



# The Milepost

Model-A Touring Club

*Going Places in Model A Fords*

**The Milepost**

**Vol. 12 No. 3**

**Summer 2011**

## In This Issue

New Zealand Tour

From the Driver's Seat

Tech & Safety

Tour Maestro

Make My Day!

MATC Calendar

Classified Ads

Sick Bay



Padgett Photo

Sunrise on Mt Cook, South Island, New Zealand

## MATC and the New Zealand

### Rebel Rally

by Terri Padgett

**M**onday, April 4: We arrived early today in Auckland on a journey that started for me many months ago when **Sue Winnett** invited me to tour with her in her 1930 Coupe. In time, even as tired as we were from the long flight, to enjoy many hours touring this beautiful city via a tour bus, ferry rides etc. Among other places, we saw Bastion Point, Auckland Museum, Kelly Tarton's Underwater World and the America's Cup Viaduct Harbor. Our hotel was located near the Sky Tower (over 1000' tall) where the glass decked observation tower allows one to look straight down!! People were sky jumping off the top of the building (on a cable) right in front of us. None in our group attempted this feat. That evening, local Auckland Model A owners visited for drinks and we met lots of the New Zealander car owners .

Tuesday, April 5: We are off to get our cars from the warehouse and

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Terri Padgett shares notes from her NZ Tour daily diary)*



(Continued from page 1) **NZ TOUR**

then to the New Zealand road worthy inspection station, where such old cars were new to them. Even though some had no high beams, wipers missing or not working, VIN Numbers not showing, etc., etc., they did pass the cars after much discussion and we got our ‘roadworthy’ stickers!!! Then, we were off to Rotorua! We passed through many small towns, home to mostly cows, sheep and race horses and we perfected driving on the ‘wrong’ side of the road, making no mistakes or causing any accidents!

Wednesday, 6 April: We youred Rotorua and visited the Agrodome Organic Farm and got ‘up close and personal’ with the farming and the animals. New Zealand has 19 varieties of sheep and they had at least one of each kind on a stage for us to see and touch along with the sheep herding dogs.

Next, we visited the Rotorua Museum, a well renown 100-year-old Bath House. The Maoris (native New Zealanders known as furious warriors and cannibals) enjoyed the rewards of the Bath House as it was New Zealand’s first major investment in tourism. That night we went to a *Marae Hangi* Pit Concert, (Maori feast and concert), held in an authentic historical village. The men and women were tattooed according to their status in life. The facial expressions were extreme—to scare the enemy. At the *Hangi*, everything was cooked in a pit in the ground, including the desserts.

Thursday April 7: A small group went to the Kiwi Wildlife Park where Kiwis are bred. Workers gather Kiwi eggs from the wild and incu-

bate them and raise the young to an age where they can survive in the wild. We all toured the Buried Village, remains of a Maori village that was covered by a volcanic eruption in 1886. Next, we saw the Blue Lake, a volcanic crater lake whose water filters through the soil, causing a color change and then flows into the Green Lake.

Friday April 8: We drove to Taupo, stopping to see Orakei Korako, the hidden valley, full of gushing gurgling geysers and hot springs and air filled with sulphur and with a rare geothermal cave. Hupu Falls, beautiful and dark turquoise, reminiscent of the Niagara Falls enchanted us.

Saturday & Sunday April 9 &10: We are up and down the mountains from gentle plains to rugged mountain views all the way. We arrived in Napier, where in the 1930s an earthquake destroyed most of the buildings. When the city was rebuilt, Art Deco was the décor of the time, thus it is called the Art Deco City. Underground utilities were a coming thing so Napier utilized them making it beautiful city, right on the coast with wonderful ocean frontage.

Monday April 11: We are en route to Wellington, we stopped in a small town for gas (about \$8 a gallon everywhere) and snacks. The cars attracted the local people and one gentleman asked if we wanted to see his friend’s Model A fire engine and the local wool factory outlet, called: ‘Where the Socks Are From,’ which sold socks made from wool and possum.

We enjoy the differences in language meanings here — example: The highway signs in

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2) **NZ TOUR**

New Zealand are different than at home one we loved particularly, was "Merge like a Zip"

Tuesday April 12: We took a tour bus In Wellington to see the key attractions: Beehive and Parliament Buildings, Te Papa Tongarewa (Museum of New Zealand), Botanic Garden, Mount Victoria lookout, The Opera House, etc, etc. Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, is very cosmopolitan and surrounded by rolling green hills and a magnificent waterfront, much like San Francisco.

Wednesday April 13: A three-hour ferry ride across the Cook Strait got us to Picton on South Island, where we drove 88 miles to Saxton through the mountains along the edges of Queen Charlotte and Pelorus Sounds and overlooking Marlborough Sounds. Winding up and down the hills, we stopped to eat green mussels in Have-lock, the green mussel capital of the world.

Thursday April 14: We arrive in Nelson where the Rebel Rally, the New Zealand 10<sup>th</sup> National Model A Meet 2011 started in the evening. We toured with the 'Kiwis' for the next week. We enjoyed meeting all the New Zealanders and see some of our friends and join other members of our club from the U.S. at the meeting. The Americans at the Rally total about 15% of the total turn-out!

Friday April 15: We meet early with all the participants and are off to Blenheim 100 miles down the road. We drove nice country roads with lots of one-way bridges over rivers, stopping at Lake Rotoiti, a beautiful mountain lake surrounded by a beech tree forest. We had morning tea and biscuits here! This is wine country and the vines are turning fall colors. We stopped at the



Cars at rest stop



Blairich Station Road

Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre, a display of restored vintage planes and aviation memorabilia. The evening was spent at the Club of Marlborough with a dinner and presentations with our Kiwi Model A owners.

**Ron Mosher**, from our club, touring with his FAST Group, gave a vivid presentation about F.A.S.T. (Ford A Speed Technology), a club dedicated to Model A powered race cars, which get speeds exceeding 150 MPH!

Saturday April 16: We met the entire Rally group for breakfast at the Marlborough Club and left for an off-road run over the Blairich Station (ranch). It was much like the roads of the 1920's. The trip was expected to take three hours. The gates of each field had to be unlocked as the road consisted of a dirt road through lots of back country farmland. We had a grand time, but it was raining and it continued to rain all morning. By the time we had gone some 10 miles, the road got so slippery and rutted with all our car tracks that the hills were too slippery to climb. The Kiwi group called for two four-wheel drive trucks to pull us up the hills. That went well for awhile, but with the continual rain, the cars began to get stuck. We decided to turn around and go back the 10 miles to the main road. This turned out to be an all day event as even the four-wheel drive trucks had to be towed and pushed. As the group was pulling our car up the hill the rear axle broke! After all the other cars were safely on the main road, we loaded the broken car on the New Zealander's trouble trailer. Mud was everywhere and we had a *very* broken car.

Sunday April 17: We a rode in a Land

(Continued on page 4)

Rover pulling Sue's car on a trailer with driver **Nick Harrison** from the Kiwi Model A group from Kaikoura to Christchurch today. We traveled along a beautiful rocky coast sighting whales and dolphins. We climbed over the "Hundalees," hills that are known largely for a notorious stretch of winding highway. The weather got cold and windy and it started raining as an arctic storm was heading up to this area. We arrived in Christchurch late in afternoon and dropped Sue's car off at a Kiwi Model A owners house for a new axle. We rented a car and will pick up Sue's car in time to ship it back to the states from Christchurch with the rest of the American cars.

Monday April 18: We spent the day in the Christchurch area. The weather was really turning cold—a high of 45 today with strong winds and rain. The rally was out to McLean's Island for a car judging, gymkhana, and a huge warehouse full of antique car parts. Later in the day, we took a long walk closer to the downtown area of Christchurch and viewed the damage from the earthquake and aftershocks. Many of the streets were closed and buildings made of any kind of brick and stone were in ruins.

Tuesday April 19: Today, the drive is from Christchurch to Greymouth. We all left in small groups. The snow covered mountains were beautiful in the morning with the bright sun shining. The highest mountain pass was called 'Arthur Pass.' The melting snow falling down the metal overhang was startling to see and drive under. The trees were beginning to turn Autumn colors. We arrived in Greymouth on the west coast in the evening for a BBQ of beef, venison, and "bangers."

Wednesday April 20: Our hotel was in the heart of Greymouth where we got together with all the Kiwi's and American friends for a giant breakfast then headed out to an area called "Pancake Rocks." On the way, a policeman waved at us. Friendly cops, we thought, but suddenly he made a u-turn with his lights flashing and he stopped the front Model A in our group. Our leader, **Wayne Thomas**, was pulled over and the policeman said that he clocked him at 66....Wayne was thinking he meant miles per hour—No Way! But its *kilometers* here! After checking all the paper work with his computer the policeman wanted to know about the group — he did not seem to know that there were over 100 Model A's in the area on tour. Wayne only got a



But Officer, I was only doing 50!

warning. The posted speed in this two-block-long town is 50 km — little over 30 MPH. After enjoying the Pancake Rocks, we headed to the Moneith Brewing Company to see brewing and taste the beer. The evening meal, hosted by the New Zealand Rally, was the most formal we have had—most were dressed in era clothing and it was held at the "Shanty Town Heritage Park," a recreated gold rush village. This was our last night with the rally group, as we are going South and they North to finish back in Nelson.

Thursday April 21: The Kiwis give us a send off breakfast for our final good-bye to all of them. Our group of ten cars and 22 people headed to the Franz Josef Glacier area. On the way we stopped in Pukekura at the 'Puke Inn and Bushman Centre,' a café, bar, gift shop, etc. with some of the best sign's we have seen yet. I loved the weather sign, "You are in a rain forest—what do **you** think the weather will be today?" This area gets 200 inches of rain a year!

When we arrived in Franz Josef, the sun was shining and the glacier was glowing. The clouds were high above, so we decided to go straight to the glacier trail and hiked up as close as we could get. It was a two-hour round-trip hike, but the trail was an easy climb over large rocky soil. After dark we went to the 'Glow Worm Forest,' where glow worms hang in the trees! It took about 10 minutes for your eyes to adjust after you turn off your flashlight. Then you could see 100's of tiny green blinking lights in the trees.

Friday April 22, 'Good Friday,' We visited the Fox Glacier, the second glacier in this area, but one that is lower and flowing more for-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4) **NZ TOUR**

ward. In the evening we went to a public spa that had three large waist deep pools, each heated to a different temperature. It was all outdoors and covered with canvas sails, with lots of ferns and plants surrounding the pools and pathways in between—like Hawaii! The evening was very balmy and tropical until about 9:00 then it started to rain like crazy.

Saturday April 23: It was still raining in the morning and the cars all had trouble getting started — lots of wet distributor caps! Many of the rivers were at the top of their banks and there were a few rock slides but the road surface was dry. The glacier area looked entirely different with the swift running water in the river. We drove over the Haast Pass at 562 meters (1,850ft) and passed a place called Knights Point where there is only ocean between it and Antarctica. The area is heavy rain forest on what they call their Alps with spectacular waterfalls, sometimes as many as 12 in one small area.

Sunday April 24: We are in Wanaka for Easter Sunday morning. After breakfast a group of us went to a local church called 'St. Columba's' for Easter Services. It's a small church with about 200 regular members and 500 plus seasonal members. Wanaka is a resort town because of the lakes. The minister greeted everyone and asked the visitors to tell where they were from. There were people from all over the world including our little USA group. After church, we found a flea market with lots of local crafts and goodies. Then we were off to Queenstown about 42 miles away. Some of the cars took the mountain road including Crown Pass which happens to be the highest paved road in New Zealand. Others took the low road along the low winding gorge, where at 'AJ's,' the first bungee jumping bridge, we watched a young man jump. Very exciting!

Monday April 25: We took the gondola to the top of the mountain in Q-town (Queenstown), where there is a view of the surrounding mountain range called 'The Remarkable' and the bottomless Lake Wakitipu. Both the mountain range and the lake are 'remarkable' in color. The mountain and lake here are a playground for the family: zip lining, bungee jumping from a platform, a canyon swing, jet boating, rafting, bobsledding, etc. After our ride up the mountain we went lakeside to ride on the *TSS Earnslaw*.

She is the last surviving steamship in New Zealand, an original coal-fired, passenger carrying vessel built in 1912—older than our cars!!! We went for a ride across the lake to the Walter Peak High Country Farm and then returned on the ship. In the late afternoon **Marilyn Thomas** and I decided to go Zip Lining through the trees up on top of the ski area.

Tuesday April 26: We left Q-town early. We were on our way to snow covered Mt. Cook, the highest mountain peak in New Zealand and passed many wineries. The area on the flat land was very arid, lots of Lupin and California poppies growing along the road. **Frank Kummerfeldt** had an engine failure so his car was left at a local garage in the town of Twizel for the night. **Frank** and **Lorraine** were able to get a ride with the **Glendennings** to Mt. Cook. The Mt. Cook area was a breathtaking scenic adventure.

Wednesday April 27: We arrived at our pre-planned Farmstay house, the home of **Langtry & Maureen Maginess**. They were looking forward to seeing our old cars and we show up in a modern car. What a disappointed look we got! Then Frank Kummerfeldt and Lorraine Gabel show up in a modern car and it turned out they were staying with us at the same farmstay! So out of two cars no Model A's! They were gracious hosts as they showed us their farm—sheep, Petunia pig, chickens, and a large herd of Elk/Red Deer crossbred. Langtry is a native of the area and a gardener, farmer, do-everything-guy. Maureen is a native of Scotland who is into: sewing, quilting, needlework, Rotary, Girl Guides (Scouts), cooking, and hosting people from all over the world at their home. Maureen entertained us with her tales of making a Calendar Girls Calendar for Breast Cancer Awareness. She and 16 local farm ladies posed as the calendar girls. Some only wrapped in a bit of sheepskin or just behind a cow or standing in a group of sheep or a group of turkeys, one with a wrench in her hand behind a huge tractor and one in a meadow of blooming lupine.

Thursday April 28: The morning brought a light frost and the Maginess' backyard was a beautiful scene of white surrounded by the trees in lovely fall colors. The sunlight was strong and we were soon warm and on our way to Christchurch. We arrived at our hotel and re-sorted all our belongings: deciding what to put in the Model A to

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5) **NZ TOUR**

ship for the next six-weeks and what to take home on the plane with us. Arriving at the shipping warehouse we were pleased to see Sue's Model A with a new axle and an all shined up body with clean white-wall tires even—the last time we saw it, the whole body was covered in mud! Our Kiwi friends did a super job of fixing and delivering the car to the warehouse.

April 29: We had a day in Christchurch to explore and relax.

April 30: We all went to the Christchurch airport and flew to Auckland, a short one-hour 20-minute flight. We stayed in Auckland Saturday night and had our farewell dinner.

May 1: We left Auckland homebound for the U.S. Because of the dateline crossing, we arrived in Los Angeles around noon on the *same* day! The people in New Zealand are fantastic and the country is breathtaking. Our American fellow club members have been wonderful as well as helpful and supportive in all ways. We have all made new friends as well as strengthening old friendships. Model A Touring Club members that toured New Zealand in April 2011 were: **Lee & Suzanne Chase, Jim & Kathy Glendenning, Neil Hagameister & Wanda Horton, Lori & Rick Jensen, Ken Kenewell & Shirley Johnson, Frank Kummerfeldt & Lorraine Gable, Bill & Janie Laughlin, Suzanne & Jerry Thiele, Marilyn & Wayne Thomas, and Sue Winnett & Terri Padgett** . Also joining us for the first few



Padgett Photo



Padgett Photo



Padgett P

Sue's "A" gets taken for a ride