

Committee Name:
**Senate Committee –
Higher Education and Tourism
(SC–HET)**

Appointments

03hr_SC–HET_Appt_pt00

Committee Hearings

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Committee Reports

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Clearinghouse Rules

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Executive Sessions

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Hearing Records

03hr_ab0000

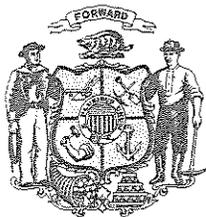
03hr_sb0468

Misc.

03hr_SC–HET_Misc_pt00

Record of Committee Proceedings

03hr_SC–HET_RCP_pt00



TED KANAVAS

STATE SENATOR

TO: Senate Committee on Higher Education and Tourism

FROM: State Senator Ted Kanavas

RE: Senate Bill 468, relating to the Wisconsin Automotive Museum

DATE: Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on Senate Bill 468 (SB 468), which designates the Wisconsin Automotive Museum in Hartford as the official state automotive museum.

The auto museum in Hartford has been in existence for 18 years. Currently the museum is a 501(c)(3), which is able to operate by fund raising, donations, and by people who pay for visits. By naming the Wisconsin Automotive Museum the official auto museum of Wisconsin, there is no doubt that it will attract more visitors each year.

Within the museum, you will find numerous automobiles from various years and manufacturing styles. There are currently over 100 types of vehicles on display. They include, but are not limited to, Reos, Pierce-Arrow, Pontiacs, Studebakers, Chevrolets, and Fords. More importantly, the museum displays the Kissel, which was manufactured in Hartford from 1906-1931. Celebrities such as Fatty Arbuckle and Ameila Earhardt were owners of this Hartford brand vehicle.

Mr. Dale Anderson, Executive Director of the museum, has provided testimony on this bill for all of you. I have attached another copy of his testimony for you. The information that he provides sums up the auto museum's history and some basic information about the collection and the funding available.

Further, I have attached for your review, an article that was in the *Wisconsin Trails Magazine*. The article lists the museum as a destination in Wisconsin for young and old to see.

I ask that you seriously consider this bill. Not only will this bill provide the Wisconsin Automotive Museum the credit that it is due, but it will also be a tool that the museum can use to expand its base of visitors. This is a piece of history that we need to protect, and we need to promote.

Again, thank you for your consideration.

STATE CAPITOL

P.O. BOX 7882 • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707-7882
(608) 266-9174 • (800) 863-8883 • FAX: (608) 264-6914

This letter is in support of LRB 3839 designating Wisconsin Automotive Museum as the official State Automotive Museum.

For over 18 years the Wisconsin Automotive Museum (formerly Hartford Heritage Auto Museum) has provided a huge asset to the State in the form of Wisconsin automotive history depository. Wisconsin automotive history is just as valid and varied as the auto industry in the state of Michigan and we have been actively been teaching that fact to hundreds of thousands of people from all 50 states and 46 countries.

We feature the Hartford built Kissel car. Also featured and supported by the National Nash club is the Nash collection. Outboards built in Hartford after Kissel went out of the car business have a place of their own. Recently we added a two hundred ton SOO line engine to the display. Over all about 100 vehicles are on display presently.

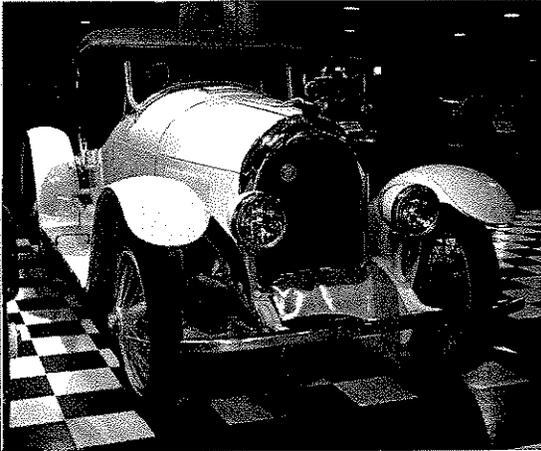
The museum belongs to all of the regular automotive clubs and is a founding member of National Association of Automobile Museums.

We are the only museum of its kind in Wisconsin organized as a non-profit public museum.(501c3) We have operated on our own effort through fund raising, donations, and visitations. We are not regularly supported by city , county, or state funds. We were however successful in obtaining a DOT matching grant to further enhance our buildings appearance and to insure the preservation/protection of our historical contents.

Obtaining this special designation will add to our credibility and add to the states resources in the area of automotive history without adding costs to either. Both are a win win propositions.

I would personally like to appear however I am recuperating and unable to travel to Madison today

Dale W. Anderson Executive Director
Wisconsin Automotive Museum
Hartford, Wisconsin



HISTORIC HOT WHEELS in Hartford

Have you ever seen a Kissel—or heard of one, for that matter? Head to the **Wisconsin Automotive Museum**—the state’s largest auto museum—in Hartford and take a trip back to the 1920s, when celebrities like Amelia Earhart prized this Hartford-made, custom-built sports car. The museum’s collection includes 22 of the world’s remaining Kissel sports cars.

The museum, a former cannery, is decorated in Art Deco style, with polished black-and-white tile floors. Walls are adorned with automobile artifacts, and the scents of a well-kept garage perfume the air. Treasures from the past include Ramblers; early 1900s models from longtime automakers (Cadillac) and a long-forgotten one (Sears); the unusual (three-wheeled autos); and more recent classics, like the legendary ’57 Chevy and the stainless-steel De Lorean. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday, noon-5 p.m., Sunday, October-April; also open Monday-Tuesday, May-September. 147 N. Rural St., Hartford; (262) 673-7999, www.wisconsinautomuseum.com.
—Curt Casetta



TRAILS' RIVER EXPEDITIONS

This month’s photo portfolio takes you to a stretch of the **Lower Wisconsin River** photographed by David Sladky (“When the River Wakes,” page 78). Now see it for yourself. Find a list of **canoe rental companies** along the river at <http://lwr.state.wi.us>, the Web site of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway. The site covers topics from geologic and social history to photos, links, and a suggested reading list that includes Sauk City native August Derleth’s *Wisconsin: River of a Thousand Isles*.

For more river-related reading, see the *Wisconsin River Valley Journal*, a quarterly that features stories and poetry about life along the Wisconsin. Regular contributor Justin Isherwood provides a discursive, rural flavor, while historical pieces evoke nostalgia. Current projects include a 10th-anniversary anthology and writing contest (deadline: May 1). Subscriptions: \$25 per year. (608) 643-0113.

