

Midwest Report

The newsletter of the Midwest Region LCOC July 2018



Decades of Lincolns

Hot Times in St. Louis

The heat was oppressive, but the cars were cool and everyone who attended had a great time at the St. Louis Getaway Weekend meet, held over the June 15th weekend in west St. Louis.

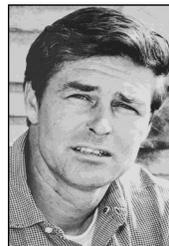
Everyone gathered on Saturday morning at the St. Louis Car Museum for a look at a very nice and varied car collection, most of which were for sale. From the stunning (1941 Cadillac woodie wagon) to the unique (1954 Kaiser Darrin) to muscle (1970 Plymouth Cuda Hemi convertible) to motorcycles and bi-planes, there was surely something there to tickle your fancy and lighten your wallet. We were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour and could see how new arrivals were mechanically and cosmetically prepared for the showroom floor.

From there we cruised to Dick Koop's car collection in Moscow Mills, MO. Dick has assembled an eclectic collection of cars that languished at the bottom of the sales charts when new. Some are obvious (Edsel), some are unknown (Subaru 360) and some are stunning (1963 Avanti). Dick had tables set up and we were able to eat lunch surrounded by good friends and beautiful cars. Does it get any better than that? That evening, we gathered for dinner at the Walnut

Grill, a relatively new restaurant in the O'Fallon area. A business meeting was held at lunch, where several items were discussed, including a couple of options for a meet in September in Springfield, IL, along with some ideas for the winter meet in Kansas City in November.



Automobile Icons



Bud Ekins
1930 - 2007

James Sherwin "Bud" Ekins was born in Hollywood, CA, and rose to prominence there as one of the best stuntmen in the business. He is best known for jumping his motorcycle over the barbed wire fence in the film, "The Great Escape", doubling for Steve McQueen, and for piloting McQueen's famous dark green Mustang through the streets of San Francisco in "Bullitt".

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Ekins started riding motorcycles in the hills near his Hollywood home as a young man, and eventually became a very skilled off-road motorcycle rider. In the '50s, he was one of the top off-road racers in southern California and won seven championships in the AMA District 37. By the mid-Sixties, he owned a Triumph motorcycle dealership in Los Angeles, and it became a destination for several young actors, including Steve McQueen. Ekins taught McQueen how to ride off-road, and McQueen became a skilled off-road racer in his own right. Ekins and McQueen were team mates in the prestigious International Six Days Trial of 1964 and again in the 1965 Isle of Man. Through his association with McQueen, Ekins began performing stunt work, becoming one of the premier motorcycle stunt riders of the time and eventually earning him induction into the Stuntmen's Hall of Fame.

In the interior shots of the Mustang from the chase scene in "Bullitt", if you saw McQueen's face in the rear view mirror, he was driving. If the mirror was turned down and no driver's face was visible, Ekins or another stunt man was driving.

After retiring from the film industry, Ekins continued to operate his motorcycle dealership, and became one of the top vintage motorcycle collectors in the country.

Automobile Icons



Bill Hickman
1921 - 1986

William Hickman was born in Los Angeles county, California, and like Bud Ekins, his expertise at the

handlebars of a motorcycle landed him work in the film industry. He also worked for James Dean, driving the tow vehicle for Dean's Porsche race car and advising Dean on his driving technique. Hickman was minutes behind Dean when Dean was killed in a crash with the Porsche and was the first on the scene of the



accident.

Also like Ekins, Hickman is perhaps most well-known for his role in "Bullitt", as the wheel man of the black Dodge Charger. Hickman made the role his own, with his black suit, black driving gloves and ice-cold demeanor during the entire chaotic chase. He also did all of his own driving stunts in the movie.

Hickman continued to ramp up the excitement and danger in his chase scenes, continuing with the race against the elevated train in "The French Connection". Unlike many carefully choreographed chase sequences, that chase scene was filmed at high speed in real traffic conditions.



Hickman upped the ante once again with "The Seven-Ups", banking on the successful formula established in "Bullitt" with two cars chasing one another through the hills of uptown New York City.

In the '70s, Hickman slid out from behind the wheel and turned his skills towards stunt coordination work, including the motorcycle chase scene in "Electra Glide in Blue". He also worked on "The Hindenburg" and "Capricorn One".

