

BIG COUNTRY REGIONAL - MEET REPORT

Big Country 2012 – Meet report - Ken and Yolanda Cates

After attending our South Texas Chapter June meeting in Kerrville we decided to drive to Nebraska to attend the 2012 Big Country Regional meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska. Our original plan was to spend some additional time at the Y&O and then driver further south to visit other small towns in the Hill Country. Instead we rose early found a local church and after services, drove north to Comfort. With an intermediate stop there, we motored on to Waco and our home for a change of suitcase contents and left Waco on Wednesday morning to spend the evening in Sherman with our sister. Rising early the next morning we headed west for I35 and then north for Lincoln. The temperatures were mild and the day bright and sunny. Later in the day, the Kansas, Nebraska border to be more precise, we encountered dark clouds, heavy winds and soon after thunder and lightning accompanied by driving rain and small hail. Both of us looked at one another thinking the same thing... *700 mile drives to enjoy this type of weather?* To make matters a bit more difficult, we traveled east from York to Lincoln on I80 East through very heavy construction making this the most stressful part of our trip.

Finding the meet hotel was encumbered by my failure to insert the correct address in our GPS. So; instead of exiting near the host hotel, we drove cross-town in traffic and heavy rain. A silver lining was part of this roundabout way to the hotel. We got to see areas where we would return during our visit. Finding the hotel, we were greeted by several minutes of intense pea size hail that intermixed with driving rain. We finally departed our vehicle at the registration desk. Getting our keys we found our room on the third floor.

Not seeing any Hudson's we thought the weather might have caused a change of plans for the registrants. Not to be chased away by some rain clouds, we quickly learned that the Hudsons were in the west parking lot out of our initial view. We explored the halls and found the registration room, and got our registration completed.

We are former Nebraska residents who were members of the host chapter from inception to our departure for Texas in 1981. So, we happily got to reunite with many folks we had not seen in several decades. Tired from our long drive we retired to our room and got some much needed rest. Friday morning we rose early, at breakfast we meet several other Texas Hudson Club members, all from the North Texas Chapter. Lew and Vicki Bird, Calvin and Virginia Buchanan, Don and Anne Marie Mozynski, Clinton and Diane Webb all traveled to the Big Country. Friday turned out to be a beautiful day with plenty of sunshine and mild temperatures. Asking the host chapter what the car count was we determined that there were 50 Hudson cars in attendance. An album of over 300 pictures from the Big Country Regional is posted on the INTERNET at this URL: <http://www.photobucket.com/BigCountry2012> . The password for the album will be emailed to all members of the South Texas Hudson Chapter. The oldest car I saw was the original 32 Essex owned by Bob Dittrick of Nebraska. Most of the cars attending were stepdown era Hudsons. But, there was a Railton, several 30s models as well as examples of the American Motors Hudsons. At every turn we were greeted by friends whom we had not seen in many years. Being the extroverts we are we quickly met other Hudson owners who shared their Hudson stories. That evening the meet sponsors arranged for the Hudsons to attend a cruise located in the parking lot of a large Wal-Mart store. The cruise was great fun. A local DJ provided music from the 50s and 60s which added to the experience. I doubt the folks who frequent this cruise will ever see
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that many Hudson products again! After the cruise all retired back to the west parking lot and kicked tires and shared stories till late in the evening.

Saturday again began with breakfast at the hotel. On this day the host chapter arranged for the attendees to visit the Bill Smith museum. Bill Smith founded and continues to operate Speedway Motors an aftermarket speed equipment manufacturer. Bill and his wife Joyce have collected many automotive related items and they are displayed in the museum. that many Hudson products again! After the cruise all retired back to the west parking lot and kicked tires and shared stories till late in the evening.



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Joyce have collected many automotive related items and they are displayed in the museum. This collection includes the largest collection of children's pedal cars in existence.

The museum is home to the largest collection of experimental and factory racing engines too. A restored 37 T pickup, a hornet twin H engine and an as raced Nebraska based circle track 34 Hudson coupe. This tour is highly recommended for anyone who travels to Lincoln, Nebraska. Check out their online presence at: www.museumofamericanspeed.com/.



After a brief early morning shower the day again was bright and sunny with mild temperatures. Returning to the host hotel we spent sometime in the hospitality room talking with old and new friends. Because of our late decision to attend, banquet tickets were not available. But, this was fortuitous as our great friends Dr Jim and Bev Johnson made the trip to Lincoln to share the evening with us while we were at the Big Country Regional. We took the occasion to sup in a fine downtown restaurant, catching up on family and life experiences.



Regional meetings include a business meeting. We did not attend, but our Senior Director Don Mozynski, informed me Bill Lentz of Fort Collins, Colorado was elected as alternate director for the Big Country Region. While at the meet, we got to sit and talk with Aaron Cooper and John Forkner about membership and what can be done to attract new and retain existing members.

Sunday came all too quickly. We slept in and because of that many of the Hudson attendees had already headed home. A small gathering in the hotel breakfast room said goodbyes and we headed for Omaha, to visit places and friends not seen in 30+ years.

Ken and Yolanda

Big Country Regional Pictures are posted on the South Texas Website –[Click to View](#)