

T-Rific T Tales



January, February, March 2018

Volume 3, Issue 1

Newsletter of the T-Rific T's Club of West Central Wisconsin

January celebrates the Epiphany - Three Wise Men

Do you know what would have happened if it had been Three Wise Women?

- 1. They would have asked directions.**
- 2. They would have arrived on time.**
- 3. They would have helped deliver the baby.**
- 4. They would have brought practical gifts.**
- 5. They would have cleaned the stable.**
- 6. They would have made a casserole.**
- 7. And there would be peace on earth!**

GREETINGS FROM CLUB OFFICERS

We hope you have enjoyed receiving our club newsletter in 2017.

Members that pay their annual dues will continue to receive the newsletter by U.S. mail . If you have not yet paid the 2018 dues (very affordable at \$10 a person/ couple), please fill out the membership form on the back page and mail it with

your payment to club treasurer Linda Hanson by the end of February.

Any contributions to this newsletter would be very appreciated. Submissions include pictures, Model T "tips and tricks," upcoming events, jokes, stories, road trips, or any type of article on Model T's or vintage cars.

Information for paying dues, submitting newsletter items, and contacting the newsletter editor is located on the back page.

Thank you so much!!

- President Larry Hanson
- Vice-President Denny Mickesh
- Secretary George Utphal
- Treasurer Linda Hanson

**Happy
New
Year**

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAM

One purpose of the T-Rific T's is to get more Model T's restored and on the road. To help with this goal, members were asked to volunteer in their area of expertise so that when a fellow member needs help, he/she knows who to call:

- ◆ Bill Glass: 715-723-7202 or 715-210-5530
- ◆ Del Hanson: 715-234-7308 or 715-205-9024
- ◆ Dan Doughty: 715-835-0685
- ◆ Larry Hanson: 715-837-1578
- ◆ Brian Tourville: 715-664-8830
- ◆ Ernie Loga: 715-832-7302
- ◆ Denny Mickesh (electrical): 715-723-9719
- ◆ Stephanie Culver (fuel or ignition): 715-822-4015
- ◆ Bob Baker (body work): 715-834-2158



Members are invited to submit information (with pictures if possible) of items for sale.



Members are invited to submit information of items they are looking to purchase.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2018 T-RIFIC T'S CLUB MEETING

The T-Rific T's met on Sunday afternoon, November 5, 2017. The meeting was held on Mike Webb's property in Elk Mound in a warehouse at the back edge of his property and he furnished the meal. We covered lots of business.

Dues for 2018 will remain at \$10. Some members paid them at this meeting. Treasurer reported a balance of \$1743.15 in bank account.

Pauline took orders for the 2018 Shutterfly calendar. The cost is \$20, paid to the treasurer.

Club members agreed in showing appreciation to Gordy Gee by sending him a thank you card and \$25 gift card for copying and sending Pauline many old car articles he had written in the past that can be published in our newsletter.

A discussion was held on mouse proofing products that work well for cars during winter months. Also that a bad smell can be eased by parking a car in the sun and placing a cotton ball soaked in vanilla on the dash.

The traveling trophy for 2017 club contributions was presented to Pauline Spiegel for her work as newsletter editor.

Mike offered his grounds there in Elk Mound if the club was interested in organizing a prewar swap meet and car show.

Dennis Mickesh conducted the annual auction that earned a profit of \$167 that will be added to the treasury.



CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: BILL GLASS - FOR THE LOVE OF A MODEL T

While I never grew up with the Model T Ford, I did get an early start with them. When I was almost 16, my dream was to find and restore a World War One airplane. Years later, my mother told me that she had had a recurring nightmare of me burning up in a crashed World War One airplane! She knew just how determined I could be if I got something in my head. When she related her dream to one of her brothers, he suggested that they divert my interest toward an automobile.

Uncle Ron was of the opinion that soon I would want to drive and would be easily swayed toward a car. He told mom that he knew of a Model T Ford that could be bought cheap and would be something I could "tinker with" but would never run. Being a history "nut," I already knew the history of the Model T but not knowing what one looked like, I went to our Compton's encyclopedia. There was

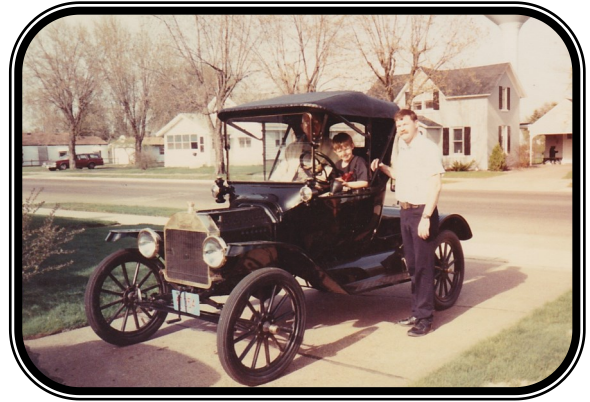
pictured a 1909 touring. Wow, I thought! I was a little disappointed to see that my \$75 had purchased a pile of parts that were supposed to be a 1915 Runabout. With a lot of dad's help, we had the chassis running in a couple of months, but it took me many years to finish the restoration.



In my working life as a Deputy Sheriff, I found the hobby of restoring Model T's stress relieving and enjoyable.

From early on, I had a dear friend (now departed) and Model T mentor named Lionel Spaeth who helped me with guidance, knowledge, parts, and friendship. Over the years I've owned the 1915 Runabout, a 1916 touring; 1914 Runabout, 1913 Runabout, 1910 Touring, 1911 Touring, 1911 Torpedo, 1910 Coupe, the partial remains of a 1917 Ford Army ambulance, and half ownership of a 1923 touring.

Many of these cars I've restored mostly by myself. I have learned by doing. When I couldn't afford to hire something done, I learned how to do it myself. I have restored a lot of brass lights, horns, and generators, and early carburetors for other collectors to help fund my restorations.



Now that I have five grandkids, I need to finish restoration of my 1911 Touring so I have something that will seat more than two people. My grand kids love riding in the cars, so if I ever needed an incentive to finish that touring, I now have it. I truly enjoy pretty much every aspect of the hobby with the only possible exceptions being restoring radiators and wheels, and long tours.

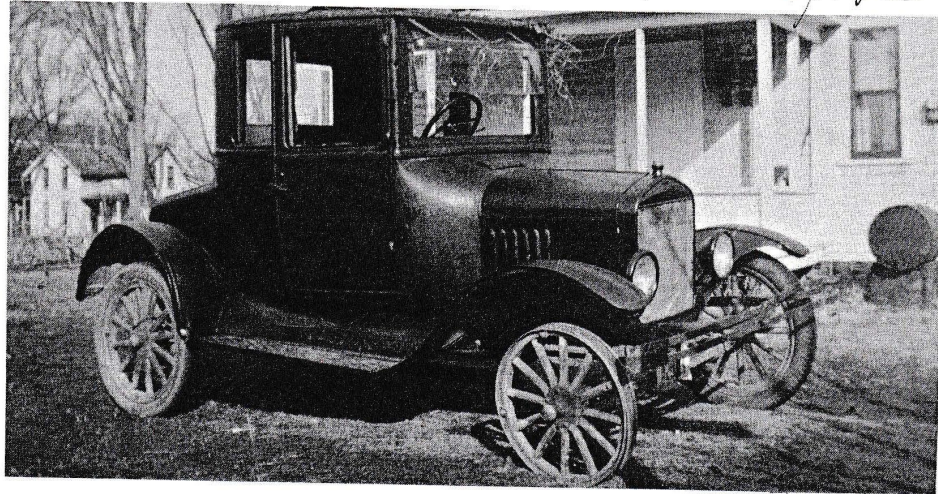
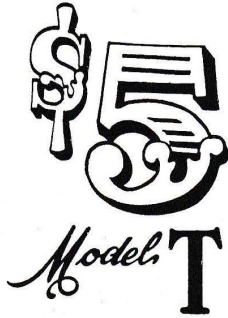
Many years ago while attending an old car swap meet in Minnesota, I was approached and congratulated by a number of Model T guys. When I asked what the thanks were for, (it had been several years since I had last been a new father) they told me that my good friend Bob Baker had spread the word that I was forming a chapter of "The Model T Ford Club International" in the Chippewa Falls area. This was a total surprise to me, as up until that point the thought hadn't crossed my mind! Thanks Bob! Well, we did form a chapter, and the rest is history. Some of the nicest people I've ever known drive Model T's!!



A BLAST FROM THE PAST (ARTICLE WRITTEN BY GORDY GEE OVER 50 YEARS AGO!!)

THE 'LAST' OF THE FIVE-DOLLAR MODEL "T's"

by GORDON GEE, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin *Gordon J. Gee*



Ida, the five dollar Model T the day after it was purchased in late fall, 1953. Notice accessory front bumper.

It is inevitable that most of us who are actively engaged in the "T" hobby, will experience a comment from an interested bystander such as, "I member when flivers uster be had for five-dollars apiece." In this day and age of ten-dollars for this tidbit and fifty-dollars for that, it seems hard to swallow such a comment as representative of truth. However, when a like experience actually happens to you, it seems even harder to believe.

In 1953, while returning to Chippewa Falls from a Northland fishing trip, my family and I drove through Chetek, Wisconsin, and there, parked conspicuously in a used car lot, was a 1915 Ford touring car. The car so intrigued me, I had to stop and look it over. The ancient fliver was not for sale, but was used as a come-on to attract car buyers. My curiosity satisfied, we continued on our way. However, I couldn't get the Model T out of my mind. After many sleepless nights, dreaming of piloting a rattling fliver over nostalgic, dusty, country roads, I decided to search out a Tin Lizzie and see what I could do with it.

I had heard that a Model T could be had in Richland Center, Wisconsin, for the sum of seventy-five dollars. I immediately corres-

ponded with the owner and was informed that the car was still available. I sent him a money order the next day. All I knew about the vehicle was that it had top bows intact, still had one kerosene side lamp mounted by the windshield, had a clear title, and was of 1924 vintage. My cousin and I decided to drive down and pick up the "T" that fall. We took along a set of mounted tires, ropes, tools and an extra sidelamp.

One-hundred and fifty miles later we found ourselves looking dispondently at our antique acquisition. Before us sat a very rusty moon cab truck, one sidelamp hung rather askew on the side of its mud caked windshield, the top bows were hardwood mesh, with the canvas hanging in shreds, the hauling bed was gone completely, as was most of the mounting timbers, and all four tires were so rotten as to be completely non-serviceable. Needless to say, this wreck wasn't quite what we expected to find. We said nothing to the farmer, however, having come too far to return home empty handed. We wired a set of tires on the rear, replaced the front ones, and began our trip home, hauling the monster by chain behind us. Five miles from the farm, we found ourselves in difficulty. The truck kept passing

the Chevy or bumping into it, depending on the steepness of the hills we encountered. We realized we could hardly complete the remaining 145 miles in this fashion and decided to abandon the machine, at least temporarily, and drove to Viola, the next town.

We found ourselves a restaurant, and told our tale of woe to a very comely waitress. Several tipsey teenagers, loitering behind us in a nearby booth, overheard our conversation and offered us a Model T Ford for five-dollars. They needed the money to take their girl friends dancing that night, they said, and had no use for the car. We were of course greatly interested, and followed them many miles into the country. Sure enough, parked by the side of a riverbank was a 1924 T coupe, complete in every way, but iced firmly into the mud. A Ford tractor took care of that very little difficulty, almost jerking the front axle from the little car in the process. Minutes later, we found ourselves alone on a cold, jet black road, five dollars poorer, but a really nice Model T Ford parked behind us. We returned to the truck, stripped it of all we could, and promptly got lost trying to find our way

back to the coupe. By three in the morning we had finally found our way back again. We replaced the rotten tires with fresh ones, roped the car to our Chev by its accessory front bumper, and hunted up an all night service station. We filled its chankcase with used oil, and after a short nap in an abandoned schoolyard, continued on our way, Tom steering the "T." We experienced countless flat tires, and applied hot patches constantly to its wornout tubes. One-hundred miles from Chippewa Falls, we were reduced to three sagging tires and one bare rim, the tire long ago having been battered to pieces. We arrived home in like condition late that evening, its tireless rim meanwhile having ground to the bolt mounts.

I still have Ida, as we affectionately christened her, I also have four other flivers that have since been added to the family. However, none of these remain as cherished in my heart and memory as Ida, the last of the five-dollar Model T's.

If you're wondering what happened to the moon cab truck, the Highway Patrol towed it to the Richland Center junk-yard. We brought it back the following year, but that's another story.



A week after purchase with side lamps added.



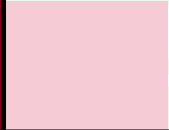
Ida, the five dollar Model T, fifteen years later.



T-rific T's Dues & Newsletter Contact Information

- ◆ Send club registration form and \$10 dues payment to Treasurer Linda Hanson, 854 15th Street, Dallas, WI 54733 (Home Phone: 715-837-1578)
- ◆ Send newsletter items to Pauline Spiegel by email: terrificclub@gmail.com or U.S. mail: 16874 210th Street, Jim Falls, WI 54748
 - ◆ Home Phone: 715-382-4350
 - ◆ Cell Phone: 715-404-5774

**Tentative DATE:
T-RIFIC T'S
SPRING FLING**



**Sunday, April 22, 2 p.m.
Mike Webb's Warehouse
N5696 850th Street
Elk Mound, WI**

Turn by the restaurant, drive past it, follow the road 1/4 mile to the warehouse; enter on the back side.



Members Who Have Paid 2018 Dues

- Merv Bergman
- Norval Beyrer
- Al and Jane Brun
- Stephanie and Bill Culver
- Ken and LaVonne Ganz
- Bill Glass
- Dell and Jan Hanson
- Larry and Linda Hanson
- Robert Klitzke
- Ernie Loga
- Dennis Mickesh
- David and Patricia Schmid
- John and Pauline Spiegel
- Mike Webb
- Cindy and Marvin Yardley

T-RIFIC T'S OF WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2018 Dues (\$10) are due by February 28, 2018

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

VINTAGE/CLASSIC CAR INFORMATION (Year, Make, Model, etc.):
