

# BRANSON OZARK TIMES



## Oh, Healey Night! A Yule Tale

*Anonymous*

Twas the night before  
Christmas  
And all through the garage  
(English pronunciation)  
My two ex-works Healeys  
were covered  
And so was the London to  
Brighton carriage

All the spanners were hung  
Above the workbench with  
great care  
In hopes that Father  
Christmas  
Soon would be there

The cats and dog were  
snuggled  
All warm in their beds  
With visions of chasing  
each other  
Dancing in their heads

I made one last check  
Before I turned out the  
lights  
I looked out the window,  
The glistening snow was a  
beautiful sight

With me in my BMC night  
shirt

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[www.conclave2025branson.com](http://www.conclave2025branson.com)



*The posted speed limit on all of the roads you will be driving is 55 MPH. But we generally consider it to be a suggestion.*

## Welcome to the Ozarks in Southwest Missouri

*Pictures and Article by Joe Johnson, Kansas City AHCA*

There are many things to do in the Branson area. Branson is the most visited town by tourists beginning in late spring until the New Year. Depending on who you ask, you will hear answers between 3 million and 11 million visitors come here between Memorial Day in late May and January the following year. That's a lot of visitors when there are only 18,000 to 19,000 permanent

residents in Branson.

One of the most enjoyable things to do is drive a sportscar on the silky smooth asphalt roads around Table Rock Lake. Being here for Conclave 2025 between May 19th and 23rd will allow you to "beat the crowd," as some would say.

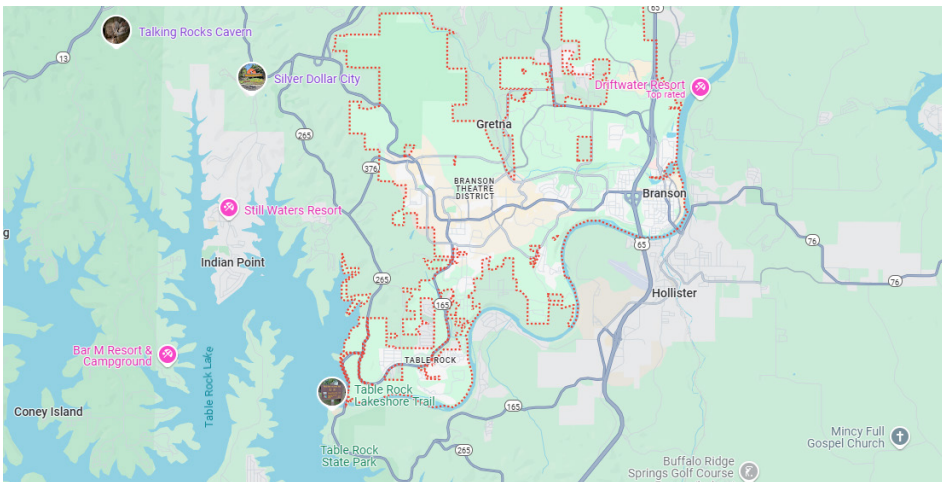
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## CONCLAVE 2025 Coming to Branson - May 18 - 23

NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER FOR CONCLAVE 2025!  
This once-in-a-lifetime event is set in a unique and beautiful location, making it a memorable experience. Enjoy live entertainment, exceptional attractions, and diverse outdoor activities in Branson.

[www.conclave2025branson.com](http://www.conclave2025branson.com)





## Welcome to the Ozarks

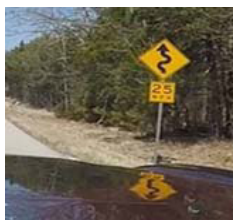
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Arriving in an Austin-Healey gives you the opportunity to drive many roads, free of charge. So why not take a day to test your driving skills. You will soon find there are very few straight roads west of Branson. Experience the many curves, changes

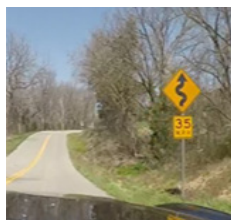
in elevation, switch backs, flipping the overdrive on and off and checking the wonderful views. There will be several recommended self-driving tours published in the Conclave information booklet showing the routes and potential destinations for breakfasts, lunches and refreshments.



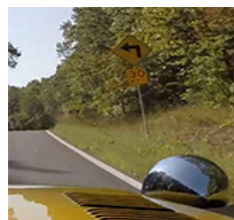
The posted speed limit on all of the roads you will be driving is 55 MPH. But we generally consider it to be a suggestion. All the many curves have suggested speed signs and directional graphics representing the shape of the curves.



Slow "S" Curves



Faster "S" Curves



Left Hand



Gentle Curve

## Live Music Capital of the Entire Universe

Hosted in Branson, Missouri, Conclave 2025 couldn't benefit more from the action-packed city and surrounding area. In 1882, Reuben Branson opened a post office and general store, founding Branson Missouri.

In 1894 William Henry Lynch bought Devils Den cave (renamed "Marvel Cave") in the

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**OZARK TIMES**



## A Yule Tale

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And my beloved in hers too  
Mine was Colorado Red  
And hers was Healey Blue

I had just drifted off to sleep  
But awoke quite startled, what, really?  
I heard a familiar low rumbling sound  
"Bloody 'ell", I exclaimed  
Someone's trying to nick one of my Healeys"

I grabbed the torch from the nightstand  
And flew down the stairs  
The garage lights were still out,  
But it gave me a scare

I heard the noise again,  
A Healey exhaust it was, and a delight to the ears  
At first far away, then closer it came  
The beautiful sound, eased all my fears

When it stopped out front  
I was surprised, I must confess  
I peeked out the garage door  
It was Jackie Cooper's shiny green 100S

With cockpit and boot laden with packages  
It was such a lovely sight  
The heavy load pulled along by  
Eight ex-works race Sprites

The colourful cars were snarling with open exhausts  
Sprinzel coupe's, Frogeyes, Speedwells,  
with Sebring /LeMans Streamliners too  
Driven by Baker, Colgate, Hopkirk, McQueen,  
and Hawkins,  
Aaltonen, Sprinzel, and Sir Stirling Moss

The 100S driver hopped out in a flash  
And was resplendent in red  
He wore black racing boots and gloves,  
A vintage race helmet graced his bald head

I had to look twice,  
It was hard to determine,

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## A Yule Tale

*Continued from Page 2*

I had never seen a race driver's suit  
All trimmed in snowy white ermine

He shook off the snow  
And from the cockpit took a big sack  
He walked towards the garage  
I had to get back

He came through the door  
And set down his load  
He then saw me, and said  
"Cheerio Lad, it sure is cold"

"Do you have something to warm an old gent's heart",  
He said with a wink as he opened his sack  
I fetched my bottle of Napoleon  
And handed him a dram of my best cognac

The elfin old man sure looked familiar  
The Cornish accent and twinkle in his eyes gave him away  
I was beside myself with joy  
It was DMH, Donald Healey, himself, I was happy to say

He took out his list and reached into his bag  
"Here's that Shorrock Supercharger for the ex-works Sprite,  
An alloy head for the 3000 rally car, and vent for the roof  
It's NOS, so you'll have to paint it white"

After he finished his work  
He sat down and raised his feet  
He asked how my Healeys were running  
"Great", I said and asked if he wanted something to eat

"A Cornish pastie would be brilliant  
I have a long way to go tonight  
To the rest of the UK, and then Healey owners worldwide  
The snow and fog has been a bloody fright"

We had a nice chat, but he stood up with a stretch  
"I have bits to deliver and need to lighten my load  
You know, he said, we have to keep the Healeys  
Out on the race tracks and driving the twisty roads"

With a wave he was off  
"All the best, my friend," he said  
I was sorry to see him go  
So I poured another dram for myself,

Before going back to bed

He trampled through the snow to the idling green S (for Sleigh)  
With a blip of the throttle, and a toot on the horn  
All the Sprites came to life  
With a spray of snow from many tires, soon they were away

As they drove into the darkness  
And soon out of sight  
I heard him exclaim  
"Happy Healeying to All, and to all a good night"

As I shuffled back to bed,  
My dear wife awoke and said  
"I heard you talking. Who was that, then?"  
"Ah, just an old friend delivering some Healey bits,"  
I said with a grin

As I drifted off to sleep  
My eyes moist with tears  
Thank you DMH, for all the great cars  
And the Healey memories of many wonderful years

Healey On, dear friends.....Happy Holidays

## Live Music Capital

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growing Branson region. The entrepreneur launched the first Branson tourist attraction, charging visitors to tour the limestone cave, boasting the beautiful Cathedral Room 300 feet below the surface.

Marvel Cave attracted the Herschend family in 1950 who leased the cave for 99 years. The family began by hosting square dancing in the cave. With continued investment and improvement of the Cave and its surrounding land, the Herschends opened Silver Dollar City in 1960 – an 1880's era based theme park, which now attracts thousands of visitors each year.

A hallmark development to the Branson phenomenon was created in 1907 when Harold Bell Wright published his novel about life in the Ozarks, 'The Shepherd of the Hills'. Made into a play, a theater was built in 1960 for the Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Drama which is still running today.

The first theater in Branson was opened in 1934 originally called "The Hillbilly Theater". Three short decades later, the Mabe Brothers started a band that, in 1961, would become the first music show in Branson.

Between 1990 and 1991 there was a boom of musical and dramatic shows housed in theatres up and down Highway 76. Branson drew the attention of 60 Minutes, which aired an episode about Branson on December 8, 1991, and called it "the live music capital of the entire universe". In 1995 Dolly Parton opened Branson's Dolly Parton Stampede.

Whether you might be touring Marvel Cave or attending Dolly Parton's Stampede, the character, history, and many attractions of Branson and surrounding area provides a colorful background for Conclave 2025. Now, Let the Show Begin!