



ETCetera

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2015 Flathead Reunion
Muskegon, Michigan
Hosted by Paul & Marjo Prinzing

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EDITOR'S BETTER HALF

Alice Koenigsmark

Jim & I attended our first Flathead Reunion this year. Because we are members of Pontiac, Studebaker, Model "A", and Professional Car clubs we have a basis for comparison. In Muskegon, the Shoreline Inn was a great facility on a scenic lake. Food was good at the restaurant. An itinerary would have been nice in the registration packet rather than day-by-day directions. A few recommended restaurants would have been nice, rather than a 7 page food guide. (It could have been a roster.) The dinner cruise was very nice, even though I was reprimanded for wearing leather-bottom shoes by our hostess. Should I have expected 10foot waves? The highlight of the Flathead was meeting the Lautzenheisers, a great couple!

Alice



Jim & Alice dressed in era clothing.



Queen Alice on the dinner cruise.



Flathead participants dressed in era clothing.



Lisa & Jerome Lynch.

Flathead reunion #11

Another Flathead Reunion is in the history books and it was a great one. We made the trip to Muskegon on Tuesday and drove in the rain part of the way. From then on the weather was as nice as one could get.

There were already a half a dozen flathead cars in the parking lot when we arrived, and that number would swell to over 30 before we were done. We had a special parking spot provided by the hotel. That was the first of many fun photo opportunities.



We quickly learned that Muskegon is a tourist town with a season that ends on Labor Day. The group went looking for a place to eat and after three local hot spots were tried and found to be closed for the season, we went back to the hotel for supper. First lesson learned!

A bonus was planned for those who arrived early with a trip to see a World War II LST ship on Wednesday morning and visit to see two historic homes built in the 1880's.



That evening the 11th annual Flathead Reunion officially started with a meet and greet and a chance for many of us to meet the ten new families that joined us for their first Flathead Reunion.



On Thursday the ladies went on a bus trip and the men sat around talking about cars (you have to go with what you are good at).

That evening everyone got onboard the Port City Princess for a dinner cruise. It was a perfect evening for a leisurely ride on the lake and a wonderful meal. Everyone was taking pictures as the sights were something to behold. We were so lucky to have this opportunity as, like so many things in Muskegon, the regular season ends on Labor Day. We were lucky enough to strike a deal with the boat to go out on one more trip just for us.



Friday the cars left the hotel at 9:00 for a drive along the lake. First stop was Muskegon State Park with so many spots to get that perfect car picture on the beach or by a sand dune. The rule of the day was **DO NOT DRIVE THE CAR ON THE SAND.**



We heeded the warning and all the cars were able to continue on to our lunch stop where we once again parked on the lake shore (grass this time instead of sand) for more photos. The ground was still soft, but a gentle push got the cars that had settled in going without incident.



Once again, this was a venue that normally closes after Labor Day but opened up for us by special request, thanks to the hard work of our hosts, Paul and Marjo Prinzing, and the local visitor's bureau representative. Last stop for the Friday drive was to get ice cream at a local dairy. The first thing we learned is even though we all had the same directions there were four different ways to get there. One road made a peculiar turn and that is when the fun began. Turns out a phone with a GPS may be a friend to those of us who hate technology after all. A special thanks to the gentleman with a Pontiac Solstice that thought something was not right when he found half a dozen Flatheads along the road. As he lead the lost sheep into the dairy parking lot he announced that he had found some strays and was bringing them home. Instantly we had a new fan of Flathead Pontiacs. I bet we see him again with a Flathead!

Saturday came along with cars all shined up and many of us in costume to display the cars at a recently opened heritage center. It was an ideal site to hold the show and many visitors came to enjoy the cars. A couple of the locals even heard we were going to be there and brought cars for us to look at and perhaps give them a little advice.



President Arnold Landvoigt drove the '42 from Savage, Maryland. That would have been 800 miles if he had driven the shortest route. He didn't, so I am not sure how far he really drove.



Best display for a pre-war car was presented to Jay and Mary VanAltvorst. Their '28 looked just as good as they did!

That evening we all got together at the hotel for coffee and dessert. Plaques were given to new attendees and past attendees



received another date tag to put on their plaque. Long distance trailered award went to Mahlon McDill from Mankato, Kansas. That is 838 miles each way!



Best post-war display went to Marjo Prinzing. Marjo's '54 wagon was ready to take the family out to a picnic. Since they could, Marjo and Paul both showed a car, but it was Marjo who took home all the marbles. They live about 2 miles away so showing two cars was an option that they had available to them.

Sunday morning was time for goodbyes with a promise to see each other again next year.

Not wanting to endure the Chicago traffic pattern on a Sunday Bobbi and I took the ferry to Milwaukee with Kurt and Arliss Kelsey and had a leisurely drive across southern Wisconsin to get home.



The Kelseys & Lukens wave good by.



Kurt Kelsey drives his 1940 Pontiac onto the ferry.



Paul & Marjo Prinzing bid them farewell.



Dave & Bobbi Luken onboard with their 1950 Pontiac



I'll see you at the Next Flathead Reunion!
Lukey

2015 Flathead Reunion



Jay & Mary VanAltvorst
1928 Pontiac
Best display pre-war



Marjo Prinzing
1954 Pontiac
Best display post-war



Arnold & Lois Landvoigt
1942 Pontiac
Longest distance driven



Mahlon McDill
1935 Pontiac
Longest distance trailered.



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