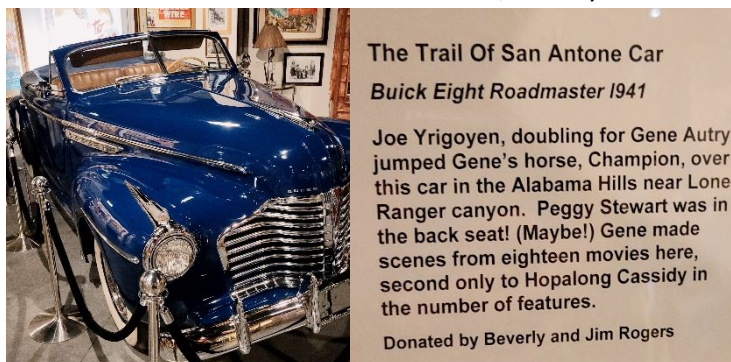


# From Movie Moguls to Media Moguls

Today, Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup>, meet and greet time. One of the smaller groups we've had there were 6 of us, 4 riders (myself, Prez. Doug Wayne – OPD, Kent Dalrymple – SFPD, Cliff Rezendes -Antioch PD) and 2 (Steve & Irene Armbruster – Bakersfield PD) who were driving a flashy BMW soft-top (a non-chase vehicle).

We took off Monday morning expecting some pretty hot weather, but it was ok for awhile. We headed south on Hwy. 395 out of Garnerville, NV. Coming out of Walker, CA you ride the perfect road for motorcycling through the canyon, alongside the Walker River. A quick detour through the "June Lake Loop" and lunch at Tiger Café, then southbound on 395. Then it got hot. It seemed the hotter it got the faster I would lead our group. Arriving at the hotel, it was a brisk 105°. We (the Armbrusters) experienced a minor glitch at check-in. You'd think with only 3 reservations under the MMOC group there wouldn't be any problems (WRONG). The Armbrusters were not listed under MMOC, so they weren't in our "block" of rooms, so they assigned them to



a room at the next-door hotel. One drawback, it was a room with no air conditioning! That wasn't going to happen and eventually that issue was resolved, and we all ended up in the same motel, WITH air.

We walked over to the Film Museum to go back in time from the late 1920's the early 2000s in Lone Pine, where movies, TV shows and commercials have been filmed. Of

course, the majority of the filming was in the "Western" genre.



While there we met past-president Jim Davis, LAPD. We all sat down to decide where to have dinner, which proved to be harder than it was for me to plan this ride. The two restaurants, which we all liked, were closed. When we decided to just walk across the street to the Pizza Factory we called them just to find out they had run out of cheese (and beer) and weren't making pizza. Onto the Chinese restaurant, which had a 4.5-star rating. Not bad and everyone was happy. Overall, a good ride day 1.

Starting Tuesday at 0830 hrs., the temperature was already at 88°. It didn't last long as we eventually topped out at 104°. We worked our way over to Hwy. 178, toward Lake Isabella. We soon found Mountain Mesa's Red Rooster for breakfast. After breakfast we exchanged goodbyes with Jim. Also, our non-chase vehicle decided to just head straight to Bakersfield, on Hwy. 178. The 4 riders headed out for a more adventurous route, which it was. We made our way through Kernville. After about 25 miles on this narrow and twisting road, which was not without many campgrounds and local shops, eateries, etc., I pulled over at

McNally's Lodge, a restaurant (featuring a 40oz. porterhouse steak)/burger stand/country store. I spoke to the burger stand worker who must have been beamed down to earth because he said he had no idea where Hwy. 155 was (our designated route). After speaking to another "local" we decided to backtrack to 178.

Wednesday, we left Bakersfield heading over to the coast on Hwy. 58. Well, some of us did. Our "non-chase vehicle" took a more direct route and left us to fend for ourselves. With only four of us, not a big deal. 58 was all-out ride on one of the best riding roads around. Once we got over to Hwy. 101 the temperature dropped to 67°. We stayed at the historic Santa Maria Inn, built in 1917. What a beautiful old hotel and their restaurant served us a fantastic dinner.

Because we didn't have far to travel to our next hotel Thursday would be more of a "sightseeing" day. We started out at my customary stop, the Harley Davidson dealership, where President Doug took a test ride on a new BMW. From there we headed south to Alisal ranch, a luxury dude ranch, in Solvang. I have stayed there many times and wanted to show the group this amazing place. This isn't a 1981 "City Slickers" type ranch. This place exudes peace and tranquility. Everyone we encountered was very welcoming. We had no agenda and didn't plan to do much more than drive through just to see it, but a young employee offered to take us on a golf cart tour which hooked all of us. There is golfing, swimming, horseback riding, rodeos, fishing, kayaking and so many more activities, along with first rate meals. Just a beautiful environment. Everyone in our group said they are definitely coming back. If you want to take a look at their site, go to [www.alisal.com](http://www.alisal.com) to see for yourself. From there it was onto San Luis Obispo.



Friday morning, we got up in San Luis Obispo to a sunny and nice day and headed off to Hearst Castle my first visit in 20 plus years. Getting out to Highway 1 was a good ride on highway 46 still warm but cooled down a lot on 1. When we reached the



visitors center it was hot, but I was surprised to see how much has changed there, including the stores and restaurants. One thing that hasn't changed are buses without air conditioning. Our guide told us that since Covid shut down lots of renovations have been done to the Castle including rebuilding the pool which had been leaking water. You could see more renovations being worked on; the Castle never looked better. There are 7 different tours offered.

As luck would have it when we left our last dinner spot, a nice BBQ joint in downtown Morgan Hill, I noticed I had a nail in my rear tire on my brand new (less than 2000 miles) 2022 HD FXLRST. No big deal. I knew I could make it back home, only a 55-mile ride.

Saturday morning, we all said our goodbyes to the Armbrusters who were headed home in a different direction. Everyone made it home without incident.

Ride Director – Ed "Dewey" Pressnell