

**Tin Can Tourists
13th Annual Gathering
Camp Dearborn – Milford, MI
May 20-23, 2010**

Finally, it's here! Time for the Tin Can Tourists annual gathering at Camp Dearborn. Mabel and I have been working on our 1959 Rear Door Scotty for the past year and a half. We bought this Scotty, sight unseen over the phone from the seller in Massachusetts. It is the rarest Serro Scotty of all, only manufactured for six months in 1959 and 1960, so we were thrilled to have found one. We finished the total, frame-up rebuild on Sunday, May 16, so we really cut it close!

May 19: And we are loaded up and ready to roll out first thing tomorrow morning. Mabel had been worrying that she wasn't coming but when she saw her Scotty, one I built her using parts from a 1961 Serro Scotty parts trailer, and a tricycle trailer, was also loaded up and ready to roll, her fears were alleviated.

May 20: It's only 118 miles to Camp Dearborn from our home in Delton, MI so we didn't have to leave too early – we headed out about 8:30 after solving a problem with the left turn signal/brake light. Turned out to be a dirty plug on the car which was soon rectified. By the way, Delton, MI, population 185 and there were FOUR trailers from our small burg at Tin Can Tourists this year! Besides us, Kim and Brian McCool, Kim's brother Mark Chamberin, and Becky Kahler. We arrived after a no-problem drive about 10:30.



It's always exciting to arrive and see the sign welcoming us to Camp Dearborn. We know it's going to be a wonderful event and we'll be seeing lots and lots of really cool trailers.

After checking in and paying at the office, we arrived at the Rally check-in booth.



I'm pretty sure Mabel's was the smallest trailer to check in. There weren't many folks there when we arrived, only one other trailer in the row where we were. We pulled in, unhitched and set up and then headed back to the check-in booth to watch others arrive. And arrive they did! Big trailers...



Not so big trailers...



May 21: Breakfast, scrambled eggs, hash browns and sausage, at the big tent. Yum, but get there early as the food went fast. After breakfast there was a demo on recovering your cushions. Or, as we did, you could choose to



And by 2 p.m., they were really streaming in!



At 5 p.m., after everyone had settled in and had a chance to visit, we all headed over to the big tent for some really delicious pizza. 50/50 tickets were being sold and there was also the new members reception where new members were inducted in to the group. They had to learn the TCT song, sign and secret handshake. Later, Dan Hershberger did his "Hitting the Road: Motor Camping with the Early Tin Can Tourists" presentation. Dan's restored 1927 Auto Kamp trailer, a fold-out tent rig manufactured in Saginaw, MI, is a real traveling museum. We just stand there with our mouths hanging open staring at all his cool stuff!

head out to the antique mall in Howell, back a few miles west down 96. It's a big antique mall and prices are very reasonable, we think. We found a really nice piece of Milford Pottery (which is actually in Milford, OH, not Milford, MI), a creamer with the state of Michigan on it. Only \$3.50 and it displays really nice with our state of Michigan cutting board! We saw lots of TCT'ers there and lots of cool stuff leaving with them so we weren't the only one who found treasures.



It pretty much rained all day on Friday, drizzling first but by afternoon, a torrential downpour. We lost our pop-up shelter – crushed by the weight of all that water coming down at once. There was a chili cook-off held in the big tent, but no one near us braved the raging rain and attended, although I heard that there was some good eating over there.

Al Hesselbart presented "Let's meet the RV Pioneers" and John Long presented "Bowlus Trailers: The Origin of the Species". Bowlus trailers were the featured trailer this year and boy, were there some beauties here.



May 22: It started out really drizzly and overcast but everyone kept saying it was supposed to end by noon. Not sure it did, but pretty soon afterwards. Things were messy and muddy for the tour and I headed out to get pictures of exteriors. Just didn't feel right to track mud into those beautiful trailers, so I didn't.



I don't know how many visitors arrived to tour, but I have a feeling it was a big number as hundreds of people stopped by to visit our little Rear Door trailer.

Saturday night was the catered dinner. We had tickets for first sitting, sites 1-76, or second sitting, sites 77 and up. Like the pizza on Thursday, the dinner was tasty.

At 7:30, was the Concours Award presentations, the 50/50 drawing, and door prizes. The first



award was Silver Palaces, sponsored by Steve and Kevin Ruth, P&S Polishing and Repair Services of Helena, OH. Reserve Best in Show was won by Diane for her 1935 Bolus Road Chief. First place was won by Barb & Bob and their 1965 Airstream Caravel.



Mobile Mansions, sponsored by Dan Piper, Vintage Trailers of Peru, IN Reserve Best in Show winner were the Wrights for their 1948 Western Flyer bus. First place went to Bryan and Matt for their 1988 Holiday Rambler Imperial.



Ready to Roll was sponsored by Steve Hingtgen at Vintage Trailer Supply. Reserve Best in Show was won by the Reynolds for their 1965 Frolic. First place was won by the Meredith's for their 1953 Nashua.



Tow & Trailer Combo was sponsored by Mark & Rhonda Gelstein of Vrommers Slippers. Reserve Best in Show went to the Caskey's for their 1973 Cadillac Deville and 1973 Holiday Rambler – they have owned both since brand new! First place went to a very spiffy matching turquoise and white 1959 Shasta and 1959 Ford Fairlane owned by the Curtis family.



Awesome Interiors was sponsored by Hiroshi Okamoto and family, the Tin Can Regional Representatives of Japan! It was won by the Defer's for their 1953 Rodelite. Sadly I didn't get any pictures of the interior, but in my opinion, it could have won for awesome exteriors, if that was a category because that is one very sharp looking trailer!

The Special Interest award, sponsored by Fred and Marguerite Meyers of Long-Term Care Insurance Group, LLC went to Bob and Doreen for their vintage trailer tag collection.

After the awards, prizes, and 50/50 drawing, there was some really good music by Deep Water Bluegrass.

May 23: After coffee and donuts at the big tent, folks packed up and headed home.

150 trailers, lots and lots of people and lots and lots of fun! Goodbye - see you next year!

