

The news and events of Iowa's premier vintage vehicle tours.

RUNNING LIGHTS



December 2011

Our June 2012 Tour

What is it about crimes and criminals that fascinate us? The tragic events, lives lost, families disrupted, sadness and evil. Nevertheless they are a mainstay of popular culture. Criminals like Jesse James are sometimes seen to have Robin Hood qualities; robbing the rich—paying the poor.

Our tour will take a closer look at some of the better, as well as lesser known crime stories in Iowa. Ironically we will visit Villisca 100 years to the week after six members of the Moore family and two young houseguests were found bludgeoned to death with the Moore's own axe. The murder spawned nearly ten years of investigations, repeated grand jury hearings, a spectacular slander suit, and murder trial, and numerous minor litigations and trials. It made and broke political careers. Legislation was written in response to the mur-

continued on page 2

Preserving the Historic Road

Preserving the Historic Road is the leading conference dedicated to the identification, preservation and management of historic roads. The next conference will be September 20 – 23, 2012 in Indianapolis, home of highway visionary Carl Fisher; the city boasts the world-famous Speedway with its outstanding museum. The drive over and back can include portions of the Lincoln Highway across Illinois, the Studebaker National Museum in South Bend, and the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum in Auburn, Indiana. It inhabits the former Auburn Automobile Company's national headquarters building, a place MSNBC News named as one of the "Top Ten Gearhead Destinations in

the United States."

Is anyone interested in attending? If so, let Gerry or John know. We need a minimum of 10 participating vehicles or maybe rent a small bus or minivan.

Fall Tour Wrap-Up

Once again we enjoyed some great autumn weather on our *Blue Skies to Blue Earth* tour. Nearly 80 vehicles participated and the combination of interesting sites and welcoming communities made this one of the best ever. We thank Jim Gabriel for sharing a few photo memories.



2012 CHICAGO AUTO SHOW

First staged in 1901, the Chicago Auto Show is the largest auto show in North America and has been held more times than any other auto exposition on the

continued on back page



A Blue Earth Yo Ho Ho



Good Thunder's Great Wall



Estherville Shinetime



Our June 2012 Tour

continued from page 1

ders, including the establishment of the current State Bureau of Criminal Investigation's predecessor. In addition, the murder proved an unmitigated tragedy for Villisca.

Next we'll visit Templeton, Iowa. When Prohibition outlawed the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages in 1920 many enterprising residents of Templeton chose to become outlaws—producing a high caliber and much sought-after whiskey known as Templeton Rye, or “The Good Stuff” to those in the know. It was Al Capone's favorite, knowing these Western Iowa farmers refused to cut corners and continued to make their product with a lot of pride and a lot of care. Legend has it there were 10 truckloads a week heading from Templeton to Chicago. We'll get to the bottom of that legend and maybe sample a wee bit of the “Good Stuff” ourselves!

Then there's Jesse James in Adair and the world's first train robbery... Bonnie & Clyde robbing the bank in

Stuart and the Dexfield Park shoot-out near Dexter where his brother Buck was mortally wounded. Along the way we'll include some local historians telling us tales of other crimes, some with hilarious endings.

Our presenting sponsor, CWG Insurance is opening their West Des Moines campus to us, plus inviting area car clubs to join us for a gala opening the evening of Wednesday, June 13. Thursday morning, it's off to explore some of the more infamous places in Iowa history. Here's our schedule:

Thursday, June 14

West Des Moines to Red Oak with stops in Prescott and Villisca

Prior to visiting the murder site, we'll spend time with Dr. Edgar Epperly, a retired Professor of Education from Luther College. Dr. Epperly has devoted over 50 years to meticulous research on the crime and qualifies as the foremost authority on the 1912 Villisca, Iowa Axe Murders.

Friday, June 15

Red Oak to Denison with stops at Hitchcock House, Kimballton, Manning, and Templeton

Longtime tour participants will remember Eric Skoog and his yellow Model A Ford. Eric also owns Cronk's Café in Denison and we'll enjoy his dining hospitality that evening. Prohibition ended in 1933 but not for the Templeton farmers, who continued production in small, illegal batches for decades. In 2005 Frank Bush became determined to resurrect the whiskey legally and finally procured the recipe from reluctant locals. This story seems fantastic; clean-cut Midwesterners like Iowans just don't break the law running booze. When you're dirt poor, though, feeding your kids comes first.

Saturday, June 16

Denison to Perry with a stop in Coon Rapids

Sunday, June 17

A drive on the White Pole Road, including stops in Stuart, Adel, We'll visit sites where Bonnie & Clyde robbed banks and the surprising connection to Iowa's revered football hero, Nile Kinnick. The White Pole Road was one of Iowa's earliest highways; we'll learn some of its lore from a local historian.



Inspecting the Petroglyph's

■ MotorMemories, Inc.
P.O. Box 13408
Des Moines, IA 50310-0408



Gerry Schnepf, President
515 / 270-2128
gschnepf@keepiowabeautiful.com

John Swanson, Treasurer
319 / 362-5644
JWSLTD@msn.com

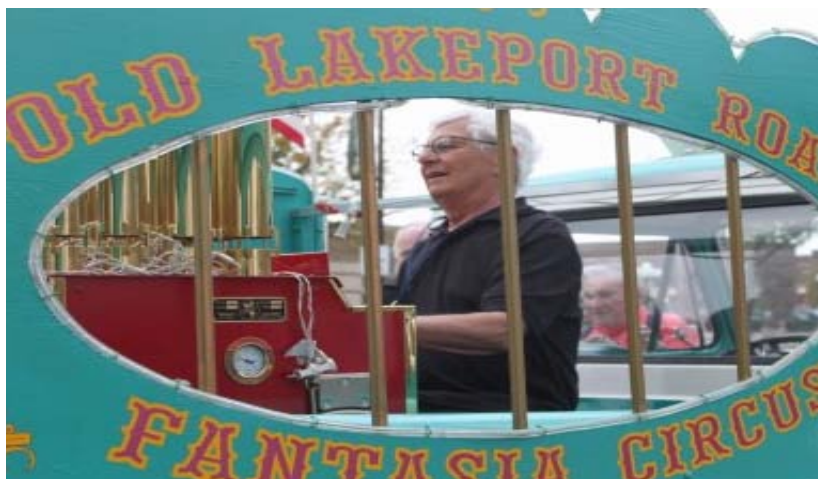
Chicago Auto Show

continued from front page

continent. It's been a few years since we took a busload of fans to the show, so maybe it's time to do it again. Saturday, February 11 is the date and we'll start in Des Moines, but also make pick-up stops in Iowa City and the Quad Cities area. To fill the cover the cost of the charter we need a minimum of 40 reservations. Transportation and admission ticket will cost \$80; checks will be held until minimum numbers are reached. Contact Gerry at 515.321.6354 or John if you are interested in going.

Our Deepest Sympathy

We were saddened to learn of the passing of two of MotorMemories frequent participants. Dennis Peiffer of Walford, IA on November 2 and Lon Christensen of Rockford, IL on November 18. Both had participated in over half of all our tours since 1996, both driving Ford Mustangs; though Lon and brother Jon sometimes drove a Model A in earlier tours. Our deepest sympathies to Carolyn Peiffer and family, as well as Lon's brothers Don and Jon and their families.



(top) Our Keyboard Maestro, (bottom left) Lederhosen and the New Ulm story, (bottom right) Clem Anton's Collection