

## Time Glide

In 1936, Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia, created what might be considered the first modern version of a time capsule, a sort of buried treasure intended as a gift to future archeologists to help them understand the age and culture of those leaving it behind. The Crypt was stuffed with all manner of everyday artifacts, sealed in 1940, and scheduled to remain that way for more than 6,000 years. It's not scheduled to be reopened until the year 8113. Even that far-sighted date pales in comparison to the Clock of the Long Now, a similar treasure intended for posterity. This extraordinary mechanical clock is designed to keep time for 10,000 years.

Given these long yardsticks, it might be seen as a tribute to the short attention span of the modern American public that those launching a recent time capsule project in Tulsa, Oklahoma, decided to lock various contemporary artifacts—including a 2007 Harley-Davidson Street Glide—into a vault that is scheduled to be opened in 2057, just 50 years hence.

The fear that 50 years from now, civilization might forget what a Harley looks like seems a bit far-fetched, but that didn't stop Harley dealer Johnny McClanahan from donating the Street Glide, valued at \$20,000, to the time capsule project for this clever PR stunt. "It's our way of giving back to Tulsa," he said. The vault will also contain other artifacts, such as a laptop computer, a cell phone, and an iPod.

If you're in your teens as you read this, you just might be able to score a free "vintage" Harley if they raffle off the Street Glide after it rolls out of the vault, but don't count on it being in pristine shape: Tulsa tried a similar time capsule trick in 1957, when they buried a Plymouth Belvedere underground in a cement chamber. Upon its recent unveiling they discovered that ground water had leaked into the time capsule and reduced the car to a vintage hunk of rust.