

Lens 80th Birthday Rally.

Left Opito Bay for Thames on Saturday afternoon; car a bit sluggish but otherwise going okay. Arrived at the Baker's place about 4:30, where we had a lovely meal and a good catch up. We were up early the next morning because of the infestation of rats in the house that were running around upstairs. They had got out of the Baker's Van we were told. After a couple of pieces of freshly baked bread we were off to Pukekohe to meet up with other Model A people. Car still not quite right and over drive not working. Got to Pukekohe garage and there was a good turn out of Model A's and the Birthday boy himself.

Steve issued us with this list of instructions on East North West. Well that was the beginning of the end; how did we know where north was. Look for the sun; what sun? it's raining, anyway he finally gave us a hint. So off we all go. Follow that car in front. Oh no we are headed home again down the motorway, turn east okay we turn east then north; count the churches and the bridges we pass and go over. Don't worry about the scenery no time for that. Well, do not follow the Baker or the Candlestick maker or the Birthday Boy because we end up at the end of the road and nowhere to go but back. Read the instructions yourself; back on track and we end up at the Hunua Falls. Hi Steve we got here. Falls running well as it is still raining a bit but they are very muddy, took a couple of photos to prove we were there.

On our way out we met the Baker coming in, not waiting for him, off we go to Cleveland, Whitford and on to Howick for a lovely drive along the Parade, Lady's Mile through many cross roads until we finally reached Mr Len's place. Gosh there were Model As and moderns everywhere. The route we have been on was obviously some of Len's favorite places; great that he would share them with us.

Now it was time to party. Still can't believe the Bakers got there before us and he didn't pass us????.

So good to see lots of people we haven't seen for a number of years and to see a great turn out for Len who is one out of the box.

Good speech was made by Paul on behalf of the Model A'ers. Everyone sang "Happy Birthday", Lots of goodies for lunch and Len cut his Birthday cakes. Yes there was more than one.

Then it was time to make our way home, of course it decided to rain then, heavy, but at least it stayed fairly fine for most of the day.

We followed the Baker out to the motorway, traffic very thick, don't know how you live up here, were trundling along fine till we heard a back-fire and lots of flames and smoke coming out of the Baker's van; oh no we come to a stop. Starting to get dark and he decided to put the lights on; bang went the fuse. After much laughing we replaced the fuse and told him not to touch the lights. Get to the Timber Mill just on SH 25 and here he is again stopped, we are going too fast so over shot him and then he comes up behind us and switches his lights on, yes, they didn't blow the fuse. Decided not to carry on home and stayed the night with the Baker and his rats. The fresh bread is great though.

Wonderful day and thanks to all who organized the run, the meal and of course to Len a Happy 80th birthday, may there be many more.

David & Chris

50% of the 100%