



SEE *FORD BLUE* IN KALAMAZOO With Lincolns, Mercurys and Edsels Too!

By Mike Denney

The Road Race Lincoln Register hosted 2019's Lincoln Homecoming, August 7th through the 12th, 2019. The decision was made early on in the planning that we wanted to change it up this year by inviting all Ford products to the show. We welcomed 125 members and their families from all four Lincoln clubs plus Ford, Edsel and Mercury for this first time event featuring all Ford-built automobiles. All in all, the event was a success, however we were a little disappointed in the turnout of non Lincoln cars. The non-Lincolns that did show were high quality and pretty diverse.

While many of us arrived on Monday to help set up registration and get organized for the weeks activities, Wednesday was when our first event took place. Some of our group drove out to the Gilmore Museum for their weekly cruise night. There was a large turnout of local cars of all types and ages, the evening was perfect! Those that choose to stay at the hotel got to enjoy a welcoming party with free appetizers and a cash bar.





Some of our Lincolns in front of the Kellogg Mansion

Thursday there were two tours planned, one was to the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary and Kellogg Manor, where attendees were treated to a fantastic lunch at the mansion. The other tour was to Vicksburg Historical Village, where people could tour the village at their own pace. After the tours we were back at the Four Points Hotel for an Italian buffet. Bob Johnson and yours truly gave welcoming speeches to our group.

Friday our tours included two options: visit to the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary and Manor for some, and the other tour was to the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids. The museum is very interesting, proving that Gerald Ford was a great man. That evening we toured out to the Gilmore Museum for a



Texas BBQ buffet. Following our dinner, we were treated to a presentation by author Andrew Layton about the 1954 Carrera Panamericana winner Ray Crawford. He wrote a book called "Speed Merchant" which highlights Ray Crawford's racing career. He also included a very interesting history on the Mexican road races from 1950 to 1954. After Mr Layton's presentation we held our annual auction to raise money for our Lincoln Motor Car Heritage Museum. Tony Russo showed his usual fantastic auctioneer skills, getting as much money as he could out of the bidders.





Saturday was show day at the Gilmore. We had around seventy cars on the show field, mostly Lincolns but we did have some other Ford products. We had three Mercurys, several Fords and Mustangs, one Edsel and a Cobra. A group of Lincoln Mark VIIs showed as well. This year the judging was simply Peoples Choice, We had several categories that participants could pick their favorites from. One addition this year was a DJ (funded by RRLR), who really added to our event. Known as "Rooster", Mitch Wooster really livened up our day with music from all eras (Hot Rod Lincoln was heard several times) and also gave us the ability to make announcements. In the afternoon we had a car parade around the grounds of the Gilmore, which was a nice addition to the day. I would like to add that throughout this event the weather couldn't have been better, sunny skies, temps in the low eighties with light breezes. It was fantastic!



The 1955 Ford Sunliner above and the 1957 Ford Country Sedan were two of the Fords that came to our show. The '55 in it's "Bumble Bee" colors was was spectacular. The '57 Country Sedan was an all original example in very nice condition with a known history.





Joan Denney and Cheri Culver "cutting a rug" at our Saturday night banquet, this is the first time we have ever had music at a Lincoln Homecoming event. Tony Russo even did some Karaoke, he has a great voice!

Saturday evening, once again, our banquet was held at the Gilmore Museum. Gale Halderman (father of the Mustang) was scheduled to be our guest speaker but illness forced him to cancel. Tony Russo, Dan Staehle and I talked our DJ in to staying over and provide entertainment for our evening (the three of us paid for his additional time). It worked out great, we even had some dancing! Jim Blanchard gave a speech about the Lincoln Heritage Museum fund raising efforts, I spoke and thanked our attendees for supporting our event.



Pictured above Tony Russo serenades his dancing partner, his voice remind some of us of Frank Sinatra, Right, RRLR members John and Eileen Coates dressed in their Sunday best for the occasion.



We had six Mark Vllls join us for our Homecoming, looking good in front our Lincoln Motor Car Heritage Museum. Check out the Mark VIII convertible!

Sunday was more of our cars on display, and at noon we gave out our People's Choice Awards. Following the awards we had another car parade around the grounds. That evening we had a delicious Mexican themed buffet back at the Four Points Hotel.





Monday (yes Monday) was a new idea that Bob Johnson had come up with. It was “run what you bring” drag race day at US131 Motorsports Park in Martin, MI. We rented the track from 10 am until 4 pm, you could run your car and be timed as many times as you wanted. The turnout was small but it was a lot of fun none the less. John Herren had trailered his 1957 Ford drag car, complete with a built 460 Ford motor, all the way from Florida with his brother Jimmy following in their super nice 55 Capri. The group of Mark VIIs that came to the Gilmore also came to run their cars, and believe me they were fast! A local guy brought his 84 Thunderbird Super Coupe complete with

Coyote Ford crate motor that really screamed. I took my 52 Capri down the track and barely got it to 70mph in the quarter mile. John Herren’s 57 Ford was fun to watch, he even let me take it down the track twice, at the end of the quarter mile that car scared the #@#%* out of me. We hope this event will catch on in the future, it really was something different and a lot of fun!





I was really happy and impressed with the amount of Road Race Lincoln Register members that came to Kalamazoo to support our club's hosting of this years Lincoln Homecoming. Seventeen members attended. Every year Lincoln we follow was there, with the exception of a '57 (Bob Hardisty where were you? LOL). It means a lot to me personally that so many of you came to give your support to our efforts to put this meet on, even volunteering to help with different tasks required for the show to run smoothly. Overall, I think our homecoming was successful, of course, we would like to have had a larger turn out of non Lincolns but it was still a great event.

Thank you to every one from Road Race Lincoln Register that participated.



RRLR Members attending this years Homecoming

- Gary and Sheila Ashcroft**
- Charlie and JoAnne Berry**
- Ed Clarke**
- John and Eileen Coates**
- Bill and Cheri Culver**
- Mike and Joan Denney**
- J. Paul Denter UE**
- Joel and Suzanne Dickson**
- John Herren**
- Joseph and Gayle Karasinski**
- Kenneth and Fran Liabenow**
- Connie and Iva Moore**
- Tony Russo**
- Dan Staehle**
- Jack & Monica Sweet**
- Brad and Joanie Videen**
- Allan Wilcox**



PEOPLES CHOICE WINNERS



1920-29

1928 Locke bodied Sports Phaeton
Lee Parker, Litchfield, MI



1930-1939:

1939 Lincoln-Zephyr convertible coupe -
Connie and Iva Moore, Nowata, OK



1940-1949:

1942 Lincoln-Zephyr convertible coupe –
Jack and Monica Sweet, Uniontown, PA



1950-1959:

1952 Lincoln Capri Coupe, Mike
and Joan Denney, Mounds, OK



1960-1969:

1969 Lincoln Continental Mark III, Joseph and
Gayle Karasinski, Redford, MI



1970-1979:

1979 Lincoln Continental Mark V –
David Knowles, Cayuga, Ontario



1980-1989:

1989 Lincoln Mark VII
Convertible-, Bob and Mary
Johnson, Shafer, MN



1990-1999:

1993 Lincoln Mark VIII Convertible
– Bill Cuddy, Grosse Isle, MI



2000-2019:

2017 Lincoln Continental Sedan -
Art Kelly, Birmingham, AL



Best in Show:

1954 Lincoln Capri- Dan
Staehle, Brownsville, WI



Best of Show Ford

1957 Ford 300 Custom Dragster- John
and Jim Herren, Davie FL



Best of Show Edsel

1958 Edsel Pacer Convertible, Andy
Konyha, Carlton, MI



Best of Show Mercury
 Long Distance Award
 1939 Mercury Sedan, Tom and Alice Dailey, Colville, WA

Tom and Alice Dailey drove their 1939 Mercury all the way from Washington state to Kalamazoo, a trip of approximately 2000 (trouble free) miles. After the Homecoming they were traveling down to Auburn, IN for the Early Ford V8 national meet. You can't help but admire them for driving the first year Mercury all those miles. Great people, we really enjoyed meeting and talking with them. They certainly deserved the two awards they won!



Dan Staehle shows off some goodies he came home with. He won the auction for the original watercolor artwork Joan and I had commissioned from local Tulsa artist and good friend Monte Toon. The rendering of the '54 Ray Crawford Lincoln was done in watercolors and was used in our fliers, t-shirts and other advertising. His beautiful '54 Capri graced the cover of our June issue of Viva Carrera, surprise, surprise he won best of show at our homecoming. The bottle of wine was a gift from Joanie and me for Dan and Joyce to enjoy. Big thanks to Dan for laying out the show field!



One of the reasons we wanted to make this years Lincoln Homecoming an all Ford event was to attract cars like this beautiful example of a 1958 Edsel Pacer convertible. Owned by Andy Konyha, Carlton, MI, no matter your opinion of the Edsel, it's hard not to admit that this is a beautiful car. Andy won the people's choice award for best Edsel, granted his was the only Edsel at our show but it doesn't take away the fact that this is one beautiful Ford product!



A new addition to our Saturday show day was a DJ, Mitch Wooster who goes by "Rooster" brought a new spark to our Homecoming



We were blessed with gorgeous weather though out our entire event



Winning his era, 1990 to 1999, was Bill Cuddy with his unique 1993 Mark VIII convertible



"When you drive em sometimes you got to fix em" Jerry Barnes had a wire wheel give up the ghost on our way to the Gerald Ford Museum, Jerry had some good help!



We held a 50/50 raffle on both Friday & Saturday nights banquet. Both nights, the winners (Dan Staehle and Oran Benson) both donated their winnings back to the Lincoln museum; nice gesture!



In the back offices of the Gilmore Museum we saw this model of a 1949 Lincoln, if you look close you will see that it is a four door convertible which was never produced. Was this a styling model?



Bob and Mary Johnson's 1989 Mark VII custom convertible



*Brad and Joanie Videen's excellent '56 Premiere
Looks great in front of our beautiful museum*



This very nice '63 1/2 Ford Galaxie 500 was a nice non-Lincoln Ford product that attended our homecoming



Lincoln had their new Aviator on display; we think they have a hit on their hands!



We still have some homecoming T-shirts left, if you are interested contact us.



Bob Johnson (left) and Mike Denney at the 131 Motorsports Park. Words cannot express my thanks to Bob for all his hard work in planning the sixth annual Lincoln Homecoming hosted by our Road Race Lincoln Register. He did the majority of the work planning the registration and details of our event. The amount of work and time it takes to plan one these Homecomings is daunting. We all owe Bob and Mary (especially me) a huge debt of gratitude for all they did to make our event successful.

A Special Thank You
to the
2019 RRLR Meet Committee

Mike and Joan Denney
Bob and Mary Johnson
Dennis Garrett
David Schultz
Jim Blanchard
John Talbourdet
Joel and Suzanne Dickson
Vaughn Koshkarian
Bruce Kopf
Paul Temple
Jim Muller
Dan Staehle
Tony Russo

Road Race Lincoln Register Members cars at the 2019 Lincoln Homecoming



John & Eileen Coates -'53 Capri



*Ed Clarke '55 Capri Convertible.
(with Mark VIII power)*



Tony Russo- '54 Capri convertible



Jerry Barnes -'54 Capri Convertible.



Brad and Joanie Videen-'56 Premiere.



Gary and Sheila Ashcroft -'50 Lincoln



Dan Steahle -'54 Capri



J. Paul Denter -'51 Cosmopolitan



Mike and Joan Denney- '52 Capri



Ken and Fran Liabenow -'51 Lincoln



John and Jim Herren -'55 Capri



The Herren's 57 Ford drag car