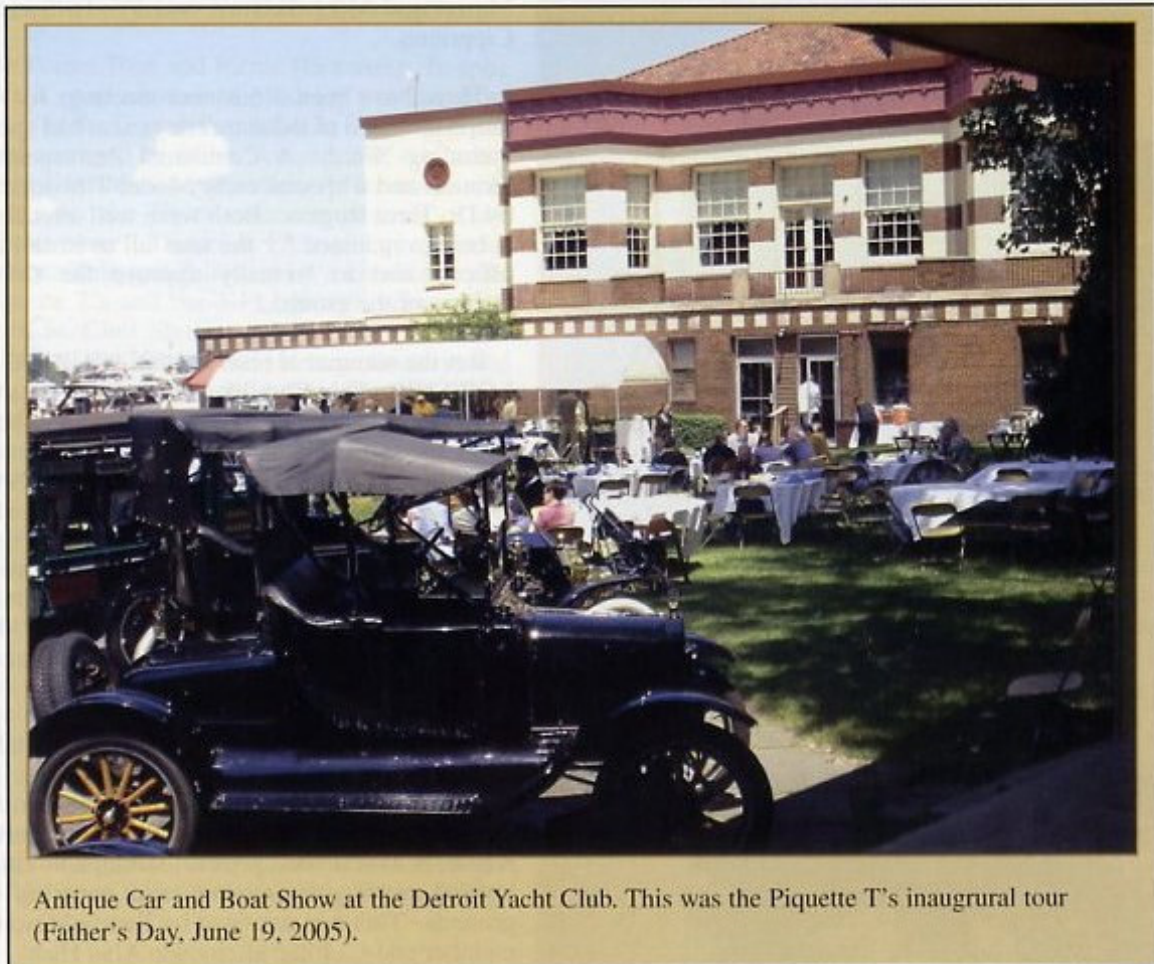


“THE PIQUETTE T’S”

BY DR. DAVID M. COLEMAN



Antique Car and Boat Show at the Detroit Yacht Club. This was the Piquette T's inaugural tour (Father's Day, June 19, 2005).

A special meeting was held in the living room of Henry Ford's very own Boston-Edison Historic District home (currently owned by Dr. Jerry Mitchell, CEO of T-PLEX) at 140 Edison on 25 October, 2005. The location and the mission of the meeting couldn't have been more ironic or appropriate. The purpose of the meeting was to determine if there was interest in the formation of a new Chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America, and how it could uniquely link with the 1904 Ford Motor Company Piquette Avenue Plant (T-PLEX). Those in attendance were David Liepelt, David Coleman, Tom Mullin, Dale McDermott, Jerry Mitchell, Randy Mason, John Forster, Jerry Burnett, and Mike Skinner. This was to be a new, and very different 'urban' Model T Club. It was not to

compete with other clubs in the area, but instead to have its own unique identity and mission. It was to be the first MTFCA Chapter in Michigan. The brainchild behind the concept was Tom Mullin, with lots of encouragement from the others. After an hour or so of discussion there was unanimous agreement to move forward.

Within less than one year the 'concept' has caught on and the Chapter [now Chartered under both the Model T Ford Club of America (MTFCA) and the Model T Ford Club International (MTFCI)] boasts ca. 70 members representing over 120 Model T's.



June 19, 2005, Model T's start to gather at the Piquette Avenue Plant prior to departure for the Detroit Yacht Club's Father's Day Antique Car and Boat Show. All Piquette T's tours depart from the old factory.



Piquette T's Treasurer Peter Kikolajevs, and his wife Rachel, and our newest member Natalie. The 'restoration' dumpsters are in front of the old Studebaker Building (attached to the original Piquette Plant). This is after the massive fire in the next block that destroyed the adjacent E-M-F and Studebaker Buildings and treated Piquette.



Mike Skinner lead the tour of the historic Woodlawn Cemetery. Shown is the Benson and Edith McNaughton grave (next to the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Grave). The Piquette T's toured the cemetery on 7/9/2005.

The Club has a synergistic relationship with the famed Piquette Plant, the 'Birthplace of the Model T.' In essence the Plant serves as a unique clubhouse. Plans include the building of a complete machine shop for members to service Model T Fords and an opportunity for members to display or store their cars at the plant. There is great interest in developing a youth program to teach about restoration of vintage automobiles. Many members of the Piquette T's have helped out on volunteer days, have served as docents, etc. Many Piquette T members have also joined T-PLEX in support of their critical restoration activities.

The initial slate of Officers included: President & MTFCA Liaison: David Liepelt; Vice President: Tom Mullin; Secretary: David Coleman; Treasurer: Peter Nikolajevs; T-Plex Liaison: Jerry Mitchell; MTFCA Liaison and Membership Chair: Jerry Van; Tour Chairs: Randy Mason and Mike Skinner; and Pre-16 Swap Meet: Sam Cipriano.

There have been 3 business meetings for organizational purposes. Two of those meetings also had special programs including "Ford: A Centennial Retrospective" by Mike Skinner and a special early Model T historical perspective by Dr. Trent Bogess. Both were well attended. A meeting is being organized for the late fall to install a new slate of officers and to formally approve the Constitution and Bylaws of the group.

But the summer is reserved for TOURING and for FELLOWSHIP. This Club likes to drive their cars! Four tours were held this summer; each one can only be described as 'over the top.' Skinner and Mason have enough ideas to keep us going for years ... and they may never be able to shed their positions! One unusual, but cardinal 'rule' is that all tours start from the Piquette Plant itself, deep within the City Limits of Detroit. On our journeys we pass through downtown, Cultural and Medical Centers, as well as through neighborhoods rich and poor. The common denominator is that the Model T 'parade' is always met with happy smiles and appreciation. Briefly:

1.) Father's Day at the Detroit Yacht Club (June): The Club's first-ever tour was to the venerable 135 year old Detroit Yacht Club to participate in their annual antique car and boat show. The Model T was the featured marquee and members won several prizes. Participants enjoyed a day of visiting, eating, swimming, and enjoying the beautiful grounds. This was arranged by Randy Mason and by DYC member and Cadillac aficionado Alan Haas.

2.) The Elmwood/Woodlawn Cemetery Tour (July): A daylong tour was made of two of the oldest cemeteries in Detroit. Special emphasis was placed on Ford and other automotive connections. For example at Woodlawn we visited the beautiful pond and setting where Edsel and Eleanor Ford are buried (and the future crypt for Benson and Edith Ford and for William Clay and Martha Firestone Ford). A picnic was held near the pond in the cemetery. We also saw elaborate graves of Ernest Kanzler, James Couzens, the Dodge Brothers, Roy Chapin (Hudson), etc. Interestingly, Rosa Parks was recently buried at Elmwood. Across town Elmwood, with it's beautiful topography and history. A few Fords, e.g. Walter Buhl Ford, are buried there. Ford historian Mike Skinner ran the show beautifully. We also

stopped at the Ford Highland Park and Mack Avenue (1903-1904) sites.

3.) Detroit's Indian Village (August): This turn-of-the-century nationally-designated Historic Neighborhood was home to many early automotive pioneers, investors, suppliers, etc. This day was extra special because new owners (David and Tara Chicatelli) of the Edsel and Eleanor Ford 'Honeymoon Cottage' opened up their entire home to the Piquette T's and provided a nice BBQ, including liquid refreshments and special deserts. The 'Cottage' (actually a small mansion) was the first of several homes owns by E&E Ford. Several Indian Villagers opened their homes for mini-tours for the participants. Village Historians Bob Cosgrove and Dr. Thomas Brunk gave interesting and insightful tours. A culmination was 22 Model T's all lined up for a unique photograph in front of the home. It was a very special day organized by long-time Villager Dr. David Coleman.

4.) Grosse Pointe Tour and Picnic (October): In spite of cool weather, a good number of Model T's toured from the Piquette Plant to the Grosse Points for an interesting and informative tour arranged by Mike Skinner. We saw many historic sites and Ford-related properties. Mike made special arrangements for the T's to enter the grounds of the final (and elegant) home of Edsel & Eleanor For a special photo opportunity. This was followed by a combined picnic for the Piquette T's and the T-PLEX volunteers at the Skinner home in St. Clair Shores, right on Lake St. Clair. Skinner (President of the Henry Ford Heritage Society) and his wife Sandra hosted the event and provided much of the good food for all.

The first-ever Brass Era Swap Meet (Pre-1916), organized by Sam Cipriano, was held at the Piquette Plant on Sept. 9th and 10th (complementing 'Old Car Festival' at Greenfield Village). It was a great start on what will soon become a major indoor swap meet of national prominence. Piquette T volunteers staffed the show.

The entire membership is looking forward, working with T-PLEX, to their unique participation in the Centennial of the Model T Ford in 2008. Of course, what better venue than the Model T's birthplace. This will be a national celebration. Planning is starting w/ central participation by the Ford Motor Company, etc. One current possibility is a large number of Model T's participating in the nationally-televised Detroit's "America's Thanksgiving Day Parade." Stay tuned.

In 2006 the Piquette T's will launch a new national-level indoor Swap Meet at the Piquette Plant on Sept. 24th and 25th. This will be a special Ford-only event "From A to A" covering the first early 1903 Model A, through the T's, and through the subsequent Model A's (to 1931). They will also help host a special social event at the Piquette Plant on Friday, Sept. 8th, prior to the opening of Old Car Festival.

In short, there is great excitement over this new Model T Club and its unique mission. The future looks very bright. For membership information please contact David Coleman at 313-577-2586 (work) or at dmc@chem.wayne.edu. Dues are \$10/year. You do not have to own a Model T to belong.



Piquette T's 2005 Picnic (10/22/2005). The picnic was held at Mike and Sandy Skinner's home in St. Claire Shores, MI following a tour of the Grosse Point (and grounds of the nearby Edsel and Eleanor Ford mansion at Gaukler Point).



Edsel & Eleanor Ford "Honeymoon" house - Iroquis Indian Village. They moved here when they married on 11/1/1916 in the J.L. Hudson home on Easy Boston Blvd. - (J.L. Hudson was Eleanor Clay Ford's uncle).



Barry Cogan's 1912 Touring taken next to the 1823 Provencal-Weir House (The Grosse Point Historical Society's Museum (not shown)) at Lakeview and Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Farms. The Piquette T's toured the museum on 10/22/2005.



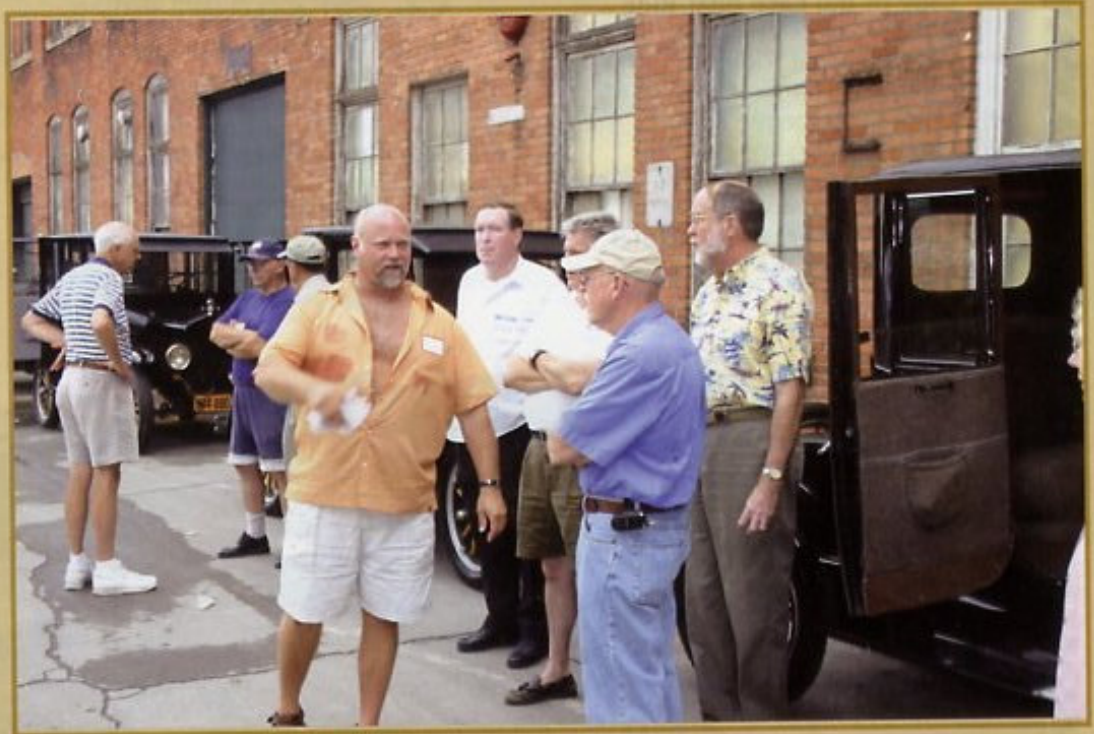
Piquette T members on the stairs of the James Couzen's mausoleum in the Woodlawn Cemetery on 7/9/2005. James Couzens was an original Ford stockholder and later Mayor of Detroit and a U.S. Senator. The structure was built at a cost of \$150,000 following his death in 1936.



The Piquette T's lined up on the lawn of the Edsel and Eleanor Ford's "Honeymoon Cottage" in Detroit's nationally-designated Historic Indian Village Neighborhood. The present owners of this beautiful home, David and Tara Chicatelli provided a tour and hosted a terrific picnic. This was their first home after they were married 11/01/1916.



Dave (Secretary) and Patsy Coleman's 1926 Model T Tudor in front of the Edsel and Eleanor Ford's Grosse Pointe Mansion. This was a destination on the Piquett T's Grosse Pointe Tour and Picnic (10/22/2005).



Piquette T members outside the plant prior to the Father's Day Tour.

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