



=====

Photo caption: This Harley Davidson, located at the Discovery Park Museum at Union City, TN, was restored by Jim's Harley-Davidson at Mendon, Ohio.

OUR OLD BOOK CASE

*By Joyce L. Alig, President,
Mercer County Historical Society*

This story is for Mercer County's motorcyclists as well as Jim's Harley-Davidson at Mendon, Ohio. When Alvin and I were visiting Museums in Union City, TN, we not only visited the Museum at The Dixie Gun Works, we also visited the new complex of museums of Discovery Park Museum. We were pleasantly surprised to see a 1950 Harley Davidson Motorcycle model 125 "hummer," with a sign which stated, "This model 125 was restored by Jim's Harley-Davidson in Mendon, Ohio."

The history of this motorcycle also caught my attention. The identification card stated, "After the Germans' defeat in WWII, they forfeited technical drawings for a motorcycle known as the DKWRT125. Those designs became the basis for the Harley-Davidson Model 125 Hummer, (shown in the photograph above). Popular among young riders for their low cost and easy manageability, more than 10,000 of these small motorcycles were sold in the first year alone. Hummer is a popular term for lightweight Harleys. Though the Model 125 was first produced in 1948, the name Hummer wasn't officially introduced until 1955. Harley-Davidson President Walter Davidson coined the term in honor of Omaha, Nebraska dealer Dean Hummer after he sold an exceptional number of these bikes." The Motorcycle's sign included the following data:

Engine: 125cc, 2 cycle; horsepower: 3 bhp; Compression Ratio: 6.6 to 1; Transmission: 3-speed manual; Front End: 'Rubber band' girder; Rear End: Rigid 'Hard-tail.'; Weight: 170 lbs.; Wheelbase: 50"; Top Speed: 50 mph; Fuel Economy: up to 90 mpg.

The Discovery Park Museum is located at 830 Everett Blvd., Union City, TN 38261. [Their phone number is 731-885-5455] If you visit Union City, TN, visit the Abernathy Harley Davidson Motorcycle Sales at 1703 W. Main. The motorcycles on exhibit today will be tomorrow's museum exhibits. Ask for Bill Cates if you have questions. While visiting Motorcycle Museums in any State, stop and visit Motorcycle Businesses and see the contrasts and latest options of Motorcycles today. [Remember that some of the motorcycles in museums are worth more money than the most expensive motorcycles on sale today.]

This past summer, we visited "The World of Motorcycles Museum, Inc." located four miles south of North Judson, IN on Highway 39, next to Kersting's Cycle Center, Inc., owned by Jim Kersting. [Their phone number is 574-896-3172.] This Museum is dedicated to motorcycles and exhibits related to motorcycles. Their collection displays over 160 motorcycles, including a 1921 ABC Flat Twin, a 1944 German Zundapp, a 1962 Harley-Davidson Topper, a 1939 Brough Superior SS 80, a 1923 Harley-Davidson F-Head, and a Simpletag, powered with an early Maytag engine. The motorcycle which I liked best was the 1931 Indian, model 32, 77 cu. in., 4 cylinder. At this Museum, Alvin recognized the name of one of the men who raced motorcycles; his name was George Roeder. George Roeder raced motorcycles at the AMA Grand National during the 1960's; Roeder was inducted into the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame in 1999. Roeder's Harley Davidson was on exhibit, with the sign which read: "All Track Records Fall at Sacramento." The sign stated that Roeder had won the 20 mile National Championship. His record time was 13 minutes, 45.72 seconds. [The Second Place Winner was not listed.] The Third Place winner was Dick Hammer. Darrell Dovel placed Fourth and Sid Payne placed Fifth. In addition to the motorcycles, the Museum collections include a 1915 Model T, a 1909 DeWitt, 1931 Oldsmobile, a 1935 and 1959 Rolls Royce, a 1936 International Harvester truck, and a 1931 John Deere GP Tractor.

The Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum is located near Columbus, Ohio at 13515 Yarmouth Dr., Pickerington, OH 43147-8214. [The phone number is 614-856-2222.] As you plan your summer vacations, each one of these three Motorcycle Museums is worthy of your visit.

Mercer County Historical Society President Joyce Alig, may be contacted at 3054 Burk-St. Henry Road, Saint Henry, OH 45883, or hystalig@bright.net or 419-678-2614.]