



Brass Era Antique Cars to Visit Castle in the Clouds on Monday, September 11, 2006

Nearly 100 antique cars, all built before 1916, will climb the scenic entrance road, negotiating the switchbacks and passing the overlooks, on the way up to the Castle-in-the-Clouds. It's all part of the **2006 Reliability Tour** for brass era antique cars. Once there, the drivers will tour the Castle and then display their antique cars for photo opportunities against this perfect backdrop, Thomas Plant's famed Arts and Crafts Castle-in-the-Clouds, itself built in 1914.

These magnificent automobiles, some over 100 years old, will arrive at the Castle about **1 p.m. on Monday, September 11th**, and remain on display until 4 p.m. before heading back down the mountain. Visitors to the Castle, paying the regular entrance fee, will be able to view the cars.

Reliability Tours are a time-honored tradition, initially designed to prove the worth of the horseless carriage in the horse and buggy era. The first Reliability Tour in 1903 from New York to Pittsburgh was a true endurance run designed to prove the reliability and "endurance of machines and men" in an era when horses were the preferred and the most reliable means of transportation. By 1905, cars in the first Glidden Tour ventured from New York all the way to New Hampshire's Mount Washington Hotel in a longer test set against more rugged terrain.

This year's Reliability Tour, planned for almost three years under the direction of tour chairman Bart Carlson of Melvin Village (NH), is a slightly more sedate affair, lasting from September 10-14, but will still involve a 62-mile tour circling Lake Winnepesaukee the morning before the cars make the climb up to the Castle.

Over 200 people will participate in the four day event hosted by the Granite Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA).