



2019-09-25 Tin Lizzies  
Come to Town

## Tin Lizzies come to town

By Marianne Rose  
*Union County Leader*  
Reporter

They began arriving in Clayton, New Mexico on Friday, September 20, 2019. Some were parked along Main Street and in the driveway of the Eklund Hotel and the trailers were lined up in the parking lot behind the Eklund and the *Union County Leader*. The cars gathered local interest and the owners were more than happy to talk about their cars.

Five cars from Tin Lizzies of Albuquerque came to town on their annual road trip in New Mexico. The members stayed at the Eklund Hotel and, wearing period costume for the era of their cars, celebrated the 103rd birthday of the Luna Theatre at a showing of *Dora*.

Saturday morning, the cars were parked along the curb and under the roofed drive of the Eklund Hotel, getting ready for a drive around the area.

Marilyn Duncan was the spokesperson for the group and explained once or twice a year, they tour a different part of New Mexico. This trip took them first to Raton, New Mexico and then on to Clayton. They were going to take a morning drive up to McNees Crossing and over to have a picnic lunch at Clayton Lake State Park. There was

no fishing at the park because of the low water level, but they were going to see the dinosaur tracks and had been assured by Mark Funk of the State Park there was plenty of migratory birds to see. The Eklund provided sandwiches and other luncheon items for the group.

The cars were four Ford Model T's and one Model A. Their owners were very happy to provide information about their vehicles.

The 1912 Touring car was as old as the State of New Mexico. Owners Larry and Lorna Azvedo were from Corrales, New Mexico. They had just come from winning the Director's Award at the 2019 New Mexico State Fair. The shiny black vehicle had the two seats and open sides that are what distinguishes it as a touring car. There was a lot of brass parts, and a crank start. The headlights were electric, but the original headlights were oil or kerosene lamps.

The 1918 Depot Hack was the original 'Woody'. Owner David Ferro was from Albuquerque. This Model T was originally used to pick up people from the train depot and take them to whatever hotel they were staying at. It had wooden sides, with room for luggage in the back. It too was a crank start.

Paul and Marilyn Duncan of Rio Rancho were in their 1920 Touring car. It had two seats and open sides. The wheels had wooden spokes. There was

a cover that can be folded back for open touring.

A 1924 Coupe was owned by Mark and Susan Wing of Albuquerque. A coupe is a two-door car with enclosed interior and windows. A flower vase was attached to the inside walls, between the seats. It had a 'turtle deck', which is basically an attached trunk in the rear.

All the chasses are the same and have a 100-inch wheelbase. The early Model T's can travel up to 35 miles per hour.

Orlando Ortega, Jr. from Portales had his 1931 Model A Roadster, complete with rumble seat. This car had one seat and could travel at a speed up to 50 miles per hour. For those who viewed these cars, this one was the only tan-colored car.

A close inspection of the earlier Model T's showed a cylinder the size of a doughnut on the axle and behind the back wheels. The cars did not have front brakes. This little brake was not too efficient on steep roads. A couple of the cars had a larger cylinder on each back wheel that was called a Rocky Mountain brake. It was supposed to be a more efficient brake for the steep hills of the Rocky Mountains. It was a little better than the original smaller brakes.

Tin Lizzies of Albuquerque is a club for Model T Ford enthusiasts. Ownership of a Model T is not a requirement to be a member of the club. The club

members attend car shows with their cars, drive in parades and family participation is encouraged. Once or twice a month, they get together to maintain and restore their cars. There are youth days where the children and grandchildren of the members get a chance to learn how to drive and work on the cars. Club breakfasts are held on the second Saturday of the month, when they drive their Model T's to a local restaurant, socialize and eat great food.

For More information on the Tin Lizzies of Albuquerque go to:  
[www.tinlizziesofabq.com](http://www.tinlizziesofabq.com).

Sidebar:

### A History of the Ford Tin Lizzie Compiled by Marianne Rose *Union County Leader* Reporter

The Model T Tin Lizzie was produced by the Ford Motor Company from October 1, 1908 to May 26, 1927. It was considered the first affordable car for middle class families.

Ironically, the first design was called the Model A, which was the car that came after the Model T. Revisions to the design followed alphabetically until Henry Ford was satisfied with Model T.

Most of the population in the early part of the 20th century were farmers. The Model T could be outfitted with attachments for use in

the fields, almost like a tractor.

The Model T was the first production line factory produced vehicle. The time for a vehicle to go through the production line went from 12.5 hours in 1909 to 93 minutes by 1914. A vehicle came off the production line every three minutes.

The cost of purchasing a Model T in 1909 was \$825; \$850 for a touring car. Production of the Model T ended mid-1927 at a cost of \$360. At that point the factories were re-tooled to produce the Model A.

Four main car clubs exist for the preservation and restoration of the Model T. They are Model T Ford Club International, The Model T Ford Club of American, and two combined clubs in Australia.

Trivia: The scraps of wood from the production of the Model T were turned into charcoal and sold as Ford Charcoal. The name was later changed to Kingsford Charcoal.

More Trivia: During the Prohibition, the cars had to be modified to run on gasoline as the original fuel of ethyl alcohol was banned.



### ***Tin Lizzies tour county; Clayton, New Mexico***

A VISIT BY Tin Lizzies of Albuquerque Car Club on Friday, September 20, 2019 and Saturday, September 21, 2019, was made welcome by the Hotel Eklund and the Luna Theatre, as well as the Herzstein Museum. They drove some 44 miles to tour Seneca and Clayton Lake State Park in their Model Ts and a 1931 Model A.

*(Union County Leader photos by Terry L. Martin)*