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*What's it Worth? June 11 Orchard Room*

*All Aboard for Art June 11 Oak Street Station*

*Watch for the next Bravo for Details*

*It's not too soon to start working on an Essay!*

*Want to serve a term on the Board? Call Susan Morrison.*

If you remember this on West Colfax give Kris a call.

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The Lakewood Historical Society, Inc.  
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# The Lakewood Historian

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## **Congratulations**

to all of the

**Dennis Vanderhoof**

## **Lakewood History Essay Contest Winners.**

We are pleased to present two winning essays - one youth and one adult. These essays present travel - cars and famous hitchhikers in Lakewood.

### *LeMay Club Car Museum: Lakewood, Colorado*

by Andrew Jones

There is an interesting museum in Lakewood, CO. This is the LeMay Club Car Museum, located at 11100 W. 8th Ave. It is a museum that houses all kinds of cars including domestic (cars from America) and exotic (from other countries). It was founded by Harold and Nancy LeMay on June 2, 2012.

Lakewood, like most cities in America during the 20th Century, grew due the automobile. Cars are a crucial part of modern lifestyle. Cars make modern life possible. Travel is made much easier because of them. The car was a trend started by Henry Ford with the Model T which was sold from 1908 to 1927.

In the early days, cars were steam powered. Eventually, an innovation led to the gasoline powered car. This is what most cars run on today, so it was a very important invention.

By the 1970's cars were not doing too well as far as the environment was concerned. Fuel economy was horrible and cars were one of the main causes of pollution. New modern cars are trying to solve this problem by running off electric motors and rechargeable batteries. This renewable energy hasn't fully caught on in the car market yet, though.

There are different collections of cars at the LeMay Museum like American Muscle, British Invasion, Alternative Propulsion, etc. One of the coolest cars in any of the collections is the Ford GT40. It is a classic race car from the 1960's. It raced in the 24 hour Le Mans race and won four consecutive times from 1966-1969. The new Ford GT is capable of speeds of 200 mph, much greater than its predecessor, the GT 40.

This museum is intended to celebrate America's love for the car. The museum's mission is to promote automotive history. It preserves hundreds of cars so people are able to see them for years to come.

There are two other car museums in areas near Lakewood. One is the Forney Museum of Transportation. It is located at 4303 Brighton Blvd. in Denver, CO 80216. The Forney museum is pretty similar to the LeMay museum. One difference is that it has all sorts of different things from trains to bicycles. It also has a rotating display like LeMay and the current collection is the Chevrolet Covairs collection. Their hours are Monday-Saturday open from 10 am to 4 pm and on Sundays from 12 pm to 4 pm. To contact them, call 303-297-1113.

The other museum nearby is the Clive Cussler Museum. It is located in Arvada, CO 80007 at 14959 W. 69th Ave. It is interesting because every time Clive Cussler buys a new car, the character in his books, Dirk Pitt, will drive that car in one of the books. The Clive Cussler museum doesn't have a rotating display but it is still very interesting. Their hours are: Monday to Thursday open from 10 am until 5 pm. To contact them, call 303-420-2795.

The LeMay car museum in Colorado is an extension of the one in Tacoma, WA. The one in Washington is the "HQ" so it has a larger collection. The location of this larger museum is 2702 East D Street, Tacoma, Washington 98421. Their hours are from 10 am to 5 pm seven days a week. Their phone number is 253-779-8490 if you are interested in contacting them.

The LeMay museum in Lakewood also has several modern amenities such as a lounge with a big-screen TV, a pool table, a full kitchen as well as an outdoor dining patio. It is also open from 10 am to 5 pm. They also host events to teach people more about the car. The LeMay museum is and will continue to be a great tourist attraction in Lakewood. For more information, call 303-238-5040.



This inconspicuous building houses the LeMay Auto Museum

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Summer 2010 Lakewood Historical Society Newsletter:

Andrew Jones has entered the Essay Context several times. Andrew has visited the three

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### Author's Biography

Sean Jones has written three articles that have been included in the Lakewood Historical Society's newsletter: one about Casa Bonita, one about Bear Creek Lake Park and one about Lakewood's Sister Cities program. Other places you may find his work are at [www.everydayfiction.com](http://www.everydayfiction.com), in a couple of science-fiction anthologies and in Anak Sastra, the online journal of Southeast Asian literature.

The author wrote his University of Colorado at Denver Political Science master's thesis on three modern political figures who consulted astrologers for advice (Indira Gandhi, Adolph Hitler and Ronald Reagan) and followed up with a doctoral dissertation on why Denver-area voters approved the replacement for Mile High Stadium.

He grew up in the wind tunnel north of Golden known as Highway 93, attended Jefferson County schools, went to West Germany as an exchange student, did a hitch in the U.S. Army as a translator, served as a city councilman in Glendale, worked as a network engineer for a bank for twenty years and has traveled to Thailand, Japan and Tahiti. His latest endeavor is a rat rod that combines a '72 Chevy pickup cab, a '37 Chevy frame, an '85 Ford engine, an '89 Jaguar rear suspension and several Toyota steering parts from unknown years; he vows it will all come together and run "very soon."

We are glad that Sean Jones was willing to take some time away from his latest creation to write an essay. And, now we know where his son Andrew gets his interest in cars, research, and writing. The Society is looking forward to their entries in 2016!



### *In Memoriam*

*The Lakewood Historical Society offers condolences to the family and friends of Dr. David Barth who passed away unexpectedly after a short illness in May. Dave served on the board, and was a longtime volunteer, journal contributor, and enthusiastic website answer-man. He also collected information in the form of articles, photographs, and other weblinks on his website [barthworks.com](http://barthworks.com). His are big shoes to fill.*

Kerouac's mother, sister and brother-in-law joined Jack in the West Center Avenue home but did not stay long. Mrs. Kerouac, afraid of the nearby Front Range mountains, left Colorado by train on July 4th: "My mother was lonely and beat and went back to New York..."<sup>47</sup> To brighten Jack's spirits, his sister and her husband took him to a picnic at Berkeley Lake in north Denver. But they, too, departed later that month, as did Kerouac, himself.<sup>48</sup>

### Kerouac leaves Lakewood:

By late July of 1949, Kerouac was on the road and had left the Denver suburbs behind. In his words, the force driving him away from his West Center Avenue home struck suddenly: "I was standing in my yard looking at the great heat lightning over the plains and, to the west, over the mountains. I had a desire to go in both directions at the same time."<sup>49</sup>

Like that flash of lightning, Kerouac made sudden, life-impacting decisions. When he chose to leave Manhattan for Colorado, he writes, "I suddenly took off from New York. This was only a swift decision on an old idea I had, to establish some kind of 'homestead' for myself and family — an idea I had been harboring for years.... I suddenly packed one night and went, and prayed on the bus that I might have luck in Denver finding a house and all such matters."<sup>50</sup> When he chose to leave his home in the future City of Lakewood two months later, Kerouac writes, "The whole idea has really collapsed."<sup>51</sup>

Two months: that is the length of the Colorado home-ownership of the Beat Generation mainstay, a short time in the brief life of a man who died at age 47 in 1969, the year of Lakewood's founding. Though Kerouac's residence in Lakewood was transitory, his experiences here and the time he spent researching and writing *On the Road* made lasting marks on the author and on the many who were influenced by him. Without his idea to settle down and buy a house, Kerouac might never have met the characters and had the experiences he chronicles in *On the Road*, the novel that launched the Beat movement and a counter-culture revolution; 6100 West Center Avenue, may not be *the* home of the Beat Generation but it is *one* of them.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.zillow.com/homedetails/6100-W-Center-Ave-:alewppd-CO-80226/13\\_770977\\_zpid/](http://www.zillow.com/homedetails/6100-W-Center-Ave-:alewppd-CO-80226/13_770977_zpid/)

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<sup>5</sup> <http://hudsoncress.net/hudsoncress.org/html/library/literature/Kerouac,%20Jack%20-%20On%20the%20Road.pdf>, 112 (hereafter cited as hudsoncress)

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<sup>7</sup> <http://jack-was-here.tumblr.com/>

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<sup>21</sup> hudsoncress, pdf, 26

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museums he wrote about in this article and has traveled to England and Canada, where he rode in a Jeep to the Yukon Territory. He is a 7<sup>th</sup>-grader at Dunstan Middle School and working on his Eagle Scout rank. In addition to playing soccer, he referees. Although, he likes all kinds of technology, he especially likes cars. and his favorite is a Chevelle with a big block. On Forza, Andrew's off-road Jeep is extremely fast. This summer, he plans to go to Hawaii and his family will rent a Jeep there, too.

We hope he also has plans to write another essay for the 2016 contest.

*Editorial Disclaimer: The accuracy of the essay is the responsibility of the author. Three of the Adult Category essay contest winners wrote about a general historic preservation theme. We will publish them in the next issue.*

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## **Eagle Scout Moves Memorial**

**by Robert Autobee**

The 2016 Memorial Day weekend was one of restoration and remembrance thanks to a Lakewood High School student.

Austin Reynolds is a junior at Lakewood High School (LHS) and a Life Scout in Troop 130. Earlier this year, LHS principal Lisa Ritchey and Lakewood City Councilman Pete Roybal encouraged Reynolds to move the Lakewood High School World War II Memorial from its original location near Memorial Field behind the Jefferson County Open School (the old High School site) on W. 10th Avenue to the new Lakewood High campus near Kipling Street.

Unveiled in 1947, the stone and bronze memorial is a tribute to the following LHS students who fell during World War II: Rags Addenbrooke, Ray Brannaman, John Bray, Dale Broman, D. E. Cline, John Borak, Herman Gerke, James Jellison Jr., Danny Johnson, Kenneth Mayberry, and Robert Molham. After the school's move from W. 10th

Avenue in 2007, landscaping engulfed the memorial and it was almost forgotten.

"It was tucked out of the way," Reynolds said.

During this year's Spring Break, Austin, 12 scouts and eight adults moved the memorial stone over an eight hour day. Spring weather postponed the task for one week forcing the team had to prepare the site to have everything in place by dusk on Sunday, March 20 in order for a private moving company to move the stone Monday morning. Participants brought digging tools, gloves, sunscreen, water bottles and a desire to have everything ready for the move the following day. The impromptu crew spent that Sunday digging up the perimeter posts at the Memorial site and loosening the Memorial itself. Once that was accomplished, the group moved to the new high school on W. 8th Avenue and Kipling to prepare the new site.

Fueled by Gatorade and pizza, Reynolds recalled that the move "was a great experience. I appreciate the support from my parents and everybody who was part of the move."

The following organizations also provided support and sponsorship:

American Legion Post 178 Lakewood; Bedrock Landscaping; Graf Engineering; Harlan Watkins Home Depot; James Nursery; Jeff Lormand - Landscape Architect; Jim Bahrenburg; Lakewood Elks Lodge 1777; Norman's Memorials; Councilman Pete Roybal; The Kiwanis Club of Golden; The Tree Farm, and VFW Post 4171 Golden.

The work of Reynolds, the other scouts, and participating adults culminated in the Memorial's rededication on Saturday, May 28th 10 a.m. at Lakewood High School at 9700 West 8th Avenue. The ceremony was open to the public.



# *On the Road to West Center Avenue*

by Sean Jones

Which of these addresses do you know by heart?

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue?      The White House.

10 Downing Street?              The office of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

6100 West Center Avenue?



If you were to look up this Lakewood address with an appraisal website or drive through its South Alameda Neighborhood, you would see no indication of the historical significance of the residence. You would find a single-family home of 1215 square feet with three bedrooms and one bath built in 1946 sitting on a lot with a mature elm and Blue Spruce and a detached garage.<sup>1</sup> Yet, without this historic home, critical elements of 1960s American (counter) culture might never have taken hold.

6100 West Center Avenue is the address of the then-500-square-foot home built by developer Guy Martin and purchased in 1949 by *On the Road* author and Beat Generation co-founder, Jack Kerouac.

## **The Beat Generation author arrives in Colorado:**

Kerouac first visited Colorado in 1947 and then returned in May of 1949, using the advance of his novel, *The Town and the City*, wanting to slow the pace of his hectic, runaway, urban lifestyle, wishing to settle down and write seriously. In his April 23, 1949 letter to his friend, Allan Harrington, he confides, “I’m going to Colorado in June. My family & I are ready to move out there if we can find an abode. I am extremely weary of New York — there is no mystery left in it for me.”<sup>2</sup> On June

24, 1949 Kerouac writes, “I have spent my entire one thousand dollars in this huge madness.... I am doing a lot of writing however...”<sup>3</sup> To live away from New York in semi-rural Colorado was a huge departure for the author.

Kerouac uses two *On the Road* characters to personify the intention to change his lifestyle, to ease its pace and to focus on his writing. Sal Paradise (essentially, Kerouac, himself)<sup>4</sup> shares that, “In the spring of 1949 I had a few dollars saved from my GI education checks and I went to Denver, thinking of settling down there.”<sup>5</sup> In a similar vein, Kerouac writes, “[Roland] Major found our hurrying troubles amusing. He’d come to Denver to write leisurely.”<sup>6</sup>

And, for a time, Jack Kerouac did exactly that.

particularly John Lennon's — affinity for Kerouac's writing.<sup>32</sup> In a bit of circular influence, Jack Kerouac adopted his style of extemporaneous writing from a fondness for bebop jazz, calling his own style "spontaneous prose."<sup>33</sup>

### **Colorado's Neal Cassady influences Jack Kerouac:**

Of all the influences on Jack Kerouac, especially on the movement-launching *On the Road*, Denver's Neal Cassady looms largest. Paul Verizzo writes, "Denver was the third most important city in the formation of the lives of the men who started the Beat movement after NYC and San Francisco. Neal Cassady grew up here and met his second wife, Carolyn, at the Colburn Hotel. Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg spent time in Denver, and Jack bought a house in Lakewood. The Five Points area was a Harlem in the West with its jazz clubs."<sup>34</sup>

Characterizing him as Dean Moriarty, Kerouac describes Neal Cassady in the 1957 novel: "Dean was the son of a wino, one of the most tottering bums of Larimer Street, and Dean had in fact been brought up generally on Larimer Street and thereabouts. He used to plead in court at the age of six to have his father set free. He used to beg in front of Larimer alleys and sneak the money back to his father, who waited among the broken bottles with an old buddy."<sup>35</sup> "Then when Dean grew up he began hanging around the Glenarm pool-halls; he set a Denver record for stealing cars and went to the reformatory. From the age of eleven to seventeen he was usually in reform school."<sup>36</sup>

Cassady's upbringing and association with Kerouac provided the novelist material to use in *On the Road* and a voice with which to write the seminal work. Character Dean Moriarty's speech and exploits reflect real-life Cassady's way of speaking and of living: fast, off-the-cuff, without regard for peril, honest, heartfelt and true. "Dean's only buddies were the pool hall boys. Dean, who had the tremendous energy of a new kind of American saint, and Carlo were the underground monsters of that season in Denver."<sup>37</sup>

The stream-of-consciousness speech of Cassady, hummingbird-flight-like in its cadence, reflects the communication style Kerouac chooses in *On the Road* - Moriarty's mannerisms of speech and madcap exploits reveal a symbiosis between the

author and Cassady. Kerouac learned from the Denver native to write, "In a rush of mad ecstasy, without self-consciousness or mental hesitation,"<sup>38</sup> gaining his new, trademark voice (a departure from the Thomas-Wolfean tone of *The Town and the City*<sup>39</sup>), while Cassady learned to write from Kerouac, made friends among the Beat Generation luminaries (driving the bus "Further" in Tom Wolfe's biographical *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*)<sup>40</sup> and became famous, himself.<sup>41</sup>

But "famous" does not necessarily equal "good." While Colorado, Denver and Lakewood may take pride in their association with Jack Kerouac and the Beat writers, for some people to place them on a pedestal is to overlook the Beats' counter-culture intentions and drug influenced lifestyles. For other people — perhaps those who revere the Beats as paragons of personal freedom — a pedestal is exactly where Kerouac and his colleagues belong. In either case, the *On the Road* author's influences on culture are significant and his references to local history are pervasive even if his time here was short-lived

### **Kerouac's suburban life:**

Many of the Beat author's inner thoughts come to us not from his public works but from private letters he wrote, especially to his dear friend, Allen Ginsburg. On May 23, 1949, Jack Kerouac heads his letter, "6100 West Center Avenue, Westwood, Colo." and writes, "Am living alone in this new house in the foothills west of Denver waiting for family ... and any signs."<sup>42</sup> "My house is near the mountains. This is the wrath of sources — the Divide where rain and rivers are decided. ... This place is full of God, and yellow butterflies."<sup>43</sup> "I hitch-hike into Denver and sit in Larimer pool halls and go to 20-cent movies to see the myth of the gray West. Mostly, I'm writing ... and hiking, 'leaping over brooks.'"<sup>44</sup>

But Kerouac's enthusiasm waned as he waited for his family to join him in Lakewood, and he sought to brighten his spirits at Lakeside Amusement Park. With a local boy he had befriended, the two "rode around a sad little lake in a toy railroad."<sup>45</sup> Today, patrons of the Park can still ride the train that formerly ran in the 1904 Saint Louis World's Fair."<sup>46</sup>

## Kerouac in Lakewood:

During the time the famous author lived, wrote, researched and drank in Lakewood, he noted several local landmarks, some of which he detailed in his extensive letters to friends, some of which became background settings for *On the Road*, the book that went on to influence countless readers after its 1957 publication.

David Loeff concurs, writing, “In his journal, Kerouac talks of walking to Morrison...”<sup>7</sup> In 2011, a trio of fans paid a guerilla-homage to Kerouac, spray-painting known Beat-author haunts with his stenciled likeness. Among their “Jack was here” sites, they include an iconic Lakewood location and they say on their website, “While he lived on West Center in Lakewood, Jack Kerouac frequented Hart’s Corner bar on Mississippi and Sheridan. He wrote a few letters at this establishment.”<sup>8</sup> Hart’s Corner at the intersection of Mississippi and Sheridan. It’s been in business since 1929...” (actually 1924).<sup>9</sup>



Hart’s Corner tavern, according to Frank A. Navarro’s article in the Winter 1997 Lakewood Historical Society Newsletter, “... has always been a gathering place for those in the community to

socialize with friends and in some cases to be with the only ‘family’ that many people had.” Jack Kerouac, who did not own or operate a motor vehicle and who was known to walk many miles (such as when he walked to Denargo Flower Market in downtown Denver to go to work,<sup>10</sup> would not have minded the five-and-a-half mile walk from his West Center Avenue home and, without his family the first few weeks he was here, may have found warm welcome from the company in Hart’s Corner.

## Colorado encourages Jack Kerouac:

The freshness of Colorado inspired Kerouac. In *On the Road*, the Sal Paradise character hitchhikes and shows his enthusiasm for his new beginning. “Denver, Denver, how would I ever get to Denver?”<sup>11</sup> “Now I could see Denver looming ahead of me like the Promised Land, way out there beneath the stars”<sup>12</sup> “And here I am in Colorado! I kept thinking gleefully. Damn! damn! damn! I’m making it!”<sup>13</sup>

The Lakewood area of the late 1940s was more bucolic than the suburban plan we see today and the agrarian scenery impressed Kerouac after he’d come from New York; he writes that he “looked out on the fields of golden green and the great mountains.”<sup>14</sup>

Once in the Denver suburbs, Kerouac’s fictional alter-ego visits a friend and reflects upon experiences the author picked up living on West Center Avenue. “At night all the lights of Denver lay like a great wheel on the plain below, for the house was in that part of the West where the mountains roll down foothilling to the plain and where in primeval times soft waves must have washed from sea-like Mississippi to make such round and perfect stools for the island peaks like Evans and Pike and Longs.”<sup>15</sup>

Kerouac mentions other notable Colorado locations in his novel and in letters to friends. In 1947, the author visited the Central City Opera House and saw a production of Beethoven’s *Fidelio* with a woman named Beverly Buford.<sup>16</sup> In *On the Road*, Sal Paradise confides, “Only a few days ago I’d come into Denver like a bum; now I was all racked up sharp in a suit, with a beautiful well dressed blonde on my arm, bowing to dignitaries and chatting in the lobby under chandeliers.”<sup>17</sup>

While hitchhiking to Denver, Jack Kerouac / Sal Paradise overnights in a nearby Front Range town. “It was beautiful in Longmont. Under a tremendous old tree was a bed of green lawn-grass belonging to a gas station. I asked the attendant if I could sleep there, and he said sure; so I stretched out a wool shirt, laid my face flat on it, with an elbow out, and with one eye cocked at the snowy Rockies in the hot sun for just a moment.”<sup>18</sup> That Johnson’s Corner gas station that has been moved and preserved as a historical landmark.<sup>19</sup>

## Kerouac's Colfax:

In other references to local sites, *On the Road* character Sal Paradise describes his stomping grounds, paramount among them Colfax Avenue. "Again I was back in the soft, dark Denver night with its holy alleys and crazy houses. We started hitting all the bars in town, roadhouses out on West Colfax, Five Points Negro bars, the works."<sup>20</sup> "We went off and drank in the Colfax bars."<sup>21</sup> "Eddie was with his girl in a house off Colfax."<sup>22</sup> "Dean, Marylou, and Ed Dunkel roared east along Colfax and out to the Kansas plains."<sup>23</sup>

In another tie-in to Lakewood / west Denver, Kerouac writes of a now-defunct diner, one of a chain of eateries first established on the East Coast by hotel magnate J. Willard Marriott, a restaurant that operated here for a time.<sup>24</sup> "That night after we'd done all our drinking and restrained Henry from getting his nose opened up in the Hot Shoppe on Colfax, Stan scraggled off to sleep in Henry's hotel room on Glenarm."<sup>25</sup>

## The Beat Generation:

Kerouac's references to Colfax contain — or are an outright tribute to — drinking and a bohemian lifestyle. As he was one of the three founders of the Beat Generation (with Allen Ginsberg and William S. Burroughs), these "values" were important to the *On the Road* author as the Beats — and later Hippies — rejected the conventional norms of the 1950s and 1960s.

Kerouac popularized the term "Beat Generation" in 1948, borrowing the words from writer John Clellon Holmes who said, "this is a beat generation," characterizing post-World War-II disillusioned veterans and other Americans.<sup>26</sup> The timing suggests the author may have had this beaten generation on his mind as he took refuge in Lakewood to put thoughts to paper. The combination of being beat and the personalities of people he drank with in Denver suggests links between Kerouac's stay on West Center Avenue and his 1957 novel. Jack Kerouac acknowledges he first heard "beat" in a conversation with a street hustler named Herbert Huncke who used the phrase to mean "tired" or "beaten down" in the New York African-American patois of the late 1940s.<sup>27</sup> But Kerouac put a positive spin on the meaning to

include ideals of being "upbeat," "beatific," and, from music, being "on the beat."<sup>28</sup>

The Beat movement, positively and negatively, changed society of the 1960s and co-Beat-founders William S. Burroughs's *Naked Lunch* and Allen Ginsberg's *Howl* were tried in court for obscenity and helped to liberalize publishing in the United States. Ginsberg spelled out in 1982 what history proved to have been the "essential effects" of the Beat Generation:<sup>29</sup>

- Spiritual liberation, sexual "revolution" or "liberation," i.e., gay liberation, somewhat catalyzing women's liberation, black liberation, Gray Panther activism
- Liberation of the world from censorship
- Demystification and/or decriminalization of cannabis and other drugs
- The evolution of rhythm and blues into rock and roll as a high art form, as evidenced by the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin, and other popular musicians influenced in the later fifties and sixties by Beat generation poets' and writers' works
- The spread of ecological consciousness, emphasized early on by [gurus] Gary
- Snyder and Michael McClure, the notion of a "Fresh Planet"
- Opposition to the military-industrial machine civilization, as emphasized in writings of Burroughs, Huncke, Ginsberg, and Kerouac
- Attention to what Kerouac called (after Spengler) a "second religiousness" developing within an advanced civilization
- Return to an appreciation of idiosyncrasy as against state regimentation
- Respect for land and indigenous peoples and creatures, as proclaimed by Kerouac in his slogan from *On the Road*: "The Earth is an Indian thing"

Good or bad, depending on one's opinion of individual Beat Generation "essential effects," Kerouac's and the Beats' influence on history cannot be understated. Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Ray Manzarek says, "I suppose if Jack Kerouac had never written *On the Road*, The Doors would never have existed."<sup>30</sup> Likewise, songstress Patti Smith credits Kerouac as a major inspiration.<sup>31</sup> And, "Beatles" may be written as it is instead of "Beetles" because of the band members' —