

THE TENNESSEE T'S



Editor: Carolyn Williams

January 2006

Editors note:

Larry and I wish for each of you a Happy and Healthy 2006.

Teresa Williams has volunteered to be the Newsletter editor for the Tennessee T's. Thanks Teresa. I know you will do a great job.

The Newsletter is one way our Tennessee T's members stay in touch. We have fifty-five members scattered across Tennessee and nine other states making regular meetings almost impossible. The Newsletter allows us to share in each others joyous occasions, to feel for each other in time of sickness and loss of loved ones and to let us know when we need to send up a special prayer. It helps keep us all connected as we enjoy this wonderful Model T hobby.

Without YOU furnishing the editor the news it would not be possible to publish a newsletter. You have sent me reports on tours, technical articles, pictures of new purchases and projects, listed parts for sale, parts needed, cars for sale or cars wanted, humorous articles, etc.

I have enjoyed my time as editor and thank you for your help and support. Please continue with the same support for Teresa.

Carolyn

Tennessee T's enjoying a great Christmas dinner.



RETIREMENT

By: William Johnson

As Model T enthusiasts, all of you know that you might discover most anything in old barns, old garages and sheds. But I found an unmolested restored to original without any aftermarket accessories, 1926 Ford Model T Fodor Sedan, with a red bow on the radiator in my brand new shop. I had not put the first item in it. On Wednesday, December 21st, the owner of the company that I have been working for since May of 1972 wanted to go see our house that we had just bought and are still in the process of renovating. I had just had the 24' by 32' shop built. As I was unlocking the house I noticed 3 or 4 more vehicles that I recognized pulling in the driveway behind us, but they didn't want to see the house—they wanted to see my new shop and when I opened the door—there it was—a retirement gift. Was I surprised! It seems that while Pat and I were in MS visiting my favorite mother-in-law, my boss had gotten with our son, Kerry, which many of you have met, and they rolled the T off the trailer into my shop on the Sunday before Christmas. Kerry had managed to keep me away from the shop by going by and locking up the house every evening after the workers left until they could present it to me on Wednesday after our company Christmas party. So you never know what might be behind closed doors. I am anxious to make a tour in it.



William's 1926 green with black fenders 4 door sedan

PROJECTS

By: Darrel Carter

With Gary Tillstroms's help, I have acquired a 1926-27 rear end to rebuild for my Ruckstell rear axle. Progress had been a little slow because I broke my leg while working on a rain gutter. Hopefully, I'll be back in operation by February.



(The Model T rear end is on the left and the high speed rear end is on the right)

1921 RECEIVING TLC

By: Linda Eden

Bill and I have hauled a 1921 we purchased in Oklahoma out of storage. It has been stored at our daughters house. Bill has the head off and the poor thing has no interior, but it is in better shape than either of us remembered. It doesn't have a top, but the body metal is good and it just needs a little TLC. It is a cute little car.

PARTS WANTED/PARTS FOR SALE

Ralph Williams is in need of a 26-27 front engine mount.

RULES OF LIFE

You only need two tools: WD-40 and Duct Tape.

If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40.

If it shouldn't move and does, use the Duct Tape.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2005 TENNESSEE T'S CHAPTER MEETING

The Tennessee T's met for their annual Christmas meeting and party December 3, 2005 at Mariah Church in Waverly with thirty seven members present.

President Larry Williams called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Williams recognized members who were attending their first meeting. They were Bill and Judy Markey, Max Larson, Glenn and Jo Ann Weakley and Keith and Penny Ellis. He also recognized Nick and Elke Longworth as attending the first time in the middle Tennessee area.

A reading of the minutes of the June business meeting was called for and on a motion by Bill Markey and a second by George Ross the minutes were accepted as published in the July newsletter.

Sue Cook, treasurer reported that on December 6, 2004 the chapter had a balance of \$1,643.33. Deposits for the year totaled \$980.00 with expenditures of \$788.00 leaving a balance on December 3, 2005 of \$1,834.61.

It was noted by Williams that many of our members had lost family members over the year and also that many members had had serious illness and that the thoughts and prayers of all club members were with the ones not able to attend.

It was reported that the club had added eight new members during the year bringing the total membership to fifty-five members. On a recap of 2005 activities it was determined that Tennessee T's members had indeed been out and about all year attending many tours Carolyn Williams gave a report on the 2005 Natchez Trace tour and gave the dates for the 2006 tour as October 15-21. Carolyn announced that after the next newsletter Teresa Williams will take over as Newsletter editor and asked that the membership support Teresa by sending her news articles.

Ken Swan was asked to speak on tours he was considering for 2006. Ken reported he had been in contact with the Smokey Mountain T's about having a joint tour in 2006. He reported he had also contacted French Camp about an overnight tour to their facility to visit their observatory. He also encouraged all the membership to consider a day, overnight or weekend tour. He observed that with a membership of fifty-five we could have an outing once a week for a year. Charlie Swann and Jerry Waller agreed to check on tour routes in their areas. Ralph and Teresa Williams announced they were planning a day drive in Northern MS. for sometime in the spring. Mac Flowers announced the Blue Suede Cruise In would be in Tupelo the last weekend in April.

A decision on a location for the 2006 Christmas meeting was postponed until later. William Johnson asked to make a special presentation to Charles Corlew. Charles was presented with a beautiful duct tape billfold complete with \$1.00 enclosed. Larry related the story of Charles driving 160 miles on an LBL tour with a tire wrapped in duct tape. The floor was opened for election of officers for the next term. Gary Curtis made a motion to reelect the same slate of officers by acclamation. Motion was seconded by Ann Corlew. After discussion and affirming that all officers were willing to serve another term the motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

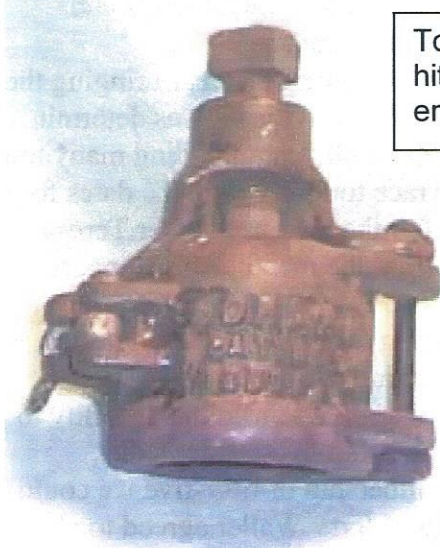
The business meeting was adjourned and everyone enjoyed a wonderful pot luck dinner provided by all the ladies of the chapter. Afterwards the group enjoyed gift swapping with a game of "Dirty Santa."

“Model T Trailer Hitch Ball Cover”

I must confess, I really enjoy looking on ebay for Model T parts. I find one can often locate what you're looking for and on heavy items, for much less than what you would pay at swap meets. This is because folks don't want to ship the items.

I have heard many say that ebay drives up the cost of parts but I'm not sure I believe that. Worth is always determined by the buyer and at the time of sale. At least it was worth it to them.

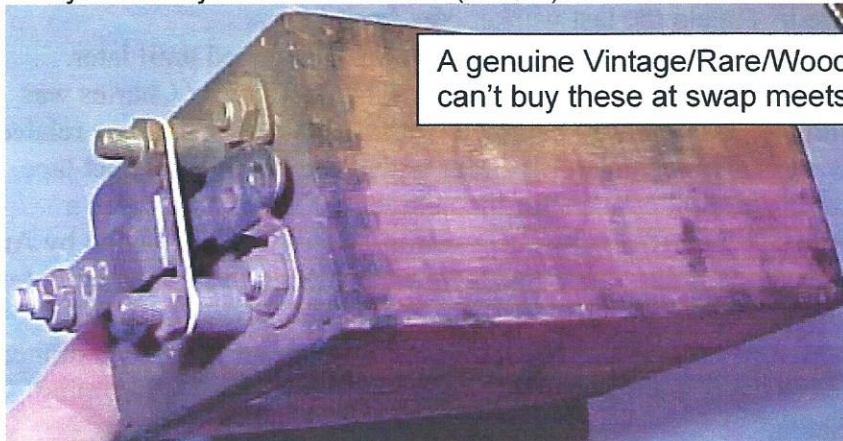
I have found that if you limit your search to ebay motors, you're messing up big time. Model T parts are found all over ebay and in various categories. For instance, I recently found a “Model T Trailer Hitch Ball Cover” in the lawn and garden tools section. I don't have a trailer hitch but I do intend to use it to pull wire wheel hubs with. Wire wheel hub pullers on the other hand are made from “Unobtainium” and command top \$ at swap meets (if you can find one). They only bring about \$20 when identified as “Hitch Ball Covers” however.



To me, this is a hub puller. To the seller, it was a hitch ball cover. I didn't feel it was my place to email them the correction.



You would be amazed at how things are misidentified. Type in “*Wooden Battery*” and you'll likely find one of these (for \$ 1).



A genuine Vintage/Rare/Wooden Battery! One can't buy these at swap meets for \$1.

Good luck in your searching and bidding.

Gary

Two Minute Mile

by Ken Swan as told to Joyce Swan

“The more you drive a T, the better it will run.” This is a statement I have made in many postings on the MTFCA as well as MTFCI websites. I have tried to instill this philosophy in many newbies to the T world in an effort to encourage them to really immerse their interest in the fabled Model T. Once this idea has been accepted and initiated, one will almost certainly want to know how many miles (they) have actually driven in a year’s time. It is a natural progression.

There are many ways to log miles driven and each owner should develop his own technique. It can be as sophisticated as a computer log system or as simple as a pocket notebook. Whatever the method, you will find it an interesting as well as important feature of owning and maintaining the T. We should point out there are very valid reasons for keeping up with mileage of the T. For example, oil changes should be done on a timely and periodic basis because the Model T, as a general rule, has no filtering system for the lubricants, therefore, oil changes should occur much more frequently than your modern chariot. Another bit of food for thought would be records for insurance purpose. In the event of a dispute on a loss claim, logged mileage could be an important issue toward a favorable settlement. These are just two issues that come to mind.

The question will arise of how on earth to conveniently track and monitor mileage without an odometer, which is the case on most model T’s. It is a little easier to accomplish accountability for those cars that do have workable and accurate odometers, but for the vast majority of Model T’s such a luxury is nonexistent. Fortunately, in recent years, modern accessories have surfaced to offer remedies to the mileage questions. Modern electronic odometers, motorcycle or bicycle odometer adaptations, and GPS electronic devices may now be purchased. Absent any of these amenities, there is still a fairly accurate method that everyone can use providing a clock is available—the two minute mile rule. After years of driving, both short and long distance trips, we have found the rather simplistic two-minute mile rule to be almost irrefutable.

An amazing phenomenon will develop once distance traveled by the clock is practiced. One will be able to pick a known destination in mileage and state with confidence the arrival time within a very narrow time frame. For example, if the distance to be traveled is 100 miles, 3 hours will be a very accurate estimation; for 200 miles you can go to the bank on 6 hours, and this will allow time for pit stops, refueling, and minor emergencies. As one develops the drive by the face of the clock technique, one will be able to literally drive across the country on an estimated schedule, just about as accurately as with any sophisticated odometer. The secret is to put this theory into practice because the more you drive a T, the better it will run, thus reliability will make the trip more enjoyable and timely.

WHO IS THIS MYSTERY MAN

Some people in the club have had their T's a very long time. The first picture of this mystery person was taken with his two sisters in 1954. The second is in 1958, taken while leaving work with a friend from Caterpillar Tractor Co. This 1915 Model T has been on the Trace five times. The 3rd picture is a 1927 restored for a customer



IF MY BODY WERE A CAR

Sent in by Marge Krull

If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull, but that's not the worst of it.

My fenders are too wide to be considered stylish. They were once as sleek as a little MG; now they look like an old Buick. My seat cushions have split open at the seams, My seats are sagging. Seat belts? I gave up all belts when Krispy Kremes opened a shop in my neighborhood.!

Air bags! Forget it. The only bags I have these days are under my eyes. Not counting the saddlebags, of course. I have soooo many miles on my odometer. Sure, I've been many places and seen many things, but when's the last time an appraiser factored life experiences against depreciation?

My headlights are out of focus and it is especially hard to see things up close. My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather.

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins. It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed.

My fuel rate burns inefficiently. But here's the worst of it – almost every time I sneeze, cough or sputter – my radiator leaks!!!!

1948 FARMALL RESTORATION

By: Bryan Nelson

I have completed the oak side boards for my pickup, but have not had a chance to get a good outdoor photo of them. I've started a new project....I bought a 1948 Farmall Cub tractor to restore. It's not in too bad a shape. The engine runs great and the sheet metal is good. Don't give up on us trying to scout out a back road trip over this way.



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY

Ralph Williams reminded me that Mr. Hall was 92 years young on December 26th and is still driving his T and will be ready for the day drive in MS in May. Happy Birthday Mr. Hall from all the Tennessee T's.

Lee Mabry.....8th
Annette Tillstrom.....17th
Margaret Harris.....23rd
Bob Harris.....27th
Tom Rowe.....25th
Barbara Wagner.....30th
Bonnie Ohlrogge.....31st

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Ewell & Gloria Hall.....17th
Charles & Jana Swann.....20th

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

Tommy Kuntz.....4th
Gloria Hall.....10th
Gary Tillstrom.....10th
Charles Wagner.....15th
Max Larson.....18th
Ann Carter.....23rd
Bud Scudder.....28th

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Waldo & Sharon Emerson....3rd
Julian & Jane Sides.....16th
Bryan & Kathe Nelson.....28th

TOURS

Ralph and Teresa are planning a day tourtempting moment. in northern MS sometime in May. They are still working on details but will let us know as soon as everything is confirmed.

Have not had any report from Swann, Swan, Waller and Ellis but feel sure that everything is on go for some great touring this spring.

We had a report from Max Larson, a VERY GOOD friend of Bill and Judy Markey that they were planning a fantastic tour. Here are the details that Max furnished to us.

KEY LARGO, FL TOUR

Bill and Judy Markey will be in Key Largo the 15th of January to plan a Model T Tour. They said it would be a poker run tour lasting 5 days and limited to 150 cars. Preliminary planning has day one letting the compass settle by staying in Key Largo with a ½ day trip on a glass bottom boat ride thru John Pennycamp park and the famous reef. Optional gambling ship at night. Day two would be down to Tavineer to bird life rescue station, then on to Islamorada for the show at Sea World – where everyone gets to ride the dolphin, waterfront dining and spending the night at Marathon. Day three on to Key West to Slopy Joes and Hog Breath Saloon. Day four recovery from Slopy Joes chile and a trip to the Aquadic Aquarium. Day five would be a seaplane trip to the Dry Tourtuges. Box lunches would be provided. Day six back to Key Largo to see who has the best poker hand. First prize \$500.00. For more information check with Bill or Judy.

GENTLE THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

Did you ever notice when you put the 2 words "The" and "IRS" together it spells "Theirs"

GET WELL WISHES

Jack Van Bruggen
Pat Asher
Ann Corlew
Mary Helen & Don Meadows
Larry Harris family
Don Hiner
Frances Curtis's mom
Linda Eden's mom and brother

A FEW HOUSE KEEPING ITEMS

Most dues are in already but if you have not sent yours they are due.
\$15.00 payable to Tennessee T's
Mail to: Carolyn Williams
235 Mariah Church Lane
Waverly, Tennessee 37185

If you have a new email address please send it to me as I will be compiling a new membership and mailing it out to you soon. Some of you have sent me new email addresses but things have been a little scattered around here so please send it again.
Send new additions to your Model T stables.

Also, if you think I may not have your International or American club numbers please send those. It's time to send in our reports to both clubs.

Birthday and Anniversaries. Do I have yours?

Mailings for the Natchez Trace Tour have been mailed. If you did not receive one and want to go this year please let me know and I will get one in the mail to you. If you did get one and are not going to be able to go this year share the information with someone else.

PRESIDENTS NOTE:

I would like to say thank you to the club membership for electing me and the other club officers to serve for another term. We will strive to be worthy of your confidence. Our goal will be to assist you to help the Tennessee T's Chapter to continue to grow and be a fun organization to be a part of.

To follow up on the discussion led by Ken Swan at the Christmas meeting I want to add my encouragement to all members to plan drives from one or two cars on a Sunday afternoon to as many as are able to join in. We are so scattered that it is not possible for all of us to get together at any one time but one or more cars makes a tour.

Carolyn and I are still working on a time for a weekend in the Waverly area. I would like to add my thanks to Teresa Williams for volunteering to be our Newsletter editor.

Some projects that Carolyn failed to mention are the rebuild of our engine after the broken crank in Canada. I think she wants to forget about that.

Gary Curtis is still working on his 26 and will have it on the road in time for spring time touring.

Lynn Cook is always working to improve the Model T. We'll have to wait and see what comes out of his basement this spring.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you on the road off and on during the year. *Larry*

