

# AH-000-GAH

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## Overnight to French Lick, IN

by Reda Leasor

Rain, rain, rain! We started with rain, which stayed with us until 7 pm. Mary Fettig and Phil Shanks came with us for lunch at the Overlook Restaurant in Leavenworth, IN. Phil drove his great looking antique Buick station wagon. After lunch, they wished us a good trip and headed for home.

While the meals and desserts were served, we watched a tugboat pushing a gigantic load of coal against strong currents. With all the rain, the river was high and running fast against the tugboat. It seemed to take forever to get past the view from the restaurant window. As usual, some coconut crême pies were consumed and deemed delicious.

Lunch was over about 2 pm and the wind picked up a bit as the temperature dropped to 47 degrees with a light rain. Traveling on the Overhead Bridge Rd offered scenic woodlands, 3 caves and wild hyacinths. Many dogwoods and redbuds were in bloom.

Upon arrival at French Lick, most of us took the 4 pm tour of the West Baden Springs Hotel. Joe Vice & Doug Miller took the Miller's Mustang to an auto repair shop to fix a tire. Doug had inflated the tire several times on the drive and was glad to find a shop available to fix the problem for good.

Those on the hotel tour saw the largest free-standing, six story dome in the world. If you have never been, put it on your list, because you'll be amazed.



A view of the dome at West Baden Springs

The entire hotel is beautiful and huge. Our guide was excellent at relating the history of the hotel and surrounding area. The personal stories of the various owners were very interesting.

On the wall next to the lobby, the guide pointed out seven panels. An angel was painted on each one. These are copies of the originals found at the very top of the dome. The copies are 2 feet tall, the originals are 8 feet tall. The robes of the angels had signatures and dates painted on them, which helped historians confirm that they were done at the time the original hotel was built, not added later. It is believed the Italian artists painted these of their own volition, possibly as a blessing on the hotel.

After the tour, we checked into the hotel. Eight of us chose to have dinner at the 33 Brick Street Restaurant, which was excellent. The rest of the group chose to visit the casino, and from what I heard, several were lucky that night!

Sunday morning we followed Doug & Sandy Miller on some beautiful roads through rural areas where we saw huge farms on very flat land. These roads were mostly the same routes taken by Confederate General John Hunt Morgan in 1863 on his great raid through southern Indiana.

Known as the Battle of Corydon, 450 men of the Home Guard were eventually outflanked by the 2,000 cavalry of Gen. Morgan. It was the only major military action in Indiana during the Civil War. For 6 days (July 8-13) they looted and raided to their hearts content. Morgan was referred to as the "King of the Horse Thieves" because his men frequently obtained new mounts.

On Leota Rd, we had a great photo opportunity, Leota Covered Bridge over Cooney Creek is a beautiful bridge. It looks like an older restored bridge, but was actually completed in May 1995. It was built in the center of an "X" over Cooney Creek at the crossing of the 2 oldest roads in Indiana, Buffalo Trace known as Bloomington Trail and Cincinnati Trace known as Leota Road.

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**BLUEGRASS REGION – ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA**  
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The **AH-000-GAH** is the official document of the **Bluegrass Region Antique Automobile Club of America, Lexington, Kentucky.**

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**President's Corner**

Charlie Simpson

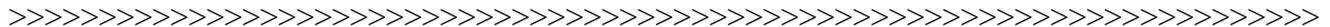
This April has brought a lot of showers, but it didn't dampen our overnight tour; only the roads on that Saturday. We did have trouble keeping air in one tire. Bob Gresham had the answer. Bob is filling in for Donnie Hanks in our car club. Donnie always had the extra parts.

We had a lot of fun at French Lick despite the rain. Patricia Powell did okay at French Lick with some help from her coach 'Jim'. Brad Leasor and Bob Gresham had some great stories about each other. Lots of laughs. Sunday was a great day on the back roads of Southern Indiana.

Let's not forget the members that are having some health issues; keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

The next outing is May 21. Why not bring a friend?

*Charlie*



**10 Commandments of the Car Collector**

Reprinted from *Kaiser Frazer Magazine* May 2011 – contributed by Bob Cornett

1. Thou shalt not store cars out-of-doors, except for thy wife's modern one.
2. Thou shalt never covet thy neighbor's car, nor his garage, nor his battery charger.
3. Thou shalt not love thy cars more than thy wife and children, as much but not more.
4. Thou shalt not read thy Hemmings on company time, lest your employer make it impossible to pay your car payments.
5. Thou shalt not despise thy neighbor's Edsel, nor DeSoto, nor even his 1947 Plymouth.
6. Thou shalt not allow thy daughters nor thy sons to marry during the holy days of Hershey.
7. Thou shalt not deceive your wife into thinking ye are taking her on a romantic Sunday drive, when you are indeed going to look at another car.
8. Thou shalt not tell thy spouse the entire cost of thy latest restoration, at least not all at once.
9. Thou shalt not promise thy wife a new addition to the house and then use it to store cars.
10. Thou shalt not buy thy wife a floor jack as a gift.



# **Saturday May 21st Gresham Spring Tour**

**Meet at McDonalds at Palomar Centre  
in time to leave at 9:00 am**

**Details of the tour are on page 3  
& there's something for everyone!**

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