

British Automobile



March 2024

**A publication of the British Transportation Museum
321 Hopeland Street, Dayton, OH 45417**

<https://www.britishtransportationmuseum.org>

Open Saturdays and Mondays from 10am to 4pm.

Museum tours are available by appointment.

Contact Pete Stroble 937-546-0039

btmpres@gmail.com

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Bill Jacobs, Caroline Shinkle, Paul Striiby, John Kovalo

Karl Strauch, Newsletter Editor stlmadmen@aol.com

NEXT MEETING – 7pm Mar 20st (3rd Wednesday)

UPCOMING EVENTS –

April 8th Solar Eclipse at the Museum

“Darken our doorstep” with us, too, that afternoon.

May 11th “Brits at the Museum” Car Show

When a British Icon and a Sci-Fi Transportation Device Collide

by Pete Stroble

The “Dr. Who” TV series is a well-known British Si-Fi thriller. It is a bit quirky with several creative twists to the story line. One is the transportation unit called the TARDIS or “Time and Relative Dimension in Space” unit. Being a “transportation” unit, it is only fitting that the USA’s only British transportation museum should have one in the collection. One amazingly appeared out of nowhere on our door step. We are unsure of which time dimension that it came from. The TARDIS is a living machine that is capable of disguising itself to blend in with the local surroundings. It’s “chameleon circuit” broke down when it took on the guise of a British police call box and it has been stuck in that mode ever since. The TARDIS is known for being bigger on the inside than on the outside. Figure that one out!

The original British public police telephones came out in 1891 and were a tall, hexagonal, cast-iron box with a gas lantern on the top. The light was remotely lit to summon the police officer to call into the station. The current box was designed in 1929 by Gilbert Mackenzie Trench and were miniature blue police stations. The final

versions were made of concrete with teak doors and had an electric light on the top. They had a small door for the public to access the phone inside for emergency calls. The interior allowed the officer to do reports on a desk with a stool and were sometimes used to detain suspects. They were equipped with a fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and, eventually, a small electric heater.

Police boxes started to be phased out in the early 1970’s with the use of modern walkie-talkies. The “Dr. Who” show has kept their memory alive with the many fans creating their own TARDIS. Ours at the British Transportation Museum has become a favorite photo-op point for visitors.

Many thanks go to James Dean for somehow getting it to magically appear and to Sean Hogan for making upgrades and repairs.



The roof top light now flashes to signal the police. The missing back panel and floor have been built. Now just need to find the “interior that is bigger than the outside” and get it installed. Any Whovians out there got an idea of how to pull that one off?

King Charles takes first flight in the BTM TARDIS



Any TARDIS owners want to join us at our annual BTM British car show at the Museum in early May? There could be a new class just for the TARDIS.

The Nut Behind the Wheel by Karl Strauch

(This is the 4th in a series of tales about people who made significant contributions to transportation in Britain according to various historical sources.)

Following are some of the key dates in his life.

(Information and photos from WIKIPEDIA website)

How quickly can you identify him?

1863 – Born in Hamburg, Germany ... and then grew to be a mechanical engineer, businessman, inventor, and motor industry pioneer.

1889 – He met and became friends with Gottlieb Daimler and purchased the rights to use and manufacture Daimler’s high-speed petrol engine and other patents in the British empire “England and the colonies”, except Canada.

1891 – He demonstrated his Daimler-powered motor launch on the Thames River and formed a company to fit those engines into a number of other boats.

1896 – He competed in the Emancipation Day run from London to Brighton, celebrating the lifting of the 4 mph limit imposed by the Locomotives Act of 1865. His co-driver was Evelyn Ellis *(like Johnnie Cash’s “Boy Named Sue”)*, 6th of 7 children (7 boys, 1 girl) born to Charles Ellis, 6th Baron Howard de Walden.



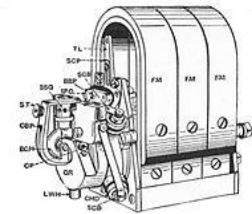
1897 – He founded the Automobile Club of Great Britain (later known as the Royal Automobile Club)



1899 – Demonstration of his Motor Scout ...



1902 – His first armored War Car ...



1903 – His magneto ...



1909 – Photo at age 56 ...

1944 – Died in Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, UK
His name? Frederick Richard Simms

As I See It from the Editor's Desk by Karl Strauch

An old local Pennsylvania Dutch saying is "So soon we get so old and so late so smart." I've visited many of the transportation museums all across the US and Canada from Newfoundland to Alaska. I'm currently on the board of directors at a model train museum in eastern Missouri.



We recently restored a caboose that was donated to us



We're currently planning to install a renovated 85' long Pullman dining car that was also donated to us ...



The possibility of acquiring a double-decker bus for our British Transportation Museum is incredibly tantalizing.



This is a Bristol Lodekka FSF (flat floor, short wheelbase, front entrance). currently located in Richmond, Indiana. Bristol built over 5,200 of these buses from 1949 to 1968. It has the CBC cooling system that has the radiators on the second floor to heat the cabin. It would be a major challenge to get this 14' high vehicle from Richmond to our museum, find a way to protect it from vandalism, and restore it, but having one of these Double-Deck buses would certainly be a huge attraction !! What say ye?

Double-Deck British Buses by Karl Strauch

(Information and photos from WIKIPEDIA website)

1847 – Adams & Co of Fairfield, Bow introduced the 1st commercial horse-drawn double-deck omnibus.

1852 – John Greenwood introduced a new double-decker.

Historical Brixton to Clapham horse-drawn bus on display at the London Bus Museum ...



Early double-decker omnibus from around 1904 ...



Bus from around the 1950s ...





Bristol Omnibus Company Lodekka in Bristol, England



Bristol Lodekka bus in Richmond, Indiana



Passenger door and downstairs interior of a Bristol Omnibus Company Lodekka. Note the stairs directly in front of passenger door and bench seats over rear wheels.



British Transportation Museum Happenings

The BTM had its first Harvest Host visitor.

We have opened our parking lot to RV stays overnight.



We will have two more RV Guests coming on March 9th. If you have a friend with an RV who be visiting you some day, we now have a place for them to park overnight! Here is info on Harvest Host ...



April 8th Solar Eclipse - BTM will be open !!

The Museum will be open for Eclipse viewing on April 8th Bring your Eclipse viewing glasses and a lawn chair.

As of this writing, the eclipse will occur between 2:40pm and 3:40pm in Dayton. Total eclipse will occur around 3:10pm that afternoon. Don't miss it !!

Save the Date! May 11th

The British Transportation Museum is planning its 19th annual car show May 11th at the museum. Details and poster to follow by the end of month Save the date. Hot Dogs and Burgers by Giuseppe.

Remember Mother's Day's is Sunday May 12th We are planning a special Mother's Day thank you! Bring a Mom with you to the car show.

We are also planning to pay honor to The Triumph TR7/TR8 Wedge during the Show. They began their manufacture in 1974 for delivery in 1975. This is their 50-year anniversary!

We are going to have the Abby Road display for that special picture at the show on May 11th



Come for a selfie with you and your favorite Beatles!

Our British Transportation Museum embraces all forms of British Transportation. We have secured a TARDIS and it is on display. Dr Who fans, come see the TARDIS and our other new additions. We are planning a special event during the May 11th car show. Maybe a Dr Who look-alike contest?



Special thanks to James Dean for these photos and info.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia ...

The **TARDIS** (/ˈtɑːrdɪs/; acronym for "**T**ime **A**nd **R**elative **D**imension **I**n **S**pace") is a fictional hybrid of a time machine and spacecraft that appears in the British science fiction television series *Doctor Who* and its various spin-offs. While a TARDIS is capable of disguising itself, the exterior appearance of the Doctor's TARDIS typically mimics a police box, an obsolete type of telephone kiosk that was once commonly seen on streets in Britain. Paradoxically, its interior is shown as being much larger than its exterior, commonly described as being "bigger on the inside".

How can we make BTM's inside bigger than the outside?