

Beaudette Model T Bodies

I recently ran across this article while browsing the MTFCA Forum and thought our readers might enjoy this bit of information on one of the early suppliers of Model T bodies for the Ford Motor Company:

Oliver J. Beaudette entered the carriage and buggy business in 1891, and by the turn of the century was one of the city's largest carriage manufacturers. Their factory was located at the intersection of Walnut and Wesson Sts. on the south side of Pontiac and was managed by S.A. Seamens.

Beaudette experienced two fires, the first - in 1901 - disrupted business for a short time, but the second - in 1903 - destroyed the entire factory which at the time employed 180 hands. Damages exceeded \$75,000, but the factory was insured and a new one was built in its place and the firm returned to manufacturing sleighs, drays and carriages for Pontiac's growing population.

In 1909, Beaudette received their first contracts from the Ford Motor Co. to produce closed bodies for the Model T. They also built bodies for the Jackson Automobile Co. in Jackson, Michigan, but most of their output after 1910 went to Ford.

Some confusion surrounds Beaudette-bodied Model Ts as Ford sometimes referred to them as "Pontiac" bodies, however every Beaudette body featured a stamped body number on the floor boards with a "B" prefix.

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"T-Times" is the publication of the Three Rivers Model T Ford Club and is published monthly solely for its members and exchange with other antique automobile groups. Editorial copy and advertisements should be sent to: Editor, 218 NE A Street, College Place, WA 99324 by the 25th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue. Email: dpeters0258@gmail.com

The Three Rivers Model T Ford Club is a chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America. Membership is recommended and encouraged. Make membership requests to: MTFCA, P.O. Box 126, Centerville, IN 47330. Annual local club dues are \$20. Monthly meetings are held the third Thursday of the month, places to be announced in the newsletter prior.

2014 Officers

Club President	Gary Ellingson
Vice President	Jim Elenbaas
Treasurer	Mike Porter
Secretary	Lynda Carraher

Newsletter Editor Dale Peterson
dpeters0258@gmail.com

Board Members

1 Year – Jim Elenbaas
2 Year – Gary Ellingson
3 Year – Jim Langdon

Initially most of the Model T's bodies were supplied by Ford's existing auto body suppliers C.R. Wilson (1903) and Everitt Brothers (1908). O.J. Beaudette (1910), Kelsey-Herbert Co. (1910), American Body Co. (1911), Hayes Mfg. Co.(1911) Milburn Wagon Co. (1911) and Fisher Body Co.(1912), and the Kahler Mfg. Co. (1915). Regardless of their origin, all of the Model T's bodies were interchangeable, however the individual parts in a body would not necessarily fit a similar-looking body if it was made by a different manufacturer. Ford even built their own body plant in the mid-teens to help keep up with demand.

Most of Ford's body suppliers did not supply the Model T's fenders, with the exception of the Hayes Mfg. Co., who had supplied the Ford Motor Co. with fenders from day one. As Ford's needs increased, additional Hayes-owned plants supplied additional fenders as required. The J.W. Murray Mfg. Co. of Detroit and Ecorse, Michigan also supplied Ford with Model T fenders and other stamped-metal products such as hoods and frames. O.J. Beaudette and the American Top Co. of Jackson, Michigan supplied Ford with most of the Model T's convertible tops.

O.J. Beaudette supplied Ford with well over 2,000,000 bodies from 1910-1922 when the firm was purchased by Fisher Body Co.

In the early twenties, the Fisher Body Co. was looking to purchase additional plants located near existing General Motors plants, and found the huge 1,393,004 sq ft. Beaudette factory on their short list. So on July 20th, 1922 Fisher purchased the O.J. Beaudette Co., and commenced the manufacture of bodies for Chevrolet and Oakland automobiles. By the end of the year a new plant on the North side of the city was under construction just east of Baldwin Ave., adjacent to the Grand Trunk Western railroad tracks and the original Beaudette factory was torn down.

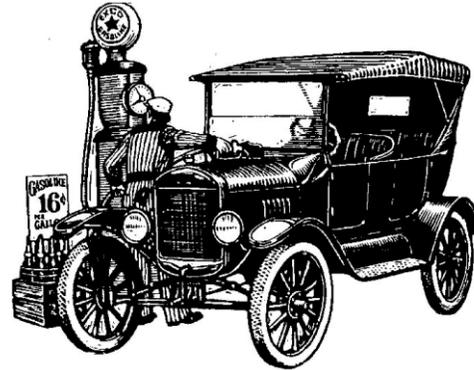
Oliver J. Beaudette and Edward M. Murphy, Walter M. Murphy's uncle, were founding members of Pontiac's St. Vincent DePaul Catholic church at 46408 Woodward Ave. The Beaudette residence is now an Oakland University fraternity house, and his son's house at 269 W. Huron St., which once housed the Pontiac YWCA, has been restored and remains a cornerstone of the city's historic Franklin Park district.

Birthdays in March

John Carrarher	March 8
Nancy Betts	March 15
Mike Porter	March 19
Jim Patterson	March 23

Anniversaries in March

Dan and Judy Danko	March 10
Raymond and Angela Lehrman	March 25



Coming Events

March 20	Regular Club Meeting 6 PM at Round Table Pizza, Clearwater Avenue, Kennewick
April 17	Regular Club Meeting 6 PM at Round Table Pizza, Clearwater Avenue, Kennewick
June 23-24	Hot Lake Springs Tour with Dale and Sharon Peterson
July 13-18	MTFCA 2014 National Tour, San Diego, California
July 17	Club Meeting and Barbecue at the home of Jim and Sandi Elenbaas in Granger at 1PM
Sept. 8-10	Over the Wena Trail Tour with Gary and Sandy Ellingson

Three Rivers Model T Ford Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2014

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Ellingson at 6:30 p.m. at Round Table Pizza in Kennewick, Washington. Fifteen members were present.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Porter reported that \$120 in dues have been paid this month, bringing the balance on hand to \$1,449.03. Members voted to accept Treasurer's Report as presented.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Minutes of the January meeting were available for member review and also were published in the Newsletter. Mike Porter moved to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter. Larry Coder seconded; motion passed.

Library: Dale Peterson reported no activity in the Club Library.

Sunshine Committee: Gary noted that the club does not currently have a Sunshine Committee. Dale said members could contact him to have Sunshine items printed in the Newsletter.

Progress Reports: Gary says he has a rear end for his pickup. An engine is next and then "we'll see what we've got". Dale says he's waiting for 65 degree weather to paint his '26.

Old Business:

- The club roster was passed around and members were asked to make any necessary corrections to their listings.
- The Tour Calendar and Meeting Program sheets were also passed around and members were asked to indicate if they wanted to lead a tour or present a program at the meeting.
- Dale Peterson asked if a Monday-Tuesday tour would be acceptable for the June "Father's Day" tour to Hot Lake Springs. The dates of June 23-24 were proposed. He noted that the resort has 13 rooms available at the \$160 - \$180 range and said there may be some two-bedroom suites available if members wanted to share lodging and split the cost. The resort has breakfast available but the Monday evening meal would be held offsite.
- Dale also reminded members to send him information for Newsletter articles.

New Business

- Gary asked members if we should consider doing advertising to get the word out about the club and its activities. Dale suggested we have flyers available to hand out at a club car show in early summer at a public park. Mary Fraser suggested that we combine some club activities with other public events to increase visibility. Mike Porter noted there is a show in early May in downtown Kennewick. There is an entry fee for cars to be displayed. Marlene Coder passed around a newspaper article regarding a fundraising show in Sunnyside on March 29. Lynda Carraher said she would look into a repeat appearance at Hermiston's Lavender Festival.
- Jim Elenbaas said he and Sandi would like to host a barbecue at his home in Granger for the club's July meeting. He suggested we schedule it for the regular third Thursday date but change the time to 1 p.m. Jim said he and Sandi would provide all the food rather than planning a potluck event but asked that the club reimburse him for the cost of the main dish meat.
- Dean Stokes passed around a letter from the Model T Ford Club of America, stating that each MTFCA chapter must re-qualify with National each year by providing rosters and MTFCA numbers. All officers and 50% of the general membership must be members of MTFCA in order for the chapter to be officially recognized. Lynda will respond to the request prior to the February 28 deadline and will also ask MTFCA to use the club's Post Office Box for all official mailings rather than using the street address of members who may no longer be club officers.
- Members watched a video of Jim Elenbaas and his Model T "Snowster". The video can also be viewed online at the Model T Forum site, <http://www.magisto.com/album/video/eXI4DQYARAKfDnIFBQ>

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on March 20 at the Round Table Pizza in Kennewick.

Adjournment: Dale Peterson moved and Larry Coder seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Program: Following the meeting, Dale showed the humorous video, "What Every Woman Should Know About an Automobile", filmed at the Reynolds Car Museum in Edmonton, Alberta, and based on a 1932 manual for women drivers.

2014 Monthly Meeting Program

Month	Name	Program
March	Dale Peterson	Headlight lens collection
April	Gary Ellingson	Slides of Model T activity in the 60s and 70s
May		
June		
July	Jim Elenbaas	Show & Tell
August		
September		
October		
November		
December	Christmas Party	No Program

Joe Kuhns – video on Las Vegas Car Museum – no month selected

2014 Tour Calendar

Month	Name	Tour
March		
April		
May		
June 23-24	Dale Peterson	Father's Day Tour to LaGrande (Hot Lake Springs, Oregon - David Manuel gallery & restored Hot Lake Springs Hotel)
July 17	Jim & Sandi Elenbaas	Barbecue at their home in Granger; this will be the July chapter meeting.
August		
September 8-10	Gary Ellingson	Over the Wenas Trail
October		
November		
December	Christmas Party; no tour	

Ideas wanted for Monthly meeting programs and tours for this year, events for an afternoon, a day, or longer. Let Lynda know or bring it up at our meeting and we will include it in the calendar.