

CADILLAC & LASALLE REGIONAL UPDATE

The **VOICE** of the Iowa CrossRoads Region



November 2012

Officers and Newsletter Contacts Iowa CrossRoads Region Cadillac & LaSalle Club

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Iowa CrossRoads Club: www.iowacrossroadsregion.org
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Renewal of your National Cadillac & LaSalle Club Dues

Your copy of "*The Self-Starter*" magazine indicates the expiration date of your national Cadillac & LaSalle Club dues. On the outside wrapper, just above your name and address is the date of your dues expiration.

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Please remember . . .The success of our newsletter is dependent upon the contributions made by our members

Karen and Jim Pittman are the Editors of the monthly newsletter for the Iowa CrossRoads Region. Jim's email address is jim@pittmancpa.com

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Well, 2012 is beginning to wind down. Leaves are falling and so are the temps. We have had a great fall and many fun activities. Since March we have seen the Olde Main Brewery, World Food Prize Museum, Pappajohn's Sculpture Park, the Hemken Collection, attended the annual Ice Cream Social, Bill Jepson's restored 1952 gas station, visited Walter Lowell House overlooking the beautiful Wapsipinicon River, attended the 10th Annual Salisbury Concours Auto Show, toured the White Pole Road and in November we are going to Southeast Iowa to visit two museums and finally we will have our Christmas Party.

This is a special year as we will be electing a president for our country along with many other government officials. Be sure to exercise your privilege and right to vote if you haven't already. Also, you probably just received your ballot in the mail to vote for officers for your local CLC Region. Be sure to mark your ballot and return it. I want to thank those of you that agreed to step forward and serve.

Holidays are fast approaching and we will be having our Christmas gathering on DECEMBER 8. Details will follow when Steve sends out his flier in a few days.



I will see you on the highways and byways.

Jim

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Birthdays

Bill Schlenker 11-2

Anniversaries

Dean and Vicki Stoltenberg
11-5

Bob and Rachel Holst
11-8

Ron and Pamela Colling
12-5

New Members

None this month

ATTENTION!!!!!! HAVE YOU DONE THIS????

Send us the date of your birthday (spouse included) and anniversary so that we may include it in the newsletter. **In addition, please send us your email.** Please send this information to jim@pittmancpa.com or call 515-276-2727.

Send us your profile (spouse, also). A form is attached with the newsletter. **You cannot** complete the form online. You must print it out, complete and mail to Jim at Pittman & Company, LLP, 8525 Douglas Ave. Suite 40, Des Moines, IA 50322.

Tentatively Scheduled Events for 2012 (subject to change)

December 8: Save your appetite for our annual Christmas Dinner get-together at the *Chicago Speakeasy Restaurant*, located at 1520 Euclid Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa. This will be a 2-3 hour dining event.

JOIN US FOR A TRIP TO THE MUSEUMS OF HENRY CO.



IOWA CROSSROADS CLC NOVEMBER TOURING EVENT

Touring Event: Members of the Iowa Crossroads CLC will travel to Henry County in eastern Iowa to tour two museums. Interested club members will meet at the McDonald's across from the Adventureland Inn (located at 3215 Adventureland Dr, Altoona) at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 10th for the two-hour drive eastward to Henry County. Our first stop will be in Swedesburg, Iowa for a personal tour of the Swedish Heritage Museum. Following the tour, we will travel to Mt. Pleasant for lunch at the Pizza Ranch Restaurant. After lunch, we will be treated to a personal tour of the Harlan-Lincoln House (home of Mary Harlan and Robert Lincoln, son of Abraham Lincoln) in Mt. Pleasant. While neither museum charges admission, personal donations will be in order, especially since we are receiving a personal tour by appointment only ... so please give generously. Please direct all questions to Steve Fox at foxenterprises@yahoo.com or call (515) 491-2624. An R.S.V.P. is requested prior to November 8, 2012 so that I can give the museums an accurate count of our attendance

Iowa CrossRoads October Touring Events

The White Pole Road

For those members who missed our October touring event “Traveling the Great White Way”, you really missed out on a spectacular cruise organized by Lyle and Lori Dahl. Thirteen of our members, including Lori & Lyle Dahl, Jim & Karen Pittman, Maureen Edmond, Brian & Ann Sipma, Paul & Linda Wold, Bill & Nora Schlenker, and Steven & Rose Mary Fox were in attendance. Members who attended met at Jim Pittman’s office and traveled westward to Adair for the 26-mile cruise east through five communities to Dexter along the “White Pole Road.” Highlights of this magnificent cruise included the Iowa Veteran’s Cemetery, the Freedom Rock, Adair Viaduct, Jesse James Historical Marker, Slayton Rock, the “Friendly Gas Station” Man, the Historic All Saints Catholic Church renovation (where Lori and Lyle had arranged for a special tour demonstration), Drew’s Chocolates confectionery, site of the 1948 National Plowing Matches, and the Bonnie and Clyde Shootout site where Buck Barrow was killed in 1933. Halfway through the cruise, members gathered for lunch at the Menlo Café, where pecan pie, open-faced roast beef sandwiches, and the thickest pork tenderloins that you have ever seen are among their specialties! Once again, special thanks goes to Lyle and Lori Dahl for organizing this great touring event for our club!

Now for a little history lesson on the White Pole Road, aka “the Great White Way”: Back in the early 1900s, Iowa roads were in terrible shape. Not only were Iowans getting a bad reputation in other states like being called “the gumbo state”, but our roads became impassable for weeks at a time due to snow and mud. Farmers weren't able to get their products to the nearest rail station and it slowed and even halted mail delivery at times. As a result, Governor B.F. Carroll called for a Good Roads Convention in Des Moines on March 8-9, 1910. Delegates from throughout the state attended and it was decided that a well maintained River-to-River Road from Davenport to Council Bluffs would help change Iowa's reputation as the popularity of the automobile was taking off. Iowa then made history and set a record in road building when ten thousand farmers engaged in building a 380-mile road out of existing lines of dirt road in one hour flat and not one of them received a penny for his service. But, this River-to-River road followed a more northern route through our area. Earlier, the five towns of Adair, Casey, Menlo, Stuart, and Dexter had been promoting a marked road between Atlantic and Des Moines through the White Pole Auto Club (formerly known as the Southwestern Iowa Auto Club) that they thought would improve on this longer and hillier official northern route with a more southern route that passed through these communities.

The original White Pole Road was then designated in 1910 and followed along the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad from Des Moines to Council Bluffs. This section of Iowa's River-to-River road insured motorists a straighter, leveler and shorter route across the state with a town every five to six miles along the way. As a predecessor to the U.S. highway system, the White Pole Road was not funded by the state and it was up to the people to maintain or “drag the road” with their King Drags in

order to grow their communities. The more travelers you could get to travel the White Pole Road, the more business in your town... and your town would stay on the map. Poles along the route were painted white and auto tourists were encouraged to travel the "Great White Way".

In the fall of 1912, the road eventually extended east from Des Moines to Davenport to encompass the entire state with plans to eventually extend from Chicago to Denver. The State Legislature then created the Iowa State Highway Commission in 1913 and the Iowa Highway Route Registration Act gave the commission the role of registering named trails that were more than 25 miles long. The Great White Way Association applied on October 6, 1913; paid the \$5 fee and was awarded a certificate on July 20, 1914 making it the first certified route under the provisions of the State Highway Commission's rules.

In 1922, the Great White Way Highway merged with the rival River-to-River Primary No. 7 Highway to form the new Whiteway-7-Highway... only to be changed again to US Highway 32 in 1926. In December of 1931, sections of the White Pole Road officially became a part of U.S. Highway 6, which at one point was the longest continuous east-west route in the United States stretching from Cape Cod, Massachusetts to Long Beach, California. In 1947, Iowa joined other states in officially designating US 6 to be named the Grand Army of the Republic Highway at the urging of an association of Union veterans of the Civil War. In 1965, Interstate 80 was completed and the popularity of this once important highway diminished. In 1980, the section of highway in this area was renumbered 925 and now parts of I-80 have been declared US 6 in order to save on federal transportation costs. In 2003, state highway 925 was given to the area counties and has been officially renamed the "White Pole Road." This route has gone full circle over the past 100 years! Poles along this 26-mile stretch have been painted white and once again it's up to the people to maintain the road and grow their communities.

The White Pole Road Development Corporation was formed in 2002 in order to create a tourism industry that brings visitors and related revenues to each of the five communities and improve the quality of life with its residents. The name "White Pole Road" was selected as a tribute to this original road that connected the communities of Adair, Casey, Menlo, Stuart and Dexter. If it hadn't been for the tenacity of the leaders in these communities in the early 1900's, the Great White Way Highway wouldn't have existed... the Dexter to Council Bluffs route wouldn't have been saved with the merger of the River-to-River Road into Highway 6... and the federal government wouldn't have assigned the interstate system through this corridor. Those community leaders knew the value of a good road going through a town. Now, they are attempting to tap back into the travelers on Interstate 80 and bring life back into these small towns once again!

Submitted by Steve Fox, Activities Chair
October 10, 2012

Iowa Veterans Cemetery at Van Meter



Freedom Rock-Repainted Each Year



Largest rock in Iowa



Wall painting in small Iowa town





Cadillac & LaSalle Club

IOWA CROSSROADS REGION

Annual membership dues are \$10. Due January 1 of each year. Please fill out form below.

National Membership Number Required _____

Personal Information

Name

Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Cell Phone

Work Phone E-Mail

Spouse/Significant Other

Birthdays: _____ Anniversaries: _____

Vehicle Information

Cadillacs LaSalle's Year

Body Style

Please print this form and mail along with a \$ 10.00 check to: **David Twombly, Treasure--Iowa CrossRoads C.L.C., 2305 Linda Circle, Urbandale, Iowa 50322**

If dues are not received by March 15, 2012 you will not longer receive the newsletter and your membership will be dropped.

Please take note as to when your national dues are due and pay them at the appropriate time, as these very by member