



Richard Demers drove his 1932 Dodge Brothers DK8 from Alberta, Canada, to Owensboro, Kentucky. Richard is pictured here at the Evansville Wartime Museum.

A Freshman's Glidden Experience

By Richard Demers

The road to Owensboro, Kentucky, was an adventure filled with memories and experiences this vintage automobile enthusiast will appreciate forever. It started so innocently when I inquired about the 79th Revival AAA Glidden Tour® to be held from September 7 through September 12, 2025. Registrar Marilyn Talbot simply sent the application form with a warm, "We can't wait to see you" invitation. Being new to the touring experiences of the VMCCA and AACA membership, I had no knowledge of the detail and logistics a tireless committee of volunteers was navigating with the help of the AAA. Tour director Jeff Stumb, registrar Marilyn Talbot, and Sally Murray guided a team dedicated to making memories for hundreds of vintage car enthusiasts. Their tireless efforts are now engraved in the souls of all who participated. For me, it was a special adventure.

The allure of bourbon, barbecue, and bluegrass is hard to resist! It called all the way to Alberta Beach, Alberta, Canada. The promise of a convoy 553 miles with my 1932 Dodge DK8 Sedan and like-minded individuals driving 150 exceptional vintage automobiles is just too much to resist. The Revival AAA Glidden Tour® is a step back in time, a time filled with the romance of the pre-World War II era. Every stop along the six-day tour was a social experience that bound participants in lifelong friendships. Stories of previous tours, summer activities, and life events filled the air during visits to incredible destinations such as the John Audubon Museum; Evansville War Museum; Santa Claus, Indiana; Squire Boone Caverns; and the Bill Monroe Festival. The Revival AAA Glidden Tour® is the ultimate vintage-car-owners' touring experience.



*Richard's 1932 Dodge Brothers DK8
at the Holiday Drive-in in Reo, Indiana.*



*Past AACA President Don Barlup and Dean of
Freshmen Pat Swigart rode with Richard during the
tour week.*





Another view of Richard's 1932 Dodge Brothers DK8 at the Holiday Drive-in.

During the tour, I experienced roads lined with corn and soy-bean fields as far as the eye could see. While driving, lasting friendships were forged with my passengers, the Dean of Freshmen Pat Swigart and Past AACA President Don Barlup. Don made sure I followed the yellow line, arriving at each desired destination with precision and patience. Soon, the fellowship of the Glidden Tour participants penetrated my soul. I felt welcomed and accepted by all. It is more than the road that brings folks to the Glidden experience. It is the camaraderie and memories forged while navigating the many left and right-hand turns on quiet country roads. It is the gatherings that celebrate each other's achievements of maintaining and preserving automobile history with our unique and special time machines.

It's time to prepare for the 80th Revival Glidden Tour® to be held in Dover, Delaware, next September. Old and new friends will gather to rekindle the unique experiences of a tour that many will not miss.

Headed down the road and past cornfields.



(Photos by Richard Demers and Tracy Leshner)

