

# The Smith Collection

## Museum of Automotive and Racing Memorabilia

Lincoln, Nebraska

by Jay Klehfoth

If you enjoy Model Tracing, speed equipment, and accessories, there are automotive museums and then there is Bill and Joyce Smiths museum.

Last year, the board of directors and officers of the Model T Ford Club of America met in Omaha, Nebraska (actually, Council Bluffs, Iowa-across the river from Omaha). One day, we traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska where Bill and Joyce and family opened their museum to us for a special tour of their museum.

For those of you familiar with automobile racing, Bill Smith is a name you recognize. He has had a colorful career in racing; designing and building famous race cars; and owns Speedway Motors, one of the largest manufacturers and suppliers of racing equipment, performance, and accessories.

Walking in the front door, you immediately know that you are someplace special. Directly ahead and surrounding you are historic race cars that I had only seen in pictures, and an array of famous racing engines. The backdrop of this scene is several garage fronts taken from the old garage area at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, complete with a brick floor.

The museum is adjacent to Speedway Motors headquarters and covers an area of over 18,000 square feet with dozens of race cars and over 200 professionally restored and exotic racing engines on display. Bill's collection includes every overhead valve cylinder head ever manufactured for the Model T. The collection also contains hundreds (if not thousands) of accessories for the Model T, plus a diorama of a racing garage, circa late 1920s where a Fronty race car is being prepared for its next outing. You almost expect the mechanic to come back at anytime.

The collection also contains over 400 pedal cars and in excess of 5,000 vintage toy racers, including gas powered and tether cars.

Rather than take up more space with words, I'll let the pictures talk for themselves.

Thanks to Dave Dunlavy for making the arrangements, the Centennial T Club of Omaha for providing the transportation, and most of all to Bill and Joyce Smith for sharing their collection with us.

The museum is located at 300 Speedway Circle, Lincoln, Nebraska 68502. Their phone number is 402.477.4485. The collection is only open by appointment. If you ever have the opportunity-it is one that every T and racing enthusiast should not miss. □



*Do you think they thought we were important or they saw us all eat the night before?*

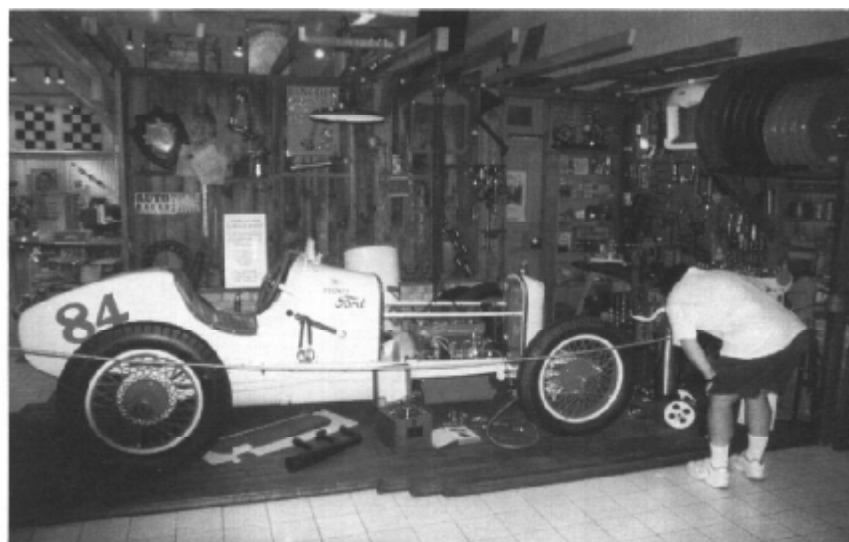


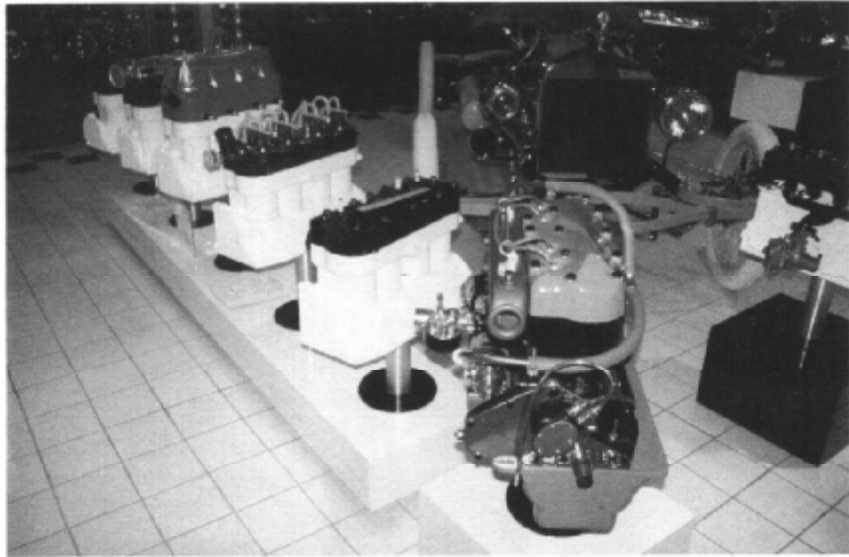
*Walking in the front door, one is greeted by a host of famous race cars and restored racing engines*



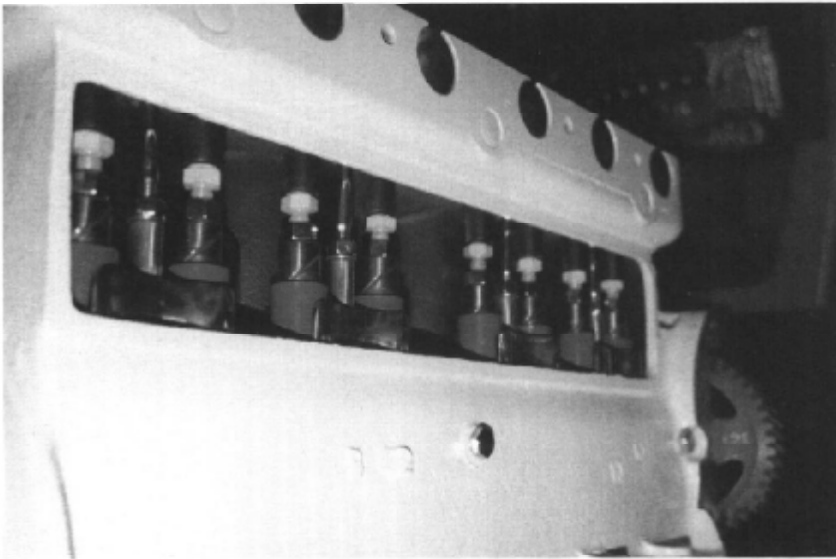
Top and Left: A few Model T based racers and speedsters in the Smith Collection. At least two of these are totally original and unchanged since they were driven in the 1920s.

Bottom: A diorama of a racing garage, circa late 1920s, where a Fronty race car is being prepared for its next outing.

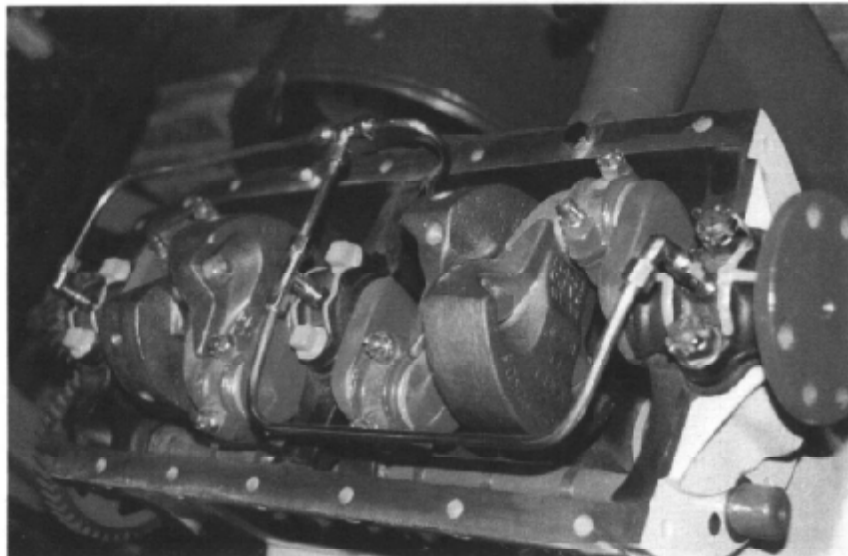


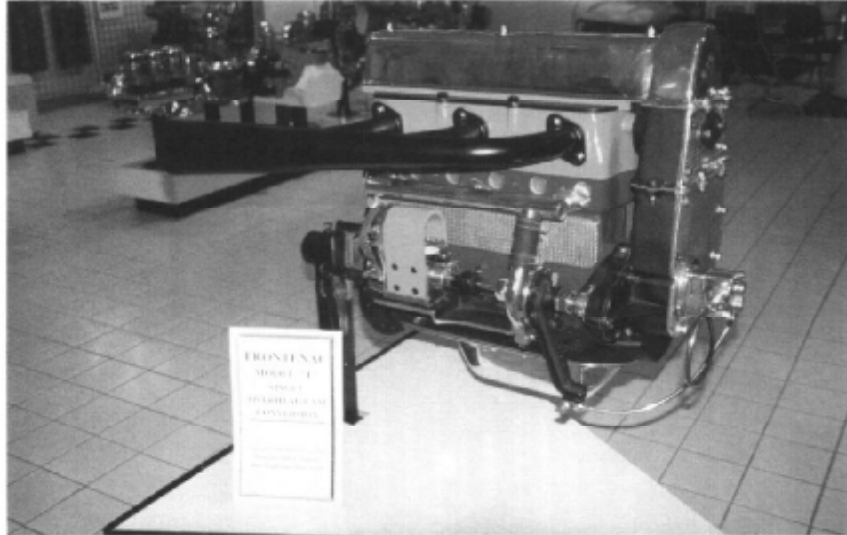


*Top: Display area of various accessory cylinder heads for Model Ts*



*Right and Bottom: Winfield roller tappet conversion, complete with special oil system and crankshaft counterweights. Winfield was the only manufacturer known to have made a roller tappet for a Model T.*





*Top: Frontenac single overhead cam, complete with side drive water pump and Bosch magneto*

*Left: A whole section dedicated to Roof heads and racing engines*

*Bottom: Ford V-8 experimental magnesium air cooled engine built by Henry Ford in the early 1930s*



## Pedal Cars and Toys



*A child's dream come true—  
and for a adults, as well. An  
absolutely amazing collection of  
pedal cars and toys!*

