



You "Auto" Know Newsletter

A Driving Force in Preserving Our Automotive Heritage

April 19, 2017

This week in Automotive Heritage

On April 20, 1909, construction begins on the very first mile of concrete roadway on Woodward Avenue in Detroit between 6 and 7 Mile.

The stretch of concrete cost \$14,000 which is equivalent to \$2.17 million as of 2015.

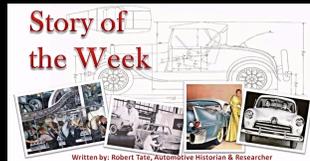
Detroit's iconic Woodward Ave., or M-1, is home to a number of major automotive milestones including Charles Brady King's maiden auto voyage which marked the first time a car was driven on a public roadway - which happened just a few weeks before Henry Ford drove his first car in the city.

Woodward also plays host to the annual car cruise bonanza known as the Dream Cruise which attracts over 2 million to the area. The Woodward Dream Cruise is part of our annual Autopalooza lineup.

Story of the Week

Remembering the early days of driver's education

By Robert Tate
Automotive Historian and Researcher



I remember during my high school days eagerly awaiting my 16th birthday so I could sign up for driver's education.

Back then, driver's education was a normal part of the school curriculum. Today, high school students seeking driver's education must turn to the variety of privately owned driver training schools.



Students practiced driving skills using a bumper-car like invention called the Aetna Drivetrainer.

For more of our latest Story of the Week, click below:

[Learn More](#)

Autopalooza

MotorCities, DMCVB announces 2017 Autopalooza lineup



Workers laying down the first mile of concrete roadway in 1909.

For more of these great historical features, visit the MotorCities Facebook page

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L-R: Shawn Pomaville, MotorCities NHA; Ishi Keenum, U-M Supermileage Team; Pamela Rosen, Shell Oil Co.; Bud Denker, Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix; Aaron Bambach, SST Truck Series Driver; Diane Flis-Schneider, Concours d'Elegance; Don Nicholson, Cruisin' Hines; Janina Jacobs, Eastpointe Gratiot Cruise; Michael Lary, Woodward Dream Cruise.

Ford Estate, MC Board Member featured on 'This Old House'



Check out the latest episode of "This Old House" featuring our friend and MotorCities Board Member Mark Heppner who guides the show through the massive restoration project being done at the Henry Ford Estate Fair Lane.

Mark talks to the show host about their efforts to restore Henry and Clara Ford's 15th and final home using precise and artisinal building methods.

Click below to watch the full episode:

[**Learn More**](#)

Save the Date:
Motor Boats & Motor Cars returns July 10

The Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau and the MotorCities National Heritage Area held a successful press conference on April 12 announcing this year's Autopalooza summer slate of world-class cruises, races and shows.

[Mlive: [Here are top 16 auto events around Detroit in 2017 for car-lovers](#)]

The Autopalooza events represent the deep cultural influence of southeast Michigan's rich automotive heritage. Autopalooza also has a significant economic impact on the metro Detroit region. The DMCVB calculated that the annual revenue generated from the Grand Prix, Concours d'Elegance and the Woodward Dream Cruise alone may exceed \$110 million.

To view the 2017 summer schedule and for more information, click below:

[**Learn More**](#)

MC Blog

The Women of Ternstedt and the First 'Slowdown Strike'

By David Elsila
Michigan Labor History Society

In the spring of 1937, workers at the huge General Motors Ternstedt plant in the Livernois-Fort neighborhood of Detroit faced a dilemma.

[Related: [Building the Engine: Auto and Labor, 1932-1937](#)]

The workers were demanding a contract, including recognition, fair wages, and an end to favoritism, but were getting nowhere in their negotiations with management. The national agreement between the UAW and General Motors, reached a couple of months earlier following the Flint sit-down strike, barred



The GM-Ternstedt Factory circa 1937.

Cars returns July 19

them or any GM workers from striking. How could Ternstedt workers pressure management without the right to strike?

This article is part of our "Building The Engine: Auto and Labor, 1932-1937," an educational outreach project commemorating a series of labor anniversaries in 2016 and 2017.

Read the full story on the Women of Ternstedt by clicking below:



[Learn More](#)

Our fun-tastic Motor Boats & Motor Cars event will return to the Rattlesnake Club in Detroit on July 19, 2017. Last year, we hosted over 100 people for an evening of food, festivities and a ferry ride showcasing auto and labor history along the Detroit River.

So mark the date on those calendars and we hope to see everybody back for another great event! In the meantime, check out our write-up and some photos from last year's event by clicking below.

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