

THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

Established 1955

May, June, July 2017

Hours: 1:00pm-6:00pm, Wednesday & Saturday

1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146

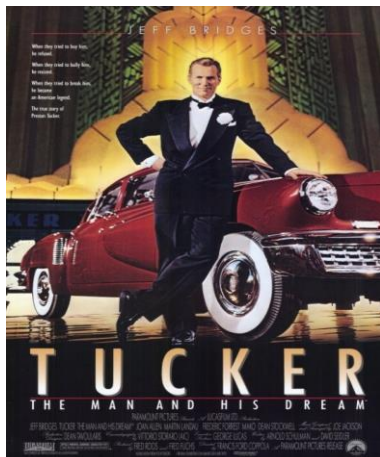
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www.lphistorical.org/ also on Facebook

"PRESTON TUCKER & HIS DREAM CAR" EXHIBIT JUNE 19 ~ SEPT. 30

In 1903, when Preston Tucker was born in Capac Michigan, no one would have foreseen the adventure that his life would eventually become. Losing his father at age 5, Preston moved with his widowed mother Lucille, a school teacher, and his siblings to Detroit where Lucille's sister lived. While still a teen, Preston worked as an office clerk for Cadillac Motors and attended Cass Tech High School. By 1920 the family was living in Lincoln Park. Cultivating an early interest in cars and especially their power and speed, he became a policeman with the village of Lincoln Park Police Department while not yet 21. His mother soon had him removed for being underage, but Preston later returned to their ranks as a young man. Lucille, who remarried and was now known to her Lincoln Park pupils as Mrs. Longprey, became a respected educator in the local school district, while her son continued his obsession with cars, first visiting the Indianapolis Speedway in 1925 and making it a frequent pilgrimage thereafter. Muriel Lobb today remembers her grade school teacher Mrs. Longprey well and also recalls Tucker himself vividly as a devil may care personality who would speed on his police motorcycle down the newly-constructed roads of the busy little town. (The pace of growth and productivity in Lincoln Park in the mid-20s was not surpassed until the next population boom came after World War II.) The Tuckers are known to have lived in several homes in Lincoln Park over the years, on Garfield, Warwick and Fort Park.



Today, of course, we know Preston Tucker for his legendary "Tucker '48". Tucker and his car enjoyed a popular revival in 1988 when the film, "Tucker - The Man and His Dream" was released, starring Jeff Bridges in the title role.

In addition to the Tucker 48's streamlined design, the "car of tomorrow" was technically advanced for the 1940s, featuring an air-cooled



rear-mounted engine, disc brakes, a distinctive center "cyclops" headlight that turned with the car's front wheels, a padded dash board, break-away windshield, and other innovations and safety features which would later become standard in the industry.

It is impossible to reduce the story of Tucker and his car to a few paragraphs here. There are several remarkable books available that tell Tucker's amazing story with great detail and affection for his groundbreaking automotive innovations. That the Tucker venture both succeeded and failed is a lengthy and complicated story best told in more detail.

At the Historical Society's Annual Dinner on May 18th, you will have that extraordinary opportunity. Author **Steve Lehto**, (*"Preston Tucker and His Battle to Build the Car of Tomorrow"*), will be joined by **John Tucker, Jr.** Preston's grandson, who serves on the boards of the Tucker Automobile Club of America and the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum; **Mark Lieberman**, Technical Director for the T.A.C.A. and Director of the Tucker Club's archives; and **Leslie Lynch-Wilson**, President of the Lincoln Park Preservation Alliance, in presenting the Tucker story. We guarantee a fascinating evening.

Further opportunities to learn the saga of Preston Tucker and the Tucker car are offered with a special exhibit opening this summer at the museum. Produced in collaboration with the **Tucker Automobile Club of America (TACA)** and the **Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum**, the exhibit entitled "**Preston Tucker and his Dream Car**" will open here on June 19th, the 70th anniversary to the day of the unveiling of the Tucker Torpedo at the automobile's Chicago manufacturing plant. A public reception will be held that evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The exhibit is scheduled to run through Saturday, September 30th.

With great thanks to Leslie Lynch-Wilson for her research assisting with this article.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

The public is invited to all society events.

Thursday, May 18th, 6:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

The HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL DINNER:

The evening will include the formal installation of the 2017-2018 Board officers; Dinner is held at the Lincoln Park High School cafeteria; doors open at 6:00 p.m. with dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m.

PROGRAM: "**Preston Tucker and the Tucker '48**", (see front page article) Invitations have already been sent to historical society members who live in Michigan. The dinner is open to the public as well. Historical Society members are \$20 per person; nonmembers are \$25 per person. Contact us for reservations/information. The dinner proceeds will assist with costs in putting together this summer's special Tucker exhibit. Copies of Mr. Lehto's book will be available for sale (\$24) and signing.

Saturday, May 20th at 12 noon

Dedication Ceremony for the newly-installed Heritage Plaza bricks and the **Annual Memorial Bell Ringing Ceremony**. Indoor reception will follow.

Saturday, June 10, 11:00 a.m.

Nature Walk at Council Point Park, led by society member Jim Magyari; Jim spoke here in March on the natural practices of the Native American tribes who lived in this area for centuries. Sure to be an educational as well as recreational outing. There is no charge to attend, just gather at the park pavilion at 11:00 a.m.

Monday June 19th, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

"Preston Tucker and His Dream Car" Exhibit opening reception FREE Admission; Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Tucker '48's debut on June 19, 1947 at the car's Chicago factory; at the Lincoln Park Historical Museum, 1335 Southfield Road. Refreshments and live music. The exhibit is scheduled to run through Saturday, September 30th.

Please note that the Historical Museum will be closed on Wednesday, July 5 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

HERITAGE PLAZA

The Lincoln Park Heritage Plaza will hold this year's dedication of new bricks on Saturday, May 20th at 12 noon, along with the annual Memorial Bell Ringing Ceremony.

This spring's dedications are:

Busen Appliance

Jerry Eden

Fred and Kathy (Meier) Edison and Family

In Honor of Dick & Sophie Gerisch

Lions Club of Lincoln Park

Leo & Ruth Oberdorf and Family

In Memory of Silvan Pochini

The Rauch Family

The Preston Tucker Family

Dolores Walker

Orders for engraved bricks are accepted throughout the year culminating with a spring campaign and the annual dedication each May.

Recommended books on Preston Tucker

Egan, Philip S. (1989). *Design and Destiny: The Making of the Tucker Automobile*

Lehto, Steve (2016). *Preston Tucker and His Battle to Build the Car of Tomorrow*

Pearson, Charles (1960). *The Indomitable Tin Goose*

Tucker Items sought

Several years ago we were extremely fortunate to have an original Tucker car radio, still in the box, donated to the museum by a local gentleman whose father had kept it in his garage for many years. Sometimes we get lucky. So, with a chance that there might be other Tucker-related items and memorabilia somewhere in the community, please know that we still seek unique items to be loaned for the upcoming exhibit. Contact curator Jeff Day if you might have something you'd like to offer. 313-386-3137.

The vast majority of pieces on display in the new exhibit are graciously loaned from the Tucker Automobile Club of America, whose archives are collected at the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum. We owe a great debt of gratitude to both of these organizations. **Note:** The Tucker family home at 110 Park Street in Ypsilanti still stands much as it did 70 years ago.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Chair Alyce Riggs reports that a number of new members have joined us in the last couple of months:

Mary Bachleda, Allen Park
Glenn and Elaine Daniels, Dearborn Heights
Donna Kain, Lincoln Park
Tracy & Yvonne Manick, Allen Park
Tim Caldwell, Lincoln Park
Kathy Carter, Lincoln Park
Maureen Tobin and Patrick Tobin, Lincoln Park

We welcome these new members and friends.

NOTE Membership Renewals: With the next (August) newsletter the annual renewals for 2017-2018 will be mailed out. Your Board has elected to increase the annual membership dues with this coming year, for the first time in many, many years. Single members will be \$15; Couples will be \$20; Benefactors (formerly Patrons) will be \$35; Life Memberships remain at \$200. Current members who would like to avoid the increased dues come August have the option to renew their membership for next year BEFORE AUGUST at the current dues level.

FLEA MARKET REPORT

The Flea Market held on April 22 at the band shell building was successful in raising just over a thousand dollars towards the historical museum's operations. Thanks to all those who contributed! The total income came from: vendor table rentals, the historical society's gift shop merchandise and jewelry counter, outright donations, and the concession proceeds which were given as a gift by the Exchange Club. We especially thank the **Lincoln Park Exchange Club** volunteers for their help with the set up and tear down and handling sales of refreshments during the event. Thanks to Maureen Tobin, Pat McDonald, Carolyn Miller, Mike Horvath, Mary Horvath, and Tom and Mary Karnes. Additional thanks to the many museum volunteers who came out to help – Alyce Riggs, Lucille Stroh and daughter Christine Rankin, Sandi Horst, Dee Walker, Carol Callison, Kathy Carter, Jim Goodell, and Jim Nelson. Thanks to all!

Lucille reminds everyone to come by and check out the jewelry counter at the museum gift shop, as she continually finds new and interesting pieces to offer.

Continuing Exhibits:

“MC5: Kids with a Dream”, and
“Gary Grimshaw: the Master Artist’s Studio”,
both are continuing in the Postmaster’s Gallery.

IN MEMORIAM



**Linnea Dudley
Jeanne Lobb Atkinson**

In preparing the society's newsletter each quarter, I have always tried to write with two members most in mind: Linnea and Jeanne. Would these bright accomplished women, both 'children' of the Lincoln Park community, find something to enjoy on these pages? It is very sad that both are now gone, incredibly, too early, too close together. Both Linnea and Jeanne were 1970 high school graduates. Both were daughters of long-time active historical museum and society members and volunteers: Kay Dudley, who served on the Historical Commission and who passed away in 2012, and Muriel Lobb, the museum's esteemed Director Emeritus who is still active at 99.

Our profound sympathies go out to the families of both of these dear people.

The museum's current temporary exhibit will end on Saturday May 20th (open house day) – The exhibit features a number of small advertising items from Lincoln Park businesses collected over the years, such as pens, ashtrays, matchbooks – most of these items are not ordinarily on display. Volunteer **Sandi Horst** assisted curator Jeff Day with this current exhibit.

Lincoln Park Historical Society Board 2017-2018

President/Treasurer	Jim Nelson
Vice President/Secretary	Dolores Walker
Trustee	Bea Partridge
Trustee/Membership	Alyce Riggs
Trustee	Lucille Stroh
Trustee	Grace Wangbickler

Board meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday at 1:30 P.M. The Society Newsletter is published quarterly. To be added to the email list and help us save on postage costs – and receive a color version of the newsletter – please send an email to:

lpmuseum@gmail.com

Museum Curator & newsletter editor: Jeff Day

Lincoln Park Historical Society
1335 Southfield Rd
Lincoln Park, MI 48146



Preston Tucker is shown with his Tucker '48, pictured in front of the Historical Museum, in a drawing by Lincoln Park artist Sean Manuel. (Original in the collections of the Lincoln Park Historical Museum)

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