

Early-Day Speed Merchant Recalls First Dawn-To-Dusk Portland Trip

Automobiles are thick as flies in Roseburg nowadays, but at one time, they were highly unpredictable oddities. This is the first in a series of three articles in which an early-day "speed merchant" does some reflecting.

By CHARLES V. STANTON

When was the first successful dawn-to-dusk automobile trip between Roseburg and Portland?

The date of that trip was recalled here this week by the man who piloted the automobile.

The driver was Hal Fancher, and he won \$75 for the car's owner by traversing the distance, a little over 200 miles, just 52 years ago this month.

The car was owned by Julian W. Perkins.

Perkins had previously completed a successful land promotion in the Rogue River Valley. He became interested in the organization of the Sutherlin Land Co., which then was subdividing land in "Sutherlin Swale," and was selling off tracts with the purpose of growing fruit.

The automobile, a Thomas Flyer, was the first four-cylinder car in Roseburg. It was quite an "imposing rig," says Fancher, and was used to carry prospective land purchasers between Roseburg and Sutherlin.

Fancher's parents had moved to the West Coast in 1908. He was employed in an automobile factory in Minneapolis. The parents wrote such glowing letters concerning the Pacific Northwest, he decided to settle in the area. He came in February 1909 looking for a job and location.

Travel in those days chiefly was by train or wagon. There were few automobiles. People who didn't live along the railroad track travelled on or behind horses.

Roseburg was a railroad terminal. Trains stopped in Roseburg for about 20 minutes for a change of locomotives and crews.

Fancher was passing through Roseburg and got off the train to stretch his legs on the station platform. Sitting at the curb was Julian Perkins' elegant Thomas Flyer. Fancher went to take a look.

He engaged in conversation with the driver. The driver asked who he was and where he came from. Fancher told him he had been working in an automobile factory was looking for a job.

"Your hired," Fancher was told. "From now on you're the driver of this contraption."

So Fancher became Perkins' private chauffeur.

As the driver of Perkins' automobile, Fancher made the first daylight run by automobile from Roseburg to Portland.

Frank Waite was a land owner at Sutherlin and was one of the prime movers of the Sutherlin Land Co. and the Sutherlin promotion project. He and Perkins were great cronies.

Perkins was quite proud of his "powerful" automobile. When Waite made him a bet of \$50 that he couldn't drive from Roseburg to Portland between daylight and dark, Perkins took the bet. Then Waite made a side bet of \$25 that Perkins couldn't get to Portland at all.

So that was the way things stood on the day selected for the momentous trip.

Tomorrow: The race with time.

State Reclamation Meeting Scheduled

Future development of Western Oregon's water resources will be a major topic at the 51st annual meeting of the Oregon Reclamation Congress, Sept. 21 and 22, in Salem.

Harold Hursh, Huntington, state president of the Congress, says he expects a record attendance from across the state. Registration will start Thursday at 8 a.m. (PST) at the Marion Hotel.

Flood control, irrigation, and drainage — past, present, and future — will be discussed by a panel of western Oregon farmers: Glenn Hogg, Rickreall; Lud Heyman, Albany; Henry Haag, Reedville; and Frank Rood, Jr., North Bend. Moderator will be Art King, Oregon State University extension conservation specialist.

The effect of state legislation on use, development, and conservation of water will be critically reviewed by a panel of legislators who were actively involved in legislation affecting water resources and agriculture during the 1961 session.

LaSelle Coles, Prineville, president of the National Reclamation Congress, will be featured speaker the second day. He will cover the national outlook for reclamation and water resource development.

Don't Marry, Girls, To Keep From Working

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Don't get married, girls, to keep from having to go to work, a family life specialist of the Oregon State University Extension Service warned today.

Mrs. Roberta Frasier said the idea many girls have that they won't have to work if they get married often turns out to be a pipedream. Chances are, she declared, the bride is going to have to work both at home and at a job outside as well.

Mrs. Frasier said 58 per cent of Oregon's brides are 19 years old or younger and a large share of these are having babies in the first year of marriage.

Girls are marrying younger, having babies earlier, and can expect to spend about 25 years of married life working outside the home, she added.

Mt. Hope Cemetery Gets Bulk Of Large Estate

BAKER (AP) — The late John Schmitz, a former banker, left the bulk of his estate for the maintenance and upkeep of Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Appraisal of the estate has not been completed, but estimates indicate its value is between \$100,000 and \$200,000.

Schmitz, whose banking career spanned more than a half century, left \$24,000 in bequests to relatives. He died Sept. 6 at the age of 96.

Spaak Back In Belgium After Talks With Khrushchev

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Foreign Minister Paul-Henri Spaak arrived home Tuesday from talks on the Berlin crisis with Soviet Premier Khrushchev in Moscow.

"Our conversation was sincere and useful," Spaak said. "We made an effort to understand each other. When there is international tension, I have always been in favor of negotiations. Mr. Khrushchev appeared sincere and relaxed, but firm on certain points."

Spaak, former secretary-general of NATO, visited Moscow at Khrushchev's invitation.

HARVEST DINNER SET

The Lookingglass PTA will serve a "Harvest Dinner" from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the school cafeteria. The menu will include a complete turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

Family tables will be provided, with high chairs for the children.

Today and Tomorrow

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, Sept. 21

- Driver's License Examiner, 837 SE Roberts St., 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Army Reserve, 1614 W. Harvard, 8 to 10 p.m.
- IOOF, IOOF Hall, Jackson St., 8 p.m.
- Roseburg Lions Club, Umpqua Hotel, 6:30 p.m.
- Umpqua Duplicate Bridge Club, home of Mrs. Morris Bowker, 7:30 p.m.
- Glide Shufflers beginners square dance lessons, Community Building, 8 p.m., Ernie Gilbert instructor.
- Civil Air Patrol, at the airport, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Lady Elks, Elks Club, 8 p.m., cards.
- Barbershop Singing, Rickett's Music Store, 8 p.m.
- Elks, Elks Lodge, 8 p.m.
- Hayloft Squares pattern dance workshop at the barn on Melrose Road 8:10 p.m.
- Women of Roseburg Country Club, clubhouse, noon luncheon followed by weekly bridge play.

Timber City Chapter of Sweet Adelines, Inc., Riverside School, room 19, call OR 2-4313 for information, 8 p.m.

- Roseburg Rotary Club, Umpqua Hotel, noon.
 - Sutherlin Rebekah Lodge, IOOF Hall, 8 p.m.
 - Order of Eastern Star, Roseburg Chapter No. 8 Masonic Temple, 8 p.m.
 - Roseburg Toastmasters International 604, dinner meeting at Turn-Around Inn, 7 p.m. Visitors welcome.
 - Upper Olalia Apron Club, upper Olalia Community Building, noon potluck luncheon.
 - Sutherlin Garden Club, Community Building, board meeting at 12:30 p.m., regular meeting at 1:30 p.m.
 - Green Recreation Association meeting, at Green School gym, 8 p.m.
 - Sutherlin Garden Club, first Fall meeting, round-table discussion, 1:30 p.m. Hostesses, Mrs. Larry Armstrong and Mrs. Dwight Beck.
 - North Douglas Rainbow Assembly, Elkton Lodge Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 22
- Roseburg Duplicate Bridge Club, 12:30 p.m., Umpqua Hotel, open to all players of Douglas County.
 - Driver's License Examiner, 837 SE Roberts, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - Sheriff's posse, at the Fairgrounds, 8 p.m.
 - Loyal Order of Moose, g a m o night, Moose Hall, 8 p.m.
 - Home Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, call OR 2-4059, 8 p.m.
 - Christ's Ambassadors of the Assembly of God Church, Winston, 7 p.m.
 - PNG Club of Roseburg Rebekah Lodge, rummage sale, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., basement of IOOF Hall.
 - Umpqua Radio Club meeting, at the clubhouse on Klamath Ave., 7:30 p.m.
 - Evergreen Grange, Grange Hall, 8 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m.
 - Boots and Calico Square Dance Club, Winston Community Club, 9 p.m.
 - Glide Shufflers Square Dance Club, Ernie Gilbert caller, guests welcome.
 - Lookingglass Grange card party, at the Grange Hall, 7:30 p.m. Prizes and refreshments, public invited.

MONTGOMERY WARD

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