

Member Feature

Futurliner at Kruse Museum

By Paul Prinzing

This winter the Futurliner will be on display at the Kruse Museum in Auburn, IN as part of the Automotive and Carriage Museum displays. This is a joint venture with Kruse Museum and NATMUS. The Futurliner crew made a bus trip to Auburn to view the Futurliner in its winter quarters and to visit the other museums in the area.



The Futurliner “open for business” makes an impressive display! It is clear from these photos the Kruse Museum is a well-lit facility; which is a must for any museum.



I always make it a point to seek out Pontiac related items at the car museums I visit. There usually is a GTO or two, but too often not much more related to Pontiac. But, I was pleasantly surprised to find a number of Pontiac items at these museums.

While touring the Automotive and Carriage Museum there was indeed a 1964 GTO. In addition

there was a Knight Rider K.I.T.T. Firebird plus a Chief Pontiac statue, although he was missing his feathered headdress and it did look a little odd with just a metal rod sticking out of his head.



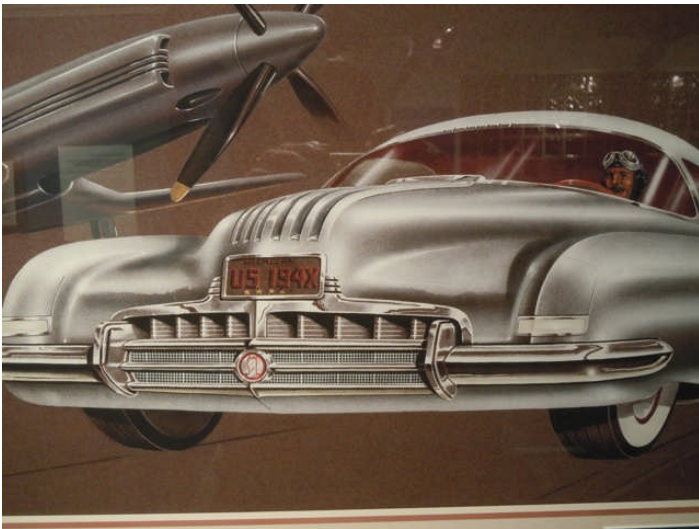
The original Knight Rider Firebird



Chief Pontiac sans head dress feathers

Our next stop was the Auburn, Cord, Duesenberg Museum (ACD) where I expected to find nothing Pontiac related. This grand Art Deco showroom/museum did indeed have something that appears to be Pontiac related.

In the section about design of autos were some sketches by Art Ross. Although it said he served as Chief Designer at both Cadillac and Oldsmobile, one of the sketches from 1945 has to be a Pontiac, with its Silver Streaks and Indian head logo.



Futuristic aircraft and obvious Pontiac artwork from Art Ross, circa 1945. Below is a close-up of the grille badge, which is very similar to some actual Pontiac steering wheel medallions used in the mid-late 1940's.



A 1956 Pontiac for junior!



Dual spotlights are not uncommon, but the fender-mounted horns are rather unusual. It would be interesting to know the history of this particular 1948 Pontiac.

Finally, we moved on to the NATMUS museum where there were the most Pontiac items. There was a 1935 toy rubber Pontiac, a 1956 electric kid-die car, a 1954 wheel cover (at right) as part of a repair shop display and 4 Pontiac cars. Yes, two were GTO's, a 1967 and 1968 but there were also two 1948s on display as well.



If you head to the Auburn area you'll need at least one very long day to tour all the museums. Fortunately, the driving back to Grand Rapids was left to the bus driver and I was able to rest and even nap a bit on the return trip.