



## The officers of The Tennessee T's

Secretary-Treasurer- Anita Owen



President- Gary Tillstrom



Greetings T,

It has been a tough start to the year for the club with the loss of two wonderful men. Both Lynn Cook and Butch Mercer will be deeply missed. Over the years as I got to know them both I realized that they each had accomplished a great deal in their lifetime. Many of you know that I love to talk airplanes in addition to model T's and both Lynn and Butch had each owned and flown various models for years. They both spoke model T, tractors, machine tools etc., and enjoyed the club a great deal. The loss of each has left large voids in our club as well as their families, Our hearts go out to Sue and her family and also Butch's family and friends.

On a much lighter note, the tour that was just held in Waverly was very well attended. Many members helped to lay it out and a special thanks to the Williams, Cook's, Allison's, and Ross's for the planning that went into a wonderful weekend. If you didn't make it you missed out on perfect roads, perfect weather, perfect places to eat, and overall a perfect weekend. We had new members attend for their first tour and I believe everyone enjoyed themselves. One new member was heard to have asked, "where is the tour next week?"

There is another tour in the planning stages and the date along with host hotel will be sent out when finalized. We are looking at West TN the first part of September. Of course there is always the tour in your neighborhood that we haven't heard about yet. Let us know when and where to show up, we'll see you down the road. Stay safe. Gary

### Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance -- 12-14-13	3412.58
Deposits -- 12-14-13 / 4-23-14	495.00
SUB TOTAL	3907.58
Expenditures -- 12-14-13 / 4-23-14	
Ham & Centerpiece for Christmas Party	65.67
Bank Account Checks	19.42
Club Expenses	
Printing of Newsletter for members w/o emails	85.91
Postage to mail newsletter	26.36
Donation to St. Jude -- Lynn Cook	100.00
SUB TOTAL	297.36
Bank Balance -- 4-23-14	3610.22

### PHOTO FROM THE PAST



Larry & Carolyn Williams

**Herbert "Lynn" Cook**

Age 83, Born 1931

Hometown: New Johnsonville, TN

Wife: Sue

Passed away Saturday, April 5, 2014

Tennessee T's Charter member since 1998



**Walter Cecil "Butch" Mercer**

Age 75, Born 1939

Hometown: Thaxton, Ms

Passed away Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Tennessee T's member since 2008



## MODEL TS AND IMMORTALITY

by  
Ken Swan

In very recent years, THE TENNESSEE T'S MODEL T CLUB members have experienced the loss of several comrades because of deaths. Within the last year or so we have experienced the passing of three classic gentlemen; Gary Curtis, Lynn Cook, and Walter (Butch) Mercer. In one week alone this month, we laid to rest two members; events that have shaken the soul and spirit of this mournful writer. We all were bound by common threads, none of the least being our Christian faith, regional southern births, and the owning of the indomitable Model T Ford. A bit of irony to this saga in the lives of these stalwart gentlemen is they were born, raised, and deceased within the duration of the Model T's they owned.

I first met Gary and Frances several years ago shortly after they joined the Club. I found out that he was not only an educator just as my lovely Model T co-owner and T driver, Dr. Joyce Swan, but he also was involved in the same industry as I was after he retired from his education career. Unfortunately we never met on the commonly tropped commercial paths and trails. I always appreciated his dedication in the use, stewardship, and preservation of his Model Ts. It was abundantly clear that he had a love of the T and the pleasure the car provided to both Frances and him. Gary and Frances wisely saw to it that the pristinely restored Model T that was present in their lives was placed into the hands of loving and caring owners. I applaud their decision.

Lynn Cook and I met somewhere outside, back of a T garage near the O.K. garage corral with wrenches drawn and oil smokin' from our exhaust pipes. He had just acquired a brass T he discovered in Alaska (yes, Alaska and he must have driven past 50,000 Model Ts to find it!). He obviously had done a lot of research and study on the idiosyncrasies and nuances of Henry's baby because he began to spiel off data, facts, and figures that made my head swivel as done in cartoons. We didn't always agree but I never attempted to assuage his convictions. I learned over the past 15 years to appreciate his machinery dexterity, mechanical skills, and technical expertise. I hope he enjoyed my company as much as I did his.

There is a fascinating episode in the life and times of Ms. Sue and Bro Lynn in which Dr. J and I had a small residual part to play some years after the original fact had occurred. First I must point out that when Mississippi was Mississippi in the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a couple could get married so long as the marrying official got paid; i.e., judge, preacher, justice of the peace, etc. , and recorded the occasion at the courthouse. There were no laws on minimum age for male or female participants (I suppose both willing partners had to be out-of-diapers and weaned). Consequently matrimonial inspired couples from the surrounding states would go to Mississippi and get married on a moment's notice. Please keep in mind that roads in those days were such that folks nowadays would be horrified to even contemplate driving the 300 mile round trip to Corinth, MS.

Apparently, two young lovers from the northern part of middle Tennessee chose to take advantage of the small loop-hole in the laws and decided to elope...elope they did. This scheme was made possible with the prospective bride making the monumental decision to skip the first day of school ...she was only 15! The groom was a few years older and much more mature (sure...sure!).

Arriving at the Alcorn County Courthouse, the love stricken couple couldn't find the judge, but Sir Lynn did find a 50 cent coin on the courthouse steps which boosted the couple's monetary coffer to \$3.00 instead of the original \$2.50 with which they had started that morning. If my story is correct, they found

the judge at his usual respite across the street drinking coffee at Borrum's Drug Store. He married the pair forthwith in the courthouse! Deed accomplished, Lynn asked the judge how much would the cost be. In reply the judge placed his hand gently on Lynn's shoulder and suggested, "Son, you just pay me what you think the little lady is worth." At that point Lynn jammed his hand into his otherwise empty pocket and discovered the 50 cent coin and handed it to the judge. The judge looked a little confused and calmly responded to Lynn, "Son, I usually get a little bit more than that" I believe that Lynn's answer was, "Sir, that's all I got!" When Joyce asked Sue what happened when she returned home, Sue's confession with an impish twinkle in her eye was "***It wasn't pretty!***"

Fast forward a few years and several Cook young'uns later, Joyce and I were sponsoring a local Model T tour and decided to include north Mississippi in our tour route. We discovered that the tour would be not only on Lynn and Sue's wedding anniversary but also Mac and Ernestine Flowers' anniversary. We then heard about the great escape/elopement episode and decided to add Borrum's Drug Store to the tour. It is a superb place to have lunch because they have their original soda fountain and they make fantastic sandwiches. We contacted the drug store's octogenarian owner (trust me that is another story) and she eagerly put things into motion for us. She made special treats, reserved almost the entire drug store, made special table mats, and generally stimulated true southern hospitality to make us feel welcomed.

Walter (Butch) Mercer stepped to his own drummer; he was a man of solitude, an Army veteran, an accomplished pilot, a master mechanic, a skilled woodworker, a great cook, always well groomed, and an impeccable house keeper. He had hand made his own casket from select cedar. Butch claimed to be antisocial, a status which was somewhat belied by the number of neighbors that attended his funeral. He had little or no immediate family, and I think that is why Keith Barrier, Joyce, and I were able to weasel our way into his reclusive domain.

The good doctor and I met Butch at the 100<sup>th</sup> year Model T anniversary shindig in Richmond, IN. He had dragged a tear-drop camper to the event just as many other attendees brought campers. Joyce and I had driven our '22 to Richmond for the ultra special gala. We went to the camp grounds in search of Ben and Nancy Hardeman, whom we found. Afterwards, we were wandering around the campground and spotted Butch's rig. He was in fact in it trying unsuccessfully to take a nap when Joyce and I spotted his Mississippi licenses to which I made some derogatory remark about his redneck rig and introduced ourselves as his long lost cousins from Tennessee. His reply was about as caustic as our introduction. That interchange sort of cleared the air and all was well. He made a comment about trying to get a nap but couldn't because people such as Joyce and I kept disturbing him. He even said a few moments before we got there a somewhat attractive woman came by and stuck her head into the door and commented how neat his home-made camper was. He told us that she benightedly asked him if there was room for her to get in there. He said, "My response was, Lady, I'm sure I can scoot over far enough for you to get in here...and with that she made a quick exit, stage left!"

Sadly Butch spent his last days in the VA Hospital in Memphis. He conveyed to Joyce and me how much he appreciated Gary Tillstrom's visits and the cards and letters the club members sent. I say to all of you, Butch's words of appreciation put into perspective what a great group of Model T club members we have. Be proud of yourselves for extending a simple act of kindness when it was most needed.

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# Mid-March 2014 update on Kim & Carolyn Doty's "hand-built" 1923 Depot Hack

"A lot of things are starting to come together. I remain hopeful to have it ready by the Springfield tour. All of the unfinished wood you see in the pictures has been final sanded and ready for varnish. Yesterday, I fabricated the bending jigs for the front doors and front top bow.. I hope to start steam bending this week." *message from Kim, Jan 2014*

*Note: this document can be enlarged to view Kim's detailed work by utilizing the plus (+) sign in the task bar.*



Mid April 2014



## A No-drill Tail light Solution by Brian Robinson

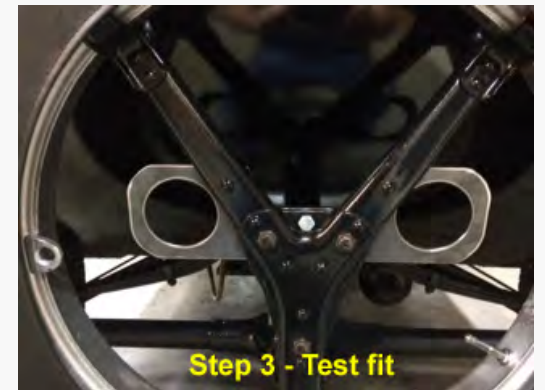
Recently I purchased a '27 Model T Tudor and my intent is to drive the car on public roads. The stock lighting system was not sufficient to make my car seen in low light conditions and keep my family safe. The pictures show the fabrication and how the lights mount to the rear of the car without drilling any holes in the car.



Step 1 - Pattern



Step 2 - Fabrication



Step 3 - Test fit



Step 4- Finished



**For sale: "Wife has put foot down – no more putting off, no more excuses":** 1923 TT truck has got to go. Ruxstall rear end, all original, runs on mag, water pump, electric start, stake body (signs removable), one owner since 1985. Ralph Williams has stated: "Good Engine – has been rebuilt, aluminum pistons, good steel valves, transmission rebuilt". Needs a good home with wife who understands why the TT gets to stay under the car port while her car stays in the rain. No reasonable offer refused. Ken Jack Cell phone: (901) / 488 – 1228.



'26 T Coupe for sale. \$6250 [rwilliams@gateslumber.com](mailto:rwilliams@gateslumber.com). 901-412-9176



**For Sale:** 1925 coupe for sale. Runs good. Very good body. \$5,000.00  
Ricky Williams  
Humboldt TN  
(731)618-0207



'24 Touring car, wooden spoke wheels w/450-21 split rims, running on coils, includes running board tool box and a Sparton (Ahooga) horn. \$6800.00

Bryan Nelson  
Smithville, Tn. 615-597-9452

I knew I was an unwanted baby when I saw that my bath toys were a toaster and a Model T.

## Upcoming tours & events

- **Re-scheduled: working seminar on the Model T front end and alignment procedures.** Saturday May 17th at 8:00 AM still at Steve and Jane Summers house at 21 County Road (CR) 173 Corinth, Mississippi 38834.
- **Joyce and Ken Swan** are working on a plan of driving our T on a cross country trip to the Nova Scotia/ eastern Canada area early this summer (first of June until...). If anyone wants to come along they will be welcomed. Contact Ken..... kenklsinc@charter.net
- **2014 Bourbon, Moonshine & History Model T Tour**  
Springfield, Kentucky  
June 5th – June 8th, 2014  
If you have any questions, please call or email. Home phone # (502) 239-5339 or Linda's cell # (502) 727-3887  
Email address: tomlinda@twc.com
- **Poor Boy Tour-** The 2nd Annual Poor Boy tour based in Middlesboro, KY from June 22-26, where participants motor in 1909-1927 Fords touring the back-roads of KY, VA, & TN. contact: brent@model-a-ford.com
- **MTFCI High Country Tour 2014, Boone NC**  
July 13 2014 - July 18 2014  
For more information contact The Model T Ford Club International, Inc
- **MTFCA Western National tour for 2014.** July 13 to 18, 2014... Go to MTFCA.com for details.
- **Natchez Trace Tour-** Oct 4-12, 2014 ... contact Mike Vaughn for details. 402.540.0573 mikebeth@hughes.net
- **Old Timers Day-** Dickson TN- Car Show May 3, 2013
- **Blue Suede Cruiser-** May 2, 3, & 4 Tupelo, MS

Men are brave enough to go to war, but not brave enough to turn a hand crank.

### Correct Spelling

1	Distributor
2	Drive Shaft
3	Emergency Brake
4	Engine
5	Fan Belt
6	Fender
7	Flashlight
8	Floor Boards
9	Flywheel
10	Fodor
11	Fuel
12	Fuel Line
13	Gas Tank
14	Gasket
15	Generater
16	Pedal Pads
17	Manifold Cooker
18	Step Plates
19	Bendix spring
20	Water Pump

### Welcome- New members

Two couples joined the Tennessee T's after attending the Waverly Tour:  
David and Carolyn Miller- Huntsville, AL  
Ricky and Vandy Williams- Humboldt, TN

### PHOTO FROM THE PAST



Bud (deceased) & Ginny Scudder

2003 LBL





# Crossing the Tennessee River on the Houston- Benton Ferry

