seven Model T's. It was a nice day to go through the displays. On October 10, there were two Rapid Assembly Shows, and each one of them paid $300 to the Club. There was one show in Hamill, Illinois and the other was in Mt. Olive, Illinois.

Twenty-three people attended the Chili Cookoff and had a very good time. Mike Thum's chili won first place.

At the tech session, the rear axle on Hailey Harris's Model T was taken apart. It was a great tech session. Now another tech session is needed to put the rear axle back together.

This year's Christmas Party will be on December 12 at Helen Fitzgerald's from noon until 3:00 p.m.

The nominating committee consisting of Cindy Atkinson, Dave Groerich and Gayle Ellerbeck are asking for individuals to be on the ballot for the positions of Vice President, Treasurer, and four Board Members.

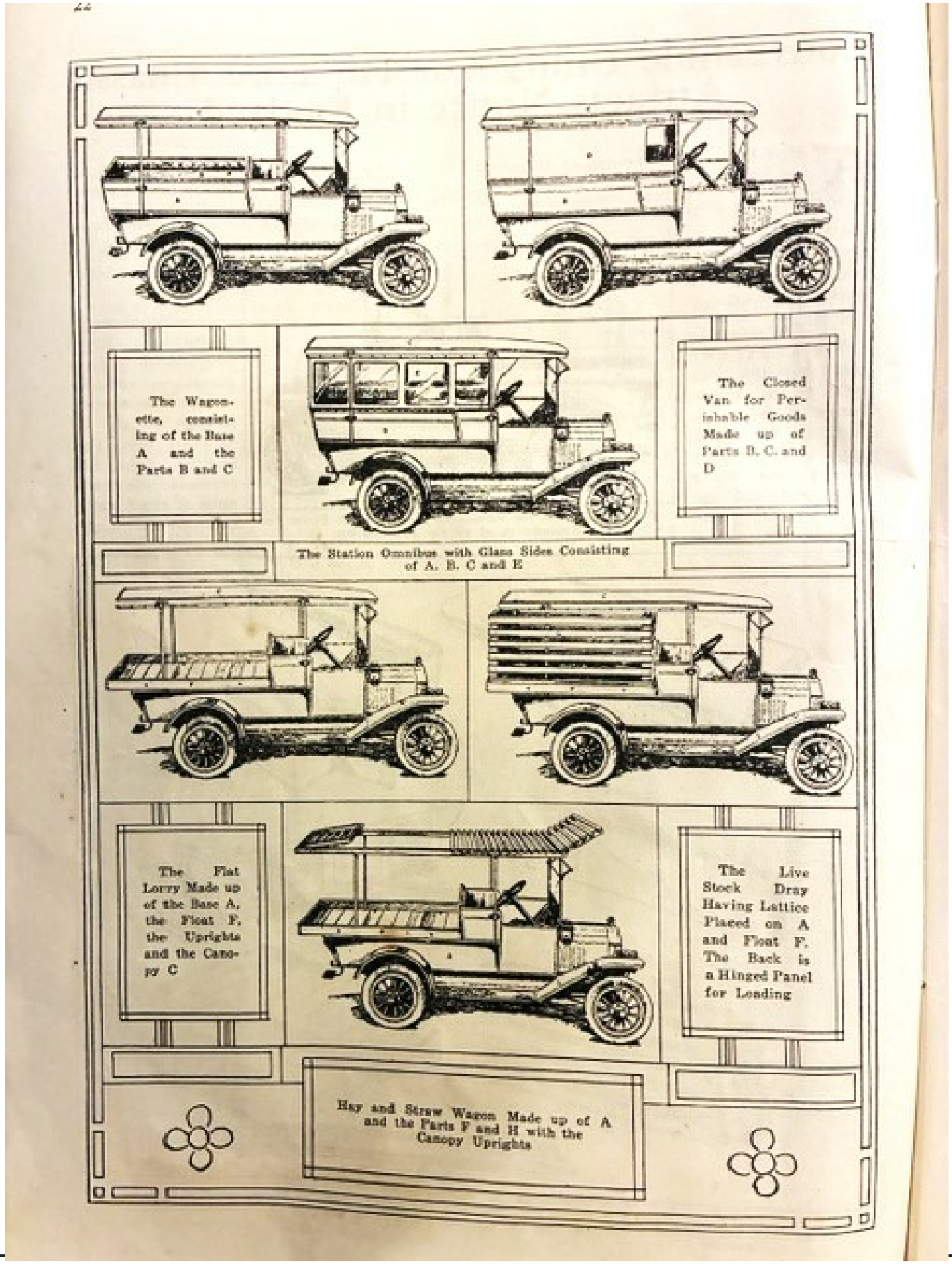
Varon Fugman asked for recommendations for the tires for his black car. He showed three choices, and the membership vote was for the stained tire sample.

Paul Diebold won the 50/50 prize of $32.50. At this point, the Club held an auction of items donated by members to be purchased by members. A total of $265.00 was sold, and there were $7.00 in additional donations.

After desserts, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ruth E. Baker, Secretary

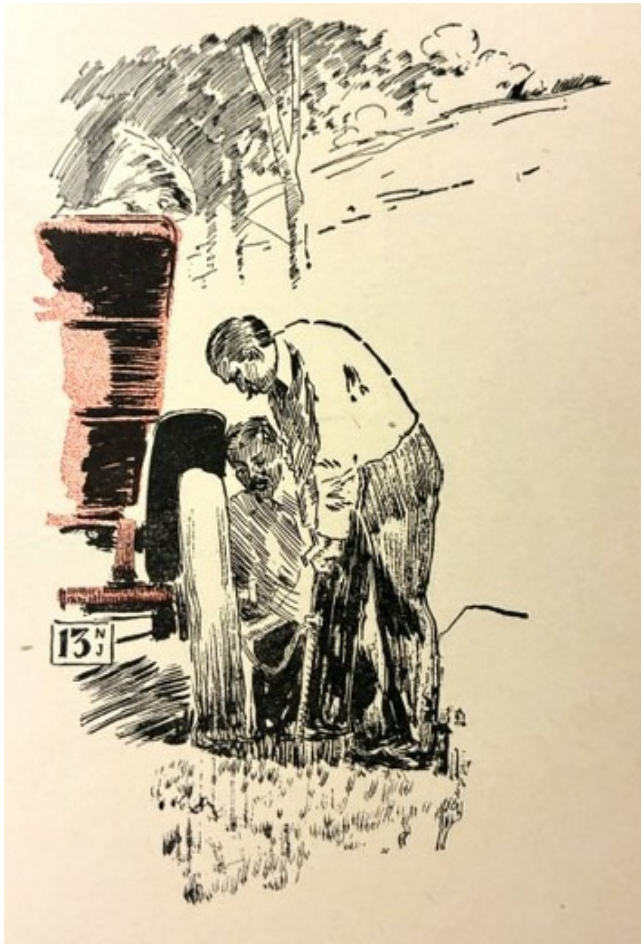
Ad for commercial bodies from the September, 1916 issue of *Fordowner, for Ford Dealers and Owners.*



From *My Auto Book,* Walter Pulitzer. New York: The Outing Publishing Co. 1908

Caller - I should think these constant automobile explosions at your very door would deafen you.

Mistress - We don't even hear them. There's a man on the floor above who plays Wagner all d ay!



"Are they on speaking terms?"

"Better than that. They're on automobiling terms."

He - Why did you refuse to go automobiling with me last night?

She - I was afraid that - er -

He - I see. But you needn't have been. Why, my car is the very latest. It can be operated with one hand!



OFFICERS

President - Sam Atkinson
(2026-2027) 636-346-7910

Vice President - Scott Francis
(2025-2026) 636-544-7750

Treasurer - Bonnie Dattoli
(2025-2026) 314-849-0906

Secretary - Ruth Baker
(2026-2027) 636-282-1810

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2025-2026

Jerry Ellerbeck, Jr., 314-393-7032

Stephen Heatherly, 314-805-1390

Mike Thum, 314-718-9155

Steven Williams, 636-575-1469

2026-2027

Dave Groerich, 314-607-7071

John Michaelree, 314-398-8374

Daniel Mullis, 314-416-4954

Don Spaeth, 636-346-3798

From *The Auto Guest Book of Mobile Maxims,* pub. 1906*:*

"Drive not twice into a hearse, lest thou continue thy journey in it. Once is but a rehearsal."

"A race of autos doth breed disaster."

JANUARY/FEBRUARY DEADLINE

The deadline for news and items for the January/February issue of **THE OCCASIONAL** is December ***10th.*** 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 - Cindy Atkinson (314-324-7663)
Flowers and Cards - Cindy Atkinson (314-324-7663)
Membership - Jerry Ellerbeck, Jr. (314-393-7032) and Mike Thum (314-718-9155)
Parades - Sam Atkinson, (636-346-7910)
Picnics and chili cookoff - Daniel Mullis (314-416-4954
Rapid Assembly Teams - Sam Atkinson (636-346-7910)
Refreshments - Daniel Mullis (314-416-4954)
Swap Meet - Director -
Registration - Sam Atkinson (636-346-7910)
The Occasional - Editor - Steven Williams (636-575-1469)
Proof-reader - Sherry Williams (636-548-8256)
Photographer - Cindy Atkinson (314-324-7663)
Tours - Spring - Scott Francis (636-544-7750
Overnight - Sam Atkinson (636-346-7910)
Fall - Scott Francis (636-544-7750)
Tour de Frost - Sam Atkinson (636-346-7910)
Webmaster - Mike Thum (314-718-9155)

From *The Edison & Ford Quote Book,* 2004, Edison & Ford Winter Estates.

Ford: "When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it."

"It has been my observation that most people get ahead during the time that others waste."

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 information is on our website and annual dues (due July 1st each year) are $35, $20 for members of the MTFCA. Dues help pay the rent, cost of *The Occasional*, and refreshments, among other expenses.

We also strongly encourage national membership. Dues are only $50 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 9196

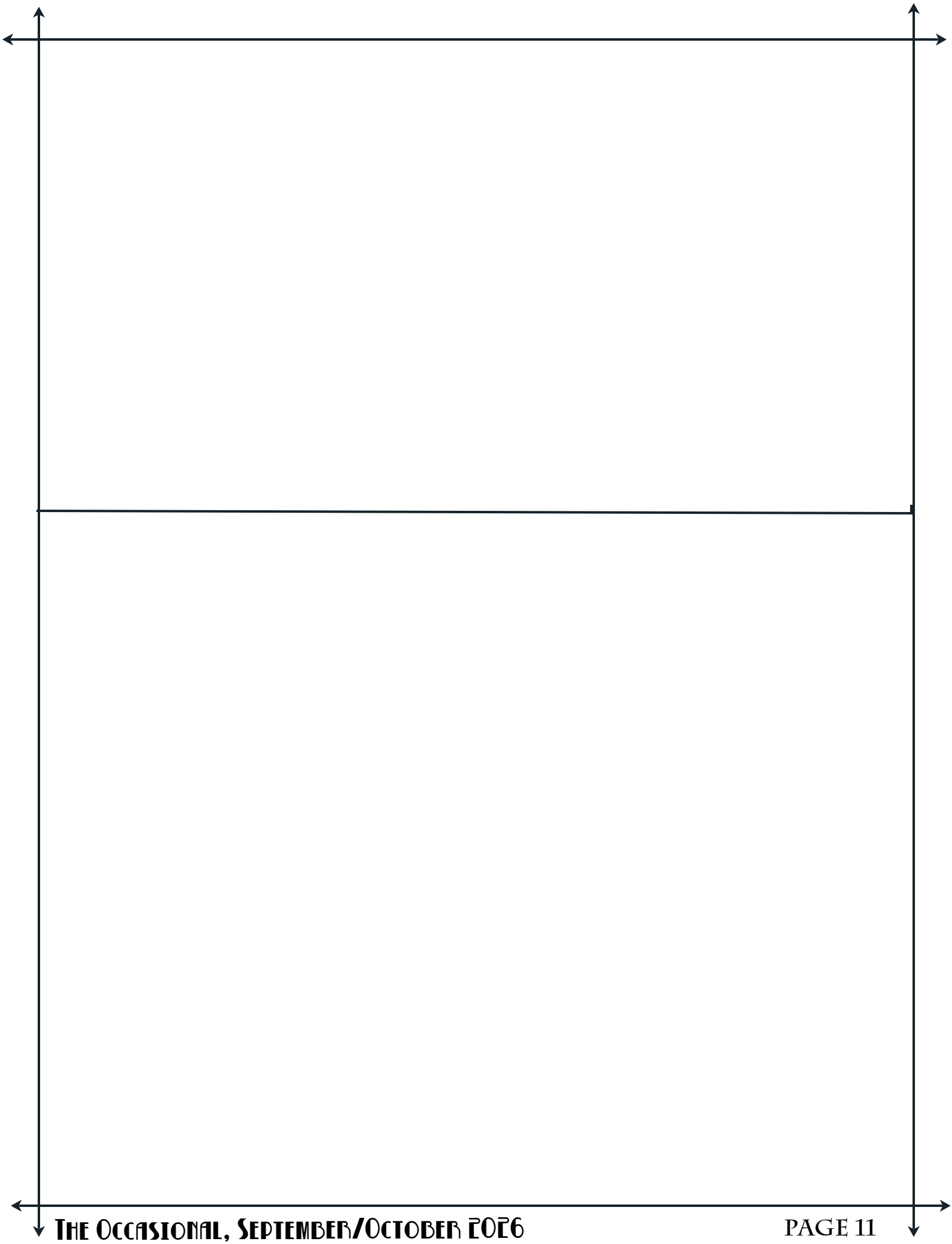
St. Louis, MO 63126-0196



Family posing in 1909 or 1910

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. Annual dues to the MTFCA are $50.00. 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, or contact Jerry Ellerbeck, Jerry.ellerbeck@gmail.com

"THE OCCASIONAL" is a bi-monthly publication of the Model T Ford Club of Greater St. Louis, Inc., a chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America. Copyright 2026, all rights reserved. Material from this newsletter may be reprinted or shared by our club members with proper citation.



From *A Book of the Best Ford Jokes,* ed. By George Milburn, Haldeman-Julius Publications, Girard, KS n.d.

"Say, have you heard about the improvement in the new model Fords?"

"No, what's that?"

"Why, they're hanging a set of whiskers on all the radiators."

"What's the big idea?"

"It's to make 'em look more like Lincolns."

N.B. Now don't say I didn't warn you. (Sic)