

PTSC Fall Road tour 2021

By Don Geary

The day dawned crystal clear and cool when we gathered at the Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont for our fall road tour. We had 9 corvettes and 21 total people traveling to Lenny's Classic Car Collection in Altoona PA as our first stop. Going east on RT 22 there was little traffic at 8:30 on a Sunday morning and we made good time to our meeting spot at the Gallitzin exit with Bill Bryan, our local guide. Gallitzin is the site of the railroad tunnel hand dug through the top of the Allegheny Mountain range in 1854 and still in use today, so we were traveling through history today as we passed the tunnel. Next we traveled across the top of the mountain range at 2300 feet elevation past a new part of history, 15 windmills generating electricity and constructed next to Gallitzin State Park and forest.

We arrived at our first destination in old town Altoona, past the Blair county courthouse and around the corner: Lenny's Classic Car collection. This is a four story commercial building that was built in 1920 and was the business location for Willeys and later Chrysler dealership and showroom. Lenny bought the building in 2014 and totally restored the building beyond its former glory. It now houses over 20 absolutely stunning European and American cars that have been fully restored beyond their former glory too. The collection includes Jaguar, Bentleys, Rolls Royce, Auston Martin and a couple Ford Thunderbirds. All of the cars are rare and each car has a story. Lenny then offered us all a drink at his custom made mahogany bar built to his specs in South America and shipped to Altoona in multiple boxes to be assembled. After thanking Lenny and presenting him with a certificate of our appreciation, our chapter donated \$250 to the local SPCA at his request.

Lunch at a local Italian restaurant was followed by a visit to the Altoona Railroaders Memorial Museum. This is a fascinating museum to document the long railroad history of Altoona. This is a continuing work in progress with many railroad cars and locomotives under restoration. Finally exhausted from the long day we went our separate ways with most of us going west into the evening sun. It was another great event and was enjoyed by all.