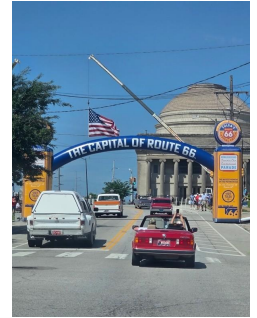


PAC member sets Guinness World Record! (Well, kind of)

This takes me back to my grade school days when you had to write a paper on "what I did on my summer vacation". However, this one is "how I spent my 70th birthday weekend. As you all probably know, this was the 100th anniversary of Route 66, the Mother Road. To celebrate, Tulsa, Oklahoma, which considers itself the Capitol of Route 66 planned a Guinness record attempt for the largest classic car parade ever. The previous record was set in 2017 in Puerto Rico with 2146 cars participating.



Now, the only problem I had was deciding what to drive for such a monumental undertaking. Then it struck me, how many AMC Pacer station wagons could possibly participate? The answer, one. To be honest, out of more than 5,000 entries, there was one other Pacer, but it was a beautifully restored Pacer X so it didn't count. So as not to be the only family member of questionable sanity, I convinced my son to bring his '66 Toronado. It is a much more heavily optioned and nicer looking example than mine. He also brought along my 12 year old granddaughter who developed a pretty severe car addiction while in Tulsa. After it was too late, she decided they should have driven their Citroen 2CV to more closely match Grampa's questionable taste in vehicular choices.



To keep from dragging this story out in excess, I will say that the attempt was successful with 3596 cars completing the course and to quote the "shake and bake chicken" commercial from my youth, "and I helped". Over 5,000 entries started lining up before 6 am. We decided there was no rush since they weren't releasing cars to begin till 10 so we headed over at 8. Oklahoma in summer can be unpleasant. That weekend was exceptionally so. 95 degrees and over 90 percent humidity and as you may have guessed, I did not have time to convert my A/C and get it working. I believe the driver's seat is still somewhat sweaty. For two and a half

hours we sat in line trying to get into the expo center. Was it worth it? Oh Hell yes! Not just to be part of the record, bond with my son and granddaughter, and get the trinkets but the reaction of the 100,000 plus spectators to what is widely considered one of the ugliest cars ever produced is a memory that will last forever. The oldest car was a 1913 Model T, if my memory is correct. There were some absolutely amazing vehicles that you rarely see. My favorite was a supercharged Auburn boat tail convertible that was showroom new in appearance. Participants had to be at least 30 years old and any make or model was eligible. Original, restored, and survivors were all there. You would be hard pressed to think of a car that wasn't represented. Not all 5000 started due to some poor logistics in lining up the start. The heat and humidity took its toll on another many.



So that's my story. Been there, done that, got the t-shirt, and the certificate. You missed a great time! Weather notwithstanding.

ROAD TRIP!