

WEBERS ARE STILL WANDERING

We've not seen much of our old car friends this year, but wanted to let you know we still think of you and are still wandering.

After our number two daughter Jeanie passed away in February, we spent some time to recover and then continued planning for our next trip in early April.

Now, I've never believed much in "global warming", but now I'm not sure. It is real, and it is all in Egypt! Damn, it was hot. Most of our tours started really early, and we still sweat a lot. Was possibly the reason our bar bill was so high on the boat! One has to keep hydrated.

Egypt has one hell of a beach. All it needs is an ocean.

The Nile is very long - period. Otherwise, rather uninspiring, as rivers go. Saw much better in Oregon in May.

In spite of everything, we really enjoyed our visit. Saw most of the usual sights - pyramids, sphynx, old temples, tombs, Colossi of Memnon, Abu Simbel, camels, and 10,000 Arabs asking for baksheesh if they even "happen" to get in your picture. At least nobody was shooting at us. We felt far safer than we did in Washington D.C.

We had a really good tour leader. Kahlil had a Masters in Egyptology and really knew his stuff.

We always thought the pyramids at Giza were way out in the desert. Didn't realize Giza is only west Cairo, with just the Nile dividing them. Driving thru Giza, there were the big guys practically right in the neighborhood!

Paid a visit to the Aswan High Dam, which I remembered being a really big project back at the end of the '50s and early '60s.

The Russians that built it had to relocate many of the imperiled ancient treasures, including the temples at Abu Simbel. This was a big job, well done. But I thought "High" meant it was really high. It only meant it was farther up river than the 1908 British built dam, or the "low" dam. The new one is very long, but our own Tujunga Canyon dam is higher.

We spent seven nights on a boat cruising on the Nile, and it was quite nice. We found it is not a good idea to eat beefsteak in Egypt. It may have been camelsteak, but was too tough to chew.

After Egypt we flew to nearby Jordan. Another Arab country, but totally different. Very clean. No beggars to beat off. Nice people! Not quite as hot, either. Easy getting used to our guide, another Kahlil!

We had four days there to play tourist. Visited a couple 11th century Crusader forts, the 200 BC Roman town of Jerash, the strange rock formations in Wadi Rum, the Dead Sea (looks just like the Salton Sea), and the highlight, the ancient city of Petra, carved out of the red sandstone.

Finally time to go home - 24 hours worth, from Amman to L.A. via Frankfurt. We love travelling to the other side of the world, but the trip is getting to be a bit much. Don't know what we'll do next. Maybe beautiful downtown Burbank.

I'm happy to report I had no problem with my new air intake on the flight or in the desert. I had heard that the low humidity could be a nuisance.

We had a couple weeks to shake jet lag, service and load the old 1970 Datsun, and head for Medford OR for CHVA Mini-tour 21. We've done all of the previous 20 and organized four of them. We'd never miss one if it's possible to go.

We thought, "Not Oregon again". Been there, done that. But we'd go just to see our many friends. Turned out there were very few things we had done before, so it turned out great. We went from frozen, snow covered Diamond Lake to record high temperatures of around 100° all in one day!

We had about 22 cars, including some of the modern iron, so it was just the right size for a tour. We never did see anything old car related, but the venues selected were all very interesting and enjoyable. We ended up in Clarkston WA just across the river from Lewiston ID. in the southeast corner of Washington.

After the tour was over we headed back south on our own because we were going to visit some friends along the way. After pretty good weather on tour (only one rainy day) we had rain almost all the way thru Oregon and into NorCal.

The little old LuvLu had been perfect until about ½ way to Sacramento when the

alternator light came on. Pulled off in the city of Willows and confirmed the problem was a fan belt. After driving so long thru the rain I was in no mood to play mechanic, but surprise! There is NO mechanic in Willows that works on a Saturday! And this is a bad economy? Bought a belt from the NAPA store and went across the street and changed it. No more problems. Put on 2839 miles - LuvLu now over 373,400 miles!

Now we are to go to the National tour in October, since it is basically "in our backyard" in San Diego. Here again, mostly things we have already done, but as we've said, it's not the tour, it's the people! I hope there are enough brave ones to come from back east. San Diego is very expensive, and you know about gasoline. I choke when I think about driving and filling up the Edsel. Coming from back east might require a mortgage.

Up until the start of July I wasn't concerned about filling the Edsel, because the pushbutton shift said, "No, I don't want to!" But the 4th of July parade was just around the corner, so I started to attack it, figured out the problem, and cured it in all the heat.

There is a very prominent old local lady that has come to love doing the parade in Yeller, so when she asked if we would take her again, it was hard to say no. Anne Finn has ridden with us for a number of years now. She's now a spry 92 years old, and seems to be known by everyone in our small community.

The Jones family drove two cars in the parade - carried the Grand Marshal in the '65 Mustang and Congressman Brad Sherman in the '63 Nova (Brad likes this ride, too). I heard Dick Leu also drove in the parade, but we didn't see him. Big crowd.

Then on Saturday afternoon July 12 Joe drove the Nova and Hoady rode in Yeller to Irwindale Speedway to join the Southlanders Edsel Owners Club to drive 2½ pace laps and then enjoy the races. They were action packed as usual on the fastest ½ mile track in the west, but we didn't see the entire program. It started to sprinkle - how cute and rare in July. Then the heavens opened up and it was a mad scramble to raise tops (not in time). One deafening peal of thunder coincided with its flash of lightning. Close!

Looking forward to seeing you at our reunion luncheon Aug. 19th. Don't forget to call in your reservations.

OTHER GOOD THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR AEV:

Sunday, July 27: The annual Old Fashioned Day In The Park at Burton Chace Park in Marina del Rey. A cool way to spend a hot July day. As usual, Mr. Z will lead a caravan from Woodley Park at 8:00 AM.

Saturday, Sept. 6, the 7th annual Foothill Festival Of Cars show at La Crescenta 1st Baptist Church. This is a pet project of Warren Westerholm, so let's support him. Call Ken Sapper at 818-249-5686 for more info.

October 3 - 11, the CHVA National Tour - Palm Springs to San Diego. Webers and Jones plan to go, and have found an alternate motel in San Diego that saves about \$475! Call Alphy Norman at 951-652-1155 before the cut-off date of Aug. 1.

Cheers,

Gary