

1855



2005

## *A day in Flint History*



### **1900: The first Flint-built car makes its debut**

The first Flint-made automobile was built by Charles H. Wisner, which he apparently began working on in 1898. Wisner was a Genesee County circuit judge and one of Flint's most respected citizens. He was known to spend every moment when out of court at the bench in his machine shop, which was his carriage house at the southwest corner of E. Court and Lapeer Streets, behind his home at 516 E. Court. Wisner's first car was sometimes referred to as "the buzz wagon" in The Flint Journal records, which said

the car was "a big, very noisy contraption with a big heavy one-cylinder motor." In its first recorded public appearance, a Labor Day parade in Flint on September 3, 1900, viewed by about 10,000 people, the Wisner car stalled out. Residents later recalled that Wisner at first had no brakes on his car—that he would start it up and run it into the side of the machine shop to stop it.

**THE FLINT JOURNAL**

**INTOUCH INDEPTH INVOLVED**

Source: Centennial Picture History of Flint