

The Flivver Flash

The Official Newsletter of the Space City T's - Houston, TX

A MESSAGE FROM THE PAST

by Bill Severn

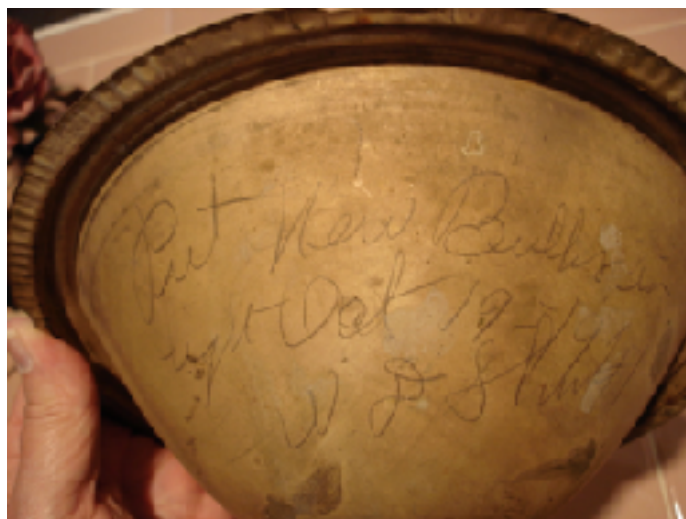
[Space City T's Web Site](http://SpaceCityT'sWebSite)

modelt@spacecityts.org

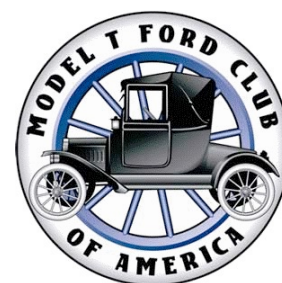
Has anyone ever found a message from the past when restoring their Model T? I did back in 2010. It was not a letter written "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN." It was writing within the car, itself.

I was disassembling the headlights to prepare them for painting. I took the reflectors out and placed them to the side while I worked on the headlight buckets. As I sanded away, my wife (now departed) came out into the garage to offer me a drink of water. While in the garage, she said "Look, there's writing on this." I looked over and she was pointing to writing on the back of one of the headlight reflectors. Clearly written in heavy pencil was "Put new bulbs in light. Oct 19, 1941, and it was signed W D Shmitt. I have tried to look up W D SHMITT on my computer, but have not found anyone who matched the name and date.

The headlight reflectors were very dull and needed to be re-silvered. Re-silvering them would have destroyed the message, so I decided to use chrome paint on the front of the reflectors to save the message on the back. So, in one of my headlights (I really don't remember which) the message is hidden for the next owner to find.



By the way, finding the message told me one thing for certain, my car was still a driver when World War II started.



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Milestone Fords

by Debbie Marino

Henry Ford and his inventions will always be a part of American history, but did you ever wonder what became of some of the milestone vehicles that have rolled off the assembly lines? On December 10, 1915, the 1 millionth Ford, a Model T, rolled off the assembly line in Detroit. Strangely enough, not much attention was paid to this milestone. According to The Ford Times, "With twenty-five assembly plants...and with a big factory in Detroit assembling so many Ford cars a day, we passed the million mark without knowing it."

The 5 millionth Ford was a Model T Coupe, rolling off the line on May 28, 1921 at 7:05 am. In 1931, Ford Motor Company registered that car with the State of Michigan Motor Vehicle Bureau. While the exact reason is unknown, there is the belief that Henry Ford's intentions were to keep the car for his

museum. However, its history remained a mystery until the exact car was discovered in the Detroit area in 1992.

The car was purchased by Richard Duncan in an estate auction in December 1992. During refurbishing of the Model T the following year, previous damage to the front end was found, with repairs having been made using genuine Ford parts from model years both prior and later. At some time, the car was exhibited at the Duncan Ford Museum in Utica, Michigan. Bill Smith later acquired it in April of 2007 for the Speedway Motors Museum of American Speed, in Lincoln, Nebraska, which he founded in 1992.

<https://www.museumofamericanspeed.com/5millionthford.html>



The 10 millionth Ford (below) was produced at the Highland Park plant in Michigan on June 4, 1924. This time, promotional efforts were much more intentional, as the Model T spent much of the year being driven by famed Ford race car driver Frank Kulick on the Lincoln Highway, the only coast-to-coast highway at the time, from New York to San Francisco. In more recent times, the car was said to be privately owned by Dr. Alan Hathaway in Davenport, Iowa. Further research casts some doubts however.

Dr. Hathaway, himself, passed away in April of 2016. His obituary states that he drove his 1924 Model T from New York to San Francisco on the Lincoln Highway to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the same trip as the 10 millionth Model T Ford, and again in 1999 for the 75th anniversary, but it does not attribute him as the owner of the historical vehicle.

https://qctimes.com/news/local/obituaries/dr-alan-hathaway-d-d-s/article_3dc7f68b-df39-56d9-89c3-e3c0b0102921.html

A small town publication, The Evening Review, of East Liverpool, Ohio, in their Saturday, June 1, 1974 edition mentions that the re-creation of this transcontinental tour would be passing through the following day, and identifies Dr. Hathaway as head of the "Lincoln Highway Rediscovery Committee, where a Model T Ford identical (but never stating actual) to the one that traveled across the nation in 1924 would be accompanied by a caravan to commemorate the event.

<https://newspaperarchive.com/east-liverpool-evening-review-jun-01-1974-p-3/>

<https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/276378/#slide=gs-184382>



This photo shows Henry Ford standing between his factory-made 10-millionth vehicle and his 1896 Quadricycle — the first car Henry made.

The 15 millionth Ford automobile (below), also from the Highland Park assembly line, rolled off on May 26, 1927, the last day of production of the Model T. The 1927 Touring car was used to promote Ford's success at dominating the automotive industry in the early 20th century. Yet, the success was bittersweet, as the Model T had become outdated, with consumers demanding more than a basic car, and the affordable car for the masses was being overtaken in a market of Chevrolets and Dodges with more options.

"The 15 millionth Ford Model T is testimony to Henry Ford's basic belief in the need for an inexpensive, easily maintained, car of the masses. It is also a fitting epitaph for the car of the century." The 1927 milestone Model T is part of the collection at Greenfield Village at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

<https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/212759/#slide=gs-187506>

Although first produced in October of 1927, it wouldn't be until December of that year that initial sales would begin for the 1928 model of the Model

A. The 20 millionth Ford would become a 1931 slant windshield Town Sedan, the engine block and frame being stamped at the Rouge plant at 9:55 am on April 1, 1931. The finished product rolled off the line on April 14, 1931, in a large ceremony featuring not just the car, but Henry and Edsel Ford, as well. A nationwide tour of goodwill and promotion ensued and was well-documented during 1931 and 1932. Many of the states that were visited issued the car a special 20,000,000 license plate, and a log book was signed during its numerous stops. Both the car and the logbook went missing for some time. The logbook was not located by the Ford Motor Company until 2006.

It had been rumored that the infamous car was destroyed in a fire, along with the logbook. Actually, the vehicle was sold as surplus by Ford in 1940 to Carl Liimatainen who brought it to Upper Michigan. In 2000, the Model A was rediscovered and the family leased the car back to the Ford Motor Company, who agreed to finance a frame-off restoration in anticipation of the company's 100th anniversary in 2003. Over the next ten years, Ford was allowed to use the car for exhibits and displays





The 20-Millionth and 15-Millionth Ford Cars with the "999" Racer, built in 1902, outside the Henry Ford Museum, 1931

until the lease elapsed and it was returned to the owners.

<http://www.fordgarage.com/pages/20millionford.htm>

<https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/104404#slide=gs-212584>

This link is a nice history lesson about the 20-millionth Ford, published in *The Restorer*. https://www.mafca.com/downloads/Restorer/20M_2001.pdf

There are many more milestone stories that follow in the history of the Ford Motor Company. One of the most recent occurred on August 8th of this year, where production of the 10-millionth Mustang at their Flat Rock, Michigan plant was celebrated.

Despite recent announcements to discontinue production on almost all of their domestic passenger cars over the next few years, the iconic Mustang still manages to thrive. Given Ford's history, there seems little doubt that the company's innovations will continue on with milestones even they may not yet realize.

2018 Space City T's Christmas Dinner

SUNDAY DECEMBER 2, 2018

CHRISTIES SEAFOOD RESTAURANT 5:00pm

**Please RSVP for a head count to Dave Lucas at:
(713) 299-3059**

Men should bring a man's gift and women bring a woman's gift with a value of **\$20**.

You may also bring a **new** Toys for Tots gift as an option if anyone wishes to bring one.



2018 TEXAS T PARTY

OCTOBER 10 – 13

As of the writing of this letter we have 88 registered drivers and 88 passengers for the **41st Annual Texas T-Party** will be held in **Schulenburg, Texas**. We will start the tour on Wednesday morning Oct 10, the Banquet will be Friday evening, and we will close on Saturday, October 13.

We are looking for any and all door prizes. If you will contact Sandra Ruhmann we can get it on the list.

The hotels are: Main hotel is **Holiday Inn & Suites** at 200 Heinrich St, **Schulenburg, TX 78956**, call (979) 307-5555 (service animals ONLY). Overflow hotel will be the **Best Western Plus** at 101 Huser Schulenburg, TX 78956 call (979) 743-2030 (\$20 fee per night for pets). Make your reservations now, you can cancel later if you need to. Mention the **Texas T-Party** when you call, rates are \$109 (includes breakfast). Unfortunately, there aren't any RV Parks nearby, the nearest one is 16 miles away in Weimer. There is plenty of grassy area with the trailers.

Tour fees will be \$175 for the car & driver, passengers will be \$150 and children 12 and under will be free. We will accommodate a few single day visitors – call for a daily amount – but if riding more than one day, please figure the full tour amount.

See you in Schulenburg!

[2018 T Party Registration Form](#) [MTFCA Inspection Form](#)

Tour

Historic Painted Churches & Restored Iron Bridge

Visit a couple Wineries

Corn Maze

Airplane Museum

ROSEMARIE STOKLEY
Chairman

2806 Fincastle Dr.
Katy, TX 77450

832-444-9927

rosiestokley@gmail.com

Luke Cordes

713-702-2631

Jeff Cordes

830-522-0300

Registration Information

Sandra Ruhmann

spacecityts1@yahoo.com

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 and enjoyment of members and those expressing interest in joining the Space City T's. Said education 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 use articles from this publication with credit to this newsletter or the original source. News, articles, ads or anything of interest to the club must be submitted to the editor by the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication. Emailing takes place the last week of the month. Annual dues are \$25 per year.

Space City Club Officers and Board Members

President	Dave Lucas	281-388-0761
Vice President	Rick McCracken	281-351-0701
Secretary	Rosemarie Stokley	281-574-7850
Treasurer	Anthony J. Marino	281-482-4156
Board Member	Bobby Wright	409-771-5548
Board Member	David Carter	713-875-1049
Board Member	Bill Severn	936-273-3592

THE FLIVVER FLASH

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302 Torrey Court
League City, TX 77573
281-482-4156

email: modelt@spacecityts.org

Calendar of Events

- Oct 10-13** [Schulenburg Texas T Party](#)
[Rosemarie Stokley](#)
- Oct 10** **SCT Meeting at T Party TBD**
- Oct 20** [10th Annual Current Car Show in Katy, TX](#)
[Lynda Duffy](#)
- Oct 20** [Texian Market Days 2018](#)
[George Ranch Historical Park](#)
[Matthew Driggers](#)
- Nov 14** **SCT Meeting**
- Dec 2** **SCT Christmas Dinner**
Christie's Seafood & Steaks
6029 Westheimer Rd.
Houston, TX 77057

The Space City T's Club is the Houston, Texas chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America. All questions concerning membership, The Vintage Ford magazine, the 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

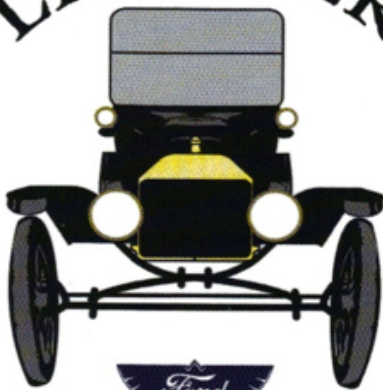
309 N. 8th Street, PO BOX 996
Richmond, IN 47375-0996
Phone: 765-855-5248

Email: susan@mtfca.com

\$40 annual dues includes six issues of the Vintage Ford

Join MTFCA at: www.mtfca.com

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MODEL A & MODEL T SPECIALIST

ROSS LILLEKER

979.218.4083
WWW.MRMODELT.COM



For Sale: 1926 Model T Roadster



Has not run in 10 yrs, covered in garage/shop, cat tore up front seat, radiator neck broken loose. T has tin engine head and a few other mods and is free, needs tires but will sell. \$15000 negotiable.
Call 903-293-8016
George Rich
1111 CR 4114
DeKalb, TX 75559
This ad expires October 2018

FLIVVER FLASH INPUTS NEEDED

Do you have something to share? A barn find, funny or 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 email ads, articles, photos, stories, etc. etc. to: topkick7@outlook.com

Next Meeting
November 14, 2018



**Dine with Friends at
Demeris BBQ at 6:00 P.M.**

located at

**1702 West Loop North,
Suite A, Houston, TX 77008**

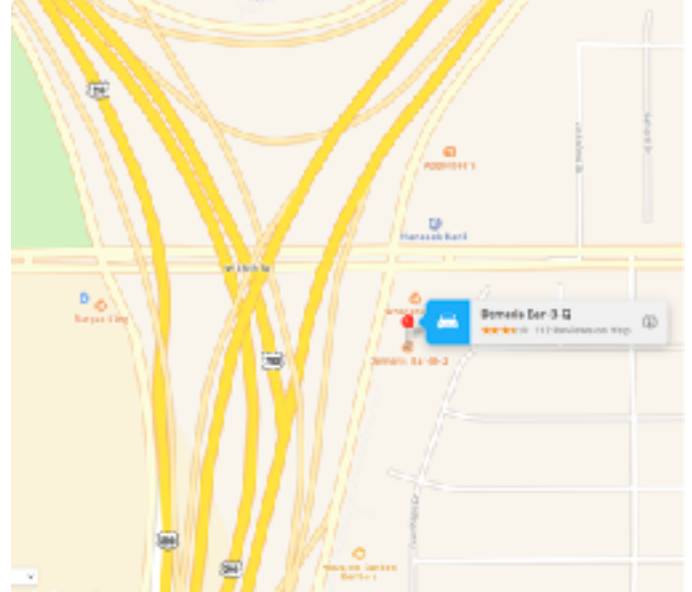
**Then attend the
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.**

Place:

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

Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: modelt@spacecityts.org

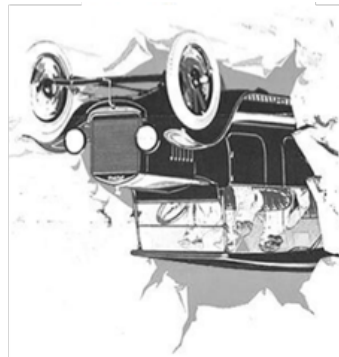


Directions to Demeris BBQ

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.

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.

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.



First Class Mail



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League City, Texas 77573

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