



The FLIVVER FLASH

The Official Newsletter of The Space City T's ~ Houston, Texas
A Chapter of The Model T Ford Club of America



Volume 34 Issue 9

Back To School

September 2011



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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. Printing takes place the last week of the month.

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The FLIVVER FLASH

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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 issues or store items can be directed to the following address:

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 E-mail: jay@mtfca.com



Annual dues (includes six issues of The Vintage Ford)
 U.S. \$35.00
 Foreign \$42.00 Canada and \$44.00 for all other countries.
 Foreign payments must be made in U.S. dollars and checks payable at U.S. banks.

On The Cover



Frank Gusman seated at the tiller of his nearly completely restored 1902 Curved Dash Oldsmobile.

For more about this remarkable fellow, turn to page 4.

Texas Rain Gauge

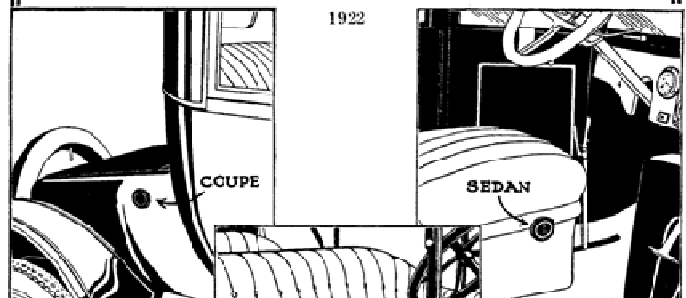


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IN THE

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Why delay equipping your car with a GWEN GASOLINE GAUGE?

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Texas T Party Note

We won't be having a raffle this year as Gary so successfully did in Amarillo since we don't have such a deserving group as the Boy's Ranch kids who were restoring the Model T. We'll award all donations as door prizes and as such, we'd like to remind any one who wants to donate something that the September meeting will be the time to bring whatever you have including a note with a name so we can acknowledge the donation. Items for the goody bags also accepted. We'll be preparing 100 bags. If anyone forgets, they can contact one of the 2 chairmen and they will arrange pickup.

Thanks,
GayNell, Unofficial Secretary

2011-12 Calendar of Coming Events

September 14 **Space City T's Meeting**
2011

September 28-October 2 **Texas T Party**
2011 Bastrop, Texas
The Heart of the Lost Pines
Jeff and Luke Cordes, Chairmen
713-926-3217
Email: cordesworks@yahoo.com

October 22 **Seabrook's 50th Anniversary Celebration**
2011



9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Rex Meador Park, 2100 Meyer Road
Seabrook, Texas

Looking for Model T Participants

Website: www.ci.seabrook.tx.us

Contact Bill Sherrill

Cell 713-254-1700

Email: bsherrill@secoindustrial.com

March/April **2012 - See the South Slowly Tour**
2012 North American Touring Ts
Susan and Joss Sanderson
5220 W. Larkspur Ridge Dr.
Tucson AZ 85743
az_tchr@yahoo.com
520 260 9772

Welcome New Member

Welcome to the club, John Matejka. John joined up at the August meeting. He drives a Touring modified to a pickup.

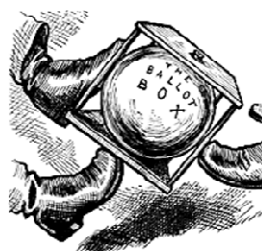
John Matejka
10615 Briar Forest, #406
Houston, Texas 77042

H: 713-789-3216

C: 713-829-4242

ludditejohn@yahoo.com

The Club Is Looking....



....for a few good folks who would be willing to throw their hat in the ring and serve as a club officer.

To nominate a member or to self-nominate, contact
President Dave Carter (281) 931-8268.

Here's Your Opportunity!

FORD SEDAN GIVEN or \$700 Cash **SOLVE this PUZZLE**

Greatest advertising offer ever made. We have already given away many autos and thousands of dollars in cash to advertise our business. Now we will give as First Prize the latest improved model 4-door Ford Sedan, delivered freight and tax paid, or winner may have full value in cash, \$700.00. Hundreds of other prizes and thousands of dollars in cash given. Everybody is rewarded. Someone wins this fully equipped Ford Sedan or \$700.00 in cash. Why not you?

Solve This Puzzle Mail Me Your Answer Today

There are 7 autos in the picture. By drawing 3 straight lines each one can be put in a separate garage by itself. See if you can do it. Get your pencil and try. Draw the lines on this card and mail it to me today with your name and address and I will send our big free Ford Sedan offer. Don't send a penny. Not a cent of your money is needed now or later. Mail this card to me this very day.

Besides the Ford Sedan or \$700.00 Cash first prize, we will give Phonographs, Bicycles, Watches, Silverware, Etc., and thousands of dollars in cash. Nothing hard to do. All can share in prizes and cash. In case of a tie, duplicate prizes will be given. Someone will be awarded the Ford Sedan or \$700.00 in cash. Why not you? A prize your family and friends can share with you. Mail this card at once and try for the Sedan or the \$700.00 in cash. Place a 2c stamp on this card, sign it and mail it today.

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NOW

FORD SEDAN OR \$700.00 in cash FREE

Here's a real opportunity to obtain for yourself a beautiful Ford 4-door Sedan or \$700.00 in cash. It's now or never. Don't hesitate. You surely want this auto or the \$700.00 in cash, so be alive to this splendid opportunity and send for my amazing free Sedan or \$700.00 cash offer today. (Draw three lines in picture on back of this card.)

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State.....

Post Card Place 2c Stamp Here

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323 S. Peoria St.,
Chicago, Ill.
Dept. 867

Frank Guseman, Craftsman

By Stan Hoekstra

"Come away with me Lucile in my merry Oldsmobile
Down the road of life we'll fly auto-mo-bubbling you and I.
To the church we'll swiftly steal,
Then our wedding bells will peal,
You can go as far you like with me,
In my merry Oldsmobile."



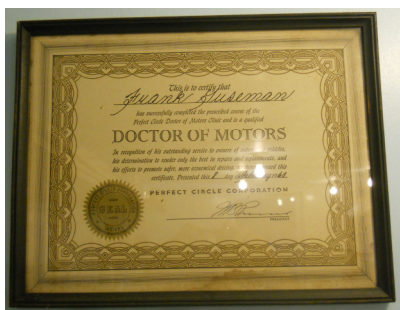
Why, you ask, an article about a Curved Dash Oldsmobile. This isn't so much about the car as the man behind it. And we are not referring to Ransom E. Olds, but rather, fellow Space City T's member Frank Guseman, a craftsman extraordinaire. Bringing a Curved Dash Oldsmobile back to life is just one of his many accomplishments.

We recently sat down with Frank and asked him to recount his adventures in building, restoring, modifying, fabricating, inventing and about every thing those talented hands have worked on.

Frank's father Mike was a life long employee of L.L. "Shorty" Walker, the first aviator to fly over Houston. His father went on to drive racecars and serve as mechanic for Walker. L. L. Walker Company became one of the oldest continuously certificated marine and aviation propeller stations in the U.S.

Frank's mechanical abilities were apparent at the early age. His introduction to mechanics began when Shorty Walker gave him and his brother an old Model T. Frank was seven years old at the time.

When he was 15 years old, his summer job was working for an aircraft engine rebuilder. His task was running in overhauled radial aircraft engines in a test cell. He never looked back.



By age 17 he was a mechanic at the Roundtree Motors Oldsmobile dealership. And he was an Olds mechanic from 1946 until his retirement McDavid Oldsmobile in 1995.

Frank's aptitude isn't limited to mechanics. He is also an electronics pioneer as a licensed ham radio operator for over sixty years, call sign K5VQY. He was a member of MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio System) during the Cold War. To this day, he has a 70 foot antenna tower in his back yard.

His involvement in amateur radio led to a hair-raising experience. As a radio club officer he was "volunteered" to assist in installing a repeater antenna on the 1,400 foot KPRC tower for better coverage. At one point icing on the elevator cable caused the cage to plummet until the automatic braking system took hold.

Frank also has a life long interest in aviation. He built from plans an unpowered Benson auto gyro known as a Gyro Glider designed to be towed into the air. His intention was to tow it behind his power boat. But first he flight tested the machine from the ground. With wife Bert at the wheel of the tow vehicle, the craft began to rise and then tilted as a 15 degree crosswind was encountered, the rotor blades scraped the ground and Frank made a hard landing. Undaunted, he made the necessary repairs and tried again. This time he tethered the copter so that it could rise only a short distance off the ground while the wind from an incoming storm drove the rotor.

Once again, the blades managed to kiss the earth. That spelled the end of his aviation career. To this day, the airframe hangs from ceiling and the rotor blades reside on a shelf of his shop.



Benson
Gyro-Glider



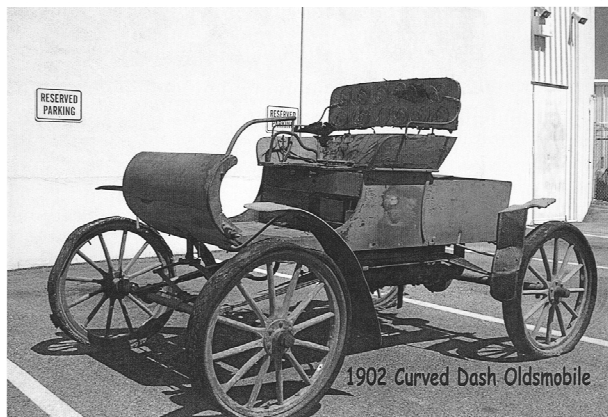
Frank also has an interest in old stationary engines. His pride and joy is a 20 horsepower Torch Ignitor Fairbanks Morse with 6 foot diameter flywheels

It's actually fired off by placing a lit wood match in the port shown as the red knob in the lower right in the photo.

For fun, he fires tennis balls from the exhaust pipe.

Before we get to the Curved Dash Oldsmobile, we should let you know that Frank also has a couple of Oldsmobile trucks awaiting restoration as well as a Bush Panel Delivery Van owned by Benny. And of course, Frank's immaculate 1926 Model T Coupe is well known by Space City T's members.

Now, about the Curved Dash. It came into Frank's life rather unexpectedly. Paul Byrd, a member of the local Oldsmobile club and also an owner of a Curved Dash, summoned Frank that a barn fresh 1902 Oldsmobile was available. Frank was reluctant to even go to see the car. However, Frank's son Benny encouraged his dad to take a look. When they saw the car, Benny urged Frank even more and the car was bought on the spot.



Condition of Car When Purchased

Then the research and restoration began. The history of the car is that it was owned by Charles Bender. Born in Bechtheim, Obere Klinggasse, Germany on 15 Jul 1829, he immigrated to the United States at the age of 15 and became a prosperous Texas businessman. He passed away on 13 Feb 1906 in Houston as the result of an infection cause by a broken arm received while cranking the Olds.

While the car was quite intact and a good candidate for restoration, many of the detail parts had to be fabricated from scratch. An example is that of the 1.5 volt dry cells. Frank and Benny collaborated on the building of replica batteries. Benny reconstituted the graphics of the outer shell and perfected a method of construction. Frank designed the mold for casting the lead top.



Original



Prototype



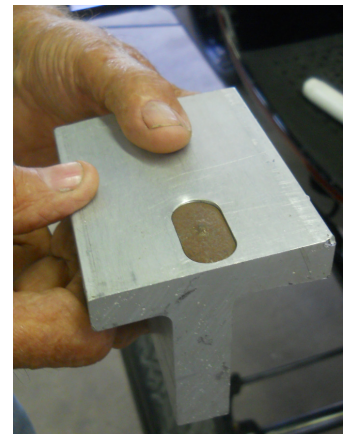
Replica

Now when the battery box is opened you see the replica cells while electrical power is supplied by a hidden rechargeable gel cell.



Fixtures designed and made by Frank to cast the lead battery top and roll edges of cylinder

An appropriate steel link drive chain and seat springs were deemed too expensive so Frank and Benny made their own.



Chain Link Fixture



Frank and Benny designed a fixture for winding their own seat springs on a lathe.



Rear fenders were scratch built. Note the rolled bead.



Nearly finished ~ Only the Top to Go

We have touched on some of the highlights. The car must be seen to be truly appreciated. Our thanks to Frank for sharing these insights and letting us get to know him better.

Post Script

Things I Learned Living in the South

A possum is a flat animal that sleeps in the middle of the road.
There are 5,000 types of snakes and 4,998 of them live in the South.

There are 10,000 types of spiders. All 10,000 of them live in the South, plus a couple no one's seen before.

If it grows, it'll stick ya. If it crawls, it'll bite cha.

Onced and Twiced are words.

It is not a shopping cart, it is a buggy!

People actually grow, eat and like okra.

Fixinto is one word. It means I'm going to do that.

There is no such thing as lunch. There is only dinner and then there's supper.

Iced tea is appropriate for all meals and you start drinking it when you're two. We do like a little tea with our sugar. It is referred to as the Wine of the South.

Backwards and forwards means I know everything about you.

The word jeet is actually a question meaning, 'Did you eat?'

You don't have to wear a watch, because it doesn't matter what time it is, you work until you're done or it's too dark to see.

You don't PUSH buttons, you MASH em.

Ya'll is singular. All ya'll is plural.

All the festivals across the state are named after a fruit, vegetable, grain, insect, or animal.

You carry jumper cables in your car - for your OWN car.

You only own five spices: salt, pepper, mustard, Tabasco and ketchup.

The local papers cover national and international news on one page, but require 6 pages for local high school sports, the motor sports, and gossip.

You think that the first day of deer season is a national holiday.

You know what a hissy fit is.

Fried catfish is the other white meat.

We don't need no dang Driver's Ed. If our mama says we can drive, we can drive

More Photos of Frank and the Curved Dash Olds

While visiting with Frank we took about 40 photos. Here a few of the overflow.



Frank in Benny's Brush



Frank's "Play Room"



Olds Engine



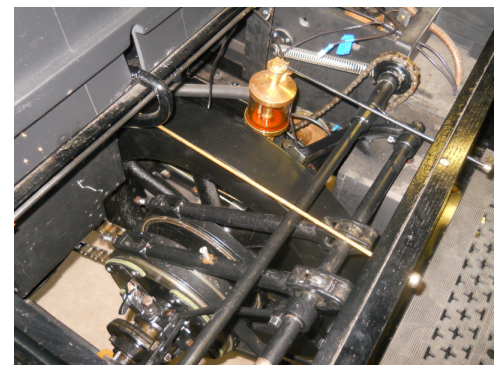
Spark Plug from the Oldsmobile.

Marked
'Property of
IGN&N Railroad'

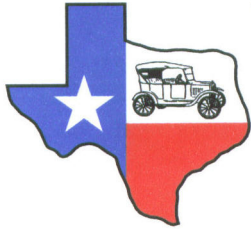
Mr. Bender was associated with that railroad.



Nameplate on the top of the engine cylinder



Olds Transmission



Texas A&T Parts

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Phone: 979-260-5433

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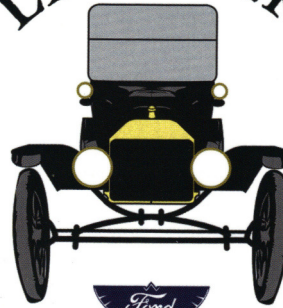
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Classified Ads

For Sale: 1926 Model T Tudor Sedan.

Needs restoration. Has wood wheels. \$4000.

Call Gator Gould 251-765-2677 gatorsts@frontiernet.net

For Sale: Complete set of Vintage Ford Magazines. \$450

Call Gator Gould 251-765-2677

gatorsts@frontiernet.net

For Sale: 1923 Model T Ford

All original, needs complete restoration. No rust through anywhere, stored inside. Ran last summer \$8000.00

Please call Russell Gibson—281-691-2669

For Sale: 1914 Model T Truck

Excellent condition \$12,500

New car trailer \$1500. Contact:

Lee Latham le2_lat42@yahoo.com



Wanted—1927 Front Bumper and Brackets

Contact: Gaylord Willet—Montgomery, Texas

936-448-1550

Wanted: Model T Ford—1909 - 1925 Car or parts needing restoration, running or not. Roadster preferred, must be reasonably priced. Contact: David Craft 281-328-6375

For Sale: 1925 TT C-Cab Stake Bed Truck - Restored 10+ years ago. Approx. 200 miles on full engine and transmission rebuild completed in 2003. Has Texas T Parts water pump and distributor installed. Created in San Antonio, TX.

Chris Chambers 210-265-9250, crchambers17@yahoo.com.

For Sale: 1922 Canadian Coupe

Engine number C379398, more parts than shown. Asking \$800.00

Butch Edmunds 713-201-5963

Waller, Texas



Next Meeting

September 14, 2011

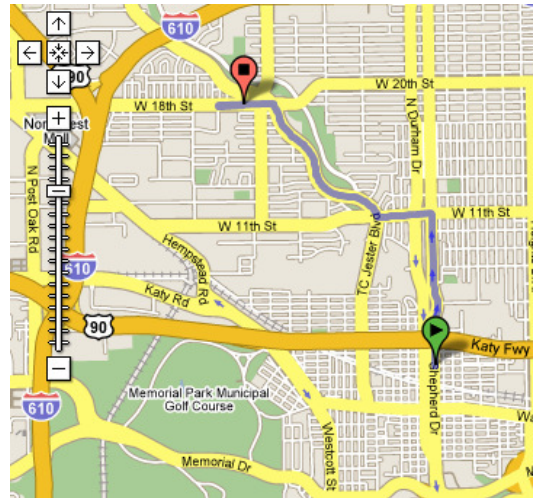


Dine with Friends at
Jax Grill at 6:00 P.M.
1613 Shepherd Drive in the Heights

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

Program:
"How To Make A Movie"
Presented by the Maestro
Denny Irvine



Directions from Jax Grill to Lazybrook Baptist Church

Head **north** from Shepherd Dr - go **0.3 mi**
Continue on N Shepherd Dr - go **0.8 mi**
Turn **left** at W 11th St - go **0.4 mi**
Turn **right** at TC Jester Blvd - go **0.2 mi**
Bear **left** at W TC Jester Blvd - go **1.0 mi**
Turn **left** at W 18th St - go **0.4 mi**
Turn **left** into the **parking lot** of the church



First Class Mail



Space City T's Chapter
Editor: Stan Hoekstra
19427 Bear Springs Drive
Katy, Texas 77449

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