

Cover Story

Flathead Reunion # 12 in Normal

By David Luken

The first full week of September means one thing to me, fire up the old car 'cause it is Flathead Reunion time. This year found everyone converging on Normal Illinois.

For those who arrived early there was an excursion to "Beer Nuts", the area's #1 tourist attraction. After learning the history of this bar favorite and seeing just how the treats were made, there was an opportunity to try a few and maybe buy some for later.



All that salt made us think we needed some ice cream, so that is exactly what we did next.

Later that evening was the traditional meet and greet. Old friends greeted each other and new friends were introduced to the group. So ended the first day of this gathering.

Thursday morning came along and the men settled in for a day of talking about cars, including what we had learned since last year, and what new challenges had come along.



The ladies went on a bus trip to learn a little of the local history and visit some antique shops. My understanding is the only challenge of the bus trip had to do with the bus being late to pick everyone up. "The best laid plans"?

As the sun started to settle in the west, everyone jumped in the cars for a drive to The Ozark House Restaurant for a fine meal, as well as a chance for a little conversation across the table.

By the time Friday arrived everyone was ready for a fun (fun means raining) drive up old Route 66 to Pontiac Illinois, home of the Pontiac Oakland Museum and Resource Center.



Tim Dye gave everyone the grand tour, including the basement workshop, and a very special treat, a look at some of the cars being stored at a remote location and perhaps to be displayed in the museum at a later date.



Joe and Ann Miraglio's '26 Coupe is featured as a mural on the wall of the diner where we enjoyed our lunch

After lunch there was a stop at the Route 66 Museum. The Route 66 Museum also included a WW II Museum, an Art Museum, and several other exhibits. A photo opportunity at the Route 66 Mural had to be cancelled due to rain. Well, also because a bunch of motor cycles ended up being parked there. It was a fun 66 mile trip and the cars must have really enjoyed it as well. To the best of my knowledge they all ran flawlessly.

Saturday is show day and we all woke up to rain. Fear not, for by the time we drove to the neighboring town of Towanda the sun was coming out. We had a lot of visitors and the cars looked great shining in the sun!

Continued next page



Harold and Linda Hankins 1928 Landau Coupe drew a lot of attention.

The show actually took place on a stretch of Route 66 that had been abandoned many years ago when I-55 was built nearby. There was even a commemorative Route 66 license plate given to all who attended.



All that was left to do was have our annual awards celebration with coffee and deserts.

Long distance tailored went to Huck and Sally Mundell, who were only 922 miles from home.

Long distance driven went to Richard and Lois Preston, who drove their '54 Starchief 800 miles to get to Normal.



Best Pre War display went to Mahlon McDill who drove a 1935 4 door Quality Six Sedan.



And last, but not least, the Best Postwar display went to Joe Wheat and the '53 Chieftain Station Wagon. This is the same car that won Best Post War at this year's POCI show in Bettendorf Iowa.



Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all those who attended.

Next year's Flathead Reunion will be Held in Ligonier Pennsylvania from September 6th to 9th. Our hosts there will be Arnold and Lois Landvoigt.

Stay tuned for more details to appear in the ETCetera as we get closer!



More Flathead Reunion Photos

By
Dwight & Nancy Ford



Flathead Reunion Photos



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