

**CADILLAC & LASALLE
REGIONAL UPDATE**



April 2017

The **VOICE** of the Iowa CrossRoads Region

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IOWA CROSSROADS CLC

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Since our outing to the Iowa-80 Trucking Museum on March 11 was cancelled due to lack of planned attendance, I really don't have much in the way of this month's Director's Column or minutes from a cancelled meeting. Many of our members were unable to attend the scheduled outing due to illness, which is completely understandable. With our aging membership this will, often times, continue to be the case. One focus during our next scheduled club meeting and event on Saturday, April 29, will be to exchange ideas on ways in which we may be able to get a few younger people interested and involved in our regional club as a means to increase attendance and participation at our monthly social events. It's a tall order, but I have a few ideas of my own I'd like to share with you at that time.

Others may not be attending monthly events due to lack of interest, which I have some difficulty understanding. Every fall, all club members are asked to channel any ideas they have for regional events my direction so that I can place them on our event calendar for the following year. Some of our members take full advantage of the opportunity to place events that they are interested in or may find enjoyable onto the next year's calendar, but most still do not.

A great deal of time and effort goes into planning these events and it is quite disheartening to see very little participation. Since the regional club's inception by Jim and Karen Pittman in 1999, the club has grown from 20 original members to 71 members (including spouses) in 2016. Yet, we continue to see no more than 20 members (usually less) at monthly events.

This is not only my regional club, or the club of those who regularly participate, but YOUR club as well. Please take full advantage of what your regional club has to offer by coming to one of our monthly events (especially if it is scheduled near your hometown) or making your voice heard on what events are important to you so that we can place them on our calendar. Who knows, you may find our events quite enjoyable and even perhaps make some new friends along the way. We look forward to sharing good times with you, as the future of our fine regional club may well depend on it.

Iowa Crossroads CLC Events Calendar for 2017



Members of the Iowa Crossroads CLC can look forward to 14 scheduled touring events in 2017 to place upon your home calendars! Please note that all events listed below are subject to change. Look for upcoming event flyers throughout the year that detail finalized plans for each event including actual times, dates, and locations. **Please place these fine events on your calendar without delay!**

January: Traditionally, the Iowa CrossRoads CLC has not held a January event so as to better enjoy our winter solace in the comfort of our own home. I saw no need to break with that restful tradition in 2017!

February: This year, 13 members and one guest attended our traditional Valentine Luncheon at the **Lemon Tree Teahouse and Restaurant** in Newton, Iowa on Saturday, February 11, 2017. *This event is an annual regional club event to honor the ladies of our club!*

March: Our scheduled tour of the **Iowa-80 Trucking Museum** for Saturday, March 11, 2017 was cancelled due to lack of planned attendance.

April: Our touring event for April will be lunch at **Robert's Bakery Treats and Treasures**, followed by a **Spring Antiquing Adventure** in Walnut, Iowa. Excluding travel time, this will be a 3-4 hour touring event. *This event was proposed by fellow club member, Nora Schlenker.*

Mid-May: Our weekend touring event in May will be an overnight event up at **Lake Okoboji** in beautiful NW Iowa. Weekend attractions include the **Okoboji Classic Cars Museum & Jim Caffrey's Car Collection** in Milford, **Iowa Great Lakes Maritime Museum** in Arnold's Park, and (hopefully) a tour of Dick Downing's car and guitar collection in Milford, as well as John Van Der Haag's huge truck, tractor, car and memorabilia collection in Sanborn. This week-end event will include dinner at the **Gingham Inn** followed by an overnight stay at the **Oakwood Inn Bed & Breakfast** (see details later in this newsletter). *This event was proposed by fellow club members Eric & Patt Anderson, Jim Caffrey, and Jim & Karen Pittman.*

Late-May: Interested club members will be attending the **ATHS National Truck Show** at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. Excluding travel time, this will be a 3-4 hour touring event. *This touring event was proposed by fellow club member, Dean Stoltenberg.*

June: Club members will participate in our traditional, annual classic-car show 'n shine to be held at the **Olmsted-Urban House Ice Cream Social & Open House**. Club members will show off their magnificent automobiles at this very tranquil, 1920's style homemade pie and ice cream social that features an old-fashioned Dixieland band trio and a tour of the 1904 historical Olmsted-Urban House. Excluding travel time, this will be a 2-3 hour social event.

July: Our July touring adventure will be a trip out to Adams County in SW Iowa. Attractions on tap for this event will include lunch and tours of **Johnny Carson's Birthplace**, the **Corning Opera House** and **R&S Collectibles Showroom**. Excluding travel time, this will be a 4-5 hour touring event. *This touring event was proposed by our membership chair, Karen Pittman.*

Early-August: This year, the **CLC Grand National** is hosted by the Potomac Region and will take place in Washington, D.C. If you have never attended a CLC Grand National, you don't know what you are missing. They are fabulous! For more information on this fine national event, please see their website at <http://www.vfrclc.org/2017gn.html>.

Mid-August: Iowa CrossRoads club members have been invited to tour the show field of the **AACA Mississippi Valley Region Central Fall Meet** to be held on the grounds of the Isle Casino Hotel in Bettendorf. Excluding travel time, but including lunch at the casino, this will be a 3-4 hour touring event. *This touring event was proposed by our webmaster, Gary Wright.*

Early-Sept: Club members will, once again, enjoy participating in the fabulous **Des Moines Concours d'Elegance**, the annual celebration promoting the art and design of the automobile. Exhibitors are invited to attend an optional driving event and the exhibitor's banquet at the Wellmark Building in downtown Des Moines that evening. Fine automobiles will line the streets at the **Pappajohn Sculpture Park** in downtown Des Moines. More information regarding this fine weekend event can be obtained at the Des Moines Concours d'Elegance website: <http://www.desmoinesconcours.com>. *This is an annual Iowa CrossRoads regional club social event.*

Late-Sept: We will attend the **Cadillac & LaSalle Club Museum's Fall Festival** at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan. *This is an annual weekend touring event hosted by the West Michigan Region of the Cadillac & LaSalle Club.*

October: Our fall weekend getaway will be at the **House on the Rock and Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin House** in Spring Green, Wisconsin. We will leave central Iowa early Saturday morning, stopping for lunch in Dubuque before crossing the mighty Mississippi into SW Wisconsin. Plans are to tour **Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin Estate** Saturday afternoon and the **House on the Rock** Sunday morning. Tickets for both tours are approximately \$100 per person. Accommodations will probably be provided by the **House on the Rock Inn or Resort**. This is a complete weekend touring event. *This weekend touring event was proposed by our regional director, Steve Fox, and was voted on by the Iowa CrossRoads regional membership ... winning out over other listed destinations.*

November: For November, we plan to tour the **Kinze Innovation Center and the Kinze Factory** in Williamsburg, Iowa. Since the factory tours are only available Mondays through Thursdays, this will be a **weekday** touring event. Excluding travel time, but including lunch, this will be a 3-4 hour touring event. *This touring event was proposed by our regional director, Steve Fox, and comes recommended by fellow club member, Dean Stoltenberg.*

December: This year, our annual **Christmas Luncheon** will be held at the Ankeny Diner in Ankeny, Iowa. Fellow club members, Lyle and Lori Dahl dine here often and have arranged a private dining room for our Christmas luncheon. *This is an annual Iowa CrossRoads regional club social event. Many thanks goes out to Lyle and Lori for making these arrangements for us!*

Note: Any questions and/or concerns regarding these scheduled events should be directed to our Activities Chairman, Steve Fox, at your convenience. He can be reached by phone at (515) 491-2624 or by e-mail at foxenterprises@yahoo.com. Please forward any complaints to comrade Vladimir Vladivostok, last seen trying to escape from a gulag somewhere outside Yakutsk, Siberia!

Until next time, may your sails be taut and the wind always remain at your back!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE IOWA CROSSROADS CLC APRIL TOURING EVENT: A SPRING ANTIQUING ADVENTURE IN WALNUT, IOWA!



April Touring Event: Our April touring event will be a ***Spring Antique Adventure*** in Walnut, Iowa. Club members from eastern and central Iowa will meet at the office of Pittman & Company located at 8525 Douglas Avenue in Urbandale (on the northeast corner of Douglas & 86th Street, kiddie corner from the Urbandale Public Library) at 9:30 a.m. for the trip westward.

Lunch: Arrangements have been made with the historic ***Robert's Bakery Treats & Treasures*** in Walnut to serve us lunch at 11:30 a.m. Prior to dining, a short meeting will occur at ***Robert's*** to discuss possible ways to recruit a few younger people into our regional club, as well as a lively discussion regarding upcoming events.

Antiquing in Historic Walnut: Established in 1871, the town of Walnut (also known as "*Iowa's Antique City*") is rich in history, offering a step back to a more peaceful time in our nation's history. After lunch, we will stroll along the cobblestone streets to enjoy a blissful afternoon of touring through unique antique and specialty shops.

This event was proposed by fellow club member, Nora Schlenker.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE IOWA CROSSROADS CLC MAY TOURING EVENT:
A FUN-FILLED WEEKEND UP AT LAKE OKOBOJI!**



Mid-May Touring Event: Our weekend touring event to *Lake Okoboji* has been scheduled for **May**. Weekend attractions will include the *Okoboji Classic Cars Museum*, *Jim Caffrey's Car Collection*, and the *Iowa Great Lakes Maritime Museum*. We may also be able to tour Dick Downing's car and guitar collection (in Milford), as well as John Van Der Haag's huge truck, tractor, car and memorabilia collection (in Sanborn).

Accommodations, ACT FAST! Arrangements have been made for our regional club to stay at the *Oakwood Inn*, a beautiful bed and breakfast with a "Top Hotel" 5.0/5 "exceptional" rating on Expedia. I arranged with the owner to put aside 9 rooms at the special group rate of \$119 per night plus tax for the evening of **Friday, May 12**. Among the 9 rooms are 5 rooms with king-size beds with whirlpool, 2 rooms with double queen-sized beds with whirlpool, and 2 rooms with a standard queen-sized bed, each for only \$119 per night. Four rooms have already been reserved by members of our club, with 5 rooms still available! All rooms come with a free full breakfast. ***This special rate, exclusively for our club, will be held only until Friday, March 31, 2017. To place your reservation at the special rate of \$119 plus tax, call Bridget at (712) 332-8057 and tell her that you are wanting to reserve a room placed under the name of Steven Fox, Iowa CrossRoads Cadillac & LaSalle Club. You can cancel up to 24 hours prior to arrival without penalty, so don't delay!***

More detailed information regarding this weekend trip will be available in next month's newsletter!

HENRY MARTYN LELAND



The founder of the Cadillac, Henry Martyn Leland was once one of the most respected men in the automobile industry. He was known as an expert in mass production and engineering, and played a large role in the early development of the automobile industry. Unfortunately, while Henry was an honest and hardworking man, he ran into many people throughout his life that shut him down and betrayed his trust.

Henry was born in February 1843 as the youngest child in a family of eight. While he spent his childhood in Barton, Vermont, he eventually moved on to Worcester, Massachusetts where he completed his apprenticeship as a machinist. He later moved to Providence, Rhode Island where he worked at the Brown and Sharpe plant and developed his skills in engineering and precision machining.

In 1870, Leland joined with a new partner (Faulconer) to found the Leland and Faulconer machine shop. Set in Detroit, the company was a grinding and tool-manufacturing firm who, in 1900, signed a contract with the Olds Vehicle Company to manufacture engines and transmissions for a new one-cylinder vehicle. This was the company's first stab at manufacturing for the automobile industry, as previously they only built parts for bicycles and boats.



Despite never having built for an automobile before, Leland and Faulconer were extremely successful at building precisely manufactured automobile parts. In fact,

their parts were so precise that they could actually be transferred from car to car - a concept that was extremely new to the automobile industry at the time.



After further work in the automobile industry, the engineers at Leland discovered that they could greatly increase the power of the engine without

increasing the cost of production. However, when the idea was presented to the manager of the Olds Company, it was quickly shut down.

What seemed like a huge letdown at the time would eventually contribute to Leland's great successes. In 1902, a group of investors had lost hope in the attempts of Henry Ford and were forcing him to sell his assets. The group hired Leland to help them determine a selling price that would be fair.

After taking a closer look at the work of Ford, Leland had convinced the investment group not to sell and to instead fix the problems surrounding Ford's company and build a new model using Leland and Faulconer's previously discarded idea. From this, the Cadillac Automobile Company was born. The company displayed immediate success and sold over 12, 000 vehicles in less than three years.



In 1909, the Cadillac Automobile Company became part of General Motors when it was sold to Billy Durant for \$4.5 million. Despite his massive payout, Leland agreed to stay with the General Motors Company and continued to play a large role in the manufacturing of Cadillac cars.

It was not until 1917, at the age of 74, that Leland finally left General Motors over an argument with Billy Durant. The argument had ensued after Leland had suggested they expand their manufacturing into the production of military aircraft engines during the war. Durant denied the request and Leland resigned.

From there, he recruited his own investors to design aircraft engines to aide in war. He called his new business the Lincoln Motor Company. Ultimately, the business was unsuccessful, and Leland was forced to return to the auto industry. Unfortunately, his return to the automobile industry was surrounded with debt. In 1922, he sold the company to Ford. Again, Leland faced more disappointment after Ford broke several promises to keep Leland as a primary decision maker.

After leaving Ford and filing several lawsuits, Henry died in 1932 at the age of 89. He left behind his son and partner, Wilfred Leland who later died in 1958.

Many thanks to our webmaster, Mr. Gary Wright, for authoring this fine article!

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Happy Birthday to Members

Jim Galinsky (April 4)
Dave Kroeger (April 8)
David Twombly (April 11)
Ann Sipma (April 14)
Patt Anderson (April 16)
Karen Pittman (April 23)
Nora Schlenker (April 27)



Happy Anniversary to Members



David & Donna Jiruska (April 3)
DeWayne & Karen Repp (April 7)
Gary & Karen Wright (April 16)
Patrick Benoit & Danette Keme
(April 20)

Get Well Soon!

We are all continually wishing a complete and speedy recovery to fellow club members Marj Bees, Lyle & Lori Dahl, Steve Muir, Jim Pittman, and Betty Upstill, who have recently been battling illness or recovering from surgery.





Cadillac & LaSalle Club

IOWA CROSSROADS REGION

For all new members, please fill out the form below and mail it to: Karen Pittman, Membership Chair, Iowa CrossRoads C.L.C., 4408 74th Street, Urbandale, Iowa 50322. **Note: If your dues are not received by February 28th of the calendar year, you will no longer receive the newsletter and your regional membership will be dropped. Also, please take note as to when your national dues are due and pay them at the appropriate time, as this will vary for each member.**

Personal Information

National Membership Number (Required): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Spouse's Name: _____ Anniversary: _____

Your Birthday: _____ Spouse's Birthday: _____

Cadillac/LaSalle Vehicle Information

Year: _____ Make: _____

Model: _____ Body Style: _____