

*Grace
Dee May*
MUSEUM &
LIBRARY

ILLUMINATIONS

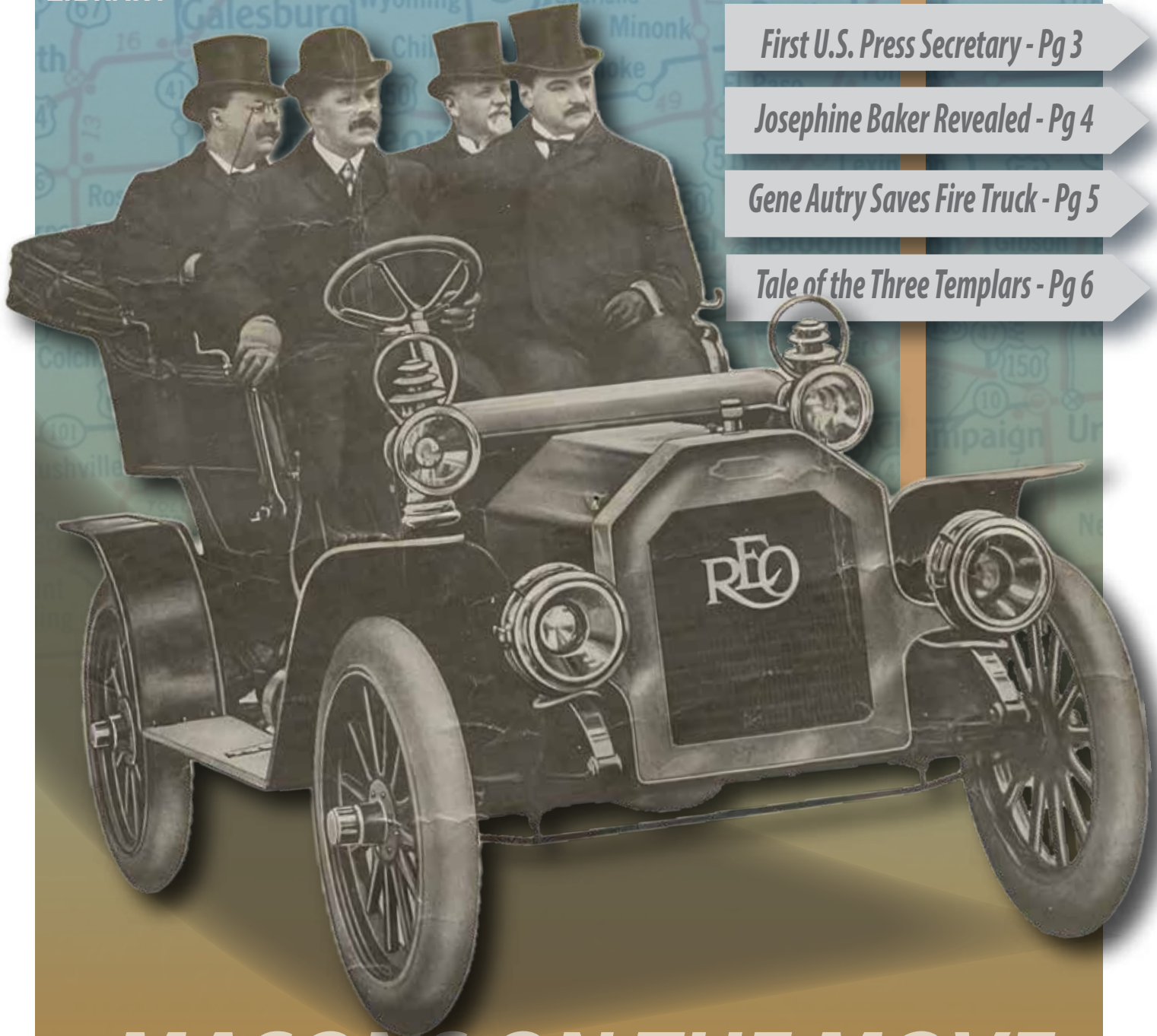
JULY / AUGUST 2025

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MASONS ON THE MOVE

Grace Dee May Museum & Library • 665 W Jefferson Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90007 • www.gracedeemay.org

ILLUMINATING THE LEGACY OF THE WEST

Grace Dee May

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In 2004, Audrey Marie Stein established the Grace Dee May Museum. Audrey believed that she had been richly blessed by the **Grace** of God.

Audrey's nickname was **Dee** and she had been born in the month of **May**. So, as Director of the Foundation, she named the Museum the **Grace Dee May**.



JULY / AUGUST 2025 ILLUMINATIONS



*"We find after years of struggle,
that we do not take a trip;
a trip takes us."*

- John Steinbeck, Nobel Prize-winning American author and Freemason

Masons on the Move

One of America's most famous modern novelist, John Steinbeck, penned an offbeat memoir of his adventures road-tripping across the country with his dog in *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*.

At the age of 58, Steinbeck was feeling like he was out of touch with the true heart and soul of America. So he decided to rediscover and reconnect with the heartland of the nation and traveled from New York to California, returning across the deep south as he and his standard poodle Charley drove across the land on the highways and byways.

Perhaps like no other country in the world, America is known for the massive transportation system built to accommodate automobiles. From Tin Lizzie's to Teslas, Americans from every corner of this land have sought adventure out on the highways.

In 1944, singer and actor, Bobbie Troop composed a song that just about every American recognizes entitled "Get your kicks on Route 66." The song was first recorded by Freemason and crooner Nat King Cole and generations have enjoyed summer travel adventures on that famous highway to discover the Heart Of America.

In this issue, we are focusing on some of the Freemasons who have helped make road trips possible and more enjoyable than ever. Whether you are cruising on Route 66, driving on the Old National Highway, or just taking a trip with your friends or family, take a few moments to think of all the remarkable Freemasons, who helped make your journey a possibility.

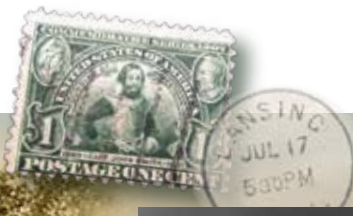
We hope you get a kick out of this summer issue of the Grace Dee May Museum's publication *Illuminations*.

Save travels,

Sean Foran, *Curator and Board President*

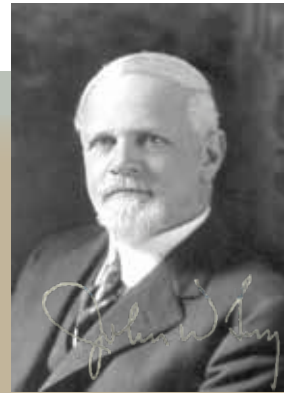


History on Wheels



Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt Jr.
(1858–1919) Seated in back seat behind Ransom Olds. Roosevelt was a writer, naturalist, soldier and the 26th President of the United States. Bro. Roosevelt was a member of Matinecock Masonic Lodge No. 806, Oyster Bay, New York.

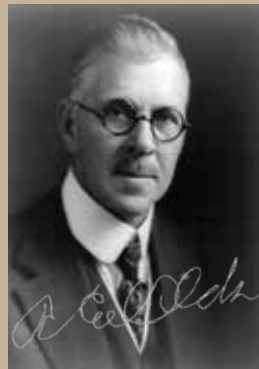


Jonathan L. Snyder
(1859–1918) In the back seat next to President Roosevelt. Snyder was president of Michigan Agricultural College (later Michigan State University) from 1896 to 1915. Bro. Snyder was a charter member of East Lansing Masonic Lodge No. 480.

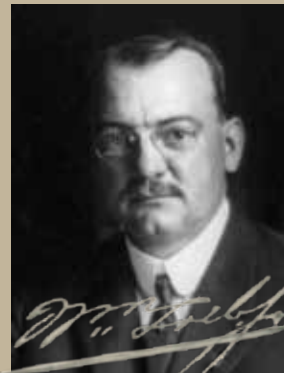


Semi-Centennial Celebration Car Ride, 1907

President Theodore Roosevelt's first public ride in an automobile. He is accompanied by a distinguished group of Masonic travelers.



Ransom E. Olds
(1864–1950) Driver of his REO motorcar. Olds was an automotive pioneer (Oldsmobile and REO) and entrepreneur. Bro. Ransom was a member of Capitol Masonic Lodge No. 66, Lansing, Michigan.



William Loeb Jr.
(1866–1937) Seated next to Ransom Olds. Loeb was the first White House Press Secretary. Bro. William Loeb, Jr. 33° was a member of Matinecock Masonic Lodge No. 806. Loeb participated in Teddy's Fellow Craft degree and coached him in his proficiency through all three degrees.



Stars and Cars



Josephine Baker
(1906 - 1975)

World-renowned actress and dancer, who advocated for social change. She grew up in St. Louis and got her big break in vaudeville theater while on tour in Paris.



When World War II began in 1939, because of her fame and social contacts, Baker was recruited by the French Resistance to gather intelligence. She was able to spy on the Nazi forces and smuggled notes in invisible ink to help liberated France..

Josephine Baker was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French military and was made a Chevalier of the Legion D'Honneur by Charles De Gaulle.



Josephine Baker - Awarded Croix de Guerre and Chevalier Legion D'Honneur

Inspired by the ideals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity – values of French culture and reflected in Freemasonry,

Josephine Baker became a Freemason in 1960.

She was initiated into La Nouvelle Jérusalem Lodge in Paris, part of the Grande Loge Féminine de France. This lodge was part of the French "Rite of Adoption", allowing women to become Masons.

A lifelong supporter of the Civil Right movement, Josephine Baker was the only female invited to speak at the Martin Luther King March on Washington.



Fashion and fashionable automobiles were part of Josephine Baker's lifestyle. She is pictured stepping out of her Delage D8-85, with a custom body designed by Letourneur & Marchand while she wore a matching outfit with black and white feather collar – *c'est magnifique!*



W.C. Fields at home with one of his Lincolns.

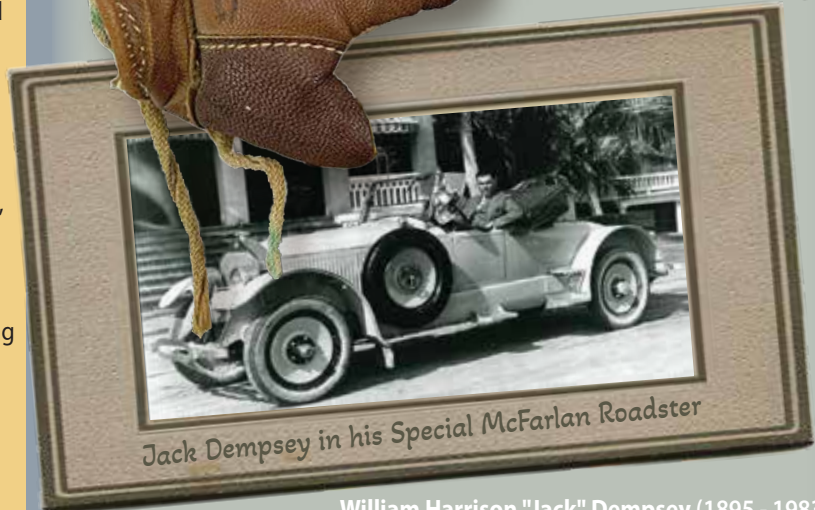
W. C. Fields pictured with his 1933 Lincoln type 267-A KB LeBaron convertible roadster. Fields owned several Lincolns including a 1932 KB limousine.

William Claude Dukenfield

known as "W. C. Fields" (1880 - 1946)

was a member of E. Coppee Mitchell Masonic Lodge No. 605 in Philadelphia and a member of Hollywood Masonic Lodge.

Chester Cooper Conklin (1886–1971) actor and comedian was a member of University Lodge No. 394, Torrance, California.



Jack Dempsey in his Special McFarlan Roadster

William Harrison "Jack" Dempsey (1895 - 1983)

World Heavy Weight Champion. Member of Kenwood Lodge No. 800 , Chicago.

"It's a Duesy!"

Clark Gable (1901 - 1960)

Academy Award winning actor for 30 years in more than 60 films. Member of Beverly Hills Masonic Lodge No. 528 and Al Malaikah Shrine.



Clark Gable's 1936 Duesenberg with custom body by Bohman & Schwartz

Road Music

Orvon Grover "Gene" Autry (1907-1998)
Member of Catoosa Masonic Lodge No. 185, Oklahoma

"Singing Cowboy" Gene Autry had a Quonset hut full of antique cars and trucks. One of his favorites was the 1942 Packard Darrin 180 Convertible Coupe with custom coachwork by automotive designer Dutch Darrin.



Gene Autry

Duke Ellington was a composer, pianist, and big band leader. Duke had some flashy cars but he loved driving his Triumph Herald 13/60 convertible – "Smooth handling, like a jazz melody"

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (1899 - 1974)
was a member of Social Lodge No. 1, Prince Hall Masons, Washington, D.C.



Bob Dylan (b.1941)
Composer, musician, singer, artist, and Freemason. Member of Los Angeles Scottish Rite



The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan is a car guy who has owned some beautiful automobiles including vintage Corvettes and a sleek Lamborghini Miura.



Bob Dylan

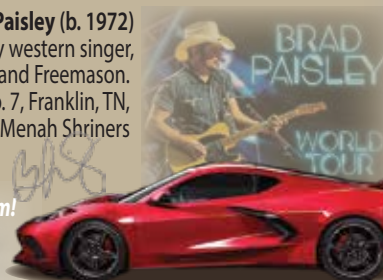
Roy Linwood Clark (1933 - 2018)
Country western singer, guitarist, actor, comedian, and Freemason. Member of Jenks Masonic Lodge, No. 497, Oklahoma, the Scottish Rite, and Akdaw Shrine

Roy's pride and joy was his 1964 Rolls-Royce Phantom V with coachwork by James Young. – "Hee Haw!"



Brad Paisley (b. 1972)
Country western singer, songwriter, guitarist and Freemason. Member of Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 7, Franklin, TN, Scottish Rite, and Al Menah Shriners

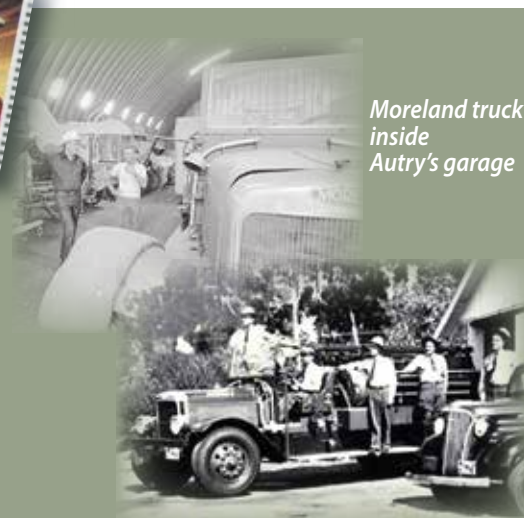
Bro. Brad took delivery of his new Red C8 Corvette. He has been a Corvette collector for years – *Za-zoom!*



Roy Rogers

Leonard Franklin Slye "Roy Rogers" (1911 - 1998)
Singer, actor in movies and television, rodeo performer, and Freemason. Member of Hollywood Lodge No. 355, 33' Scottish Rite Mason and Al Malaikah Shriner

Roy & Dale called their '46 Cadillac Series 62 Woody Sedan



Moreland truck inside Autry's garage

"Pumper G" in 1938

"The Los Angeles County Forestry Department led the nation in battling brush fires." The department designed their own brush truck tanker with an advanced transmission that allowed multiple front and rear speeds, plus a powerful engine, and a small pump that could provide pump and roll operations. This truck could carry a six to eight man crew, 600 gallons of water, thousands of feet of hose, and a wide variety of fire fighting equipment. The construction of this specialty truck was entrusted to a premier builder – The Moreland Truck Company of Burbank, California.



▲ The top picture shows the rig, "Pumper G", after installation of a windshield in 1938. ▼ The photo below shows the truck in 1990 on arrival at the museum.

Gene Autry saved the rig and donated it to the "Hall of Flame".



Gene Autry saved the rig from destruction

Early Moreland fire rigs were not beautiful, but they were durable and dependable and well known for their pumps, foamite and water tankers and wagon trucks for transporting fire fighting crews and equipment.



Pumper G restored to its 1938 configuration

Driving Force

*"Masonry is...the best balance wheel
the United States has."*

— Henry Ford

Henry Ford

Henry Ford (1863 –1947)

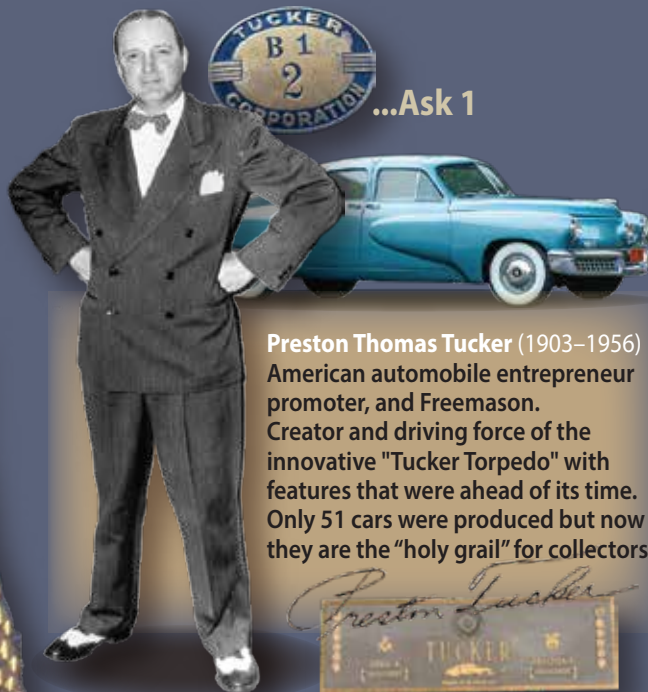
Engineer, industrialist,
publisher, philanthropist,
founder of Ford Motor
Company, creator of the
assembly line, and a Freemason.

Ford was a member of Detroit's Palestine Masonic Lodge No. 357.
Edison was a member of Humboldt Masonic Lodge No. 476.



*Henry Ford sharing some Masonic Wisdom
with his Masonic Brother Thomas Edison*

Thomas A. Edison



...Ask 1

Preston Thomas Tucker (1903–1956)

American automobile entrepreneur
promoter, and Freemason.
Creator and driving force of the
innovative "Tucker Torpedo" with
features that were ahead of its time.
Only 51 cars were produced but now
they are the "holy grail" for collectors.

Preston Tucker



Walter Percy Chrysler (1875 – 1940)

A railroad mechanic who became a pioneer in the automotive industry,
executive and founder of Chrysler automobiles and creator of
the Chrysler Building in New York. Chrysler was a member of Apollo Masonic
Lodge No. 297 in Ellis, Kansas.



W. Chrysler

Templar
The Superfine Small Car

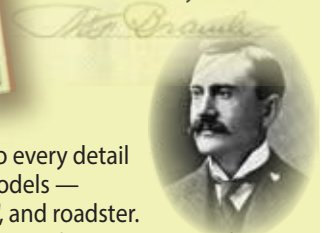


1917– Three business partners Arthur M. Dean, J.E.Mathews
and Matthew F. Bramley (all Knights Templar) founded a
company to produce luxury "small"
cars or as we call today "sports cars".
The name of their company was,
of course, Templar Motors Co.
Name for this new car? Can you
guess? ...The **TEMPLAR**!

The Templar emblem was the
Maltese cross, associated with
the Templar knights.



The factory was located at 4000
Halstead St., Cleveland, Ohio.
In the President's chair was
Matthew Bramley.



Great attention was paid to every detail
of the Templar's various models —
the touring car, "sportette", and roadster.

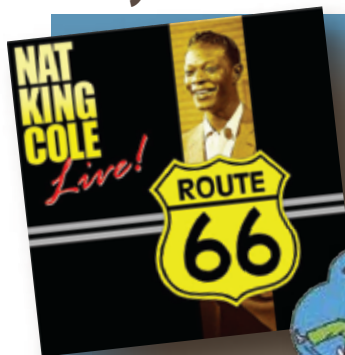
All bodies were given 27 coats of paint. Standard features
included an inspection light (powered by the car battery),
an electric horn, a tire pump and hose (powered by the
car engine), windshield wiper, a complete toolkit with
a jack, and a locking ignition.

The Templar Roadsters also came
equipped with a Kodak camera
and a compass.



The original assembly building now houses eight examples of
"Superfine Small Cars" as part of the Templar Factory Display.

Get your kicks on Route 66



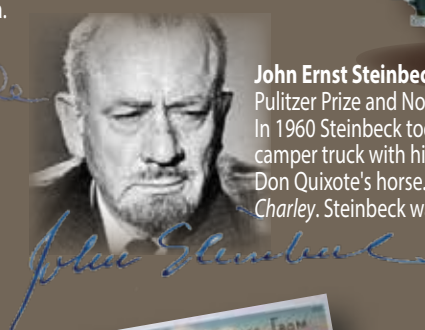
Nathaniel Adams Coles "Nat King Cole" (1919 - 1965)
American singer, actor, jazz pianist, and Prince Hall Mason. Cole was a member of Thomas Waller Masonic Lodge No. 49, Los Angeles, California.

Nat King Cole



John Ernst Steinbeck (1902 - 1968)

Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize winning author, and Freemason. In 1960 Steinbeck took a trip around the United States in a small Pickup camper truck with his dog Charley. He named the truck "Rocinante", after Don Quixote's horse. He documented his trip in the book, *Travels with Charley*. Steinbeck was a member of Salinas Lodge No. 204, California.



Chicago

St. Louis

Joplin, Missouri

Amarillo

Oklahoma City looks mighty pretty

Gallup, New Mexico

Flagstaff, Arizona

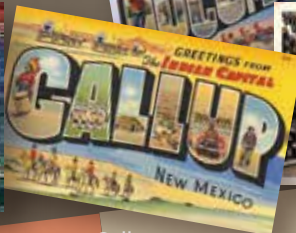
Kingman

Barstow

L.A.

San Bernardino

Don't forget Winona



Henry Ford gave this trailer to Masonic Brother Charles Lindbergh in 1942. Charles and his wife Anne used it as a home on the road. Charles wrote portions of his Pulitzer Prize-winning book *The Spirit of St. Louis* while on the road.

Charles Augustus Lindbergh (1902 - 1974)

American aviator, military officer, author, and Freemason. Lindbergh was a member of Keystone Masonic Lodge No. 243, St. Louis, Missouri



Charles A. Lindbergh

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Grace Dee May
MUSEUM

ILLUMINATING THE LEGACY OF THE WEST

Our Vision:

The Grace Dee May Museum will seek to present a thematic look at the American West by utilizing its extensive collection of Western Art, and incorporate California history to broaden and deepen the public knowledge and appreciation of the men and women that settled the western part of the United States.

Our Mission:

The Grace Dee May Museum is committed to advancing the public knowledge and understanding of the American West and the contributions that Freemasonry has played in its development.

Grace Dee May Inc.
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