



NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615-1099
785-272-8681

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Contacts:

Bobbie Athon • 785-272-8681, ext. 262 • bathon@kshs.org
Teresa Jenkins • 785-272-8681, ext. 263 • tjenkins@kshs.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2010

***CARS* EXHIBIT EXPLORES THE NEED FOR SPEED IN KANSAS**

Exhibit opens January 22, runs through November 28, 2010

Online press kit with photos available at kshs.org/news/pressroom

TOPEKA, Kan.— The Kansas Museum of History will wave the green flag 9 a.m., Friday, January 22, 2010, to open *Cars: The Need for Speed* in its Special Exhibits Gallery. The exhibit explores how cars and racing have affected our food, entertainment, and buildings. Visitors will discover how national institutions such as Chrysler, Pizza Hut, White Castle, and the Interstate Highway System all got their start in Kansas. Meet Kansas racecar drivers Jennifer Jo Cobb, Troy Baumgartner, and Chase Austin through video interviews and learn how each got their start by racing in Kansas.

Other exhibit highlights include:

- Horse harness racing items, including county fair posters
- Racecars – NASCAR stock car driven by Jennifer Jo Cobb, junior dragster from Disney's *Right on Track*, 1946 midget racer, and the Topeka-manufactured Great Smith
- Trivia video game to test your knowledge of road-inspired songs
- Racecar driver uniforms
- Antique car memorabilia, including maps, road signs, and driving gear

"Cars have played an important role in Kansas history," said Bob Keckeisen, director of the Kansas Museum of History. "Kansas is a large, wide-open state, and the vast majority of our population uses cars not only to get from place to place, but also as part of our entertainment. This exhibit examines our fascination with the automobile and the impact cars have had on our state. From lodging to food to auto racing, cars drive American culture."

Cars: The Need for Speed will be open through November 28, 2010. Support for the exhibit provided by Wal-Mart.

The Kansas Museum of History is located at 6425 SW 6th Avenue. Hours are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday and 1 – 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$6 adults, \$4 students. KSHS, Inc., members and children five and under admitted free. More information online at kshs.org.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Historical Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.

###