

## The Michigan Fiero Club 2021 Fall Color Cruise to White Cloud, Michigan

Early on the morning of October 8<sup>th</sup> twenty-one attendees met in Owosso, MI for the start of the cruise. A caravan of 12 Fieros led by Lou and Sue Oles departed on our driving adventure.

Our first stop was a picture op of a mini version of the Mackinac Bridge at Alma, MI. Most of us had not walked the roughly 5 mile trek across the real bridge so we got a chance to experience a mini walk over the Mini Mac. We met Tim and Linda Evans here and our car number grew to 13 Fieros.



We ventured on to Blanchard, MI, a village of yesteryear with antique and craft stores, where we had lunch at Loafer's Glory. We added John and Dusty Seifert here which brought the total number to 25 people and 14 Fieros. As we left Blanchard our cars caught the eyes of several people who perhaps had never seen so many Fieros in one place.





Our next stop was The Wildlife Gallery on the outskirts of Blanchard. This is a famous taxidermy business where we were given a personal tour of how the entire process takes place. The employees are very skilled at their craft and the end displays are so life-like that you expect them to start moving. Everywhere we looked was yet another exotic animal staring at us. It was an experience to see so many different animals up close without fear of being attacked.



We got back in our cars and headed on to our final destination for the day. We arrived at the Shack, a rustic resort lodge at White Cloud, MI (aka Jugville) where we stayed for 2 nights. The entire lodge was built of logs and the furniture was also rustic. The atmosphere was very relaxing and there was so much to see including a small lake on the grounds. Buffet dinners and breakfasts were included and the highlight of the evening was the ice cream sundaes or banana splits that were served at 8:30 pm. Our group had such a good time laughing at dinner and the ice cream social that other people were looking at us. One topic of discussion was how the area became known as Jugville. Our interpretations turned out to be more colorful than the real one!



On the second day, after a hearty breakfast at The Shack, we assembled the group and headed to Muskegon led by Laverne and Dianne Bailey. Usually by early to mid-October we have a lovely pallet of colorful trees but Mother Nature was being stingy this year. Luckily the routes picked every day were fun for cruising. The first stop of the day was the USS Silversides Submarine and WWII Museum in Muskegon. We saw the film about the War and started to see the museum but since we were running behind schedule, most of us boarded the submarine for a look around. Talk about tight quarters! It is a good thing that the sailors back then were young, agile, physically fit and most important – not claustrophobic.



Once again it was time to get on the road to our lunch stop at The Station Grill in Muskegon. It was done in the theme of an old diner from the 40's or 50's. There were dioramas of items that you would find from that time frame. We enjoyed talking and eating the food of course.

We trekked on to our last sightseeing stop of the Day on the outskirts of Muskegon called The Trading Post. This was a car and memorabilia collection owned by the man who played bass guitar in Elvis Presley's band. He allowed us to wander around his 2 buildings that were filled with cars of all types and vintages. Yes, he even had a Fiero! After bidding him farewell, we left Muskegon to head back to The Shack.



Back at The Shack we lined up all the Fieros in the parking lot for a picture. We had a little time to spare before dinner so some gathered down by the lake, took the paddle boats out on the lake, walked around the grounds, went in the museum, rocked in rocking chairs on the porch, gathered in one of the lounges or rested in our rooms. At our appointed dinner time, we all gathered for the meal and then later for the ice cream time. We knew that the time spent together socializing was coming to an end so we all lingered a little longer than usual.



Pam Maier, one of our extremely talented members, made a commemorative sign for Tim Evans that read "Fieros Forever", had the silhouette of 2 Fieros and the Pontiac emblem painted on it. In May 2020 the Sanford Dam broke after heavy rains that flooded many businesses in Sanford including Tim's Fieros Forever. He lost all the Fieros outside and inside as well as the building.



We all gathered for our last breakfast together knowing that our adventure was coming to an end. We bid goodbye to those who were driving back home in different directions while 10 Fieros headed back toward Owosso led by Lou and Sue Oles. We enjoyed the drive and 2 more dropped off before we reached Owosso. The rest of us ate lunch at a Mexican restaurant then each one chose their own route back home.



A big thank you to Laverne and Dianne Bailey and Lou and Sue Oles for all the planning, choosing the accommodations, restaurants and sights to see, and importantly keeping track of all of us when cruising. We all had a great time, enjoyed the cruises and the camaraderie.

Submitted by Kaye Dafforn