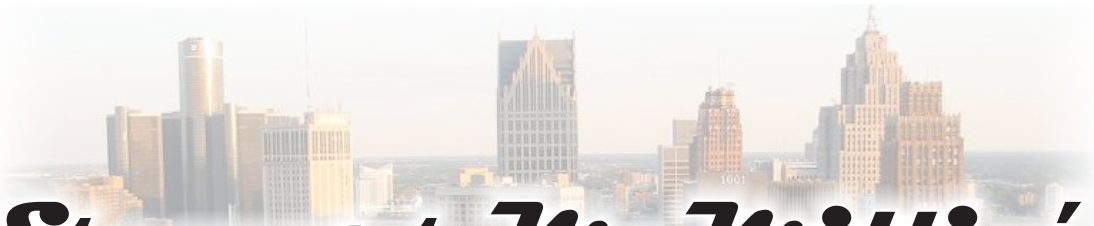


UPDATE 08/24/2010

Stewart McMillin's
Tours & Events for 2010 & 2011

www.McMillinTours.com (313) 922-1990

August 28th - Prohibition Tour of Canada, Including Windsor Casino

Tour leaves from Westland. Call (734) 765-5281, (734) 266-1750, or (313) 922-1990 for more information!

Cost is $60.00 - Tour will be from 9:30am to 8:30pm

See Page 4 for details.

September 23rd - Eastern Market and Dequindre Cut Tour

Point of Departure: Rocky Peanut Company

Cost is $15.00 - Tour will be from 9:30AM - 4:30PM

See Page 6 for details.

October 16th - Detroit Pub & Breweries Tour

Meeting at the Jefferson Ave. Presbyterian Church

Cost is $20.00 - Tour will be from 1:00PM - 7:30PM

See Page 6 for details.

October 22nd thru 25th - Underground Railroad Tour to Ohio & KY

Highlights in Ohio: Wilberforce, Springboro, Cincinnati Freedom Center, Ripley (John Parker), Oberlin, etc.

Highlights in Kentucky: Covington, Maysville, Washington, Augusta, Dover, etc...

See Page 7 for details.

November 11th - Arab-Islam Tour

Detroit, Hamtramck, Dearborn

9:30AM - 5:30PM Cost is $55

Details on Page 8.

November 20th & 30th - Hootch, Hoodlums, and Hoods Tour

Tour on the 20th will be Leaving from Stewart's house and the tour on the 30th will be leaving from the Jefferson Ave. Presbyterian Church

9:30AM - 5:00PM Cost is $50

Details on Page 9.

Postponements

Detroit Church Tour

Details on Page 3.

Canadian Underground Railroad Tour

Details on Page 5.

Departure Location Notes:

Jefferson Ave. Presbyterian Church in Indian Village

8625 Jefferson, Indian Village, Detroit, 48214

(313) 822-3456 - http://www.japc.org

Located at the corner of Burns & Jefferson

Carpooling to this location is encouraged.

African-American History and Culture Tour of Detroit

This tour has been scheduled to run again in 2011, please see pages 2 and 10 for details.

For details of the above and other 2010 and 2011 tours, please contact Stewart McMillin via phone @ **(313) 922-1990**
e-mail Stewart@McMillinTours.com or visit *www.McMillinTours.com*

STEWART MCMILLIN - *History Buff, News Junkie, Detroit Tour Guide, World Traveler, Wayne State University Instructor*
2136 Seminole Street, Detroit, Michigan - 48214

Please provide payment for tours in the form of cash, money order, as well as personal, business, or cashiers check. I plan to offer PayPal

See attached pages for more details on above tours and programs.

Visit Project Contact Africa @ http://www.ProjectContactAfrica.com/

PROJECT CONTACT

This tour was a great success!

Thank you to all who participated!

This tour has been scheduled to run again in November of 2011, please let others, who you think would enjoy it, know about it. Current details regarding its next run can be found on page 10.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE TOUR OF DETROIT

AUGUST 19-- (9:30-6:30) ($50.00)(313-922-1990)

This tour will celebrate the impressive past of African-Americans in Detroit & their current contributions. The following names and places are just some of the things we will learn about as we explore exciting Detroit!

*Greystone Jazz Museum
*Elijah McCoy Home Site
*William Ferguson
*UGRR Marker at 6th & West Jefferson
*Frederick Douglas/John Brown Meeting Place
*St. Mathew's Episcopal Church
*Dr. Charles Wright African-American Museum
*Elmwood Cemetery
*The Detroit Wall
First Congregational C.

*The Tuskegee Airmen Museum
*Detroit Historical Museum
*Motown Museum
*Dunbar Hospital
*Dr. Ossian Sweet Home
*Fannie Richards
*The Blackburns
*102nd Colored Regiment
*George DeBaptiste
*William Lambert Home Site
*1st Michigan Colored Reg.
Bethel AME Church

*Alpha Phi Alpha
*Alpha Kappa Alpha
*Paradise Valley
*The Tobin Building
*Soldiers/Sailors Monument
*Hastings Street
*Orsell McGhee Home
*Second Baptist Church
*Detroit Urban League
*Lucy Thurman YWCA
Omega Psi Phi Frat.
Bertha Hansbury
Focus Hope
St. John Presbyterian C.

Black contributions to U.S. Culture & History are understood by very few Americans. Be a part of the cutting edge for social progress and positive change by participating in this educational and enriching day. We will make extensive stops in Elmwood Cemetery, Black Bottom, the Hart Plaza area, Paradise Valley, and the Tuskegee Airment Museum at Fort Wayne. Lunch will be on your own at the absolutely "tasty & delicious"Steve's Soul Food Downtown. (1440 Franklin) They have a lunch special for $5.99 which includes a meat, two sides and cornbread! RSVP by August 10 (313-922-1990 or e-mail: stewart@mcmillintours.com----and send payment to Stewart by August 14. Free beer(or pop)and piz za after tour in Stewart's Indian Village home. You will have an opportunity to see his Travel Museum. It features an Asian Room, an Europe Room, & an African Room. (he has visited Africa 5 times and has seen 18 countries there. Stewart has now been to all 50 states and 140 countries. He has taken two Around The World Trips.

This tour will be on an air-conditioned coach bus!

This tour will be on an air-conditioned coach bus!

Detroit Church Tour

POSTPONED

APRIL 21ST, 2011

~~August 26th, 2010~~

9:30AM - 5:00PM (possibly later)

$35.00

Tour will leave from Stewart's home in Indian Village (2136 Seminole, Detroit). We will visit at least 4 churches and go by approximately 20 other churches. A mosque and synagogue are also included. Lunch will be on your own at a wide choice of restaurants in the Greektown area. Metropolitan Methodist on Woodward, Cass Community church in Midtown, Sweetest Heart of Mary, and First Congregational Church may be among the churches we go inside. Register early as this may be a sell out! (313-922-1990)

MORE DETAILS ON THE AUGUST 26th CHURCH TOUR

My tours emphasize THEN & NOW (old and new). We will leave Indian Village and take Jefferson to Woodward. We may take a couple of small diversions as we travel - a brief look at the two oldest cemeteries in Detroit --- Mt. Elliott (#1) and Elmwood (#2) and a quick look at Black Bottom. At Woodward we will turn right and keep looking to the right as we go up Woodward. During the course of the day as we drive up Woodward we will get all the way to McNichols or Six Mile. It should be pointed that at one time there were 10 architecturally and historically significant structures between Grand Circus Park and Six Mile Road. All but one are still standing and, of course, we will point them out as we travel and give relevant details. We hope to stop at Metropolitan Methodist – the largest Methodist Church in the country. Also, in 1943 Metropolitan was # 1 in membership in the USA --- 7,300! I once heard Norman Vincent Peale speak there (to a full house) on his book: How To Win Friends and Influence People. Sebastian Kresge donated land for the church and made major financial contributions to the church. We will see his home in the Boston Edison district… the largest historic district in the USA!

We also hope to visit the Cass Community Church where the fantastic Reverend Faith Fowler has a terrific outreach program. A beautiful Tiffany window is also part of his Romanesque Revival Building. We may also see possibly the most beautiful church in Detroit – Sweetest Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Gothic Church. Interesting Polish history and gorgeous architecture make this a real gem. Another beautiful Romanesque church we may visit is the First Congregational Church at the corner of Forest & Woodward. At its original location it was active in the Underground Railroad – as it is today with terrific reenactments taking place over the last few years. As we go back down Woodward we will also look to the right and when we get to Jefferson we will take a drive by the Detroit River and see developments there.

Canada Prohibition Tour

August 28th, 2010 --- 9:30am - 8:30pm

Cost: $60.00

BREAKING GOOD NEWS! At the Windsor Casino (Caesars) a $10.00 food coupon will be issued to all tour participants for use at specific restaurants for dinner.

This tour leaves from Westland. We will cross the Ambassador Bridge and return to the USA via the tunnel (both built during Prohibition, 1929 and 1930). We will turn right after the bridge and go thru Sandwich (part of Windsor today) on our way to LaSalle. The trip will be escorted by Stewart McMillin --- long time Detroit Tour Guide (over 40 years) and world traveler (all 50 states and 140 countries). He will point out significant sites and incidents as we travel and, at appropriate times, we will see a video on Prohibition. In LaSalle we may stop for an adult beverage (or pop) at the famous or infamous Sunnyside Tavern ----- a really hot spot for smuggling alcohol to the Ecorse-Wyandotte area. We then go back into Windsor and on to Walkerville (again, part of Windsor today).

Lunch will be at the Victoria Tavern where we will be entertained and educated by Chris Edwards --- a long time Windsor Tour Guide, a terrific author, and all-around good guy. His power point presentation will be, of course, on the topic of Prohibition. We then head for Abars Tavern (city of Riverside at one time but now part of Windsor) where we will enjoy adult beverages, chill out and listen to Marty Gervais' presentation on his most recent book about prohibition. This is located right on the Detroit River so you will see Belle Isle from the Canadian side.

Following Abars Tavern, we will visit the Windsor Casino, "Caesars," from about 5:00pm to 7:15pm – dinner will be on your own. It is an absolute must that all participants have a valid passport on an enhanced driver's license. Call the 734 numbers listed at the bottom of this page or Stewart for more details at (313) 922-1990. The tour will leave at 9:30am sharp from 1119 Newburgh Road in Westland (just south of Ford Road). Transportation will be on an air-conditioned coach. Sign up early for this one as it should be a sellout. You will not be disappointed – and only a little bit tired --- but you only live once!!!

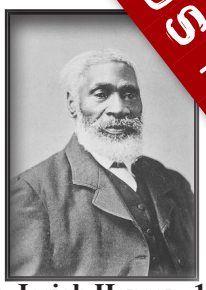
(734) 765-5281 or (734) 266-1750 --- Lisa

(313) 922-1990 --- Stewart

Canadian UGRR Tour

POSTPONED

September ~~6th-7th, 2010~~ 5th-6th, 2011



Rev. Josiah Henson, 1796-1883, who's memoirs inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Single	Double	Triple
$205.00/ea	$175.00/ea	$165.00/ea

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" at the Dawn Settlement in Dresden Ontario which featured a school for the advancement of fugitive slaves.

1) We will leave promptly at 9:00am from the Detroit Federation of Teachers' office building at 2875 West Grand BLVD (Where West Grand BLVD crosses the Lodge Freeway near Henry Ford Hospital).

Sites we will see on the trip:

2) UGRR marker in Windsor after going thru the tunnel.

3) About 11:30am we will arrive at the fantastic North Buxton Annual Reunion. You can pack your own lunch or buy it in North Buxton. About 12:30pm we will see the parade and then visit the museum.

4) Visit Uncle Tom's Cabin (3:45pm – 5:15pm)

5) Visit Chatham: We will see the church where John Brown and Frederick Douglas met in 1859. We will also learn about the incredible Mary Ann Shadd Cary and Gwen Robinson in the historic and romantic city of Chatham on the Thames River.

6) Dinner will be at a choice of restaurants in Chatham and then we check into a Travel Lodge. All rooms have WIFI, a microwave and a fridge. An optional trip to the Chatham museum may be available in the evening.

7) On Tuesday we will have a full hot breakfast and then leave at 9:00am on 401 to the John Walls Historic Site near Windsor. (Puce)

8) After the John Walls experience we go to Amherstberg where we will eat at a choice of restaurants along the Detroit River near Boblo Island. After lunch we will then visit the North American Black Historical Museum and then get on our way to Sandwich.

9) In Sandwich (now part of Windsor) we will visit the Historic First Baptist Church & relive the plight of those who sought freedom under the North Star. We will see a trap door to the basement where enslaved people could hide if slave catchers were near. We will also learn about the brave Henry Bibb.

10) We will then take the Ambassador Bridge back to Detroit and the USA!

Free beer & pizza at Stewart's home after the tour!

Other Underground Railroad photos related to the upcoming adventure to Ohio and Kentucky taking place Oct. 22-25 as well as the 2011 trip to eastern Ontario and western New York state will be available, shortly, on-line at Stewart's website: http://www.McMillinTours.com

EASTERN MARKET & DEQUINDRE CUT TOUR --SEPT. 23- (9:30-4:30) ($15.00) We will meet for this tour just outside Rocky Peanut Company (Russell & Fisher Freeway). There will be lots of walking involved in this tour & come prepared for all kinds of weather. You will be responsible for your own lunch (at a wide choice of restaurants In Eastern Market) and adult beverages! Please RSVP to Stewart by September 15 and have payment mailed to him by Sept. 18. There will be FREE TIME on the tour for you know what: SHOPPING, DRINKING, or anything else--------that is legal! (313-922-1990 or stewart@mcmillintours.com

DETROIT BREWERIES & PUB TOUR- OCTOBER 16- ($20.00) (1:00-7:00 PM) This tour will feature the articulate & historical (sometimes hysterical!) Pete Cornils from Western Michigan. Stewart will also contribute from time to time---------especially after he has had a couple of beers! We will see a few (very few) of the original brewery buildings (Pfeiffer, E & B, etc) in Detroit and learn where some of the other breweries used to be. We will make stops at some of the Micro-Brewerys in Detroit to enjoy these ADULT BEVERAGES! Eat lunch before the tour because there will not be time for eating before our final stop about 5:00 PM at the Traffic Jam. (people could eat at Marios if they prefer) Participants are responsible for their own beverages and dinner. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the bus and each person on the tour will be responsible for signing a waiver. Please RSVP by Oct. 1 and have payment mailed by Oct. 9 to Stewart. (313-922-1990 or stewart@mcmillintours.com)

Underground Railroad Tour

The Ohio & Kentucky Adventure

October 22nd – 25th, 2010

Single - $460 Double - $420 Triple - $390

During this exciting and educational 4 day, 3 night experience we will either visit or learn about the following Ohio cities: Sandusky, Wilberforce, Springboro, Cinicinnati, New Richmond, Point Pleasant, Ripley, Georgetown, Wellington, Oberlin, etc. Kentucky cities will include: Covington, Maysville, Washington, (where Harriet Beecher Stowe was enraged when she saw enslaved people being sold), Dover, and Augusta.

Schedule for the Tour: (Be flexible – travel at times brings surprises!)

Friday: Leave at 9:00am from the Detroit Federation of Teachers' office building at 2875 West Grand BLVD (where West Grand BLVD crosses the Lodge Freeway near Henry Ford Hospital) and enjoy a box lunch (Stewart's treat) and videos en route to Wilberforce (the oldest black university in the USA). We then journey to Springboro where there are at least 10 places that have been documented to have been safe houses on the UGRR. We will explore in depth one of these homes (and see a secret hiding place there)! We will stay at a Red Roof Inn and dinner will be on your own.

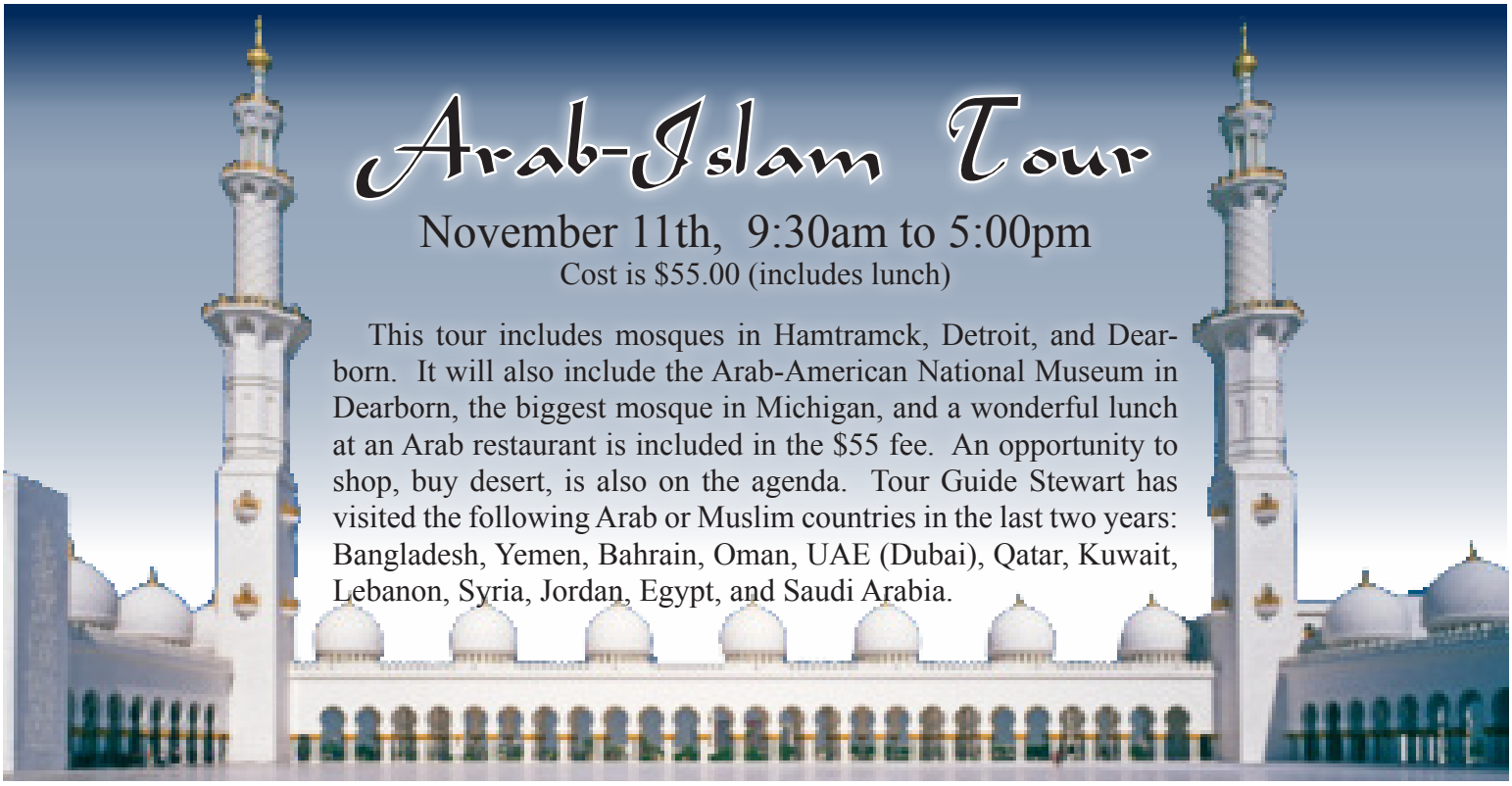
Saturday & Sunday: The highlight of this day (and maybe trip) will be visiting the National UGRR Freedom Center in Cincinnati. Lunch will be on your own. At 2:45pm we will leave the Freedom Center Museum and drive along the Ohio River and see New Richmond, Point Pleasant, and Moscow before we arrive in Ripley at about 4:30pm. You will then have the opportunity to climb the same hill (Freedom Stairway) that many enslaved people scaled before the Civil War. It is a very difficult climb and we must climb it fairly quickly. The bus will take the non-walkers to the top of the hill where we will have a tour of the famous John Rankin home. We then cross the Ohio River to Maysville, Kentucky and enjoy a wonderful buffet meal at a Ponderosa Restaurant. We may meet the wonderful Tour Guide Jere Gore at dinner that night. He will be our guide for the next day's tour of Washington and Maysville and then we will see his museum in Maysville Sunday evening. After dinner we will check into the Best Western Hotel for the next two nights. They have a swimming pool and a continental breakfast, etc… Sunday: The charismatic Jere Gore will meet us at 9:00am and we will tour Washington and Maysville with him. We will see the place where Harriet Beecher Stowe first saw enslaved people being sold as well as many other wonderful historic sites, etc. About 11:30 we will enjoy lunch at Chandlers ---- a wonderful, minority owned restaurant in the heart of downtown and beautiful Maysville. We then cross the Ohio River again to Ripley and walk historic Front Street and then take a tour of the home of the brave and famous John Parker. About 3:00pm we will…… *(continued on next page)*

continued from previous page...

...cross back to Kentucky & visit Dover (Eliza story in Uncle Tom's Cabin novel near here) and then on to the quaint town of Augusta. One of the things you can do here is to take a ferry boat (free trip!) across the Ohio River to Ohio and then back again to Kentucky.

We will also see at least two homes that were involved in the UGRR in Augusta. There will be some free time to shop, chill out, walk along the scenic Ohio River, especially for those who do not choose to take the ferry boat to Ohio and back. About 6:00pm we will enjoy a wonderful dinner (Stewart's treat!) at the romantic and historic Parkview Inn Restaurant. After dinner we will visit the fascinating Gerry Gore Museum in Maysville, before returning to our Best Western Hotel.

Monday: We will leave Maysville at 9:00am sharp! (After our continental breakfast at the hotel). For early risers we could visit a local Bob Evans, etc... for breakfast (let me know if you're interested). We will cross the Ohio River for the last time and soon make a brief stop at the Red Oak cemetery where we will learn more about the UGRR & see the final resting place of Aunt Jemima the 3rd. We then will see two other small towns with UGRR connections (Russellville & Sardinia) and then head north toward Wellington & Oberlin. Around Columbus we will eat at an exit with a choice of restaurants for lunch. We will make a brief stop in Wellington and learn about John Price and the Wellington Raid. We then stop at the unique college town of Oberlin (first college to admit blacks and women!) for an extensive tour to learn many facts about the UGRR, etc. After Oberlin we leave for Detroit & we may stop for dinner (depending on the time and the wishes of the group) at a place to be determined. We hope to be back to Detroit by 8:00pm – but later could be a possibility. Please RSVP for this trip by Sept. 10th and have money order or cashiers check to Stewart by Sept. 20th, 2010. **Free beer & pizza at Stewart's Indian Village home after tour!** *(If you are still with us!!)*



Hootch, Hoodlums & Hoods!!!!!

November 20th and 30th, 2010 (9:30AM -5:00PM)* ($50.00)**

This tour will include the following: Hootch refers to the Prohibition Era in the 1920's when drinking was illegal in the USA (18th Amendment) and the craziness and lawlessness that resulted. Hoodlums is a reference to specific "bad guys" (some girls!) who were around in the 1920's and 1930's. Hoods will include two areas of interest:

a- One area we will cover includes the Auto Industry
(the "hood" on your car is where that expression comes from)

b- The other reference to hoods is in regards to the many Historic Districts in Detroit as well as the 44 little villages, etc... that came together to form Detroit!

MORE DETAILS:

1- HOOTCH - this is slang for low quality or illegal alcohol. We will cover many stories involving the Detroit and Windsor area and the wild tales that occurred: about 25,000 blind pigs, the Tunnel was called the Detroit "Funnel," driving $10.00 jalopies with no doors (so they could possibly escape in case the ice broke) loaded with booze across Lake St. Clair, flying planes from Ontario loaded with alcohol and landing on farms in Fraser, St. Clair Shores, etc.

2- HOODLUMS - Purple Gang (most notorious), the Collingwood Street Massacre (Detroit's version of the Chicago St. Valentine's Day incident), the Licavolis, The Black Hand, Al Capone, Pinkeys, Little Harry's, Ku Klux Klan, Jerry Buckley, etc...

3- HOODS

A- ***Auto***

Not just GM, Ford, Chrysler, Hudson & Packard, but about 100 more companies also made autos here! There were also about 116 companies that did not go beyond the prototype stage! We will see former factory sites, old factories, and cemeteries which have auto barons, as well as some executives' homes in Detroit's historic neighborhoods.

B- ***Neighborhoods***

This will include over 20 Historic Neighborhoods: Boston-Edison, the Berry Subdivision, Indian Village, West Village, Corktown, Palmer Woods, Sherwood Forest, Woodbridge, The New Center Area, East Boston-Arden Park, Ferry Street, Conant Gardens, etc... It will also include the 17 East Side Villages and the 27 West Side Villages that today make up the City of Detroit. (We will not see all of them!)

* *This tour could last longer than indicated as this is a first time try at this tour. (So don't plan anything big or important the night of the tour.)*

** *This tour will include bus transportation, parking at a secure location (Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church) lunch at a location to be determined, possibly the Ford Piquette Plant, as well as free beer & pizza at Stewart's Indian Village home after the tour-----if you are among the survivors!*

P.S. The November 20th tour will be the same as the November 30th tour, except that the November 20th tour will leave from Stewart's home in Indian Village. *See page 1 for departure location details.*

2011 Tours & Programs

May 12th – Wine tasting tour to Canada. (Windsor to Lake Erie Area)
1:00pm to 8:00pm – Cost $50.00

June 16th – Detroit Riverfront Walking Tour and Lunch at Steve's Soul Food!!!
10:00pm to 4:00pm – Cost $15.00

July 16th – Downtown Detroit Tour.
We will stop at every stop on the People Mover. Extensive stops at Cobo Hall, Hart Plaza, Greektown, Grand Circus Park, and Fox Theater area. Architecture, history, art, significant people, sports, & current developments will be highlighted. We will meet at the Joe Louis statue in Cobo Hall at 9:20am.
9:30am to 4:30pm – Cost $15.00

July 29th to August 2nd – Underground Railroad Tour to Eastern Ontario and western New York.

5 DAY
4 NIGHT
TRIP!

Highlights will include Niagara Falls area, St. Catherines, Toronto, Owen Sound, Milton, Priceville, Fort Erie, Oakville, Wilberforce, Lucan, Durham, and Hamilton. The tour will also visit western New York state stopping in Rochester to view Frederick Douglas' grave and in Auburn for Harriet Tubman's grave.
This tour will be wonderful!!! ***DATES AND COST HAVE NOT BEEN FINALIZED.***

September 15th – Albert Kahn Tour.
9:30am to 4:30pm – Cost $50.00

September 29th – Elmwood and Mt. Elliott Cemetery and Capuchin Monastery Tour.
9:30am to 4:30pm – Cost is $50.00 (includes lunch, details TBD)

October 13th – Corrado Parducci, Louis Kamper, and Marshall Fredericks tour.
9:30am to 6:00pm – Cost is $65.00 (includes lunch, details TBD).

October 27th – Woodlawn and Woodmere Cemeteries tour.
9:30pm to 6:00pm – Cost will be $65.00 (includes lunch at the Dakota Inn)

NEW EVENT!

November 12th – African-American History and Culture Tour of Detroit.
Time, Departure Location, and Cost TBD

November 17th – Slide show presentation on the Underground Railroad of the Eastern US.
Will cover New York, Delaware, Washington D.C., Maryland, and Pennsylvania.
7:00pm – Location and Cost TBD

NEW EVENT!

November 22nd – Italian History and Cultural Tour of Detroit.
Time, Departure Location, and Cost TBD

NEW EVENT!

December 14th – German History and Cultural Tour of Detroit.
Time, Departure Location, and Cost TBD

PLEASE NOTE:

Please call or e-mail Stewart in March of 2011 for more details. I will be e-mailing an update of this in early 2011. If you do not have e-mail call me and other arrangements can be made.

(313) 922-1990 | stewart@mcmillintours.com | http://www.mcmillintours.com

More Prohibition Information

Lake St. Clair near Grosse Pointe Shores

This is Whitey Benoit of Windsor, Ontario. He is standing in front of his home on Pitt Street right where the Windsor Casino is today. His dad was mayor of LaSalle during Prohibition and both made and lost millions during Prohibition - according to him and Marty Gervais - author of a great book on Prohibition. I spoke with him for about an hour in his home in 1995.

Stewart

313-922-1990

Stewart McMillin
313-922-1990
Since 1940

The Purple Gang

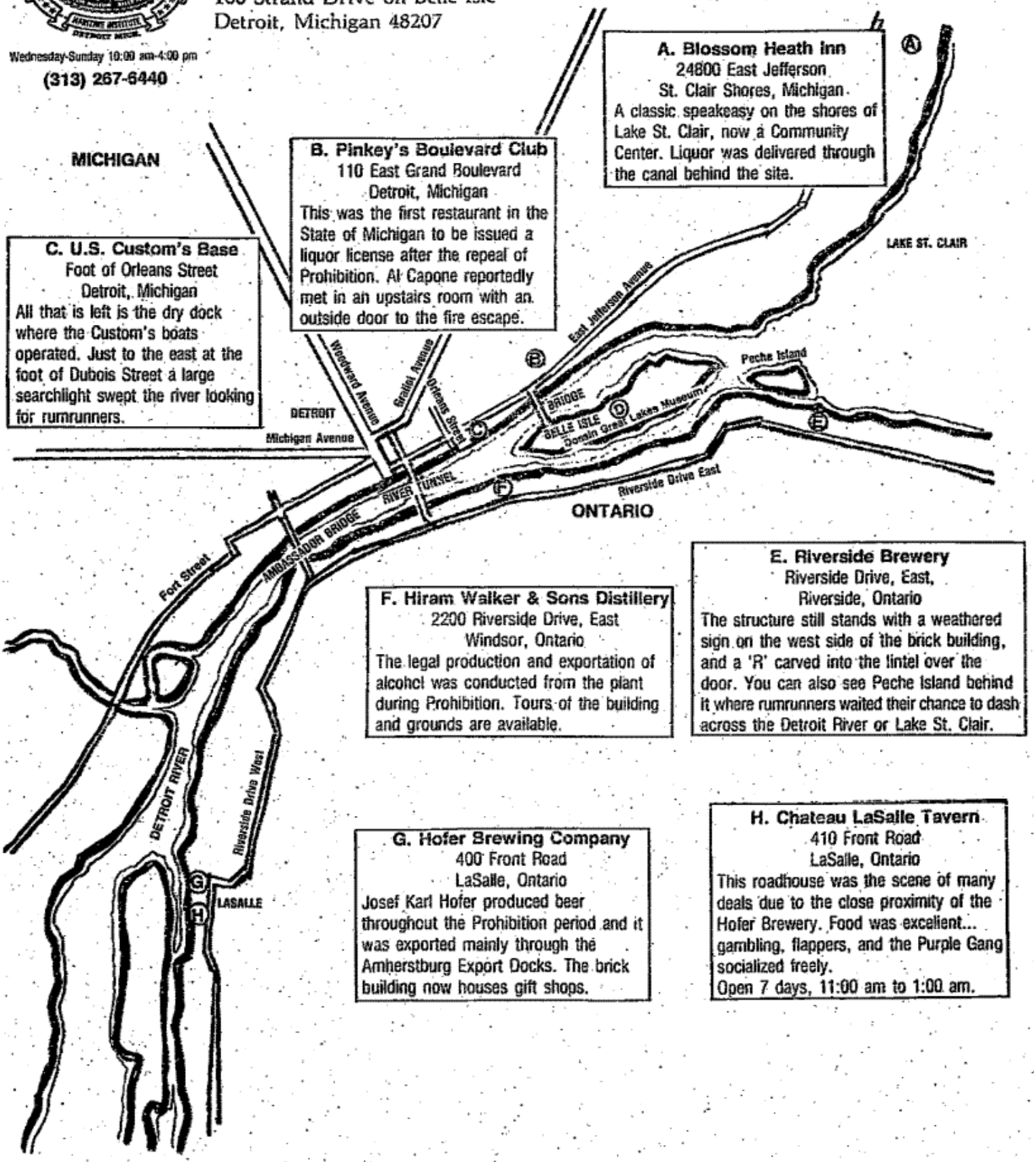
STEWART McMILLIN
History Buff, News Junkie,
Detroit Tour Guide, World Traveler,
Wayne State University Instructor

2136 Seminole / Detroit, Michigan 48214
E-Mail----stewart@mcmillintours.com--Website---www.mcmillintours.com

A DRIVING GUIDE TO MICHIGAN & ONTARIO PROHIBITION SITES

Great Lakes Maritime Institute
Dossin Great Lakes Museum
100 Strand Drive on Belle Isle
Detroit, Michigan 48207

Wednesday-Sunday 10:00 am-4:00 pm
(313) 267-6440



A. Blossom Heath Inn
24800 East Jefferson
St. Clair Shores, Michigan
A classic speakeasy on the shores of Lake St. Clair, now a Community Center. Liquor was delivered through the canal behind the site.

B. Pinkey's Boulevard Club
110 East Grand Boulevard
Detroit, Michigan
This was the first restaurant in the State of Michigan to be issued a liquor license after the repeal of Prohibition. Al Capone reportedly met in an upstairs room with an outside door to the fire escape.

C. U.S. Custom's Base
Foot of Orleans Street
Detroit, Michigan
All that is left is the dry dock where the Custom's boats operated. Just to the east at the foot of Dubois Street a large searchlight swept the river looking for rumrunners.

E. Riverside Brewery
Riverside Drive, East,
Riverside, Ontario
The structure still stands with a weathered sign on the west side of the brick building, and a 'R' carved into the lintel over the door. You can also see Peche Island behind it where rumrunners waited their chance to dash across the Detroit River or Lake St. Clair.

F. Hiram Walker & Sons Distillery
2200 Riverside Drive, East
Windsor, Ontario
The legal production and exportation of alcohol was conducted from the plant during Prohibition. Tours of the building and grounds are available.

G. Hofer Brewing Company
400 Front Road
LaSalle, Ontario
Josef Karl Hofer produced beer throughout the Prohibition period and it was exported mainly through the Amherstburg Export Docks. The brick building now houses gift shops.

H. Chateau LaSalle Tavern
410 Front Road
LaSalle, Ontario
This roadhouse was the scene of many deals due to the close proximity of the Hofer Brewery. Food was excellent... gambling, flappers, and the Purple Gang socialized freely.
Open 7 days, 11:00 am to 1:00 am.

Tours celebrate city's tapestry

STEWART McMILLIN

History Buff, News Junkie,
Detroit Tour Guide, World Traveler,
Wayne State University Instructor
2136 Seminole / Detroit, MI 48214

The Detroit News
September 19th, 2005

LUTHER KEITH

Stewart McMillin doesn't just march to his own drummer. He marches to his own drum. As a white suburban public school teacher in the 1970s, white people thought he was nutty for bringing students in his all-white American history classes on day trips to downtown Detroit.

Black folks thought he was strange, if not somewhat culturally arrogant, for having the audacity to teach them about their heritage while conducting black history tours of Detroit.

Fortunately, being perceived as different, or even odd, never quelled McMillin's passion for helping people of all backgrounds appreciate the ethnic, cultural and architectural tapestry that defined Detroit's past and shaped its future.

"People are surprised about how interesting things are in the city, then they get curious and want to learn more," said McMillin, part ambassador and part tour guide for Detroit over the past 35 years. "Too many people have just heard about crime and racism and all the problems. That knocks out all the interest in the city. We have to get beyond the negatives.

"My point in the beginning was to address racism. It was to get people involved. Lack of communication leads to racism and prejudice. We need more exposure to each other."

McMillin, 65, went to high school in Grosse Pointe and taught government and history classes at East Detroit High School. He also taught as a substitute teacher in Detroit Public Schools and eventually arranged high school visits between city and suburban students.

His conversation is peppered with references to the civil rights struggles during the 1960s when he was active in the Grosse Pointe Interfaith Center for Racial Justice.

"I saw the division between city and suburb and black and white as serious problems," he said. "Some folks have a kind of subliminal superiority. They don't mean to be prejudiced, but they have not been exposed to the other information. Some black folks don't want you to tell them about slavery because it reminds them of bad things."

The outgrowth of those early steps to bring the races together evolved into a full-blown tour business that McMillin has crafted over the past decades, covering everything from historic churches and cemeteries to architecture, breweries – past and present – and the Underground Railroad.

"Our history is so rich and important to know and people need to appreciate the wonderful people who were working and lived here," said McMillin, who lives in a circa-1915 house in Detroit's historic Indian Village.

McMillin has conducted his black history tours for 25 years, but he also conducted tours of Detroit's old German, Polish and Hungarian neighborhoods in southwest Detroit.

"One of my pet peeves is the lack of historic markers in the city," he said. "For instance, before he was president, Ulysses S. Grant stayed at the National Hotel, built in the 1850's, on the site of the First National Building in downtown and Detroit's first downtown skyscraper, built in the late 1800's, was know as the Hammond Building, on the site of the Bank One Building and named after the man that invented the railroad refrigeration car… There are no markers that tell us that."

The story of Detroit and Canada's role in the Underground Railroad, guiding and helping enslaved African-Americans to freedom, is well-chronicled. But many Detroiters don't know the important contribution played in guiding slaves to freedom by people in Ohio and Kentucky. Many of the escapees found safety in Detroit at the Second Baptist Church and the First Congregational Church.

That's the focus of a 15-city Underground Railroad tour that McMillin is offering Oct. 21-23 [2005]. It includes bus and hotel accommodations and a visit to Cincinnati, the home of Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and the Underground Railroad Freedom Center. The tour will be offered again in 2006.

People don't realize what an amazing feat it was to walk from Alabama to Ontario," McMillin said. "Most of the people involved in helping them escape were Quakers, who established safe houses so the slave catchers wouldn't catch them"

McMIllin also is offering upcoming tours on Detroit's brewing history, including stops at city microbreweries, churches, downtown buildings, sculptures, black historic sites, and Tiffany window "mystery tour" of the city.

An insatiable world traveler, he has visited all 50 states and 125 other countries.

"I take postcards of Detroit wherever I go and try to learn to say hello in every language," he said. "Like it says on a T-shirt I bought from an African, there is really just one race – the human race."

For tour information, call (313) 922-1990.

Luther Keith is senior editor of the Detroit News. His column appears on Mondays and Thursdays. He can be reached at (313) 222-2675 or lkeith@detnews.com

OTHER SOURCES FOR DETROIT TOURS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1 - Detroit Tour Connections, Bob Goldsmith
(313) 283-4332

2 - Preservation Wayne
(313) 577-3559

3 - Inside Detroit, 1253 Woodward
(313) 477-8941 or (313) 268-6562

4 - Detroit Historical Society
(313) 833-7979

5 - Feet on the Street Tours, Linda Yellin
(248) 353-TOUR (8687)

6 - Nick Sinacori
(313) 821-6649

Historic tours teach lessons in tolerance

Desiree Cooper,
Detroit Free Press
Nov 23, 2003

If you go to Italy's Roman Forum, it looks like ramshackle, cat-infested ruins. But when you understand that it was once the heart of the city of Rome, a place for public discourse surrounded by marble monuments, temples and basilicas, the ruins take on a different meaning.

That's what history does for you, said former Wayne State University humanities and architecture instructor Stewart McMillin. It gives you a broader prospective.

In the late 1960s, he was a social studies teacher at East Detroit High School. "But when the civil disturbance happened, I really became activated with social justice issues," he said. "I started doing tours to Detroit to get my students out of their parochial area."

That was in 1968, and today, McMillin is still at it. "When people go on my tours, they don't just discover historical sites, but explanations – reasons why Detroit is what it is today. I often bring out that the city's population decline wasn't all about Coleman Young. It began in the 1950s with the freeways, FHA loans for homes in the suburbs and Northland, the nation's first shopping mall."

A city's charms

Still, said McMillin, it's race combined with fear that keep many in the suburbs away from downtown.

"I never saw anyone from my community at an ethnic festival downtown," said McMillin, who now lives in Indian Village. "I thought I'd just missed them, but the fact was, they never came into the City."

Contact
Desiree Cooper at 313-222-6625
or cooper@freepress.com

Tour to focus on Underground Railroad's Canadian connection

By Patrick Keating
Chronicle Staff Writer
August 18th, 2003

People interested in learning about the Underground Railroad's Canadian connection are invited to take part in a day-long tour that will take participants to the real-life inspiration for Uncle Tom's Cabin and to the annual parade in the town of North Buxton, Ontario, settled by the descendants of escaped slaves. Both are near Chatham, Ontario.

The tour, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sept 6, will be led by Stewart McMillin, a retired teacher and longtime Detroit-area tour guide. Participants will travel by air conditioned bus....

Harriet Beecher Stowe's book, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was inspired by the memoirs of Josiah Henson, who escaped from Kentucky to Canada. The 1929 version of the movie "Uncle Tom's Cabin" will be shown on the bus during the trip.

The Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site is on property Henson and his supporters purchased in 1841 as a refuge for fugitive slaves.

McMillin taught social studies at the then all-White East Detroit High in Eastpointe (Then East Detroit) in the 1960's.

"1964 was the Public Accommodations Bill and the next year was the Voting Rights Bill and 1968, the Open Housing Bill, so I got into all the civil rights matters," he said. "I started teaching Black history in the early 70s."

McMillin also went to Africa in 1971 and taught about that continent upon his return.

He started taking his government class to Detroit to visit Recorder's Court and also began having exchange visits with high schools in Detroit.

He believes residents of Detroit and Ontario should be familiar with the areas' important role regarding the UGRR.

"Before 1850, if you just got to Ohio, you were O.K., but after 1850 and the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act, you had to get to Canada," he said. "That picked up a lot of the activity with Detroit, so I deal with that and I try to get the business out about the history (of the area) amongst all kinds of people, especially Black people."

McMillin believes people should realize the value of history.

"You can put it in some kind of perspective and it makes your life fuller and richer if you know history," he said.

McMillin has a museum in his home that reflect his world travels and which may be visited by appointment.

Next year, he is planning to do a Canadian tour on the first Monday in August as that is the day of the Canadian Civic Holiday and will feature staff of the Uncle Tom's Cabin Historical Site in period costumes and several activities related to 19th century life.
McMillin will also be conduction another Underground Railroad tour to Canada on Oct. 23.

Call (313) 922-1990 for more information about all the upcoming tours and for ticket information. Early reservations are encouraged.

2010 Update from Stewart

This tour is now an overnight trip. Many more sites and places of interest are seen in a more leisurely manner.

Stewart McMillin's Around the World Trip-# 2—From Nov. 3, 2008- Jan. 29, 2009. Diane Moskaluk was with him from Nov. 3-Dec. 3 .on Group Tour of China, Tibet, Hong Kong,&Cambodia.She returned home with group.

1--Nov. 3----Fly to Shanghai via Japan
2-Nov. 4-7--Visit Shanghai
3-Nov. 8----Fly to Beijing
4--Nov. 8-11-Visit Beijing
5-Nov. 12---Overnight train to Xian
6--Nov. 12-14-Visit Xian
7--Nov. 15--Overnight stay on farm near Xian
8-Nov. 16--Fly to Chengdu
9- Nov. 17-Visit Chengdu (pandas!)
10- Nov. 18-Fly to Lhasa, Tibet
11-Nov. 19-20-Visit Tibet
12-Nov. 21—Fly to Chengdu
13-Nov. 22-24-Cruise the Yangtze
14-Nov. 25—Fly from Wuhan to Hong Kong
15--Nov. 26-27-Visit Hong Kong
16-- Nov. 28-- Fly to Siem Reap,Cambodia
17--Nov. 29-Dec. 1- Visit Siem Reap & Angor Wat
18--Dec. 2---Diane flys to Hong Kong
Dec. 2—Stewart flys to Phnom Penh
19- Dec. 3—Diane returns to USA
Dec. 3-4-Stewart Visits Phnom Penh
20-Dec. 5-7- Visit Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)
21-Dec. 8-9- Visit Da Nang, Hue, & Hoi An
22-Dec. 10-12- Visit Hanoi, Vietnam
23-Dec.13-16-Visit Luang Prabang, Laos
24-Dec.17-18-Visit Bangkok, Thailand
25-Dec.19-20-Visit Dacca,(Dhaka) Bangladesh
26-Dec.21---Visit Calcutta,(Kolkata) India
27-Dec.22-23-Visit Ahmedabad (Gandhi stuff)
28-Dec.24-26- Visit Bombay (Mumbai)
29-Dec.27-29-Visit Sanaa, Yemen
30-Dec.30-Jan.1, 2009-Visit Manama, Bahrain
31- Jan. 2, 2009- Fly from Manama, Bahrain to Oman
32- Jan. 5, 2009- Fly from Muscat, Oman to Dubai, U.A.E.
33- Jan. 9, 2009- Fly from Dubai, U.A.E. to Doha, Qatar
34- Jan.13, 2009-Fly from Doha, Qatar to Kuwait City
35- Jan.16, 2009-Fly from Kuwait to Beirut, Lebanon
36- Jan.20, 2009-Fly from Beirut to Damascus, Syria
37- Jan.24,2009-Fly from Damascus to Larnaca, Cyprus
38- Jan.28, 2009-Fly from Larnaca, Cyprus to London, England
39- Jan.29, 2009-Fly from London to Chicago to Detroit and HOME

STEWART McMILLIN

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Stewart's first Around the World trip was in 1978. He spent 75 days visiting England, Germany, Turkey, Iran, India, China, Hong Kong, Macao, Thailand, Burma, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, California, Iowa, Illinois, and Michigan.

PS- After Stewart's recent trip (88 Days) he will have visited all 50 states and 138 countries.

(Stewart has now been to 140 countries after his recent (November-2009) trip to Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia.)