

1855



2005

A day in Flint History



1903: Buick Motor Company of Detroit moves to Flint to operate out of a new factory

David Dunbar Buick was a successful manufacturer of plumbing supplies in Detroit in the late 19th Century. He developed a method of adhering porcelain to cast iron which made modern bathtubs and other bathroom fixtures possible. By the late 1890s, Buick became bored with bathtubs and interested in the internal combustion engine. By 1903, he had built his first automobile, which he sold for \$225. Buick then became involved in an automobile venture which eventually led to negotiations with James H. Whiting and the

other directors of the Flint Wagon Works. On September 11, 1903, The Flint Journal reported that the decision had been reached—Buick was moving to Flint. In early 1904, Buick urged Whiting to let him build an automobile. Whiting gave the go ahead and by late May an engine was installed in a chassis and on July 9–12, the car made a test run to Detroit and back to Flint.

THE FLINT JOURNAL
 IN TOUCH IN DEPTH INVOLVED

Source: Centennial Picture History of Flint