



News Release

National Motorcycle Museum

200 E. Main Street • PO Box 405
Anamosa, IA 52205 • Ph: (319) 462-3925
e-mail: museum@nationalmcmuseum.org
Director: Jeff Carstensen



Leo Payne's "Turnip Eater" ... now on display at the National Motorcycle Museum.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - March 23, 2006; Anamosa, Iowa -

The National Motorcycle Museum is proud to announce that it now has on display the world famous Leo Payne "Turnip Eater" Harley-Davidson® Sportster® racing bike. On loan from the AMA Museum and Hall of Fame for 2006, this fantastic motorcycle display is complete with photos, certificates and other authentic memorabilia from Leo Payne's racing years.

Leo Payne was born in St. Louis on March 10, 1931. He was raised in Flora, Illinois, and attended Boys Town in the 1940s. He bought his first motorcycle when he was 19, but the Korean War cut short his new hobby. After the war, Payne moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and went to work part-time for a Harley-Davidson dealership. There he began to modify his bikes and he quickly earned a reputation as having one of the fastest Sportsters in the Midwest.

Leo Payne soon became a leading drag racer and top-speed record racer from the 1950s through the 1970s. He was a drag racing champion and set numerous records on his highly modified Harley-Davidson® Sportsters®. It was in 1969 that Payne's Turnip Eater set several records, including hitting a top speed of over 201 mph, en route to an average of 196.512. His trap speed of 201 mph made Payne the first rider in history to push a non-streamliner to over 200 mph. His bike was towed up to 70 mph before he fired it up to begin the run. To save weight he used a single-speed transmission, which meant he had to slip the clutch up to about 110 mph. That year he broke the existing class record by a margin of 43 mph.

Payne continued to be involved in racing through the 1980s. He helped many young riders get their start in drag racing until his death from cancer on September 18, 1991.

Don't miss your chance to see this fantastic machine at the National Motorcycle Museum. The museum is open daily, and located just 20 minutes away from Cedar Rapids, IA in downtown Anamosa.

Cruise into the National Motorcycle Museum, located in Downtown Anamosa, IA, and experience our extensive collection of over 190 vintage motorcycles, thousands of photographs, posters, postcards and pieces of motorcycle memorabilia, plus a fabulous collection of antique toys. Come see for yourself why we were voted Iowa's Tourism Attraction of the Year in 2001. The National Motorcycle Museum is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation. For more information, contact the National Motorcycle Museum at 319-462-3925 or go to their website at www.nationalmcmuseum.org.

Note: Biography information on Leo Payne complements of the AMA Motorcycle Museum Hall of Fame website biography.

