

HORSELESS HERALD NOVEMBER 2009

THE HARVEST TOUR 2009

BY GENE HIRONIMUS

This tour was centered in Plymouth, California at the Shenandoah Inn and was held on September 28 – October 1, 2009. The tour was organized and sponsored by the El Dorado regional group HCCA. There were approximately 12 cars on the tour and the entire event was held as an informal get-out-drive-and-eat occasion. The drives were tough but the company was pleasant, friendly and helpful and the food was plentiful and delicious.

Monday was the travel and arrival day, at least for some of us. The editors loaded the Mitchell on Sunday so as to be able to get an early start for the long drive to Plymouth, California. We finally got away about noon and drove the 30 some miles without incident. We believe the trip took 45 minutes. We were able to park in a lot across the street from the Inn. We unloaded everything and were ready to go in plenty of time for the Shake down tour. We drove to the Amador Flower farm for a short visit and any purchasing that was needed. Then back to the Inn for some cocktails and snacks followed by a caterer prepared Mexican dinner. All the festivities were held on the Inn patio.

Tuesday was the first full tour day and we do mean full. The driver's meeting was at 0830 with random departures headed for Coloma, California. We traveled on some wonderful roads with great scenery that probably had not been viewed by any one in an automobile in decades. The roads were all paved one lane, up-hill and in serious need of repair. We finally made it to Coloma for lunch at the Coloma Club after looking over the town of Coloma, site of the discovery of Gold in California. After lunch we took a short drive to Placerville to visit their shops. We visited a great hardware store that puts Ace and OSH to shame. We then returned to the Inn for repairs, retuning, refreshments and a great catered BBQ dinner.

Wednesday we had to hitch a ride with some Old friends because the Mitchell had an oil problem and starter problem. The oil problem was fixed but couldn't get it started. We got to enjoy the back seat of Clyde and Sandy Jurey's 1912 Overland. We were happy to be passengers even though we were very cold. We snuggled up against the cold but the roads were tougher today than yesterday. However the fully loaded Overland made the trip without a complaint. The route took us to Leoni Meadows (a Seventh Day Adventist facility) for a lunch stop. We visited the Leoni House Museum before lunch. The food was prepared vegetarian, plentiful and delicious. Pie and ice cream were served for dessert. We were then treated to a 2.2 mile train ride around the meadows for about 45 minutes. Finally a drive back to the Inn for –yes- more drink, talk and a catered BBQ tri-tip dinner on the patio of course. As a footnote, Robin O. fixed the Mitchell starter before we could get my tools out of the car. Two screws in the solenoid cap had vibrated loose during our trip on Tuesday. Well since we had my tools out, we tightened the hubcap and some nuts on our wheels.

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Thursday was a little warmer and we decided to drive the Mitchell since all was well and the route was to be an easy drive through the foothills to New Hogan Reservoir. We know that most of you are familiar with the drive on Highway 49 through Jackson where the road dives gently down to the river and steeply back up again. The tour group decided that was too easy so we turned off of Highway 49 just after leaving Jackson so as to drive the scenic route. This again was one of those one-lane, maybe-paved, all-uphill (stay in low up and down) never used passageways. We did get a potty break half way through in order to rest up and whatever. We made it to New Hogan Reservoir where we were handed a \$5 foot long sandwich. From there we were to take a nice easy ride back to the Inn with a stop in Sutter Creek for some more shopping. The Mitchell did not make it to Sutter Creek. We made an incorrect left turn somewhere and immediately lost all forward power. After help arrived, Aaron B. noticed the right back wheel was coming off as we were moving the vehicle. It's a good thing we lost power. Anyhow we were trailered back to the Inn as a finish to the touring. We survived the trauma by drinking some, talking some and eating a lot at the catered BBQ Rib dinner.

Some folks left after dinner if they had a long drive. We decided to stay the night and leave on Friday. The tour routes amounted to about 330 miles if you drove everyday.

Thanks to everyone in the El Dorado regional group for a great tour.



Matt Ryan, tour leader Joe Anino and Master Trouble Truck driver Aaron Benzow.

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Buick



Cadillac



Mercedes Benz



Duro

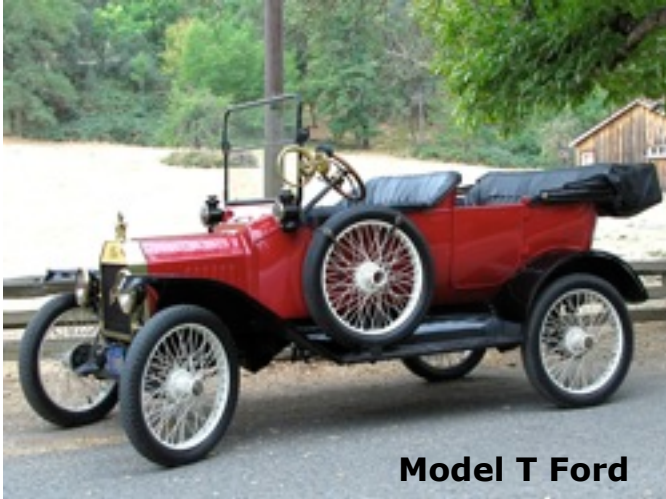


Model T Ford



Joe Anino and his Model T

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Model T Ford



Model T Ford



Overland



Mitchell



The Car Park at Leoni Meadows.

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Jail house ruins at Coloma.



Leoni House Museum.



Riding the Rails at Leoni Meadows.



Searching for the Golden Spike.



Eureka!