

This true story takes place in the mid 1940s. It's not directly about a car but does involve travel. Those who know me know that I am not an author so feel free to skip to the next article.

When first married, my folks were living on a farm in western Kansas. They were having a very tough time trying to farm and working in town to make ends meet. They lived in a small 2 room house with no indoor plumbing. At one point, a storm blew over a chicken house heater. It burned the chicken house, the barn and all the out buildings. The only thing left was the house and privy. A week later another storm blew over the privy so they decided it was time to move on and bought a ranch in the Black Forest area east of Colorado Springs.

Some years ago I asked my dad how they moved the farm machinery etc. 200 miles to the new place. My dad drove the tractor. It had a pretty good road gear and farmers are used to spending 12 to 13 hours a day on a tractor. The plan was that my mother would catch up with him about half way, in Limon Colorado and then follow him the rest of the way. She was delayed and dad realized he needed to head on out to get there before dark. Mom was following in a 1939 flat bed truck with a grain drill and most of their belongings on the back. She was also hauling my 3 year old sister and possibly pregnant with one of my brothers. (what a trip huh) She arrived about dark in Elbert, Colorado but didn't know where to go but found some folks who knew of a ranch that had sold and gave her directions. She finally arrived at the new home complete with indoor plumbing.

They later returned to farm near Goodland, Kansas where I grew up and had my turn sitting on a tractor for 12 to 13 hours a day.

I tell this story to demonstrate how tough and resourceful people were back in that era. Think of a trip like that with no cell phone or navigation system. Today we can't drive down the block without them. I tell my grandsons about growing up with a crank phone and no TV and their eyes just sort of glaze over, they say "yea sure Papa" and go back to their iPhones.