



The FLIVVER FLASH

The Official Newsletter of The Space City T's ~ Houston, Texas

Fords crepitant primum, sed ipsi crepitant longissimae

Volume 41 Issue 1

January 2017

The Highland Park Ford Plant - New Years Day 1910

By Debbie Houck

Last month I mentioned it was on a Christmas Eve, 1893 to be exact, that Henry Ford, with wife Clara assisting, experimented with his first gasoline engine at the kitchen sink. Another pivotal event occurred in Ford history on New Year's Day of 1910. This was the day that Henry Ford began producing Model T's at the Highland Park Ford Plant in Highland Park, Michigan, the second production facility for the Model T. While the Piquette Avenue Plant built in 1904 in Detroit was the birthplace of the Model T, it outgrew its capacity in a relatively short number of years (see the October 2016 issue of the Flivver Flash). The Highland Park Ford Plant was designed by industrial architect Albert Kahn and was the world's largest manufacturing facility at the time, which included offices, factories and a power plant.

The Highland Park Ford Plant was also the first automobile production facility to utilize a moving assembly line in 1913. This manufacturing process enabled assembly of the Model T's 3000 parts by performing 84 different procedures with groupings of workers, reducing the time to create one automobile from 12 hours to 90 minutes by

1914, and eventually building another Model T every 24 seconds. <http://corporate.ford.com/innovation/100-years-moving-assembly-line.html>



Ford Motor Company Highland Park Plant, 1914
<https://www.thehenryford.org/artifact/139493/>

Because the plant was so large in size, by 1919 it took nine Ford-designed hybrid gas/steam engines to generate the electricity needed for the assembly lines and its machinery. "By 1926 the engines were rendered obsolete when electricity was fed from the power plant at Ford's River

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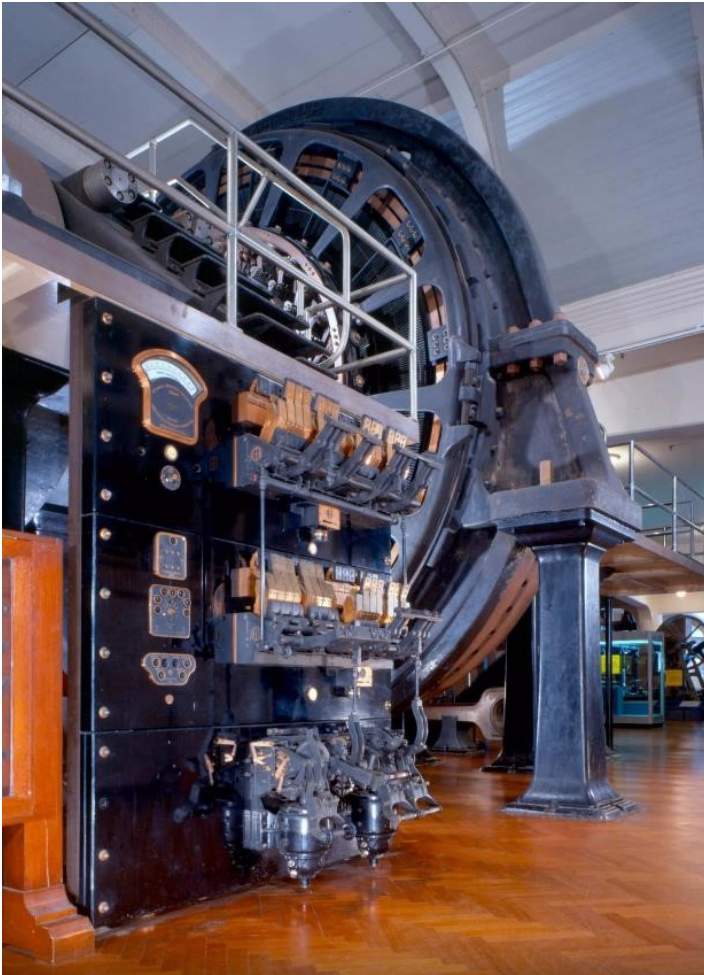
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Rouge plant ten miles away.” <https://www.thehenryford.org/artifact/167313/>. You can view one of these engines at The Henry Ford complex in Dearborn, Michigan still today.



Gas-Steam Engine, 1916, Used to Generate Electricity at Highland Park Plant

While the assembly line's division of labor reduced both time and money spent to build the Model T, lessening the price from \$850 to under \$300, the workers were not as enamored with the process, creating a labor turnover rate of 380 percent by late 1913. Ford announced in January of 1914 that it would pay its workers \$5 for an eight hour day instead of the previous \$2.34 for a nine hour day. Although the pace of the relentless factory work became no easier, at this increased wage, the workers were willing to not only put up with the

work, but subject themselves to qualifications even more intrusive than today's background checks. <https://www.thehenryford.org/artifact/35765/>

The Ford Sociological Department was created “to ensure that employees, many of whom were non-English speaking immigrants, did not squander their \$5 per day wages. Investigators monitored the personal and work lives of employees (this included conducting home visits, verifying bank deposits and monitoring children's school attendance). In addition, the Department provided hygiene instruction, financial and legal advice, and an English school.” <https://www.thehenryford.org/artifact/361363/>.

The Ford English School was founded in 1914 to teach the language to the immigrant labor force, instructed by fellow co-workers that volunteered their time. When the school began, it had one instructor and 20 students, but had grown to nearly 150 instructors and over 2,200 students, attending before or after their shifts, by 1916. <https://www.thehenryford.org/artifact/151364/>. The language training provided more than just a functional vocabulary to help integrate the foreign workers into American society, but also helped with safety in the workplace through a common language. In addition, basic citizenship training including American geography and other civics lessons were provided to so many immigrants to the extent that “the US Naturalization Service counted graduation from the Ford English School as meeting most of the requirements needed to take the citizenship exam.” <https://www.thehenryford.org/artifact/254569/>

The Henry Ford Trade School (1916-1952), adjacent to the plant, was established to teach practical skills in addition to academic classes. Teenage boys learned skilled trades such as machining, metallurgy, drafting, and engine design. <https://www.thehenryford.org/artifact/373433/>. During World War II, the school served as a training center with skilled tradesmen instructing military machinists and female factory workers, although women were employed early on at the Highland Park Plant in the coil-manufacturing department assembling magnetos.

The last Model T drove off the assembly line of the Highland Park Plant on May 26, 1927. Automobile production moved to the River Rouge plant in Dearborn, Michigan, where production of the Model A began in 1928.



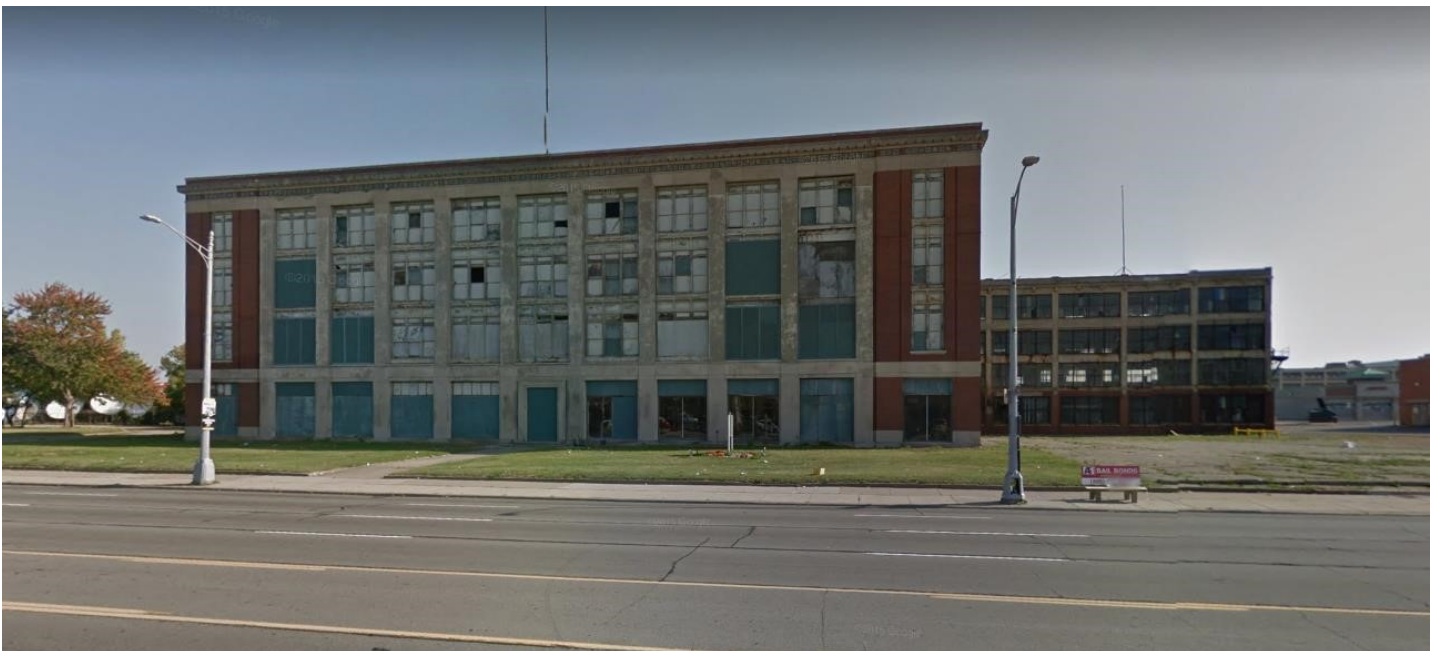
Henry Ford and Edsel Ford in the Fifteen Millionth Ford Car at the Highland Park Plant, 1927.

"On May 26, 1927, when Edsel Ford drove the last Model T off the line at the Highland Park Plant, his father's face betrayed conflicting emotions. Henry's Model T had changed the world, but its day was over. How did he follow a legend? Some

two months later Ford summed up his challenge, 'Sixty-four today and the biggest job of my life ahead'."

<https://www.thehenryford.org/artifact/365315/>

The Highland Park Plant continued automotive trim manufacturing and tractor assembly, and even assembled M4A3 Ford-built Sherman tanks from 1942-1943 during WWII. Although it became a National Historic Landmark in 1978, the plant once referred to as the "Crystal Palace", for its large, multi-pane glass windows creating abundant natural light, is not open to the public and today is in serious disrepair. Sadly, author Michael Rose said it best in an article "if you didn't know what you were looking for you'd probably drive by the Model-T Plaza that abuts the crumbling, former administration building with broken windows on Woodward Avenue and not be able to imagine this forlorn site teeming with over 25,000 employees." That is the experience we (Tony Marino, Bobby and Rebecca Wright, and myself) shared in September of 2016 to "come to pay homage to the site that gave birth to modern manufacturing and the rise of the American middle class." http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-rose/100-years-later-rememberi_b_408613.html I'd love to see it become a public museum like was done with the Piquette Plant, but time and money will only tell.



Google maps image captured October 2015



The Model T Ford Club of America is the world's largest club of Model T owners and enthusiasts.

You do not have to own a T to join in the fun!

Founded in 1965, together we share a passion to preserve and promote the Model T Ford for future generations by educating people in its history, lore and maintenance. We have members in all 50 states and 41 foreign countries, with more than 130 chapters that provide local activities and fellowship for Model T enthusiasts.

Member Benefits Include:

- **Subscription to The Vintage Ford** - An award-winning magazine filled with information on all aspects of the hobby: resources for Model T parts, repair and maintenance info, lists of tours, swap meets and events, plus lots of photos and articles for and about Model T enthusiasts.
- **Free Museum Admission** - Membership includes free entry to the MTFCA Model T museum and access to the museum library for members and their immediate family.
- **Free Classified Ads in The Vintage Ford** (non-commercial ads) up to fifty words each.
- **Events & Tours** - Your entire family will enjoy reliving the days of the Model T at national, regional or chapter events and tours. Participants often dress in period clothes. National events can attract 100+ Model Ts (from perfectly-restored, show quality to right off the farm).
- **Annual Meeting** - Held early in the year, our Annual Meeting gives members the chance to get together, visit and learn. Activities include awards, educational seminars, club business, entertainment and social events.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(If already a member, please give this to a friend)

Sign up online at our website or fill out and mail us this form. Membership extends to immediate family members, including spouses and children (under 18) living in the same household.

Name _____

Immediate Family Members' Names _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Postal Code _____ Country _____

Phone _____

Email _____

ANNUAL DUES*: One year membership is \$40 in US, \$50 in Canada and \$56 in all other countries (includes 6 issues of The Vintage Ford magazine). Life membership is \$700 in US, \$850 other countries.

To charge your membership, fill in the information below or join online at www.mtfca.com.

Credit Card # _____

VISA • MasterCard • Discover (circle one)

Expiration Date _____ CVV Code _____
(Last 3 digits on back of card)

Signature (required) _____

Make checks or money orders payable in U.S. dollars and send to:
MODEL T FORD CLUB OF AMERICA
P.O. Box 996
Richmond, IN 47375-0996 USA

☐ Check this box if you are renewing your membership.

**Membership dues are subject to change.*

THE MODEL T FORD CLUB OF AMERICA

P.O. Box 996 • Richmond, IN 47375-0996

Phone: 765-855-5248 • Fax: 765-855-3428

www.mtfca.com

The Model T Ford Club of America is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
Not affiliated with Ford Motor Co.

MTFCI
P.O. Box 355
Hudson, NC 28638-0355
828-728-5758



Visit us online at
www.modelt.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Last name: _____ First name: _____

Spouse name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Province (if other than U.S.): _____

Country (if other than U.S.): _____

E-mail: _____

Occupation: _____

Home phone: _____ Mobile phone (optional): _____

MTFCI membership number (for renewal): _____

Are you a member of a local chapter? _____ If yes, which one(s)? _____

List up to four Model T's that you own:

Car 1: _____ Car 3: _____

Car 2: _____ Car 4: _____

Membership roster:

Membership information is normally included on a club roster which is never sold/used for non-club purposes. You may request that your information not be included in the printed roster by answering yes or no below:

Include my information in the club roster: yes _____ no _____

One year, individual or family membership dues, (12-month rolling):

- U.S.: \$40.00
- Canada: \$45.00
- All other countries: \$50.00
- All memberships payable in U.S. funds on a U.S. bank only
- Individual Life Membership: \$700.00 U.S. / \$800.00 Foreign

To pay by check: make check payable to MTFCI and mail with application to:
MTFCI, P.O. Box 355, Hudson, NC 28638-0355

To pay by credit card: complete the information below, visit www.modelt.org
and pay by Authorize.net, or call 828-728-5758.

Please charge my card for this amount: _____

Card type: MasterCard _____ VISA: _____ Discover: _____

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____

**Don't miss your
opportunity to receive
a FREE year
of membership!**

Simply give a MTFCI membership
to someone by submitting an
application and payment for
them or have them reference your
membership number below when
they submit their own application and
payment. You must give or sponsor
two (2) new memberships in order to
receive your free year.

Offer expires December 31, 2016
Sponsoring member #: _____

Dues Are Due

Remember, the deadline for dues payment is March 15. At that time the roster will be compiled according to those paid. Dues are still **\$25.00** per year. Please **print** out this page, **fill out** the form below with your most recent information, and make your check payable to **Space City T's**.

Please **mail** your dues to the Treasurer at:

Anthony J. Marino

302 Torrey Court

League City, Texas 77573

NOTE: Dues are not tax deductible. To do so will jeopardize our club's 501c non-profit status with the IRS

SPACE CITY T's MEMBER ENROLLMENT

Model T Ford Club of America membership # if Applicable _____

Model T Ford Club International membership # if Applicable _____

DATE _____ CHECK # _____ AMOUNT \$ _____

Name: _____ Spouse _____

Minor Children (under age 18) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____

Cell: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Occupation: _____

Model T's Owned:

Space City T's of Houston Bylaws, Article VI, Section 4: Dues for members admitted to membership between July 1 and December 31 shall pay (1/2) of the annual dues. (\$12.50 for the given year, \$25.00 per year thereafter)

For Sale: 1915 Model T Touring

Hand crank start only. Starts, runs, and stops as should. Roll up rear top. \$15000



Call or text Bobby Wright at [409-771-5548](tel:409-771-5548) or email at bcw54800@gmail.com

Some of you may remember my dad, Ralph Reeder and Performance T Parts. My dad had gathered a large collection of parts some of which I have sold since he died in April of 2009. I still have a lot of miscellaneous parts that I hate to see sit with me and deteriorate. There are rear ends, engine parts, hogs-heads, magneto rings and lots of small parts. Some of the inventory of Performance T Parts is still intact and includes quite a few restoration parts, distributors, camshafts (both reground and cores), alternators, the virtually indestructible belts he made in various lengths, gasket sets and a few new aluminum heads and a couple that have been run. There are several lights, carburetors and lots of other stuff. I have one complete engine and the chassis and some sheet metal from a TT truck. The Performance T Parts trailer is still sitting in my driveway and is full of miscellaneous parts. I still have the under-slung 27 Roadster he and I built as well. It has been sitting under cover for 8 or 9 years and I might consider selling it. I would like to sell everything in one lot and will make a good deal if any of your members might have interest or pass my phone number along to anyone who might.

Thanks, Bubba Reeder 281-507-3713

Flivver Flash Inputs Needed

Do You Have Something to Share? A Barn find, Funny and not so Funny Model T stories? Tour Photos, or articles about Model T's? Your Model T acquisition stories, Restoration Photos or Swap meet finds? A special interest article?

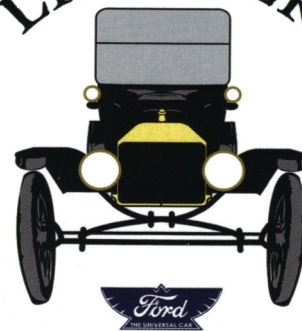
Please send ads, articles, photos, etc. for our Flivver Flash news letter to: topkick7@outlook.com

Seven (7) USED 30 x 3 1/2" tires for sale Wards Riverside, Universal etc. \$30 to \$40 each depending on wear.

Two (2) used Kelsey rims, eight (8) square clamps and eight (8) lug nuts; \$200.

— OR BEST OFFER —
Anthony 281-482-4156
topkick7@outlook.com
in League City, Texas

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MODEL A & MODEL T SPECIALIST

ROSS LILLEKER

979.218.4083
[WWW.MRMODEL.COM](http://www.mrmodelt.com)

For Sale: 1924 Model T Touring Lots of extras such as a floating rear wheel bearing, high speed Ruckstell, Rocky Mountain brakes with Kevlar linings, ball-bearing 4th main, Kevlar transmission bands and clutch disk. The engine was built with special updates. High compression head, aluminum pistons, stainless steel valves, hardened exhaust valve seat inserts, adjustable valve lifters, tour cam, modern spark plugs, alternator, modern carb and air filter. 12 volt system and signal lights. Asking \$13,000. Contact: Robert Kirk [281-332-1701](tel:281-332-1701)



The Space City T's Club is the Houston, Texas Chapter of The Model T Ford Club of America. All questions concerning membership in the Model T Ford Club of America, The Vintage Ford magazine, MTFCA Library, Chapter Insurance, purchase of manuals, back magazine issues or store items can be directed to the following:

Model T Ford Club of America

309 N. 8th Street, PO Box 996

Richmond, IN 47375-0996

Phone: 765-855-5248

E-mail: susan@mtfca.com

\$40 Annual dues includes six issues of The Vintage Ford

Join MTFCA at: <http://www.mtfca.com/>

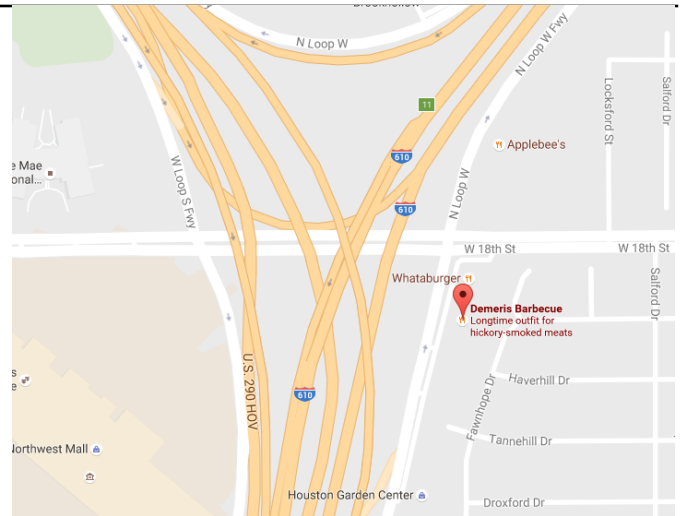
Next Meeting January 11, 2017



Dine with Friends at
Demeris BBQ at 6:00 P.M.
located at 1702 West Loop North,
Suite A, Houston, TX 77008

Then attend the
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Place:
Lazy Brook Baptist Church
1822 West 18th Street in the Heights



Directions to Demeris BBQ

NOTICE: FM 290 CONSTRUCTION DETOURS

If construction allows, from the east or west on I-10 or the south side of downtown, take the I-610 West Loop North and get off at the 18th Street Exit.. Demeris BBQ will be immediately on the right after Houston Garden Nursery.

If construction allows, from the west on Highway 290, exit at Mangum and turn right to 18th Street. At 18th, turn left, cross under West Loop and turn into the Whataburger parking lot on the right.. Proceed to Demeris BBQ after the Whataburger.

If construction allows, from the north on I-45, take the 610 North Loop West around to the I-610 West Loop South to the Hempstead Highway exit.. Make a U-turn under I-610 and proceed north on the frontage road to just before 18th Street, Demeris BBQ will be on your right after Houston Garden Center.

The Flivver Flash is published by the Space City T's chapter of The Model T Ford Club of America in Houston, Texas twelve times per year. This newsletter is produced for the education, edification and enjoyment of members and those expressing interest in joining the Space City T's. Said education, edification and enjoyment is as it pertains to the Model T Ford automobile. The Flash is also shared with other antique auto clubs. Other clubs may feel free to use articles from this publication with credit to this newsletter or the original source. News, articles, ads or anything of interest to club for publication must be submitted to the editor by the deadline of the 20th of month preceding the month of publication. Emailing takes place the last week of the month. Annual dues are \$25.00 per year.



Space City Club Officers and Board Members

President	RoseMarie Stokley	(281) 574-7850
Vice President	Luke Cordes	(713) 449-9129
Secretary1	Rick McCracken	(281) 351-0701
Secretary2	Dave Lucas	(281) 388-0761
Treasurer	Anthony J. Marino	(281) 482-4156
Board Member	Bobby Wright	(409) 771-5548
Board Member	Nancy Carter	(281) 931-8268
Board Member	Bill Severn	(936) 273-3592

The FLIVVER FLASH

Anthony J. Marino
302 Torrey Court
League City, Texas 77573
(281) 482-4156

email: ModelT@spacecityts.org

web site: <http://www.spacecityts.org/wp/>

Calendar of Events

Jan 11	Space City T's Meeting
Feb 8	Space City T's Meeting
Mar 8	Space City T's Meeting
Apr 12	Space City T's Meeting
May 10	Space City T's Meeting
Jun 14	Space City T's Meeting
Jul 12	Space City T's Meeting
Aug 9	Space City T's Meeting
Sep 13	Space City T's Meeting
Sep 27-30	2017 Texas T Party
Nov 8	Space City T's Meeting