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Editor: Teresa Williams

January 2008

### NATCHEZ TRACE TOUR (FINAL RUN) by Gary Tillstrom

Not everyone on the Trace this year was a ten-time participant. However, there were a few. Then there were some of us “first timers” too. This year 58 cars left Nashville on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> greeted by a cool sunny morning (this would change later in the week). Ralph and I were lucky to be in the starting pack as we had received poor directions the day before from the parking area back to the hotel. It was also lucky that Ralph, Kenny and myself remembered from our scout days that shadows always cast to the east after noon so we found our way back in spite of the directions that were given. By the way, don’t ever ask directions from someone with the initials “Gary Curtis”. As far as us being lost, it was kind of like the line out of Pee Wee Herman movie, “I meant to do that”. On the first day out, one of the ten time participants, Max Larson, had a Ruxtell failure and his car was out for the remainder of the week. He was later given an immunity idol for the breakdown and given credit for 10 completed Trace tours. Ralph and Kenny and I decided to do a little hiking on this first day on some of the side trails. The first sign we saw pointed us to Jackson Falls, 1/3 mile. This as the first instance where we came to the realization that walking distance estimates for the remainder of the week would be just a “tad off”. These signs also failed to mention “ensure you have oxygen and a pack mule”. Being smarter than we look (no really!), we opted out of such excursions for the remainder of the tour.

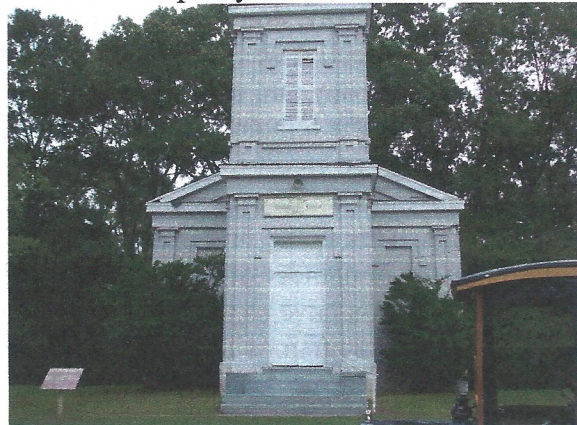


Upon our arrival to Collinwood, we were met by the “southern contingent” of the Tennessee T’s. Ken & Joyce Swan, Keith Barrier, and Mike & Maria Sumerall joined the group for lunch. After lunch, they all followed us down the Trace awhile before departing. By the end of the day’s drive everyone was enjoying the warm glow of the evening’s setting sun. Once we were in Tupelo, all the men stood around watching as one participant changed a burned out rod. There was a huge discussion as to the need for an outside oil line. 50% of the men stated it wasn’t necessary, 50% stated it was, and the remaining 50% had the best ideas as to how to put oil up front (none of us work very well with percentages).

**Day Two-** The day's trip from Tupelo to Jackson provided some of us the opportunity to try out side curtains in cold rainy wet weather. It provided others (without side curtains) a reason to buy shower curtains and duct tape from Walmart (and be envious of those with real side curtains). All in all, most participants lowered their core body temperature by 2 degrees that day but it was still fun. Unfortunately, the same car that burned out a rod burned out another one shortly after leaving Tupelo and finished the tour on a trailer. 50% of the men said it was preventable, 50% said it wasn't and the remaining 50% didn't say anything.

**Day Three- Jackson to Natchez.** Day three being a short day allowed us all the chance to scope out the town of Natchez upon our arrival. The rain wasn't as bad as it had been the day prior however, our core body temperature again went down by additional two degrees. Many of the T'ers tried their luck at the Casino on the river in Natchez. Everywhere you looked you also saw T'ers trying out the various places to eat.

**Day Four- Natchez to Vicksburg.** Not a really long day but it was a wet and cold one. Upon arrival into Jackson the three of us were wet and cold. Core body temps dipped by another 3 degrees from the previous day. The heat was turned off in our hotel rooms so we immediately fixed that. Ralph proudly exclaimed that he had turned the heat in their room to about 80. I spun the dial around on the heater in my room until it reached "Equator". We spent the rest of the day checking out the USS Cairo and the military park. The Cairo was pretty cool.

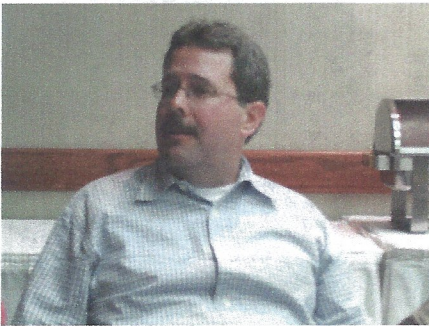


Now comes our second experience with distance estimates for walking. We heard there was a Pizza Hut next to the gas station behind the hotel. We walk up there and the girl told us that it was "just up the street". She assured us that it was within walking distance. I guess technically, one could walk from New York to LA so she wasn't "technically" off. Anyhow, we end up walking about a mile past the cemetery to get to Pizza Hut. The girl that gave us directions obviously never walked that kind of distance in her life. We all agree, neither she nor Gary Curtis are to be believed again with it comes to directions!

**Day Five-Vicksburg to Jackson.** This rainy weather has now claimed even our ability to play a practical joke. Early in the morning we pour water under Gary Curtis's car as he is worrying himself over a leaky radiator. Before he sees it, the rain begins which kind of ruined the whole effect. We then head out to the Courthouse Museum. The Vicksburg courthouse has to be one of the best civil war museums in the country. If you didn't take time to go through it then you really missed out. It was even more impressive than the military park and the USS Cairo ruins. During stops to Jackson, Kenny and I discover that if one unzips their coat and covers the radiator during gas stops it really has a warming effect. He and I both agreed that 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns probably wouldn't be felt from someone in hypothermic shock from the cold. We take our chances! Our arrival into Jackson is a bit dryer than it was a few days prior. Overall, day five is a core temperature neutral day thanks to the radiator.

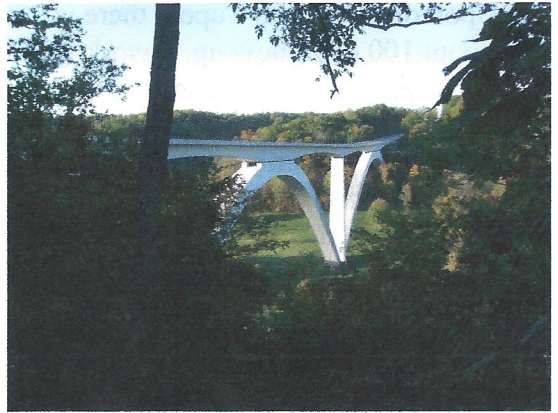
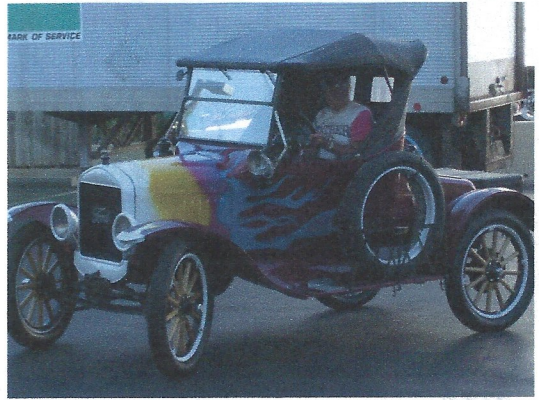


**Day Six- Jackson to Tupelo.** Cold and rain again. The weatherman states today that there is a stalled front hanging over the area. It's amazing that you have to go to school to get that job isn't it? Upon our arrival to Tupelo there is another car club present. They are having a street rod meet and about 100 cars show up. I work with one of the guys who showed up the next morning and he told me they were very impressed at the timing gear change that took place in the parking lot. One of the street rod guys actually fixed a T that had a distributor problem. That was the best that car ran all week. The timing sounded late every time I heard it until he fixed the other problem with it and the guy re-indexed the head. Even the folks who don't like street rods admired these as they had heat. I would have really liked to have one of the sedans (with heat). That night at the banquet, our own Bill Butner came and played the harp for us. Those of you who have never heard Bill play the harp are really missing something. Awards were given out and also about 10 gas cans. Ralph was given the largest gas can for getting lost but he was actually accepting that on behalf of Gary Curtis by proxy.



**Day Seven- Nashville or Bust!** Finally, the weatherman gives us a decent forecast and we are headed northbound (remember, we can tell by the shadows). All morning Kenny and I are looking forward to the country fried steak in Collinwood only to learn upon arrival that there isn't any that day. There we are, pouting and eating fried chicken when the owner comes over and offers to make us some country-fried steak. Not wanting to appear as pigs, we decline and have a 3<sup>rd</sup> helping of chicken instead. While Saturday isn't as warm as the preceding Sunday, it is dry and the sunshine is welcome. Between Collinwood and Nashville, Bud and Ginny Scudder had an accident where they both received injuries. This could have been much worse and we are glad they are home healing. Saturday afternoon the T's are back on their trailers and everyone else is inside the hotel enjoying one another's fellowship and pizza. A great deal of planning and work goes into these events and I want to extend a big thank you to the William's and Cook's for their effort.

MORE NATCHEZ PICTURES



## CHRISTMAS 2007

This year the Tennessee T's had their annual Christmas party at the home of Ann and Darrel Carter in Memphis. Everyone brought food, food and more food. After Mac Flowers' blessing, we all dug in. As we ate our meal, we visited and shared our past experiences, our present endeavors and our future hopes for the coming year. After our meal, the minutes were held and then Ken Swan, Martin Alexander and Larry Cook shared some memorabilia with the group. We enjoyed what they presented. Then we moved into position for "Dirty Santa". The ladies were first and it was not until the end of the game that some decided to get dirty. The men then had their hand at the exchange and played rather nicely. Tools were the "gift" of the night. Everyone seemed to have a nice evening. I'm sure we all want to thank Ann and Darrel for the southern hospitality they offered.

P.S. If you have not paid your dues, please send them to Carolyn Williams in Waverly, TN. Tks



I hope I keep it!



MORE Tools!!!!!!!!!!!!



I want some of that!



Is it time to come out of the garage!



Martin shares his T stuff.



I might be able to keep this one.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Tony Verchoore	1 <sup>st</sup>
Charile Swann	20 <sup>th</sup>
Kevin Bandy	19 <sup>th</sup>
Brenda Bandy	20 <sup>th</sup>
Diane Waller	21 <sup>st</sup>
Ewell Hall	26 <sup>th</sup>
Bill Eden	28 <sup>th</sup>
Brenda Verschoore	28 <sup>th</sup>
Susan Harrington	29 <sup>th</sup>

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dennis & Ginger Bobel	8 <sup>th</sup>
Tom & Pat Rowe	21 <sup>st</sup>
Ryan & Jennifer Miller	15 <sup>th</sup>
Mike & Maria Sumerall	15 <sup>th</sup>
Darrel & Ann Carter	26 <sup>th</sup>

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Hubert Garland	16 <sup>th</sup>
Annette Tillstrom	17 <sup>th</sup>
Bob Harris	27 <sup>th</sup>
Tom Rowe	25 <sup>th</sup>
Barbara Wagner	30 <sup>th</sup>
Bonnie Ollrogge	31 <sup>st</sup>

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Patsy Taylor	1 <sup>st</sup>
Ewell & Gloria Hall	17 <sup>th</sup>
Charles & Jana Swann	20 <sup>th</sup>
Fred & Kay McDonald	25 <sup>th</sup>

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Tommy Kuntz	4 <sup>th</sup>
Steve Summers	6 <sup>th</sup>
Keith Barrier	7 <sup>th</sup>
Gloria Hall	10 <sup>th</sup>
Gary Tillstrom	10 <sup>th</sup>
Charles Wagner	15 <sup>th</sup>
Max Larson	18 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Carter	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Ginger Bobel	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Bud Scudder	28 <sup>th</sup>

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Waldo & Sharon Emerson	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Steve & Jane Summers	14 <sup>th</sup>
Julian & Jane Sides	16 <sup>th</sup>
Bryan & Kathe Nelson	28 <sup>th</sup>

### *Note from the Editor:*

I have been privileged to help our club by being the editor for the past two years. I hope the letters have been informational as well as enjoyable. I appreciate all the members who have sent articles and information because without your input the newsletters would not come together. Please send all new information to our new editor, Gary Tillstrom. He has agreed to take on this responsibility and I know our members will support him and send him news. Again, thank you and I hope to see you on the road in the spring.

Teresa Williams

## EVERYONE HAVE A...

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

