



The Buzz



The Official Publication of
The Dairyland Tin Lizzies

What's inside?

- Tin Lizzy University
- Upcoming Events
- Lizzy Ladies' Day
- Christmas Party
- Tour to Richfield Threshere
- MTFCI Cadillac Review
- Buzz Classifieds
- Little Hershey
- Regional /National
- Member Roster
- Wayback Machine

Tin Lizzy University - January 25, 2025

By Jim Rodell, Jr. & Keith Gumbinger

Tin Lizzy University is a popular winter activity for the Dairyland Tin Lizzies. Since the first session of Tin Lizzy University in 2002, these winter events have been held at Vrana Frame and Body Shop in West Bend. Vrana Frame and Body Shop was built in 1956 by Joe Vrana Sr., operated by sons Joe, Mike, and Butch for five decades and is now run by grandsons Dan and Billy. The warm, bright body shop is the perfect location for a fun winter gathering of Model T Ford enthusiasts to socialize, buy and sell, enjoy lunch and learn more about our beloved Model T Ford.

Traditionally, Tin Lizzy University topics cover repair and maintenance of the Model T for reliability and safety. This year, however, the subject matter was more historical in nature as guest speakers Glenn Heim and Chad Elmore discussed tractor conversion attachments for the Model T Ford and touched on snowmobile and truck conversions.



There was plenty to see and talk about at the morning swap meet!

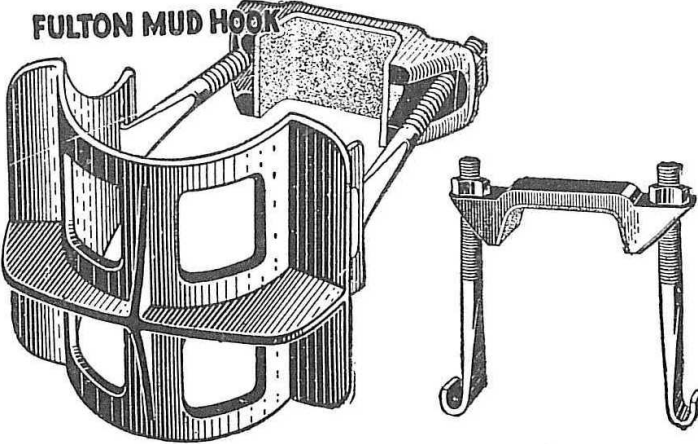


UPCOMING 2025 EVENTS

- April 13 **Spring Business Meeting**
 2pm at the Slinger Historical Museum - 414 Kettle Moraine Dr S, Slinger
- April/May? **Possible Model T Day at Etude School**
 Details are TBD
- May ? **Model T Day at Kettle Moraine Lutheran HS**
 Date is still TBD, but this popular event is being planned.
- May 24-26 **Destination Door County 2025**
 Planning is underway for this popular event. Save the Dates.
- June 7 **Yellowstone Trail Day 2025**
 Visit historical societies in communities along Highway 175; Details TBA
- August 3 **Carousel Tour to Waterloo**
 Tour to begin in Hartford. Details are TBD, but save the date.
- Sept. 27 **Possible Tour - International Day of Touring**
 Courtesy of Jim Rodell, Jr. Could also be in late June. Details are TBD.

Wet spring weather is coming. Be sure to get your

IMPROVED MUD HOOKS



FULTON MUD HOOK

These mud hooks will prove a time saver, a money saver, and save lots of trouble. Just fasten one or two on the rear wheels and out you come—positively. They help you out of mud, sand and snow.

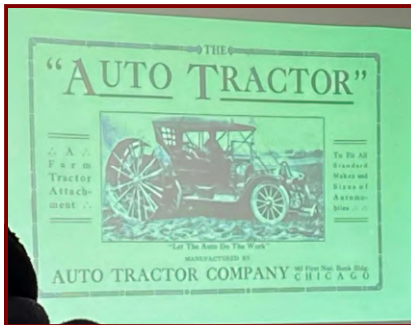
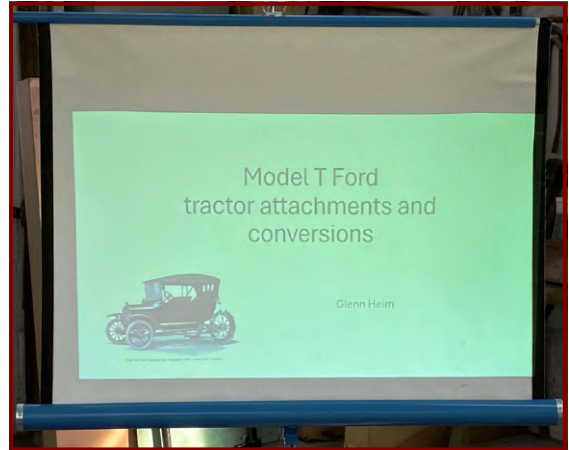
The new improved mud hooks have a special clamp, as shown in illustration, which holds firmly under any strain, while the old method of fastening with straps often proved too weak in a real hard pull. Clamp is padded to prevent rubbing paint off the wheel. Easily applied and quickly removed. Shipping weight, pair, 6 lbs.

1B208C—Improved Mud Hooks, pair, for 3½-inch tires. ★2.40



Since the 1980's, Glenn Heim of Illinois has been researching, collecting, and restoring attachments manufactured and marketed to convert the Model T Ford and Model A Ford for tractor use. Glenn has found evidence of 125 manufacturers of tractor conversion kits that were in business from about 1915 to 1940. He has

about 50 examples in his collection. Glenn is writing articles for *Antique Power* magazine and is working on a book about tractor attachments to be published in the future



Glenn's presentation included the history of Model T tractor attachments accompanied by a power point presentation with images of period photos and advertisements.



Early attachments were offered to convert a Model T Ford for field work, and when the work was done the attachment was taken off to convert back to automobile use. Changing from automobile to tractor and back required much time and effort.

As used Model T Fords became plentiful, low-priced kits for converting the Model T into a permanent tractor took over the market. Other tractor conversions which narrowed and shortened the wheelbase into a garden tractor or golf course machine were also produced. Also, some tractors were homebuilt conversions known as "doodlebugs".

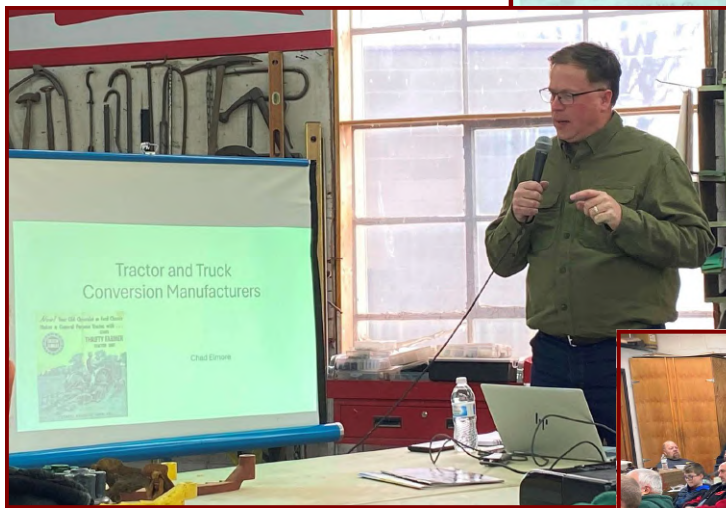


Chad Elmore is an accomplished writer and historian from Jefferson, Wisconsin. He was an associate editor of Old Cars Weekly, author of Peru Plow Works. Ninety Years of Farm Machinery in Peru, Illinois, and currently writes for Antique Power magazine along with his role as managing editor of a heavy equipment trade publication.

Chad spoke and presented a power point about his specialty, the Montgomery Ward “WardFord” and Sears – Roebuck “Thrifty Farmer” tractor conversions produced by the Peru Plow & Wheel Company. Chad is also the



owner of a Model A Ford “WardFord” conversion. Chad presented the results of his research on the Burlington truck conversion for Model T Fords produced in Burlington, Wisconsin and the F.A. Ames Company of Owensboro, Kentucky which produced aftermarket bodies for Model T Fords.



After Chad’s presentation, Glenn briefly discussed Model T Ford snowmobile conversions, Pietenpol airplanes and other unique uses of the Model T Ford power-plant in the 1920’s and 1930’s. Dairyland Tin Lizzies members added to the day by providing artifacts for display. Pieces of Model T snowmobile conversion units were on hand, as well as three examples of Model T Ford tractors.



Gregg Zangl's trusty brass radiator tractor was purchased in 1974 behind the Milty Wilty drive-in restaurant near Wautoma by a 50 year younger version of Gregg. The drive and bull gears on Gregg's homebuilt tractor may have been cast by Dombrowski Foundry in Neshkoro, which produced gears for many of the Model T "marsh tractors" built by farmers in the area to cut and harvest marsh hay.



Billy Vrana's tractor was recently assembled with a Fond du Lac tractor attachment produced by early Fond du Lac Ford dealer and distributor T.W. Meiklejohn. Billy purchased his tractor attachment in 2014 near Caspian, Michigan.

Jim Rodell's tractor was purchased last November near Wausau, Wisconsin from the family who purchased it from the original owner on Christmas eve of 1963. It is a Montgomery Ward "WardFord Utility" with optional front wheels and Ruckstell rear axle and believed to be assembled in 1935.

In appreciation for our guest speakers sharing their time and knowledge with us, the Dairyland Tin Lizzies presented Glenn and Chad with Tin Lizzy University collegiate sweatshirts and also pens crafted from repurposed Model T wood spoke material made and donated by member Andy Erbach.



Over 50 individuals enjoyed participating in Tin Lizzy University and had the opportunity to advance their education in “Flivverology”. Many thanks to our guest speakers and those who brought related items for display. Thanks also to Tod Wirth for providing coil testing and repair services, and to Jack Leonhardt for providing the microphone and speaker gear. Big thanks to Billy and Dan Vrana for providing a wonderful gathering place with refreshments and cooking up some delicious chili and jambalaya!



This is a great event and we always look forward to future sessions of Tin Lizzy University, but we need your help! Do you have a special area of knowledge or skill in Model T repair or Flivverology? Do you know someone who would make an excellent speaker or TLU instructor? We must plan ahead to have effective programming in the future. Put your ideas into action for 2026 and beyond!

The real fun:

Getting Jim Rodell's tractor running later on that afternoon!



**"Man minus the Machine is a slave;
Man plus the Machine is a free man."**

-Henry Ford Ford News, p. 2. 8/1/1925

Tin Lizzy Ladies' Day - January 25, 2025

By Shelly Humphrey

Ladies' days are always a good idea, and ours was no exception! From a cozy morning coffee to popping in and out of some local gems, we filled the day with laughs, memories and of course, shopping!

We kicked off our day with a much-needed caffeine fix at Panera. We chatted about movies we've seen recently, life updates and future plans. Nothing beats great conversation, good friends, and coffee!

After fueling up, it was time for a shopping spree at Marshalls. There's always something that catches your eye here, whether it's a Valentine sweater, cute accessories, or the perfect candle that you love the smell of.

Next, we hit St. Vincent De Paul for some thrift shopping fun. Always an adventure, we dug through many quirky treasures, each sparking new ideas and adding to the day's excitement.

All that shopping worked up an appetite in us, so we headed to Chatter's in nearby Kewaskum. The soup flight and sandwiches were delicious!

Before leaving Kewaskum, we stopped in at Cindy's Country Crafts; a quaint shop offering a variety of hand-made rustic farmhouse crafts and unique home decor items. We couldn't resist picking up a few Christmas close-out items to remember our day.

Back in West Bend, we ended our day at the WB Pilot & Finery, where style meets local flair. A Marilyn Monroe Kleenex box cover anyone? It was the perfect way to wrap up a fun-filled shopping day.

Our ladies' day was filled with laughs, great conversations, and, of course, some fabulous finds. There's nothing better than spending time with your favorite people, making memories and discovering new spots around town. Whether you're grabbing coffee, hunting for bargains, or just having fun, a day out with the girls is always a win. Thanks Diane and Barb; it was a blast!



The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

~Mark Twain

Dairyland Tin Lizzies Christmas Party - January 11, 2025

By Keith Gumbinger

The Dairyland Tin Lizzies Christmas Party was held on January 11, 2025, at Big Guys Bar and Restaurant in Hartford, WI. We had a private room downstairs for our event.

Around 42 people attended, including one member who drove his open T despite the chilly 20-degree weather. We were also joined by our youngest active member, 10-year-old Jaxson Edler, who's been driving a Model T since he was 6!

The party kicked off with a surprise visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, who delivered gifts to everyone. Thank you, Santa!



Jack's New Year's resolution:
"I'm gonna to grow to fit into these pants
'cause I wanna be Santa next year!"

Tod and Sharon Wirth, who organized the event, began the gift exchange by having everyone draw numbers. When a number was called, the person could either pick a gift from under the tree or "steal" a gift that



had already been selected.

The process was full of fun and laughter, with popular items like wine, shop supplies, a 1916 vintage tour book for Wisconsin and even a restored Model T carburetor. To speed things up, Tod drew two numbers at a time, which kept things moving efficiently.

After the exchange, we enjoyed a buffet dinner provided by Big



Guys, followed by delicious desserts brought by members.

As the evening came to a close, we thanked Tod and Sharon for organizing such a great event and Big Guys for the tasty dinner and venue.



These two photos are identical. They are mirror images of each other.

Tour to the Richfield Thresheree - September 21, 2024

By Keith Gumbinger

We gathered at the Hartford Wal-Mart, our starting point for a scenic 30-mile drive to the Richfield Thresheree. The weather was perfect; clear skies with temperatures in the 70s. The journey, along picturesque country roads, was taken at a leisurely pace, offering a pleasant and enjoyable drive.



The Richfield Thresheree is an annual event hosted by the Richfield Historical Society at their grounds. It features a variety of demonstrations, including tractor pulls, a working steam-powered sawmill, and mill tours, along with a wide range of sensory experiences. In addition to the demonstrations and a silent auction, there were homemade crafts and a selection of pies and sweets available for purchase.



Rock Zangl was on hand assisting with the sawmill operation, even hooking up the power takeoff on his TT to a buzz saw to cut slab wood for future firewood. He also had his Model T Depression Tractor and 1913 Depot Hack on display.

DTL members who drove from Hartford included: Tod & Sharon Wirth, Kevin Bruso, Adam Doleshal, Pete & Shelly Humphrey, Keith & Carol

Gumbinger, Rueben & Nancy Kugel, and Markus Geoffrey. Other members who joined us at the Thresheree were Mike Zahorik, Jim Wright, Dave DeYoung, and Rock Zangl.



This was a relaxing day, made even more memorable by the scenic drive to the Richfield Historical Park. Thanks to Tod & Sharon Wirth for planning this enjoyable day!!

MTFCI 67th Annual Tour - July 15-19, 2024 Cadillac, Michigan

The Dairyland Tin Lizzies Club had a great turnout for the 67th Annual MTFCI National Tour in Cadillac, Michigan, last July. Our group included 24 adults and 3 kids.

Over the course of the tour, we drove nearly 500 miles. The weather was mostly good, though one night a heavy storm left us with plenty of water to wipe from our seats the following morning (for those who left their T's outdoors).



A total of 234 cars and 541 people registered to explore the area around Cadillac. Opening ceremonies took place on Sunday evening at the downtown park and marketplace, featuring a pig roast, children's activities (including a reading of the children's book *Miss Lizzy* by author George Farrow) and a welcome proclamation from the Mayor of Cadillac. The week was off to a great start with food and fun for all.



Monday included a scenic drive on Model T-friendly roads, culminating at Cadillac Commons Park, where food trucks, class judging, a fashion show, kids' activities and a lakefront Community Band Concert were held. The fashion show was a special treat as our own Rick & Irene Schwechler and Elizabeth & Charlotte Ziehmke showed off their vintage styles.



Rick & Irene



Elizabeth & Charlotte

That evening, the local Ford Dealership; Fox Ford, hosted an ice cream social and Pinewood Derby races for the youth.

Each day included a morning pastry and coffee stop. Wednesday's offering featured award-winning hand pies freshly baked by the Ladies Society in Harrietta. Just as advertised, these were delicious.

Tuesday's tour took us to Wellington Farm Park USA, where we enjoyed our first gourmet box lunch and explored Depression-era living exhibits. The scenic drive back to Cadillac took us past numerous Christmas tree farms.



—Continued from Page 10

Wednesday's drive to Manistee featured the picturesque Coates Highway. In Manistee, we had the chance to explore a body shop with several rare early cars, including three Curved Dash Oldsmobiles, a teens Cadillac Touring car and others.

The return journey took us through the Manistee National Forest and optional logging roads, offering a nostalgic trip through time. The evening was open for everyone to enjoy at their leisure.

Thursday's tour to Acme, Michigan took us to the Music House Museum. This amazing attraction was by far the highlight of the week's tour destinations. We explored a fabulous collection of rare instruments, player pianos and automated music-making machines with docent demonstrations. MTFCI member Steve Farley delighted many with an impromptu performance on an antique piano.



After returning to Cadillac, we gathered again at Fox Ford for the Fashion Show Awards and Class Judging Awards, followed by the Youth Auction, which raised over \$11,000 for the MTFCI Youth Foundation!

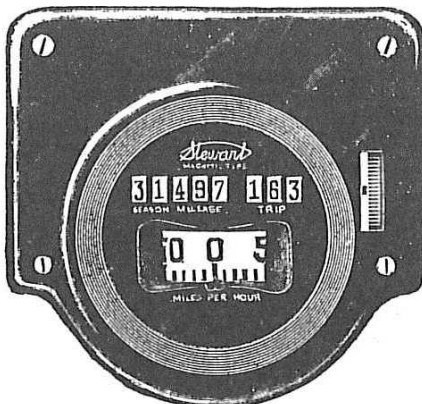
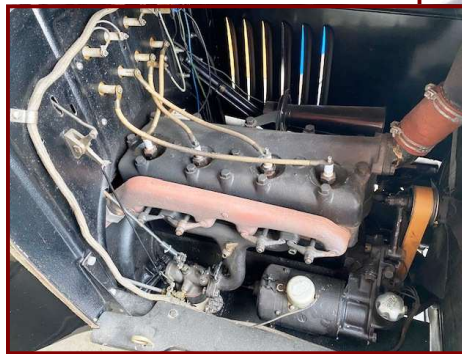
Friday's tour took us to Reed City, where we visited the Reed City Heritage and Old Rugged Cross Museum. The week concluded with a closing banquet and awards presentation. This tour will be remembered for its scenic drives and delicious food. It was truly a week to "Ride Around and Eat Stuff!"



DTL members on the tour included: DeWayne Fritz & Diane Scheid, Pete & Shelly Humphrey, Larry & Pat Summers, Keith & Carol Gumbinger, Wayne Jorgensen & Paul Safransky, Ruben & Nancy Kugel, Rob & Pat Maasch and their daughter Becky Herbel along with her kids, Nathan & Mae Jean Zelle, Rick & Irene Schwechler, Tod & Sharon Wirth, Elizabeth, Charlotte & Tony Ziehmke, Forrest Green and Tim & Joan Juhl.

Buzz Classifieds

1926 Model TT Truck -Fully restored and clean with great paint and interior.
For Sale: -Truck is located in Fond du Lac.
 Asking \$13,500. Call J.R. at: 920-251-3800.



Stewart Speedometer

SPECIAL FOR 1919-20 FORD CARS.

No Ford car is complete without a good speedometer. This model Stewart Speedometer is designed especially for use on the instrument board now provided on the new model Ford cars.

Built on the magnetic principle exclusive to Stewart Speedometers only. Three-inch dial face, large plain figures, 60-mile capacity rotating speed dial, 100,000-mile season odometer and 100-mile trip register which can be set any tenth of any mile. Tungsten steel magnet, jeweled pivots. Flange matches starter switch plate. Finished in black enamel. Complete with all fittings and driving equipment. Shipping weight, about 10 lbs.

1C300A—Complete..... 11.65

Rockford Model T Club's 60th Annual Little Hershey

Swap Meet & Cruise In

Saturday May 17th, 2025

Boone County Fairgrounds -- Belvidere, IL

**Enter @ Gate 3 -- South Entrance
Gates Open Saturday at 6a.m.**

\$10 Entry For Spectators - Children Under 12 Free Food Available On The Grounds

Rain or Shine Free Parking

Cars For Sale

**Over 300 Swap Spaces
Available Inside & Out**

**Vintage Car Cruise In
For Makes 2000 & Older
Driver + 1 Passenger
& Car Get In Free**



**Free Model T Rides
Hit & Miss Engine Demo**



**Find Us On Facebook
Little Hershey Swap Meet and Car Show**

Vendor Gate Open For Setup 10am - 6pm on Friday

Portion Of Proceeds Go To Local Charities

Any Questions Please: Call Dave (815) 979-4544 or Email: littlehershey1@gmail.com

UPCOMING REGIONAL & NATIONAL EVENTS

Model T Homecoming

Hosted by Henry's Hoosiers

Richmond, Indiana, USA June 7, 2025

24th Annual Show Me Tour

Hosted by Show Me T's

Republic, Missouri, USA June 4 - 7, 2025

MTFCA National Tour - Steam 'N T Party

Hosted by Foothills Model T Ford Club

Calgary, Alberta, Canada July 13 - 18, 2025

MTFCI 68th Annual Tour

Hosted by the T-Totalers Model T Club of Minnesota

Owatonna, Minnesota, USA July 20 - 25, 2025

2025 Jamboree of T's

Hosted by the Borderline T's

St. Ignace, Michigan, USA, August 14 - 16, 2025

Model T Covered Bridge Tour

Hosted by the West Central Indiana Model Ters

Parke County, Indiana, USA September 27 - October 1, 2025

Dairyland Tin Lizzies Officers

President: Tod Wirth

Treasurer: Ken Lefebber

Vice President: Kevin Bruso

Secretary: Jim Rodell, Jr.

Webmaster: Carol Gumbinger

Newsletter: Pete & Shelly Humphrey





Cancel distance & conquer weather

The woman who drives her own Ford Closed Car is completely independent of road and weather conditions in any season.

It enables her to carry on all those activities of the winter months that necessitate travel to and fro—in

or out of town. Her time and energy are conserved; her health is protected, no matter how bitterly cold the day, or how wet and slushy it is underfoot.

A Ford Sedan is always comfortable—warm and snug in winter, and in summer with ventilator and windows open wide, as cool and airy as an open car.

This seasonal comfort is combined with fine looks and Ford dependability; no wonder there is for this car so wide and ever-growing a demand.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

TUDOR SEDAN, \$580 ∴ FORDOR SEDAN, \$660
COUPE, \$520 ∴ ALL PRICES F. O. B. DETROIT

Ford

C L O S E D C A R S