
T TIMES

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President's Message

by Larry Coder

Have you ever had a dream you could not get out of your mind, one that haunts you and monopolizes your every thought? I did just that! I am not sure I should refer to it as a dream but rather a nightmare instead: because I see so many similarities to this nasty dream and to the reality of today's facts. You see, I dreamed our precious Model T club disbanded. I have been grieving the fact that this could easily be our fate due to lack of members and our members wanting to keep us together. This dreamed disbandment seemed to start slowly with members losing interest in our activities and not caring to attend the monthly meetings and progressed to a total disbandment with the intent to meet occasionally for a day's drive. Well, that day's drive never came about.

I love our club: I love what it stands for: I love going places in our Model T's that I might not traverse alone, and I love its members, each and

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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.

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2013 Officers

Club President Larry Coder
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Vice President Jim Elenbaas
Treasurer Mike Porter
Secretary Dale Peterson

Newsletter Editor Dale Peterson
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Board Members
1 Year -- Fred Fraser
2 Year -- Jim Elenbaas
3 Year -- Gary Ellingson

every one of you.

Please help me to NOT let this nasty dream become a reality. We MUST come up with a higher membership and encourage attending meetings. Meetings are a glue that holds us together. I know this for a fact as I missed 2 meetings in 3 months this summer and felt I had lost touch with the group completely.

Maybe we need to re- think participating in a car show? Run an ad in a newspaper? Put on a photo shoot? Or take part in a parade? Anything to let the population know we are here. If none of these options appeal to you, please feel free to voice your own. I think our club could be in danger and am asking for your help. □

Ford Motor Company History - Fast Facts

- 1908 - The first 1909 Model T was built at Ford's Piquette Ave. Plant
- 1909 - The Model T came in first place in the New York to Seattle race, 4100 miles in 22 days and 55 minutes averaging 7.75 mph. It was later disqualified for an engine change in Weiser, Idaho, but Henry had already capitalized on the publicity.
- 1910 - Model T production moved to Ford's Highland Park Assembly Plant, also known as the 'Crystal Palace' because of the vast expanse of windows.
- 1913 - Ford implements the moving assembly line at its Highland Park Assembly Plant, reducing chassis build time from 14 hours per car to just 1.5 hours.
- 1914 - Henry Ford is alleged to have proclaimed, "You can have any color you want, as long as it's black." From 1914 to 1925 the Model T was only available in black.
- 1917 - The 2 millionth Model T Ford rolled off the line on June 14th.
- 1919 - Ford introduced an electric starter for the Model T which meant owners no longer had to crank the engine to start it.
- 1921 - The 5 millionth Model T Ford rolled off the line on May 28th.

- 1924 - The 10 millionth Model T Ford rolled off the line on June 4th. Famed Ford racing driver Frank Kulick drove a Model T from New York to San Francisco on the Lincoln Highway, the only coast-to-coast highway at the time.
- 1925 - The Ford Model T Runabout with a pickup body was introduced, the first Ford factory installed pickup bed in history.
- 1927 - After 19 years and more than 15 million vehicles, Ford Model T production ended on May 26th
- 1999 - On December 18th, the Ford Model T was named 'Car of the Century' by a panel of 133 automotive journalists and experts who began with a list of 700 candidates in 1996 and sequentially narrowed the nominees through seven rounds of balloting over three years. □

Birthdays in November

- Doris Burma 11/1**
Dave Ottem 11/9
Joan Dianne 11/13
Hattie Huetson 11/19
Dale Peterson 11/19

Anniversaries in November

- John and Linda Carraher 11/25**

Coming Events

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| November 21 | Monthly meeting at Round Table Pizza, 3300 W Clearwater Avenue in Kennewick |
| December 15 | Annual Christmas Party 1 PM at Old Country Buffet in Columbia Center Mall, Kennewick |
| January 16 | Annual Dinner Meeting and Officer Installation |

Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2013

The October meeting of the Three Rivers Model T Ford Club took place at Round Table Pizza in Kennewick at 6:00 PM. President Larry Coder called the meeting to order and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Mike Porter who reported no changes in money in or out for the past month.

Secretary's Report was presented by Dale Peterson, with the reading of last month's minutes. It was noted an error in the October newsletter with trouble truck driver being listed as Dave Ottem. Credit and thanks should have gone to Gordy and . Dave and Lou Ottem were along for the tour, driving their original condition 1959 Jeep CJ.

Old Business

The club library under the care of Gary Ellingson received a gift of books from Fred Fraser. These received a good deal of attention at the end of the meeting.

A report on the Stokes tour was given, all attending enjoyed driving the cars, eating a lot of good food and just a lot of friendly times together at the Stokes Cabin above Natchez. The only casualty was the crank shaft in Dean's touring.

New Business

Nominating Committee. It is time for election of new officers for 2014. Marlene Coder and Dale Peterson have agreed to form the nominating committee to put forth a slate of officers to vote on at the December meeting.

Christmas Party. It was discussed and decided by those present to have our Christmas Party December 15 at the Old Country Buffet. Mary Fraser will make the calls to reserve the room with

alternate dates of Dec 8 or Dec 1 if the room is not available. She will report to us at the next meeting.

As of the writing of this newsletter, Mary has reserved the meeting room at the Old Country Buffet in the Columbia Center for December 15 from 1-3 PM. They only reserve the room for two hour blocks, so we are asking everyone to plan to arrive at 12:45 so that we can get checked in and fill our plates by 1:00. At the November meeting we will be discussing the party and planned activities. The gift exchange has always been popular and it is suggested we limit the gifts to \$20 or less. All planning to participate in the exchange should plan to bring a gift. Sharon and Mary will be in charge of decorating. Plan to attend the next meeting so we can plan the rest of the activities.

Club Status. Our dwindling numbers was the subject of discussion next. It was brought up that the younger generations are not as interested in clubs and also are more interested in hot rods and newer vehicles that travel faster and farther. One suggestion for increasing interest was conducting meetings with activities during the warmer times of the year. Another suggestion was to consider activities to involve non-members and kids. This will be further discussed in future meetings. Be sure to bring your ideas to the future meetings. Does anyone know of people that have purchased former members cars that we could contact and invite to join?

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting until next time, also at the Round table Pizza, East Clearwater Ave, Kennewick at 6:00 PM. □

Lizzy Goes to Hollywood

By Dale Peterson

From the beginning, of motion pictures, the Model T was a natural. The quirky characteristics of the car were well known by the time the silent movies were looking for funny situations to film. Laurel and Hardy are among the most well-known to utilize Lizzy in their humor as can be seen in a slap stick like film, "Two Tars." When movies with sound came along, they continued their antics with films such as "One Good Turn." There are 106 films featuring this duo at laurelandhardyfilms.com.

Laurel and Hardy were not the only ones to make fun with the Model T, either. Charlie Chapin made humorous use of the T in "A Day's Pleasure," and several others with him can be found on YouTube.

Buster Keaton is featured with Lizzy in several silent, as can be seen in "The Blacksmith" and "One Week" as examples. I also found these on YouTube, but expect they can be found on many old movie sites. And who could forget Harold Lloyd with his pride and joy Model T roadster as he backs out the end of the garage and then fumbles his way to his wedding.



For a good laugh, you could spend endless hours viewing the many Keystone Cops films from this silent era.

But, we don't need to stay in the old silent or even black and white eras to enjoy seeing Lizzy on the silver screen. One of my favorite movies of all time is Gandhi, in which the British officers arrive in an early Model T touring to deal with the peaceful demonstration. For a lighter take on history (and take history with a grain of salt) watch "Charge of the Model T's" set in the era of the Spanish American War.

Sometimes we get that "boring" word when the grandkids are invited to see some of these old classics. If you find yourself in this situation, try "Young Indiana Jones." There is plenty of adventure, and maybe a little history, as young Henry Jones travels around the world with his parents, a young slave and private tutor/teacher.

This month there is a new film based on the desire of a family to provide a special gift for their father. The previews feature a 1926 Fordor Model T and a family struggling to have a Christmas with limited resources. This should at least be a little more down to earth story compared to the previous 2 films presented here. The name of this film is "Christmas for One Dollar." It seems to be along the type presented by the Christian film supplier Feature Films for Families.

Whatever your appetite for viewing entertainment, I hope our club members find time to curl up in front of a warm fireplace this winter and enjoy a good film with the object of our favorite hobby, that amazing Model T Ford. □



Me and the Model T by Bill Sheller

I had the distinct pleasure and good fortune, in 2009, to witness history in the re-making. I'm speaking about the 100th anniversary of the New York to Seattle cross country race for the opening of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition and the capture of the Guggenheim Trophy, which included \$3500.00 in prize money to the winner. Now I know all you good Model T folks are completely aware of this event, so I won't bore you with a history lesson here, other than to tell you that 100 years after the first race, a Model T Ford won this one as well!

It was personally very important for me to be in some small way a part of this historical event, as my Grandfather, Roscoe Sheller witnessed the original event coming through Sunnyside, Washington in 1909 as a young man of 20. Seeing Model T Ford #2 coming across the sagebrush covered valley and pulling to a stop right in front of him inspired him to "somehow" become a part of the fledgling automobile business. That's a story you are probably aware with as well.

At any rate, I took "Roscoe" my Sheller Motor Company replica C-Cab TT to Pendleton, Oregon to greet the weary traveler's as they pulled into town for the night. I didn't want to miss a single T, so I arrived at the Holiday Inn around noon. The "luggage" vehicle was already there and the first Model T showed up sometime after 1:00 pm. 55 Model T's left city hall in New York City on June 14th and by late afternoon July 7th 52 of them showed up in Pendleton. As I spent the afternoon greeting and chatting with this wonderful group of Model T-er's, I couldn't help being mind "boggled" by their huge accomplishment in crossing the country. Most of these Model T's were just as Henry built them. No distributor's, ruckstell rear ends, rocky mountain brakes, etc. Just plain old stock Model T Fords. In some very small way, I now knew what my Grandfather must have felt when he experienced it 100 years earlier. Believe it or not I was very moved by it. My gosh, what an adventure these folks have experienced even though they had the advantage of roads!

You know, I truly believe that the Model T Ford will return to you the very most for you investment ... only if you drive it! I have completely enjoyed driving that old worn out Model T from here to there time and time again. That's why I've always been an advocate of long distance Model T trips. I know I've worn some of you out on that feature, but ... I'll never tire of it because; Henry built a darn good car ... Yes he did!

Three Rivers Model T Ford Club
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