

# IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

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## Will you cross us off your Bucket List this year?

You've probably heard someone say, "That's on my Bucket List." As we age, that expression creeps into conversations more and more. The origin of the phrase is hard to pin down. Most claim that it has something to do with the phrase "kick the bucket," which we all know the meaning of. Clearly the phrase became popular after the 2007 movie, starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman. These guys play terminally ill patients who decide to escape the nursing home and do things they've never taken the time to do, just for fun before it's too late.

Now if you research "bucket lists" you can find some ideas that make many lists, i.e., visit Australia, go parachuting, run a marathon, whale watch, learn how to play guitar, catch a last minute flight to a random destination, etc.

Some of these may be on your list, too. Some may be way too expensive or more likely to be on the list of a much younger person. However long, short or extensive your list is, we hope that the Antique Car Run is on it.

The **29<sup>th</sup> Annual NLNB is Saturday, August 8th.** If you have been looking at this Run on your Bucket List for some time, stop looking. If you have been restoring and polishing your antique car so you can come, stop restoring and polishing. If you have been saving to make the trip, we're

not that expensive! Don't regret that you didn't take the time to have this much fun with your old car.

Year after year, we welcome newcomers to the tour. And, year after year, those newcomers become regulars. We do our best to make everyone who joins us feel welcome and right at home. Come experience it for yourself and then you can cross that item off your Bucket List, and better yet, add it to your annual calendar. See you in August in Minnesota!

*Richard Quirin and Jacqueline Crawford from Illinois, were newcomers in 2014 and became first time finishers in his 1910 Maxwell.*



## From the President, Bill Dubats

I cannot remember being this excited about the Antique Car Run since 2007. That was the first year I entered the ACR. Years earlier, a Model T Club had a tour in the area of Kingston, MN. Richard and Linda Stewart owned a vegetable farm near Kingston. We would unload our Model T Fords at their farm and come into Kingston to see the antique cars fill the main street.

The time was about 2002. I was awestruck at the amazing sight of these precious antique cars chuff chuffing and smoking into town. Many of the drivers seemed a bit elderly to me, but they sure knew their stuff when it came to servicing their old cars. They added oil to reservoirs, filled dope cups with grease, applied a wrench here and a screwdriver there and checked many things over. After having some of the great roast pork being served by the Kingston Lions, they cranked their engines to life and carried on with the tour.

*I was particularly taken by a certain elderly gentleman driving a Curved Dash Olds. It was the coolest old car I had ever seen, Small of engine, body and chassis; it seemed like a toy among the many larger cars. The driver worked slowly and carefully servicing the car, but knew exactly what he was doing.*

His last act was a trip to the Porta-Potties before starting out. This gave me a chance to snoop up close. I got on my knees and checked out the chain drive, open valves, light duty axle springs, tiller steering and small seat. I felt like a kid in a candy store. I loved every second! Most of the other ACR cars had already departed.

Then trouble struck. Murphy's Law is often lurking just around the corner with antique cars, and wouldn't you know it, the little Olds didn't want to start. He cranked and cranked. His face became red.

The elderly gentleman tired quickly, and I moved closer. While he panted and struggled to catch his breath, I signaled my willingness to crank the precious little car. He nodded between heavy breaths. I engaged the crank carefully as I had observed him do, (rather like a Victrola) and gave the engine a brisk spin. The engine chugged to life immediately, and the driver quickly moved the timing lever further down. The engine heartbeat quickened and smoothed out. Smiles all around as he doffed his hat in a little bow toward me. I will never know who smiled the most: him, me, or the bystanders watching. The sun shone on all of our happy smiles.

Subsequently, I searched



***ACR President Bill Dubats and his 1908 Cadillac Victoria have crossed the finish line in New Brighton 7 of 8 times since 2007. In this photo, Bill's wife Jan was the navigator.***

for a qualifying ACR auto for several years without much luck. One prospective car sounded good on the phone, but turned out to be a rusty hulk with a dubious engine. Another met my criteria, but the price seemed a little steep. Finally, an ad request came in to the Model T Newsletter I edited. I called to learn more, including the price.

That ad never saw paper and ink. Basil Johansen, who knew the car well, inspected the one cylinder Cadillac. It was definitely a thumbs up! And the price was within my range. The one cylinder touring car has putted and purred the distance for 7 of the 8 past years. The lone exception involved the second year, when some knucklehead didn't seem to know you should carry a spare master link when driving a chain drive car. Maybe I will get

over that eventually.

In 2007 I knew very little about my newly acquired 1908 single cylinder Cadillac, and even less about the ACR. It was one amazing experience after another. We muddled through, discovering such things as good route sheets. The volunteer tow vehicles drivers, who returned our trucks and trailers to New Brighton, what a perk! Food available at the numerous rest stops. Seeing all these incredible antique cars moving down the road, or gathering at a rest stop.

It continues to amaze me how the ACR founders crafted such a well designed and well planned event that has stood the test of 28 successful years.

I am all in! Hope you'll be, too.

Bill Dubats  
President Antique Car Run



## A Tour Worth Repeating & County Fair on Pre-Tours Agenda

This year drivers will again be given ample time to put miles on their veteran cars before the Grand Tour on Saturday. Director Ed Walhof, a New London area resident, is putting the finishing touches on 3 pre-tours that will guarantee over 100 miles of touring and a sampling of classic Minnesota charm.

- Wednesday, 40 mile morning tour to Belgrade ~ Some of you may remember a previous trip to Bayer Built Woodworks. It's back on the agenda this year so you can see the addition of state-of-the-art robotics to the woodworking plant. After touring the facilities, Bayer Built will be hosting a complimentary lunch for you.

- Wednesday evening will give you an opportunity to drive to one of New London's many parks for socializing over a chicken dinner.

- Thursday, 35 mile morning tour to Willmar ~ You'll sample a little taste of Americana at the Kandiyohi County Fair this year. The annual fair features agricultural, domestic and industrial exhibits from throughout the County. You'll have some time to take in everything from baking and flowers to livestock and antique tractors. Then, you're invited to parade your veteran cars through the grounds on your way back to New London.

- Thursday evening "meet, greet and eat" will again take you to Neer Park in New London. We've invited our volunteer tow



*According to Holly Bayer, the door-handling-robot at Bayer Built Woodworking "has added an additional one-third capacity on the line, every day."*

drivers to join us so you have a chance to meet and exchange information.

- Friday, 36 mile afternoon tour ~ Pre-Run Get Ready Day offers a warm-up tour around scenic Nest and Green Lakes after morning brunch and drivers' meeting.

- Gather in the early evening on Friday to show off your cars to the residents at the Glen Oaks Nursing Home before you parade down Main Street. A Community Chicken & Rib Buffet will be offered at the Legion following the parade before drivers head home to prepare for the early morning start.

## Happy 150th Birthday, New London!

When the first white settlers arrived in what is now New London Township, they found Indians as the sole occupants. They also found an area abundant with wildlife, lakes, forests, and brush interspersed with numerous Indian trails, along with a river and picturesque water-

falls meandering through the lowlands.

Louis Larson, considered the father of New London, was the first white man to set foot on the land comprising the area around New London. He was from Sweden and emigrated with his family in 1852. In 1858, his family obtained

homestead rights to 160 acres near the west shore of Nest Lake. In the fall of 1858, Louis set out on a trapping expedition which he successfully carried out for several seasons. On one of those expeditions, he followed the Crow River and discovered the waterfall where the village of New London now stands. In 1861, he took steps to secure title to the land where the falls were located. He and a partner projected plans for the

building of a dam for generating power to operate a mill. But on August 17, 1862, the Sioux Indian War broke out and all the frontier settlers were forced to flee. Two years later, after the uprising had been crushed, Louis and his partner Samuel Stoner returned to rebuild the dam and the mill which went in to operation in July of 1865.

With the grist and saw mill in successful operation,

*Editor's Note: Mary Kuperus is a life-long resident of New London so we asked her to take off her Volunteer Tow Driver Coordinator hat and put on her historian hat to tell you a little bit about New London's history. The city is celebrating its Sesquicentennial this year. Mary used information from "The History of New London 1865 to 1965" for this article.*

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## Assorted Nuts & Bolts

- Have you ever heard the expression, “*A Deal at twice the price.*” That’s us! The NLNB remains a great deal for your dollar. We put on this endurance tour to promote Minnesota cities and old cars, but mostly so you can have fun!
- Finisher’s Medallions—We provide a specially minted coin for every car that crosses the finish line. It’s a nice token to remember the blood, sweat, tears, grease, sunburn and food you’ve enjoyed with us that day. Register now and plan to get one!
- Volunteers Tow Drivers are guaranteed to the first 50 drivers who register before July 25th. That means, if you procrastinate long enough, you will have to make your way back to New London and pick up your trailer, etc., on your own after the Run.
- The 2015 T-shirt features a 1903 Autocar. There’s one included free with each registration. We’ve asked for you to indicate your size on the form this year. If you’d like additional ones put aside for pick up at registra-

tion, please add a note for us.

- Our website will be getting a bit of a make over in the next month or so. Hopefully, when we finish the changes, you’ll be able to get registration forms, newsletters, and all sorts of information easier. Don’t hesitate to talk to one of us with your questions. Contact information for each Board member is on the website at [www.antiquecarrun.org](http://www.antiquecarrun.org)

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New London became the trading center for the entire territory extending as far as fifty miles. Louis named the place New London because of the similarity that he saw in it with the location of New London, Wisconsin. New London, Minnesota became the first village in what is now Kandiyohi County.

With the mill operating at full capacity, New London began to grow and new business enterprises were established. In 1868, New London was the county seat and the only place in the

county that could be called a village. It had a population of 40 and boasted three stores, a saw mill, a grist mill, and a blacksmith shop. The railroad came to New

London in 1886.

The last mail and passenger train passed through New London on March 14, 1950. After

that, train service was limited to the hauling and delivery of freight. Now the tracks are gone and a biking trail is in its place.

Many businesses have come and gone: hotels, grocery stores, restaurants,

variety stores, banks, and even car dealerships. The location of waterfalls was the nuclei for the establishment of the frontier towns, Kingston, Forest City, Manannah, Green Lake, and finally New London. The first mail routes into this section came through these frontier locations as well.

A special election on April 8, 1889 was called to vote on incorporation with 37 votes in favor and 0 against. The first election was held on April 30, 1889 with thirty-three votes cast naming Louis Larson the first Mayor of New London.

Although the people, businesses, and even landmarks have changed, New

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For information, visit [www.antiquecarrun.org](http://www.antiquecarrun.org) or call 651-638-2100

Antique Car Run, Inc. is an independent, non-profit corporation that has a

501-3c designation.

The mission of the organization is to foster an appreciation of the beauty and endurance of vintage automobiles.

**29th Annual  
New London to New  
Brighton  
Antique Car Run  
Saturday, August 8, 2015  
Pre-Tours, August 5-7**

[www.antiquecarrun.org](http://www.antiquecarrun.org)  
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London has survived.

We here in New London are excited to celebrate our 150th Anniversary all year long and welcome the New London to New Brighton Antique Car Run as part of the celebration and to thank them for being part of our history.

