



The Auto Era

Covenant Community Church October 12, 2003



"I crossed the Continent in a Winton with Dr. H. Nelson Jackson"

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THE WINTON MOTOR CARRIAGE CO.





This is a special time of celebration worship this morning at Covenant Community Church. Over the next few minutes you can expect to be amused, stretched, and challenged as we experience "Road Trip...For the Dreamer in All of Us"

Today as you climb aboard your "horseless carriage" prepare yourself to take a daring journey. It is a journey where you will discover what it means to chase a dream and how spiritually being a dreamer can make all the difference in the world.

It is going to be a great adventure...we are glad you are along for the ride!

A Dare and a Dream

On the evening of May 19, 1903, in the exclusive University Club in San Francisco, a debate raged over the reliability of the new horseless carriages that had been showing up on the streets of major American cities. Horatio Nelson Jackson, a 31-year-old retired doctor from Vermont who was passing through San Francisco, accepted a wager. Under the terms of the bet, Jackson would win 50 dollars if he made it all the way to New York City, something no one else had every done before, in less than three months.



Four days later, Dr. Jackson and a 22 year-old bicycle repairman, Sewall K. Crocker, set off from San Francisco in a 1903 Winton Touring Car. Along the way they picked up a third member, a bulldog named Bud. Like Jackson, Bud wore drivers' goggles, since the vehicle lacked a windshield - or roof or sides, for that matter.

In 1900 there were 8,000 cars in America compared to 14 million horses. Most Americans rarely traveled more than 12 miles from home. And there were only 150 miles of paved roads, most of them in large cities.

The vehicle was a cherry red, 1903 Winton tour car, already more than a month old and with over 1,000 miles on it. The Winton had a two-cylinder, 20-horsepower engine underneath the driver's seat, with a chain drive, capable of speeds up to 30 miles per hour.

Partway through his improbable journey, he learned that his spur-of-the-moment trip had turned into something of a race. First the Packard company and then the Oldsmobile company dispatched their own autos from California in the hopes of passing him and gaining the publicity of being first across the nation. Also, as he worked his way across the country, more and more people were drawn to the vehicle. In small towns, hundreds would line up to see the horseless carriage. Even in larger cities, as word spread of this cross-country trip, thousands would line up to meet Jackson, Crocker and Bud.



YOUR ADVENTURE CONTINUES.....

Visit us on-line at www.touchandchange.com

On our website you will find some additional Road Trip items and catch this Celebration Worship service on streaming video and audio.

You can also visit the PBS website and discover more about Dr. Jackson and his drive across America (<http://www.pbs.org/horatio/>)

If you would like your own copy of this Celebration worship experience order yours on audio CD or video tape.

