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“Czech” Out Cars Built Behind the Iron Curtain at Lane Motor Museum
May 19, 2006 to September 17, 2006

Nashville TN, May 1, 2006. On Friday, May 19, Lane Motor Museum will unveil the featured exhibit, *Innovation & Engineering Excellence: Behind The Iron Curtain* displaying the extensive Museum collection of Czechoslovakian vehicles. Guests will discover the history of these unique and advanced vehicles rarely heard of outside the Iron Curtain. Guests will also learn how both World Wars and the Nationalization of the country shaped the destiny of these makes.

War not only shaped the country – Czechoslovakia was created as a result of World War I - its effects saw the beginning and the end of many Czechoslovakian auto manufacturers. The end of World War I and the formation of Czechoslovakia in 1918 were difficult times for many local companies. Any business that participated in military production had to be dismantled and converted to comply with the requirements of the postwar reconstruction era.

The 1930s were considered to be the “Golden Age of Auto Production” in Czechoslovakia. During this time, the three largest Czechoslovakian car companies were Praga, Skoda, and Tatra. Although production was never large by U.S. standards, these three companies produced a combined total of approximately 10,000 units in 1937 alone.

While many of the Czechoslovakian vehicles are rarely seen outside of Europe, there were eight passenger car manufacturers in Czechoslovakia between the mid 1920s to the late 1940s: Aero, Jawa, Praga, Skoda, Tatra, Walter, Wikov, and Z. On October 28, 1945, all important industrial works were nationalized. It was not until after the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989 that a new free-market environment emerged.

2005 saw a record number of passenger cars produced in the Czech Republic, with Skoda producing 500,000 and the Toyota Peugeot Citroen Automobile plant producing 100,000. During the featured exhibit, Lane Motor Museum will feature examples from five of the Czech makers. Vehicles on display will include: 1931 Aero 18, 1932 Aero 30, 1939 Jawa 600, 1937 Praga Baby, 1948 Skoda 1101, 1927 Tatra T-12, 1938 Tatra T-57, 1947 Tatra T-87, 1964 Tatra T-603, and 1980 Tatra T-613.

About Lane Motor Museum

Lane Motor Museum showcases approximately 150 unique cars and motorcycles from around the world. Cars on display represent countries from Asia, Europe, and North and South America, and date from 1922 to 2003. Highlights of the Museum include the largest Czechoslovakian vehicle collection outside Europe, microcars, amphibious vehicles, alternative fuel vehicles, competition cars, motorcycles, military vehicles, and prototypes. The Museum also offers a display of automotive art, a special play area for children, and a gift shop.

Lane Motor Museum welcomes guests Thursday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed: Tuesday & Wednesday; Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day & New Year's Day. Regular admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors (55+), and free for children 17 and under. Group rates are available. Lane Motor Museum is located at 702 Murfreesboro Pike just minutes from Downtown Nashville. For more information on the Museum, call (615) 742-7445 or visit the website at www.lanemotormuseum.org.

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