

# Running Board News

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
EAST VALLEY MODEL T FORD CLUB  
MAY 2005                      Volume 2 Issue 5**

Applications for membership in the EVMFTFC may be obtained from any current member. Dues are \$20.00 per year and includes all family members.

We are affiliated with and a chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America (MTFCA), a national organization. Membership in the MTFCA includes six issues of **The Vintage Ford** and a vote for the Board of Directors. Dues are \$26.00 annually. Membership is strongly encouraged. Direct correspondence to: The Model T Ford Club of America

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## **NATIONAL EVENTS**

July 17-22, 2005 Cochrane, Alberta, Canada. The Foothills Model T Ford Club will host Prairies and Peaks Centennial T tour, an MTFCA National Tour. For more info contact Ross Benedict, 402 286-4699. Email: rbmanagement@shaw.ca

August 14-20, 2005 Estes Park, CO. The Mile High Chapter in Denver, CO will host Over The Top Tour, an MTFCA National Tour. For more info contact Paul Walter 303 277-1537.



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By George Elms

This has been a hectic but very enjoyable past two months, from family from back East, to getting the "T" on the road, to quite a few trips with it. So much fun with such an old toy!!

Our antique mall show was a success, even if there were fewer shoppers.

It was a somewhat damp but fun filled weekend tour of the Usery Park and Saguaro Lake area. Our first "overnighter" was a success. Thanks Austin and Lynn for your efforts, and Happy Birthday Joe.

The entertainment was great and was enhanced by the setting sun and a fabulous Arizona background. Jerry's video afterward captured the fun time we all had.

Also, it was good to see Joe's center door on a long outing. It ran well, as most of us did, with no requirements for trailering.

The board held a meeting Tuesday evening the 26th at the Peterson's to discuss the proposal to host a National Board Meeting next year. After reviewing the data required for the '92 event held by the SCMTC, we concluded that our club is not large enough to handle this type of event. It would require a lot of effort from a few people with little benefit.

## **Kickin' up Our Wheels at Usery Park**

by Lizzie Jane Peterson

Well, didn't we have a dandy day and night at our first EVMFTC campout April 23-24, 2005!? It was great to see the classy chassis girls & guys again: Flossie Ford Stolinski, the "youngster"; Ol' Henry Linney; Tillie Tudor



Graton. AND--it was the coming-out party for two special girls--Betsy Ebony Elms, taking her fourth trip; and Clementine Center-Door Fellin on her maiden voyage group outing Oohee! Aren't we slick! We also met The Pup Tent (fifth wheeler), owned by the Graton clan. Of course, our chauffeurs were there, too: **Mary & Jerry Griffin, Austin & Lynn Graton & grandson Tyler & papillion Jack, John & Jan Peterson, Ed & Dolores Stolinski, Steve, Claudia, Jessica & Stephanie Linney, Joe Fellin & Jeannie Reith, George & Ruthann Elms, and guests Dan & Jane Wahl.**

Now that the amenities are out of the way, let's get to the real report. The first big deal is that Sonny Boy (John P., my chauffeur) found I had some special talents by turning me into a Bed & Breakfast on Wheels. On the way to the campsite he cooked bratwurst on my manifold. On our tour after lunch he tested my mettle by cooking meatloaf on my manifold. Didn't I show off! Then he found I make a fairly comfortable (and dry) bed. But back to the rest of the show.

We hadn't all been together long before the sheriff's Keystone Kops came to look at us automotive beauties,. Up to three carloads of them lined up. We thought the Keystone Kops had gone out with Mack Sennett two-reelers. It worried us a little because in those movies they used to do very destructive shenanigans with Model T's (shiver). But all they did was arrest our former secretary, Claudia.

The tour: just enough hills and distance to suit me. We took off for beauteous sights like Saguaro Lake Ranch (where the photographers snapped us on cameras), Saguaro Lake (where the humans guzzled down root beer floats and other confections), and Butcher's Beach where I wondered if we

were going to be turned into dune buggies.

During rest time afterwards the humans prepared hobo dinners in foil and enjoyed the breeze, shade, perfect weather, and flies, millions of 'em, Another meal over, our people were entertained by Slim & Sam McNasty with jokes, rope tricks like the Texas skip, bull whip tricks, gittar-plunkin,' and singin.' Slim particularly enjoyed terrorizing Birthday Boy Joe Fellin by snapping a tube of paper held in his mouth with the whip. It seems that tube got shorter and shorter before the deed was done. Sam told some pretty tall stories like the one about Old Wild Bert who rode a bear; it ended with, "If you ride long enough, you're going to be thrown." Sam was a ladies man, flirting with Claudia Linney and two others. Slim sang "It Ain't Easy Bein' a Fallin' Star"; a song about Waylon Jennings ("Ol' Waylon, he could really sing"); and "The Lone Ranger Was My Hero, Greatest Cowboy in the Land." Sam ended the program with his poem "Bubba Brown, Fasted Man Around," whose suspenders got caught on a car's bumper; that one made me chuckle. Well, after the entertainment some of the younguns left for the city, others did the tradition thing by roasting marshmallows and preparing s'mores, and still others prepared their beds for the night. I think Griffins cheated a bit by "roughing it" with a tailgating TV. Did you hear the coyotes howling in the night, accompanied by the rain? Sure am glad I'm a covered mobile.

Anyway, it wasn't over until the humans had their breakfast called Omelets in a Bag. Guess it was pretty good from their standpoint. Then we hitched up and headed for home. Hey, let's do that again. I love to see the other Ford family members.

Thanks to Austin Graton for planning this dandy two days.



## Camping in Style--Model T Style, That is

By John Peterson

Lizzie Jane, our unrestored '24 Tudor, just tried out a new avocation--self-contained camping. Our first test was at a group campsite with facilities, so we did not actually require all the conveniences. A nighttime rainstorm did illustrate the advantage of high and dry indoor sleeping over a tent on the ground.

The only car modification was the removal of the seat backs. On the Tudor this can be done with no real damage to the car. For the jump seat all that is required is to drill out the two 5/16" rivets and to substitute machine screws and wing nuts. The driver's bucket seat is a bit more trouble as it is riveted to the gas tank frame. I replaced the rivets with #10 machine screws and wing nuts. The screws are held captive in the seat back with hex nuts.

These seat backs then reverse sides and fit between the front seat cushions and the firewall. I supported the right side (driver's seat back) with an inverted U-shaped support fabricated from 2x4s. The other side is supported by a square, plastic cat litter container. This container with a snap on the lid also serves to carry the cooking equipment.

The support between the front and back seats also serves double duty. A folding plastic picnic table fits very nicely in this space. At 37 inches this is narrower than the cabin width, so I made a plywood two-step support to hold it up and to fill the remaining space on the driver's side. A T-shaped plywood support holds up the other end. For traveling, the table sits upright, and the step support is turned on end; in this position it makes a convenient compartment. In this arrangement about two thirds of the floor space is still available for storage.

At bedtime the table is turned horizontal and topped with three inches of foam. I cut the

foam strip in half, the pieces fit very nicely in standard-sized pillowcases. This configuration fills the entire cabin with a somewhat short 3/4 width reasonable flat bed. A degree of selective positioning is required to avoid the jump seat hinges and the raised edges of the bucket seat back. The steering wheel is also a bit of an obstruction. Taller people would find their feet extending into the rather confining space under the dashboard.

Once the bed conversion is made, it is just a matter of outfitting and provisioning to fit in the available space. The Clear Lake (repo) manifold cooker can provide some fine chow. I modified mine with a hole in the lid for a meat thermometer and made an internal shelf from two-inch aluminum angle to cover the lower cavity and provide a flat cooking surface. With this flat surface, disposable loaf pans fit right in and provide a nice frying surface for sausage, eggs, and all that nice breakfast stuff. One can warm up the "T" and cook breakfast at the same time!

I found plenty of room on the back seat for an ice chest and the pillows and other bedding supplies. A running board rack held a water bottle with pump, luggage, and the litter bucket with all the cooking supplies. In the space under the passenger seat I added a chamber pot (Rubbermaid container with an added handle). Viola!--a complete motor home.

No attempt was made to duplicate period camping gear. The goal was to use cheap and dirty modern materials and minimize car modifications.

A sleeping conversion could probably be devised for a number of different year models and body styles. I have seen a touring car with hinged down seat back (Jim Elliot from Southern California). This seems pretty drastic because that seat back is a body structural element.

I am looking forward to refining this set up



and have visions of adding an awning to complete all of the camping amenities. I picture a cheap tarp from Harbor Freight and a 1/2" electrical tubing frame, perhaps with internal bungees like a modern tent. At this time I do not have a clear picture of how to attach it to the car.

On the basis of a one-day test this looks like an enjoyable Model T activity. Let's do some more camp outs; it was great fun.

### Health and Welfare of Cars

Well, **finally**, we got to see Joe Fellin's beautifully restored 1922 Centerdoor sedan on an official club outing. This was his longest trip to date, about 34 miles. Not only does it look great, it also runs excellent.

Austin traveled to Florence to help Harold Hall get his Depot Hack running. Thinking the carburetor was the problem we borrowed Steve Linney's rebuilt NH. It still would not start easily, so we towed it to get it running. It is still not running right, but better than it was. It probably is not the carb that is the problem. We ran out of time to get much else done. We probably need most of a day to perform some more extensive diagnosis.

### 10 April Grand Hotel Antique Mall Car Show

Another beautiful day in Arizona for a car show. We had four Model Ts show up, a Model A, and a Mustang convertible. One of our new members, Harold Hall, brought his 1922 Paddy Wagon. He has it nicely accessorized, including a Tommy gun. We are looking forward to seeing it again at a future club event.

While the crowd was a little thinner than it was the previous month, we all had a good time.

## REFRESHMENTS

**May** Steve and Claudia Linney

**MAY EVENT** sponsored by Steve Linney

**DATE CHANGED** to 15 May. We will meet at Bill Johnson's Big Apple restaurant located at 950 E. Main in Mesa at 11:00 AM for lunch. After lunch we will go to the Mesa Southwest Museum at 53 N. McDonald St. The museum opens at 1:00 PM. The cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$5.00 for seniors.

Bring your "T" or just come out in your other car and join us for a relaxed and interesting event. There may be some antique shops open in the area as well. We'll see you there!!!



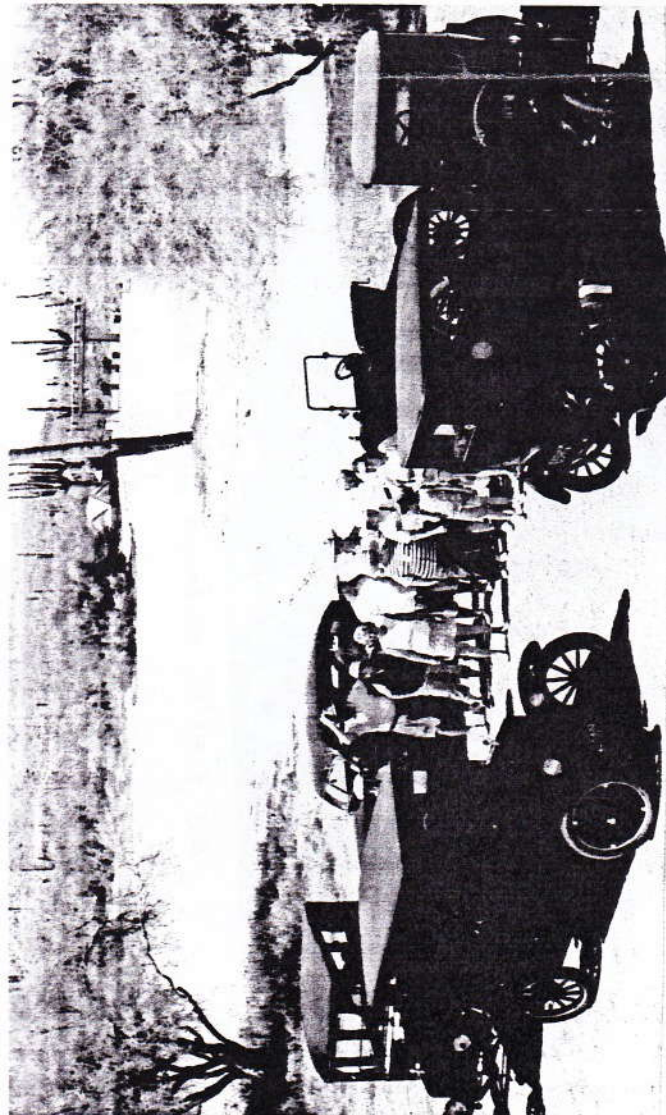
*Joe Fellin unloading at his first Club Tour*



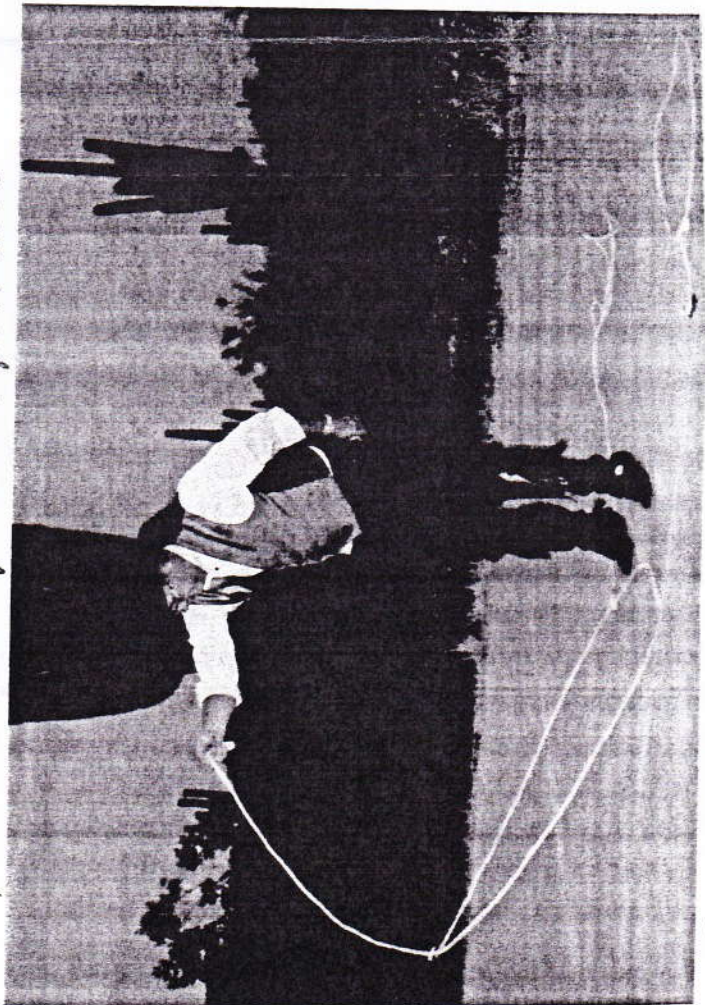


10 April Car  
Show at The  
Grand Hotel  
Antique Mall  
Bert Diehl at  
right in picture.

10 April Car  
Show at The  
Grand Hotel  
Antique Mall  
Harold Hall's  
Paddy Wagon 2nd  
from right.



Club members inside The "Circle Up" at  
Usery Park overnight 23 April 2005



Slim McNasty doing one of his rope tricks  
at Usery Park overnight 23 April 2005



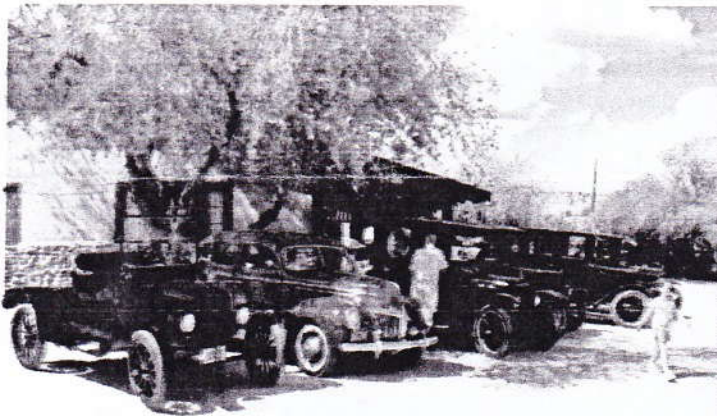
# From Fords and Fun to Food at Uxery Pass Park



Joe Fellin's '22 Centerdoor



John Peterson at Saguaro Lake Ranch - Dam in background



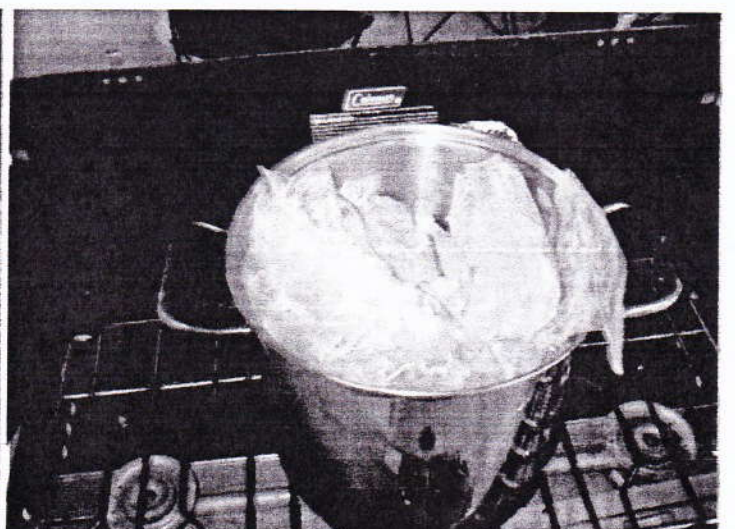
Cars lined up at Saguaro Lake Ranch



Tour stop at Butcher Jones Beach



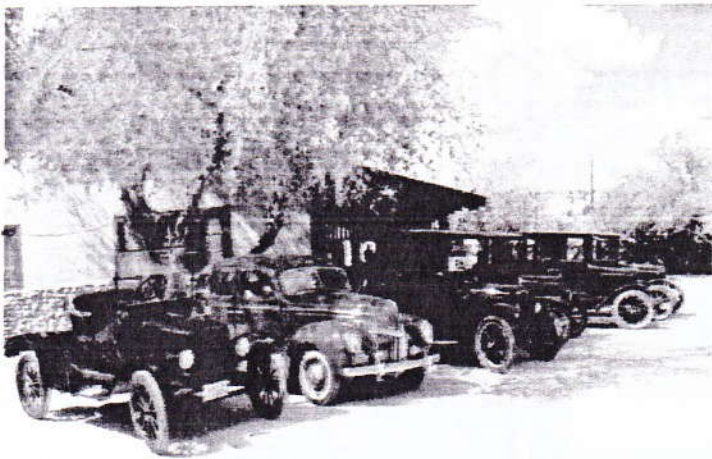
Jan Peterson with Sam McNasty



Breakfast in a bag on the stove



From Usery Park to Saguaro Lake, Butcher Jones Beach & back



Line up of cars on Tour in front of Saguaro Lake Ranch



Doing The "Circle up" at Usery Park A proud Toe Fellin with his '22 Centerdoor



Two more shots of our tour at Butcher Jones Beach





### Calendar of Events

#### May 2005

15 Mesa Southwest Museum Tour

19 General Meeting at the Linney's home  
at 7:30 PM

#### June 2005

TBA

#### July 2005

17-22 Prairies and Peaks Centennial T  
Tour, Cochrane, Alberta, Canada.

#### August 2005

14-20 Over the Top Tour, Estes Park, Co.

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