

THE GREAT LAKES ARCHER



The Newsletter of the Great Lakes Region of the Pierce-Arrow Society



**An Original Pierce Bicycle Shipping Crate!!
It's Amazing that it could survive all this time**

A View From the Rumbleseat:

by Bill Morris, Editor

In this issue we present the final installment of our preparations and trip to Glens Falls. We also had a surprise gift of photos from Frank and Rachel Laskowski.

Welcome New Members:

Todd and Lori Asche

14137 Skyline Drive

Spicer, MN 56288

Jim and Paula Bures

507 Longcommon Road

Riverside, IL 60546-1744

Following the Arrow:

by Stuart Blair, GLR Regional Director

66th Annual PAS National Meet - Kalamazoo, Michigan, August 20-25, 2024

Greg Long and Ken Sockrider's meet team is ready to welcome everyone for an enjoyable week of tours and venues in beautiful West Michigan. The 20th Anniversary of our recently refreshed Pierce-Arrow Museum at Gilmore will be celebrated during this meet along with visits to the Amazing Riddle Estate, Air-Zoo Museum, a Star of Saugatuck boat ride on Lake Michigan, visits to car collections, driving tours and concluding with a "fund-raising" Orphan Car Show on Sunday at the Gilmore. A meet flyer was mailed with recent PAS publications; please see the PAS website Message Board - Events Listing to either register on-line or print a registration form to mail-in. See you in Kalamazoo!

At the meet we will have a special presentation by Dr. Leslie Goddard.. She is an award winning historian, author, actress, and lecturer. She has been portraying famous women in history for more than fifteen years and will be portraying Amelia Earhart for us at this special and unique event. Don't miss it.

Museum Update - Annually welcoming tens of thousands of visitors for 20 years at Gilmore, our Pierce-Arrow Museum was due for a "refresh," and this August's Annual Meet provided perfect justification for this project. This "refresh," begun in December, was just completed with new paint, new displays, and new signage highlighting Pierce-Arrow's history. Professional Museum Exhibit Developer Mary Seelhorst provided the ideas and direction with many hours of hard work contributed by our Museum Foundation volunteers including Liz and Rick Horne, Karl and Mary Krouch, Greg Long, Curtiss Pool and myself. A couple of "new" Pierce-Arrows have been added to our display of cars including a 1931 Series 41 LeBaron Club Sedan donated by the family of Marc Hamburger and a 1933 Twelve Club Brougham on permanent loan from Greg Thomas. This month, the famous "Fatty Arbuckle" 1919 Model 66 Tourer will also be added to our display, on-loan through November from the Stahl Automotive Collection in Chesterfield, Michigan. We believe our Museum is now well positioned to represent Pierce-Arrow at the Gilmore for the next 20 years.

Spring Fling 2025 - Indianapolis, Indiana, late April or early May - visits to the Indy 500 Museum and track, Stutz Museum and other interesting Indy sites are planned - details to follow.

Comments and recommendations are always welcome - please contact me at csblairhouse@gmail.com or (513) 340-8370 evenings before 9:00 PM EST.

See you down the road, Stu Blair, GLR Region Director

PAS member Frank Laskowski and Rachel visited the Bicycle Museum of America in New Bremen, OH. While there they spotted the Pierce bicycle shipping crate that's on our front page. The Schwinn family collection makes up the bulk of the bicycles owned by the museum and your editor worked at Schwinn headquarters in Chicago from 1973-1986 and had some involvement with the collection. THANKS, FRANK AND RACHEL!



On the Road to Glens Falls (continued)

by Bill Morris

This is a continuation of the story I began in the December 2023 issue of "The Archer". I had just completed grinding the exhaust valves and began the reassembly process.

The trickiest part of valve assembly is seating the valve keepers on the valve tips and having them stay in place while you lower the valve compressor. When everything is lined up the process goes smoothly. When not, the valve keeper falls off of the valve and drops down the back of the valve galley and into the oil pan. I succeeded in assembling fifteen of the sixteen valves without the dreaded "fumble fingers" where I lost my grip on the keeper and heard it clunk in the pan. Fortunately I had a spare keeper to use and I immediately dropped that one as well into the pan.

Well, auto parts stores don't seem to stock '31 Pierce-Arrow valve keepers so I had no choice but to drop the oil pan to recover the two lost keepers. I drained the oil and had the oil pan on the floor in 20 minutes. Inside the pan I found FIVE valve keepers! I knew I had more than one spare keeper. Now I could finish the last valve assembly and I even thought to finish the assembly BEFORE reattaching the oil pan.

With the pan in place I then reattached cylinder head with a new gasket and torqued it down to 65 lbs/ft. The rest of final assembly went without issue and I did a compression test before firing up the engine. All cylinders were at 65 lbs. After adding water, rust inhibitor and "Water Wetter" to the cooling system I started and ran the engine for fifteen minutes while looking for small leaks or other problems. Finding none I pronounced the car ready to drive to Glens Falls the next morning. There's nothing like cutting things close.

We hit the road early in the morning to get through the hated I-80/90 gauntlet at the bottom of Lake Michigan in Indiana where there are four lanes each direction which were full of trucks for 20 miles. Once through that we discovered that we had a significant tailwind which



helped us get 12 MPG. With high-speed differential gears we can cruise safely at 60 mph and we drove 507 miles all the way to our overnight stop in Dunkirk, NY.

We had 350 miles remaining to get to Glens Falls and we elected to drive US Route 20 across New York State. This is a wonderful mostly two lane road that's full of hills, turns and little traffic for most of the trip. It harks back to what travelling was like in the '30s when our Pierce-Arrow was new. It can produce an eerie feeling when there is no one else on the road and there are no visual clues that indicate what era you are in.

Our arrival in Glens Falls yielded a surprise; we used less than a quart of engine oil for the entire 850 miles. That's a welcome sign from a happy car. We drove all of the tours at the meet without any problems and hit the road early on Sunday morning for the trip home.

It became clear by noon that the weather was not going to be as friendly as the trip over. Ambient temperature rose to 85 degrees and we had a significant headwind. I had one eye on the road and the other eye on the temperature gauge which is a trick I learned a long time ago. We slowed from sixty to fifty mph to lower the stress on the cooling and kept going until we made our overnight stop west of Cleveland. We used over a quart of oil and nearly a gallon of water but had no other problems. The next morning we left early and got most of the trip to Illinois in before noon and the rest of the drive was routine.

2024 Great Lakes Region Pierce-Arrow Calendar

June 16	Oakbrook, IL	Father's Day Show Bill Morris (630) 469-9138
July 10-14	Salem, OH	CCCA Ohio Caravan and Grand Concours
July 13	South Bend, IN	Concours at Copshaholm by the Studebaker Museum (574) 235-9714
Aug 20-25	Kalamazoo, MI	66th PAS Annual Meet Celebrate 20th Anniversary of the Pierce-Arrow Museum at Gilmore; visits to Amazing Riddle Estate, Air-Zoo, a Star of Saugatuck boat ride on Lake Michigan, car collections and driving tours, great food and Sunday Orphan Car Show at the Pierce-Arrow Museum. Host Hotel is Delta Hotel by Marriott (269) 375-6000 More information & registration in January PAS Mailing
Sept TBA	Dearborn, MI	Old Car Festival at Greenfield Village Henry Ford Museum's long running annual show will feature 1919-1932 cars on Sat. and 1896-1919 cars on Sunday. Info at www.thehenryford.org/participants
Sept TBA	Detroit, MI	Detroit Concours of America

GREAT LAKES REGION DIRECTOR – Stu Blair (513) 340-8370

Call your area Coordinator with any event ideas or events to add

ILLINOIS-WI Bill Morris - (630) 469-9138

OHIO Tom Barrett – (216) 598-0240

INDIANA Roy Foreman - (219) 942-8138

ONT. Ralph McKittrick-(416)281-4422

MICHIGAN Greg Long - (248) 390-5975



2024 *Kalamazoo Michigan*

**AUGUST
20th - 25th**



**Join us for the 66th Annual Pierce-Arrow
Society Meet in beautiful Kalamazoo,
Michigan!**

With its welcoming atmosphere and endless opportunities for exploration, Western Michigan truly has something for everyone. From journeys to learn about the region's history to the shores of Lake Michigan, we'll spend the week touring on miles of serene country roads. The friendly locals and vibrant communities add to the charm of the area, making visitors feel right at home. So pack your bags and prepare for an unforgettable journey through this hidden gem of the Midwest!