

**Detroit Historical Society
Speakers Bureau - Available Presentations 2009**

Cool Cars

Unique Automobiles of the Detroit Historical Society Collection

The Detroit Historical Society is caretaker of over four dozen automobiles. Most are rare – many are one-of-a-kind vehicles that exist in no other collection. These include the first closed cab Cadillac, the Scripps-Booth Bi-AutoGo, and a pre-production Mustang prototype. Several were the personal cars of the Auto Barons, and some came to the Society with original engineering drawings. This presentation takes you through a tour of a very unique automobile collection.

The Detroit Historical Society

Preserving and Presenting Your History Since 1921

For almost ninety years, the Detroit Historical Society has been carrying the torch of Detroit's past. Working in concert with the City of Detroit, the Society now manages three of the community's important cultural assets. The Detroit Historical Museum, on Woodward in the Cultural Center, tells the story of Detroit from the time of its founding to the present. The Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle concentrates on the maritime aspects of the region. The Society also directs the Collections Resource Center, comprising over 200,000 artifacts from the city's 300 year history.

The Detroit Historical Society

A Sense of Stewardship

Charged with preserving and presenting Detroit's history, the Detroit Historical Society has accepted a great responsibility. This presentation looks at the three aspects of the Society's stewardship role – community education, asset preservation, and history portal. The first is addressed by museum exhibits and programs. The second, through the management and preservation of over 200,000 artifacts maintained at the City's archives. Finally, the Society fields thousands of questions a year, from around the world, regarding Detroit's long history – we don't always have the answer, but we know where to find it.

The Dossin Great Lakes Museum

Detroit's Maritime Heritage Center since 1949

Originally called the Museum of the Great Lakes, the facility was housed in the *J.T. Wing*, the last working schooner on the Great Lakes. In 1960, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum opened as the first building specifically designed to promote Great Lakes maritime history. The museum's permanent exhibits cover aspects of the commercial, cruise and recreational side of the region's nautical culture. Rotating exhibits explore everything from shipwrecks to smuggling.

Detroit, Michigan

First City of the Old Northwest

As Europeans began exploring the Great Lakes, Detroit became the center of trading activity, and a strategic military installation coveted by the French, British and American governments. Once its political fate was settled, the town became a magnet for immigrants and a burgeoning industrial metropolis. Its advantageous location and resourceful population made it one of America's great cities – a leader in manufacturing, education, architecture and the arts.

Unique Ships of the Great Lakes

Practical Ships designed for Practically Every Need

The massive Freshwater Seas represent a unique nautical environment, unlike anything else in the world. From the beginning, sailors have creatively adapted their craft to the conditions they encountered, and the specific cargoes they carried, from iron ore to passengers. Whether discussing massive freighters or fast speedboats, engineering genius and manufacturing innovation resulted in vessels not found on any other waterway – practically designed and particularly unique.

Lake St. Clair

The Heart of the Great Lakes

Lake St. Clair is a small body of water when compared to the five Great Lakes. However, its 440 square miles have been the scene of many important events in the region's history. This presentation explores over 300 years of maritime experiences for Detroit's heart shaped treasure.

Roots of the Music

Origins of the Motown Sound

Detroit is known the world over for the music that came out of a small studio on West Grand Boulevard during the 1960s and 1970s. But the Motown Sound wasn't born from thin air. It had its roots in other music that was being made in Detroit and around the country in the years before the company's founding in 1959. This presentation delves into the city's history of music making and the elements that contributed to the unique stylings of Motown and Tamla Records.

Unique Street Names

The Man on the Street (and Women, too!)

Many towns have an Elm Street, Washington Boulevard, or Second Avenue. Setting Detroit apart are the recognizable names of streets like Woodward, Beaubien, Mount Elliot and Selden. Behind each of these monikers is a man or woman who played a part in Detroit's past. This unique presentation uses everyday street signs to explore the 300 years of Detroit's history and the story of the people whose legacy is traversed by citizens everyday.

Great Lakes Shipwrecks

Committed to the Deep: Exploring Underwater Treasures

The very first ship on the upper Great Lakes, LaSalle's *Griffon*, sailed only a single voyage before disappearing beneath the waves. Since then several thousand other vessels, along with their crews, have met the same fate. Today these underwater treasures offer recreational divers great opportunities for adventure. The wrecks also offer historians, archaeologists and scientists a trove of well preserved time capsules to be studied and protected. This presentation offers great photographs and underwater video that examine the world of those committed to the deep.