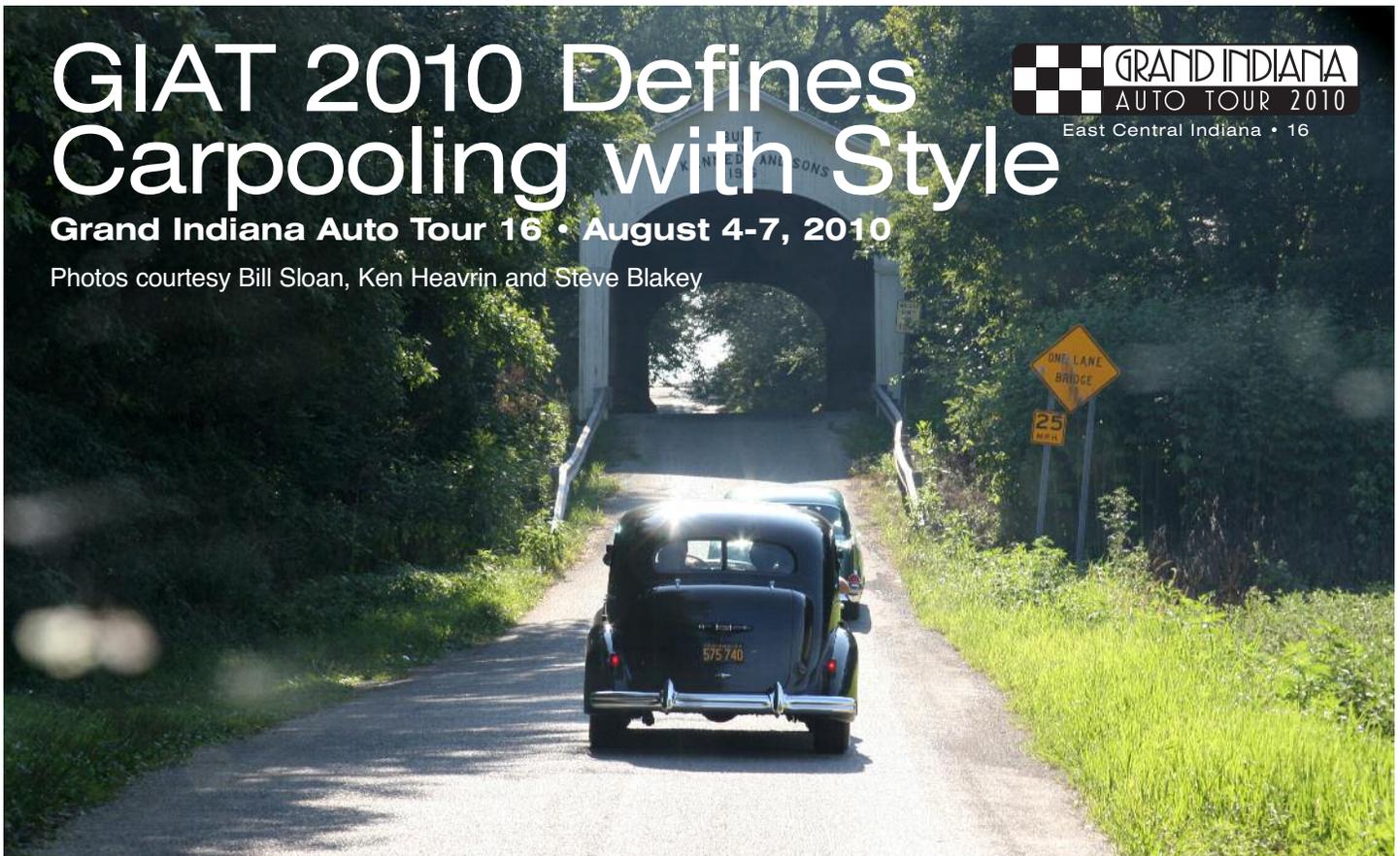


GIAT 2010 Defines Carpooling with Style

Grand Indiana Auto Tour 16 • August 4-7, 2010

Photos courtesy Bill Sloan, Ken Heavrin and Steve Blakey

 GRAND INDIANA
AUTO TOUR 2010
East Central Indiana • 16



102 enthusiastic VMCCA members with 44 cars between them gathered at the Raintree Inn, New Castle, Indiana on August 4th, 2010 for GIAT 16. Once settled in, the group made a scenic jaunt across Indiana's byways to the home of Norman and Priscilla Winkler for a tour of their Model A collection and our opening banquet. After a healthy dose of the Winkler's fine automobiles, a great meal catered by the Rolling Pin Bakery was enjoyed by all. The summer heat inside Norman's well-equipped shop did not dampen anyone's spirits as old friends got reacquainted and new friends were made.



Above: Hand-painted Chocolates awaited GIAT participants at Ghyslain Chocolatier's in Union City.

Below: Parking lot of classics around the Winkler House during our opening banquet held in (of course) Henry's well-equipped restoration shop.

Thursday, August 5th, 2010

Our first tour destination was the exquisite Ghyslain Chocolatier Corporate Headquarters and Chocolate Artisan Center in Union City, Indiana. A true gem nestled in an unassuming location, the Ghyslain personnel treated us to a grand tour explaining their history and demonstrating the meticulous way they create their beautiful hand painted chocolates. Words cannot express the beauty of the numerous offerings, so check out www.ghyslain.com and see for yourself. To cap things off, we enjoyed a gourmet luncheon which included one of Ghyslain's signature pastries. If you are ever in or around Union City, Indiana, this is a must see. A special thank you to Ghyslain Maurais for his warm welcome to GIAT.





Tom & Kay Metzler's 1935 Auburn convertible takes a break.



A GIAT tradition continues: the annual bluegrass concert thanks to our musically talented members.

The second stop of the day was the Workhorse Division of Navistar, also in Union City, to view their expert workers build motor home, truck, and bus chassis on the assembly line. Outfitted with a state-of-the-art, super clean work environment, GIAT got to see what it takes to put one of these babies together start-to-finish. The Workhorse staff deserved a round of applause for their hospitality.

In case you did not manage to blow your diet during lunch at Ghyslain's, the next stop following Workhorse was a visit to Farmland, Indiana, a restored early 1900's town replete with an antique hardware store, coffee bean roasting house, antique shops and, most importantly, an old-fashioned ice cream shop. Who could resist a late afternoon hand-made ice cream treat? Not me!

To cap off our great first day, a number of musically talented GIAT members serenaded us not-so-musical types with a down home bluegrass concert (a tour tradition).

Friday, August 6th, 2010

Another beautiful day awaited us as we headed to the birthplace of famed aviator Wilbur Wright in Millville, Indiana, where we were treated to a fascinating presentation. History came alive as the Museum staff recounted Wilbur's early family life and showed a featurette detailing he and Orville's first flight. Inside the museum proper is housed a reproduction Wright flyer which, upon closer inspection, only reinforced the wonder of the two brothers making a successful flight.

From Millville we set out for the Wayne County Historical Museum in Richmond, Indiana, whose exhibits include period clothing, furniture, portraiture, two log cabins of local origin, a genuine Conestoga wagon, a blacksmith shop, print shop, bakery, loom house, a superb collection of early Richmond made automobiles, steam powered tractors, the first Davis airplane manufactured in

Richmond in 1929, and a whole lot more about Richmond's rich industrial heritage. What a great stop! After touring the many displays we enjoyed a delicious box lunch on the lawn.

Next on our agenda was a visit to the Model T Museum in Centerville, Indiana which sits adjacent to the Warm Glow Candle Shop. Although I did not enter the Warm Glow Candle Shop personally, I was told it had much to offer the gift giver looking for a unique find. I can report the Model T Museum was an intimate setting where our personal guide took us through a comprehensive tour of the facility and numerous unique Model Ts. I thought it especially helpful to learn how to start a hand-crank automobile in case I needed to :-)

After another great day, members gathered back at the Raintree Inn for another bluegrass concert courtesy of talented fellow GIAT participants.



*Above: Al & Cherie Bern's 1970 Lincoln Continental waits for the next leg of GIAT
Right: Andy Sloan proudly stands next to the family classic - a 1953 Chevrolet BelAir. Check those baby moons!*





Saturday, August 7th, 2010

The morning's destination was the historic Hoosier Gym in Knightstown, Indiana, which was made famous as a backdrop for the 1985 movie "Hoosiers." After a very interesting presentation & tour of the lovingly cared-for facility, GIAT members were given the opportunity to shoot a few baskets-which quickly brought smiles to everyone's face. There's just something about shooting hoops in a gym that brings out the kid in you!

After bidding the Hoosier Gym farewell it was a short walk (or drive) to our next GIAT event - a tour of the depot and train ride on the Carthage/Knightstown/Shirley Railroad which was once part of the Big Four Route through Indiana. Pulled by a retired 44 ton GE switcher, our group was treated to an open air excursion to/from town. Our gracious engineer called out points of interest and regaled us with historical facts along the way. Of particular note was the popular seat in the caboose tower which afforded a great view ahead/behind the train - if you were brave enough to climb up there, that is!

A delicious, home-made luncheon was awaiting us at Center Christian Church after our train ride. After a great meal, thank yous and long goodbyes were made by all and GIAT 2010 was officially closed. A special thank you to our hosts Darrel & Ramona Wilkinson for putting together another memorable tour.

Mark your calendars for GIAT number 17 to be held in Southern Michigan Wednesday, August 3 through Saturday, August 6th, 2011. Tour hosts Mike & Mary Jo Siney and Jim & Cathy Dinger are planning a great outing for next Summer. Details will be forthcoming!



1. More classic parking at the Winkler's. **2.** Benjamin Perry and Jenna Farr enjoy the train ride Saturday. **3.** Bill & Betty Swope cool off with an ice cream treat in Farmland. **4.** Bob Dowell' cruising in his '1958 Pontiac. **5.** Joe Bryson ponders the duck's advice atop a rather short doorframe. **6.** Bill Sloan's cheesecake dessert from our lunch at Ghyslain Chocolatier.