

From WWII Jeeps to Ike's Limo, AOD Museum Has it All

by Jim Stickford

There are car buffs who collect muscle cars and there are ones who collect sports cars or luxury cars or foreign cars or "orphan" cars from companies that no longer exist.

But the folks at the group called The Arsenal of Democracy have a more specialized niche that they collect - military vehicles from World War II on up.

John Lind, a former Marine who also spent time in both the Navy and Air Force Reserves (he said that's a long story in and of itself), founded the group in 1997.

"We're a group that provided restored military vehicles and other artifacts to schools and other institutions for educational purposes," Lind said. "We just provided WWII-era vehicles for a USO-styled dance at John Glenn High School in Westland."

Lind said he and his fellow Arsenal of Democracy (AOD) members are in the group to promote the history of the United States and to honor and preserve the vehicles, many of which were made in Michigan.

"We're made up of three groups," Lind said. "There is the AOD Museum, AOD Motor Pool and the 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion Re-Enactment Group. All the groups are 501-3C charities. We like to educate on all aspects of our nation's democracy."

The group maintains two restoration shops where they store and fix up the vehicles they obtain. One is in Fenton outside of Flint and the other is in Shelby Township.

AOD has about 70 members and 100 vehicles. The types of vehicles range from one of the first 20,000 Jeeps ever made to one of the Cadillac limousines used by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower while he was in Europe during WWII.

Lind said they get the vehicles in their collection from all over the country, even all over the world.

Ed Pashukich is a member of the group and his day job is appraising and restoring antique cars. He was able to obtain the Eisenhower limousine from a friend, "Bad" Jesse Austin, who wanted to liquidate his collection.

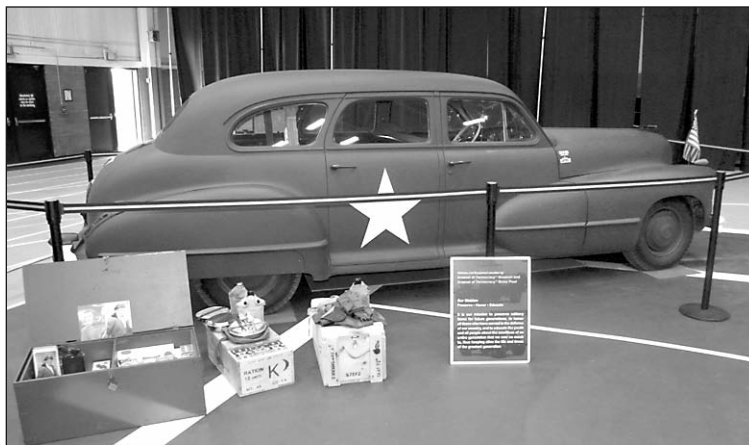
Austin owned a salvage yard in Wayne, and "was quite the collector," Pashukich said. Austin had

managed to get a hold of the 1942 Cadillac. It was originally owned by the widow of a WWI surgeon who donated it to the U.S. military early in WWII.

The car was sent to Europe and was made a part of Eisenhower's motor pool. Painted Army green and fitted with headlight covers and blackout lights, the car had a Hydramatic transmission that didn't work well in the mud and snow of unpaved European roads, so the car was replaced as Ike's primary transport vehicle.

The Eisenhower limo ended up being used as a back-up vehicle for high-ranking officials and for European Theater of Operations diversionary tactics. It eventually ended up in the hands of collector Austin, who sold it to Pashukich.

"We find the vehicles in Europe, South America," Lind said. "You'd be surprised how many we've found in barns up North (in Michigan). We are known now, so people contact us when they have something they think we might be interested in. The history of Warren is tied into the creation of the tank."



A Cadillac limousine used by Gen. Dwight Eisenhower during WWII.

Before the government built the first tank plant in Warren back in 1940, Lind said, the city was basically farm country. But once the tank plant was built, "it seems like 5,000 small stores and restaurants sprang up around the plant pretty much overnight."

Much of Michigan's transportation infrastructure was built to transport the war vehicles built in places like Warren, Detroit and Flint during WWII, Lind said, adding that the history of these vehicles is the history of Michi-

gan - and that the defense industry still plays a big role in the state's economy to this day.

AOD's next big event takes place in St. Clair Shores on the weekend of July 13-14 at the VFW Hall on Jefferson just past 11 Mile Road.

It's a special "WWII and Veterans" event where reenactors show off their gear and hold war games.

To learn more about the group and what they do, check out www.arsenalofdemocracy.org.

Warren Plans to Use Locals to Create New Park

A unique park project is planned for the Warren's historic village area.

The Warren Pocket Park project is located on the northwest corner of Mound and Chicago Roads.

Local architectural and design students under the direction of Team-4-Community, a design firm, will do much of the designing work.

By involving students in the design of the new park, Team-4-Community will fulfill its core philosophy of bridging the gap between "theory and practice."

"Designing a public green space will provide invaluable experience to the students, augmenting their education," said Harold Remlinger.

Once the project is completed, the City of Warren will use the design drawings to spark public interest, and channel the community's enthusiasm to advance the project toward the implementation phase. Construction is scheduled to start in 2014.

Ryan Dloski, AutoCAD instructor at Lincoln High School in Warren, said, "This project represents a great learning opportunity for students. It gets them out of the classroom and into the community."

Dloski will work with the students to craft the dies for the park's marker signs.

John DeDecker, chair of the Village of Warren Historical District Commission, said the park "will make for a wonderful gateway to the village historic district" and that the greater community "will enjoy the beautified environment."

City Councilman Keith Sadowski said he looks forward to the park becoming a reality and sees it as a rejuvenating force for the historic village area. "We also envision the park as a rest station for a future city-wide network of bike paths," he said.

Cadillac CTS V-sport Donation Geared To Support SAE's STEM Program

GM will donate the first production 2014 Cadillac CTS V-sport, along with a driving school package, to be auctioned through Barrett-Jackson Auction Company.

GM executive Mary T. Barra broke the news at the SAE Foundation dinner in Detroit on May 22.

All the proceeds will go toward supporting the SAE Foundation's STEM educational programs, the charitable arm of SAE International.

The evening's theme, "The Future STEMs from You!", celebrates the SAE Foundation's individual and collective efforts to improve the state of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education for America's students.

The event brought together corporate sponsors, industry leaders, donors, volunteers, teachers and students who are involved in SAE programming. Acknowledgements were given to automotive industry leaders including Barra, who is GM senior vice president of Global Development.

Barra was presented with the SAE Foundation's "Industry Leadership Award." Her GM duties include responsibility for the design, engineering, program management and quality for General Motors' vehicles around the world.

Barra announced at the event the donation of the first production 2014 Cadillac CTS V-sport, plus the performance driving school package, which will be auctioned later this year.

"This award is a great tribute to the men and women of General Motors and our long-standing partnership with visionary organizations like SAE," said Barra.

"As an industry, we must continue to address the challenge of STEM education by supporting organizations like the SAE Foundation, which provides children with the skills and resources necessary to succeed in a rapidly changing world."

Lori Gatmaitan, SAE Foundation director, said, "The celebration dinner was a great success. I'd personally like to thank everyone that has supported our STEM programming initiatives, including the GM Foundation."

"To date, more than four million students have participated in our K-12 and collegiate programs in all 50 states and 10 Canadian provinces and territories."

The evening reception also honored Kaustav Sinha, associate scientist, Dow Chemical, and Adam Timmons, technical specialist, Chrysler, with the Stefan Pischinger Young Industry Leadership Award, sponsored by FEV.

The award recognizes young men and women in the engineering community, ages 35 and under, who have made significant accomplishments and who show potential for leadership growth in the automotive industry.

Neil Schilke, former general director of Engineering, Corporate Staffs, GM, was the 2013 recipient of the Donald W. Ableson Award for Visionary Leadership.

Schilke was recognized due to his leadership within the SAE

Foundation organization and for his significant contributions to improving STEM education and advancing the SAE mission.

The SAE Foundation also announced the GM Foundation as winners of the third annual Gordon Millar Award.

The award, which is sponsored by AVL, is given in special recognition of an individual or organization that best demonstrates continuous philanthropic support of the SAE Foundation Mission, which is to encourage and increase student participation and student achievement in STEM education.

Warren Library To Hold D-Day Memorial Event

Members of the public who are interested in history should consider coming to the Arthur Miller Branch of the Warren Public Library on Thursday, June 6, at 10 a.m. The library is holding a special D-Day remembrance event.

On June 6, 1944, the Allies launched Operation Overlord, a massive invasion of occupied France with one goal: rid Europe of the tyranny and oppression of Nazi Germany.

Representatives from the Michigan Military Technical & Historical Society in Roseville will bring this pivotal moment in history to life at the Arthur Miller library branch with authentic uniforms and equipment of a World War II American combat soldier.

Those attending will get an up-close look at the life of an American soldier and what he carried with him when he went into combat storming the shores of France during the "Great Crusade."

Registration is required and begins May 6. To find out more about the event and to sign up, call 586-751-5377.

INDEPENDENCE AUTO REPAIR

Full Service
★ We Have Tires ★

OPEN:
Mon-Fri
7:30 am-6pm
Sat.
8am-3pm

FREE Shuttle Service within a 10 mile radius
FREE Courtesy Check on any vehicle
FREE Coffee to everyone

2 Locations:

28775 Van Dyke • Warren
12 & Van Dyke
586-751-4440

15075 32 Mile Rd. • Romeo
Corner of 32 Mile & Powell Rd.
586-336-4440

American Owned & Operated
*We do all factory
scheduled maintenance!*

Certified Technicians

Trans. Flush
w/ cleaner & additive.
Includes 17 qts. transmission fluid.

OR

Coolant Flush
w/ cleaner & additive.
Inclu. 3 gal. of Coolant

\$99.99

In-store offer good through 5-31-13

Full Service Oil, Lube & Filter Change

\$17.99

w/ Tire Rotation

\$26.99

In-store offer good through 5-31-13

Front End Alignment

\$39.99

4-Wheel Alignment

\$79.99

Camber & Caster Adj. Additional

In-store offer good through 5-31-13

Ceramic Brake Special

\$99.99

Includes pad installation

In-store offer good through 5-31-13

10% OFF Parts

to All GM Employees w/ Badge

In-store offer good through 5-31-13

MALANA BARBERSHOP

We are close by: 5831 13 Mile Rd
In The Village Plaza Just West Of Mound

586-979-4285

MEN'S HAIRCUT:
\$10.00

SENIOR'S HAIRCUT:
\$8.00

Pension apprehension?

DEBRA HERNDON
15192 E 13 Mile Rd
(Southwest Corner of 13 Mile & Hayes)
Warren, MI 48088
Bus 586.293.1700 • Fax 586.293.1719
youmatter@sfddeb.com

Get your buyout decision to a better state.
I have the financial experience to help you weigh the pros and cons of accepting a lump-sum buyout.
Get to a better State.®
CALL ME TODAY.

State Farm
Home Office, Bloomington, IL

MPC #121504 1203134