

Our Trip to Amana

by Arnold Landvoigt

Day 1 - Sunday, 6 September

We departed the Landvoigt home around 9:30 AM and picked up Tom Cox in his '41 coupe a half hour later. Our goal for the day was to cross the mountains of Western Maryland and West Virginia. I had been unable to fix all the gremlins in our '37, so reluctantly it had to make another trip on the trailer. Tom, on the other hand, had a fresh engine with roughly 500 miles on it, which we were to put to the test.

The first several hours of the mountains went well, with Tom's '41 easily pulling the grades at 60 mph and no heating trouble. We cleared the dreaded Sideling Hill grade east of Cumberland, but approaching Frostburg the '41 erupted in a cloud of steam. Hood up on the side of the interstate we could find no apparent leak and replaced nearly 3 gallons of water. Everything returned to normal, so we pulled off into Frostburg and refilled the water jugs. The rest of the drive out was uneventful without a repeat of the steam.

Late in the afternoon we checked into our motel in St. Clairsville, Ohio, and drove down to Ralph & Ellen Hamilton's in Tom's car. There we were treated to a great grilled chicken dinner.



Day 2 - Monday, 7 September

We got a 9:00 start with the Hamilton's '51 now in the lead. They were more familiar with the secondary roads of Ohio we planned to take. For the remainder of the trip to Amana, we used the Interstate highways only briefly. After starting our day on U.S. Route 40, formerly the National Road, we

headed northwest around Zanesville on a series of smaller roads until we reached U.S. Route 30, the Lincoln Highway. At Van Wert, Ohio we took some time to stop and explore. Outside of town, we found an original bridge on a short abandoned section of the old road. On the concrete sides of the bridge were two of the original porcelain Lincoln Highway markers. Our travels ended in Decatur, about 30 miles across the state line into Indiana.



Day 3 - Tuesday, 8 September

This was a busy day. Continuing west, we dropped down to Grissom AFB for a visit to their air museum. They have inside exhibits dating back to the Wright brothers, as well as a collection of planes outside the museum from WW II up to the Vietnam era. It is a very worthwhile collection.



From there we made our way to Logansport, Indiana for lunch. We ate on picnic benches at an old fashion ice cream stand called "The Scoop." All treated themselves to large pork sandwiches, with

ice cream for dessert. Lunch was followed by a visit to the Cole Clothing Museum. This is housed in an old 3 story Victorian home. Each of the upstairs rooms is dedicated to the dress of a particular decade. While the larger focus is on women's fashions, men's styles are also represented. The owner has worked to restore the original features and woodwork of the home. This visit was a high point of the drive out for many of us.



This evening we reached our motel in Pontiac, Illinois. There we were able to join the Woodruffs and Prinzings, along with Mike and Sandy Smith, for dinner. The Smiths had driven from Wetumpka, Alabama for their first Flathead Reunion.



Day 4 - Wednesday, 9 September

Any slow touring was over as we lined up for the final push to Amana. We did a short section of Interstate around Peoria and crossed the Mississippi at Burlington where the caravan was joined by the Lukens. With the Woodruff's in the lead (Andi navigating), we avoided a local detour and took another short stretch of Interstate west of Iowa City, reaching Amana in the afternoon.



THE AMANA COLONIES, FLATHEAD REUNION '09

The 5th annual Flathead Reunion was a rousing success for everyone in attendance! We had a record number of participants, 53 to be precise; and a good car count with 25 on the show field. The old saying “a picture is worth a thousand words” is going to be the basis for the coverage from this year's event at the Amana Colonies.

Thank you to Bill Brecht, Tom Cox, Dwight & Nancy Ford, Ralph & Ellen Hamilton, John & Shirley Harvey, Arn & Lois Landvoigt, Fred & Marilyn Lewis, Dave & Bobbie Luken, Paul & Marjo Prinzing, Ron & Betsy Thomas and Jay & Mary Van Altvorst for sharing their photographs with us for this article. Pete & Andi



This is the old building of the Guest House Motel. The patio area was our gathering place every evening following the days' activities and dinner.



Wednesday night "Meet & Greet" filled the basement bar of the Ox Yoke Restaurant to capacity. It was time to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. The Meet & Greet has turned into a very popular aspect of attending a Flathead Reunion and really sets the tone for the days to come.



The Thursday tech session followed our Early Times Chapter meeting. Dave Luken acquired a Sun Electric Distributor Analyzer and brought it along for us to play with. Hopefully, he will be able to have it fully functional for a future event; and we could actually test distributors from some of the cars available.

This year, we had small groups forming and reforming as questions were asked and answers were offered. As always, we covered many topics of interest.



John Henderson hitched a ride on the ladies tour bus to get to the tech seminar. John brought both his grand-daughter and great grand-daughter with him from England this year. Not surprisingly, they were our youngest participants!



Our Pontiacs lined up on Friday morning for the driving tour to Kalona. The back cover photograph was also taken during the road trip on Friday.



The Figgins House is shown above.



Kalona offered a museum that featured primarily hand made quilts and historic clothing. There was also a large rock collection. Outside there were many restored buildings that had been relocated to the site. Most buildings were accessible and had displays inside that highlighted their original use.





John Henderson with Jay & Mary Van Altvorst. It was their first Flathead Reunion and we were glad to have them! We also had members that could not bring their Pontiac for a variety of reasons. What really matters is that they came and had fun.

Jay and Mary got right into the spirit of the event, even to the extent of bringing their beloved Pontiac; despite the fact, as you can see from these photos, that it is not quite finished yet!



The site for this years' show was nearly adjacent to the Guest House Motel. It is used on Fridays for a Farmer's Market in Amana and served us very well. Since it was not far from the main street, we had many visitors coming to see what was going on.

At right, Ron & Clara Kiser with their '38 Pontiac. They were first-time Flathead Reunion attendees.

In addition to the Kiser's '38; John & Elma Hofmeyer and Jerry Stolinski also brought a '38 model. I can't remember the last time I saw three 1938 Pontiacs together in the same place!

Fred & Marilyn Lewis took the award for best post-war display again this year. That is Reid Williamson in the background, cleaning his '48 Streamliner. He took home another long-distance driven award.



Nancy Ford posing with Donna and her daughter Shannon, holding the parasol. Nancy had enough vintage dresses to outfit the both of them as "flappers" circa 1927.





Seen from left to right: Lois Landvoigt representing 1937; Andi Woodruff, 1953, Mary Van Altvorst, 1928; Marilyn Lewis, 1942; Arlyss Kelsey & Judy Nelson; Marjo Prinzing, 1954; Shirley Harvey, 1951; Betsy Thomas, 1929; Janice Glatz, 1953; Bobbie Luken, 1950 and Ellen Hamilton, 1951.

As always, our period dress came as quite a surprise to the Amana Colony visitors there on Saturday. Many of us we asked to pose with our respective cars as visitors wanted photos to take home with them. We also had some visitors who came with questions and spent time learning what they could from our members.



Vintage Pontiacs lined both sides of the sidewalk, and even wrapped around the corner of the barn. Parking space was a bit tight this year, but than too, we had nearly a record number of cars on display. Kalamazoo still holds the record for the most cars at our Show & Shine.

Below is a photo from our traditional coffee and dessert awards presentation. This years' specialty was home made pie, and it was great! The Amana Colonies are Amish country; food is served "family" style and you will never leave the table hungry!





Dwight and Nancy Ford were chosen to have the best pre-war display, not the first time they have been so honored. You can see from these photos that they have put together a very elaborate display; especially with regard to hand tools of the late twenties.

Above left: Dwight is talking with Richard Johnson, who also happens to own a '27 Pontiac. I'm sure they spent quite some time "comparing notes" about their respective cars; which is good reason to attend the Flathead Reunion, to share experiences!