

1855



2005

## *A day in Flint History*



### **1902: Flint Automobile Company produced the first car manufactured in Flint**

Although Judge Wisner built the first automobile in Flint, the first manufacturer of autos in the city was A.B.C. Hardy, who had left the Durant-Dort Carriage Co. at the turn of the century because the pressure of business was beginning to undermine his health. Hardy learned a great deal about the advanced autos of Europe during a visit to the continent, and when he returned to Flint in 1901, he urged local carriage makers to get into the horseless carriage business. The advice was ignored, so late in 1901 Hardy used mostly

his own money to establish the Flint Automobile Co. By late 1902 Hardy was building Flint Roadsters—small red cars priced from \$750 to \$850. In 1903, Hardy was sued by the Association of Licensed Automobile Manufacturers and although he was successful in the court action, with only 52 cars produced in 2 years, he felt he had no choice but to go out of business.

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Source: Centennial Picture History of Flint