

December 4th Car Collection Tour

Hidden in a Greendale industrial park in nondescript industrial building was an amazing collection of both, vintage cars, boats, motorcycles, bicycles along with memorabilia from the late 1800s and early 1900s housed in a 30,000 sq. ft. cement block building. Jim Morateck was our host having found this jewel of a collection when he delivered an antique bicycle to the collection's owner who is now in his eighties. At the time the collection consisted of 80 antique and classic cars of which 30 have since been sold. There were 19 club members and guests who took advantage of this opportunity. Besides cars, the building is full of memorabilia of bygone years; a 100 year old pool table, several player pianos scattered about, old music instruments, old ornate music machines, lamps with leaded and stain glass shades hanging everywhere and the list goes on and on. There is a barber shop set up with the correct chairs and accessories as used in the 1800s. The owner has a large guitar collection hanging on a wall inside a large display area which can only viewed through windows. No touchy here! There is a clock mechanism with its massive gears similar to what is used to power the four clocks on top of the Allen Bradley building. Wrist watches they are not. All the walls in building are painted white and loaded with posters and photos from the past.

Now for the car collection: Every car on display is either fully restored or in original mint condition. The only late model cars are a 62 Buick, a Brook Steven's Excalibur from the seventies and a 1952 Allard. There are approximately 20 cars from the brass lamp era which is 1900 to 1915 vintage. There are a large number of cars from the twenties and thirties represented by such names as Packard, Lincoln, LaSalle. Pierce Arrow, Ford Model "A" and "T", Auburn and Chevrolet. The brass era is represented by such names as Little, Empire, Albany, Overland and EMF. There is even a 1912 Detroit Electric, one of the first all electric cars, with its massive batteries and there is a 1912 Mercury Truck with its solid rubber wheels. There is even a "T" Bucket hot rod on display.

In addition to the cars there were a considerable amount of Harley Davidson motor cycles on display from the very early 1900s to present. This is also true of bicycles.

There were two old Chris Craft wood runabout boats on display all in pristine condition. Dick Stangl took home the most surprised award when he realized that one of the Chris Crafts was the boat he learned how to water ski behind. It is a small world.

Jim may be taking another group in the late December so let Pat Douglas or Jim know if you would be interested. We thank Jim for recommending this event and organizing it for the club members. It makes you wonder if there are other car collections hidden away in nondescript buildings only known by a few.

Kent