

The Flivver Flash

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

The Many Lives of a Model T

by Debbie Marino (reprinted from the March 2017 Flivver Flash)

You may have seen old footage from historical reels of Model T's coming off the assembly line, all identical-looking and, of course, all in black. That sameness doesn't overlook the thought that Henry Ford was one of the most influential innovators of the 20th century. It also shouldn't overlook the innovative users of the Model T that adapted these automobiles to suit their own purposes. I had seen photos of one such adaptation, the Model T snowmobile, in a copy of *The Vintage Ford*, but only until the Fall of 2016 did I get a chance to witness an example in person at Greenfield Village's Old Car Festival at The Henry Ford complex.



Having grown up in the Midwest winters, I'd ridden on a modern snowmobile, but without a nearby Polaris dealer, the shivering souls of

the 1920s had to replace their own wheels with caterpillar tracks and skis to get around in snowy times.

Wondering what else one could convert from a Model T, I went to my favorite source of information- the search function at The Henry Ford website. By typing in the search words, "Model T Users", a pictorial of 10 different creations appeared.

<https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/expert-sets/10622/>. Among the photos, a mobile chapel is made from a converted Model T chassis in 1922. Reverend Branford Clarke's chapel was designed with a small organ and a steeple that could be folded down. This cute little thing certainly gives new meaning to "get me to the church on time", as it could now come to you.



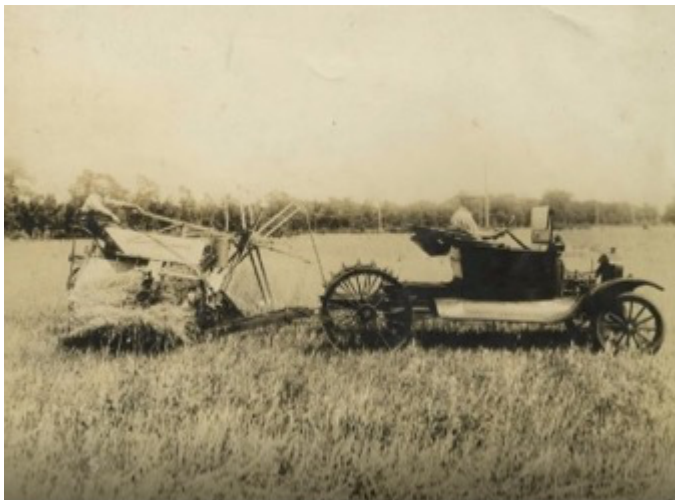
<https://www.thehenryford.org/artifact/54946/>

Two travel-related ideas are also featured. First is the Model T as anchor for a tent. Secured to the side of the vehicle, the tent provided additional shelter and space. Camping had become a craze in the late teens and early 1920's with increasingly better roads and the affordability of the automobile. The McCracken family took this concept one step further in 1921 with their 1916 Model T camper conversion, much like a modern-day RV, crafting both exterior and interior woodwork, and traveling thousands of miles with their dog.



<https://www.thehenryford.org/artifact/87577/>

Much of the innovativeness was a result of occupational necessity, finding ways to utilize the Model T to make work life easier. There is the Model T Runabout, circa 1919, converted to a tractor, pulling a reaper to harvest grain.



<https://www.thehenryford.org/artifact/100212/>

“For only \$195, E.G. Staude Company of St Paul, Minnesota had started selling the Make-a-Tractor conversion kit for the Model T in 1917, capitalizing on the popularity of the Ford car among farmers. Staude produced an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 of these in its lifetime.”

There is the Model T Touring car, circa 1920, adapted to carry a goat by mounting a handmade crate on the sideboard to create a livestock hauler.



<https://www.thehenryford.org/artifact/123604/>

There is the cab of a Model T, circa 1925, converted into a railroad car at a logging site, most likely to haul tools and equipment along the rail line.



<https://www.thehenryford.org/artifact/211959/>

The use of the rear axle to power various types of belt-driven machinery was popular, such as a portable sawmill conversion for cutting wood

or another conversion for milling grain. One unusual example shown in 1913 was an Australian horse groomer who powered mechanized clippers and the entire stable.



<https://www.thehenryford.org/artifact/190640/>

These are all fine examples of the motto "necessity is the mother of invention". We know through the artifacts collected by The Henry Ford that Ford himself certainly didn't seem to take offense by the modifications done to his automobiles. Ford Motor Company published the chapel story in 1922 in the "Fordson Farmer", and the horse groomer's story appeared in the September 1913 Ford Times. Ford used stories like these to advertise the Model T as a sturdy, versatile automobile changing ordinary Americans' lives beyond basic transportation, which continues to do that with collectors even today, even simple things like decorating Model T's for parades, as shown in this 1915 photo with the decorated automobile promoting a dry good store.



<https://www.thehenryford.org/artifact/43923>

If you've got an unusual or fun use for your Model T, or know someone who has, share it with us.

Going for a ride with Dad

by Bill Severn

Had to buy gas for the 1916 Model T the other day. Got the T out and warmed it up. It was nice outside and my three dogs were pestering me to take them along. SO, taking a chance that no one would want to jump out, I loaded them up. Off we went. My three girls really liked that Model T ride.



"Next thing, they will want to go to the T Party!"

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A GROUCHY OLD PERSON. THE TRUTH IS, ONCE YOU GET OLD, YOU STOP BEING POLITE AND START BEING HONEST.

Space City T's of Houston, TX - Useful URL Links

[Space City T's Videos](#)

[Flivver Flash Newsletters](#)

[Space City T's Photos & Videos Gallery](#)

[How to join the Space City T's of Houston](#)

[MTFCA Join or Renew](#)

[Useful Model T Ford URL Links](#)

To make a gift to support the Model T Museum, [click here](#)
or go here: www.MTFCA.com



CLUB MEETING MONTHLY SCHEDULE

March 8th - Zoom Only

April 12th - Face To Face (FTF)
at LifeBrook Church with
Zoom

Alternating Monthly Zoom
Only and FTF/Zoom
Thereafter



The Flivver Flash newsletter is published by the Space City T's of Houston, Texas to keep the Ford Model T membership and similar organizations aware of club activities and articles of interest to the Model T family. Permission is given to copy the contents, with proper credit, unless otherwise restricted or specified.

Texas T Party 2023

Wednesday October 18 - Saturday October 21

Rockport, Texas

PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR THE CURRENT INFO: [2023 Texas T Party web page](#)

2023 TEXAS T PARTY TOUR REGISTRATION

CLICK : [2023 Texas T Party Registration Form](#)

**PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM ON YOUR
COMPUTER BEFORE PRINTING IT OUT**

DON'T FORGET TO MAIL YOUR CHECK WITH THE APPLICATION

The address is at the bottom of the [Registration Form](#)

HOTEL INFORMATION

Two of the best hotels in Rockport have rooms available both with the same high quality and at the same rate of \$94 per night including breakfast: The Fairfield Inn and the Hampton Inn. (More expensive suites are available at the Fairfield if you wish.) The Fairfield has a business suite, so it is the base hotel. Only the Hampton Inn is pet friendly, with a small deposit. The hotels are about a half a mile apart. Both hotels are near gas stations and major grocery stores: HEB and Walmart. Lots of chain and independent restaurants are nearby, as well. **You will get the best service if you use the web sites to book your rooms. You will be sent a confirmation e-mail. *Reservation by phone is available from 9 AM - 5 PM, Monday through Friday only.***

Fairfield Inn & Suites (base hotel)
2950 Hwy 35 North Business
Rockport, Texas 78382
Phone :(361) 727-9007

CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR ROOM AT THE: [Fairfield Inn](#)

Hampton Inn Inn & Suites (pet friendly)
3677 Hwy 35 N Business
Rockport, TX 78382
Phone :(361) 727-2228

CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR ROOM AT THE: [Hampton Inn](#)

TOUR QUESTIONS

To ask a question by e-mail, click : [2023 Texas T Party Questions](#). To ask a question by telephone, text (preferably) or call Hugh Hemphill at (210) 394 0483. To ask a question about registration only, call the number provided at the bottom of the [Registration Form](#).

34th Annual Burton Cotton Gin Festival – 2023



Join us for the 34th Annual Burton Cotton Gin Festival on Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 10am to 6pm. Come out to Burton, home of the 1914 Burton Farmers Gin, and celebrate the [*34th Annual Burton Cotton Gin Festival*](#). This is a FREE, family friendly event featuring a day full of fun and history! The day begins with a parade through Burton and continues at the grounds of the Texas Cotton Gin Museum. Shop and eat in our Arts & Crafts Vendor Area, and Food Court. Watch Folklife skills demonstrations like Blacksmithing and butter churning, and spoon carving. Enjoy our Tractor, Engine, and Classic Cars on Display, and take part in fun Contests, and Games. Live Music begins at noon, entertainers to be announced soon. At 3 PM the Oldest Operating Cotton Gin in America will come to life, and a bale of cotton will be ginned. For more information on the great parts of festival either click below on the EVENTS menu and choose from Parade, Folk Life, Crafts, Food, Entertainment etc.

Thank you and see you soon!

EVENTS MENU

[*Antique Farm Equipment*](#)

[*Arts & Craft Booths*](#)

[*Folk Life*](#)

[*Entertainment*](#)

[*Parade*](#) *with classic cars, vintage tractors and more!*

[*Click here for a parade entry form.*](#)

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 Flivver 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 25th of the month preceding the month of publication. Emailing takes place the last week of the month. Annual club dues are \$25 per year.

2023 Space City Club Officers and Board Members

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| President | Dave Lucas | 281-388-0761 |
| Vice President | David Carter | 713-875-1049 |
| Secretary | Rosie Stokley | 832-444-9927 |
| Treasurer | Craig Neuman | 346-855-0544 |
| Board Member | David Veir | 713-823-2359 |
| Board Member | Jerry Smith | 281-455-9765 |
| Board Member | Anthony J. Marino | 281-482-4156 |

The FLIVVER FLASH

Anthony J. Marino
302 Torrey Court
League City, TX 77573
281-482-4156

email: modelt@spacecityts.org

website: www.spacecityts.org

Model T Parts Wanted

1926 4 1/2" x 21" tire to be used as a spare. Serviceable would be nice. I already have new tubes and liners.

Rim for 3 1/2" x 30" clincher tire to be used as a spare. Also, tire, tube, and liner for the same rim.

Please call or email:

Alex Pinyozy

281-772-7647

apinyoz@comcast.net



Ross Lilleker

979-218-4083

WWW.MRMODELT.COM

New Members Wanted

Please visit our [Space City T's of Houston Texas web site](#). If interested in becoming a member, please provide your name, address, mobile phone, & email, and make a \$25 check payable to the:

Space City T's

Please mail your [information form](#) and check to the Treasurer at:

Craig Neuman
2302 Lord Nelson Drive
Seabrook, TX 77586

A special "Thank You" to all club members who paid their 2023 dues!

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
Richmond, IN 47374-3034
Phone: 765-373-3106

Email: rachel@mtfca.com

\$50 annual dues includes six issues of the Vintage Ford Join or Renew at: [MTFCA Join or Renew](#)

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](#), [videos](#), or [links](#) to: topkick7@outlook.com

Please check your **e-mail** to see if
our **March 8, 2023** meeting is a
Zoom and/or a Demeris
BBQ/LifeBrook Church Meeting



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

located at
1702 West Loop North,
Suite A, Houston, TX 77008

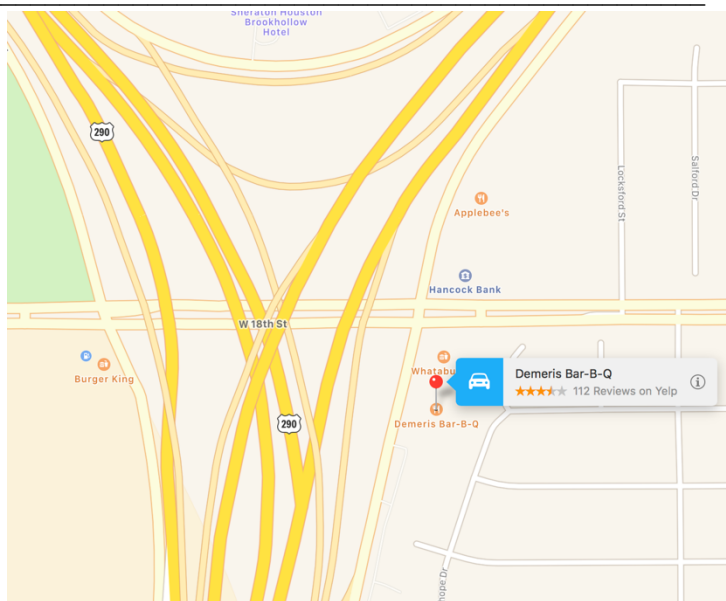


Then attend the
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Place:
Lifebrook 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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302 Torrey Court
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