

Day 20: 209 miles for the day, 3073 miles since leaving home.

Well, today had it's high and low points. All in all a pretty good day. No car problems. It is still doing fine. I was wanting to do Pike's Peak, and upon the suggestion of several of the guys on the Model T Club Forum I also wanted to drive the T over the Royal Gorge bridge. Looking at the map to see where they were in relation to each other, I decided that from Gunnison I should go to the south to Royal Gorge, and then go north to get to the Pike's Peak area. Great plan, and plenty of time to do Royal Gorge today and Pike's Peak in the morning.

I got to the Royal Gorge and saw the sign for the turnoff just as I went by. It was not all that well marked. I turned around and headed in. The bridge is on a loop road that really goes nowhere other than over the gorge. It really is a "bridge to nowhere". After driving several miles of the narrow winding road in, I got to the admission gate and was informed that the bridge was closed to car traffic today, just foot traffic. Well, I had gone there to drive the Model T over the bridge, not just walk onto it and look down. I just turned around and left. That was the low point for the day, as I was really looking forward to driving the T over the bridge. Had I not done this I could have gotten to Pike's Peak and done that today and probably gotten a ways on down the road.

I did run into some rain today on the drive up to the Cascade, Colorado area. It came down pretty good for a while, but it was straight down, so I didn't need to get out the side curtains. The campground where I was planning to stay tonight was full, but I don't think I would have wanted to camp in the rain anyway. I drove past a couple of motels in Manitou Springs with "no vacancy" lit up. I then came to the Pike's Peak Inn and the "no" was not lit up. They had a room so I took it. I got in about 4:00, so it was too late to try to do Pike's Peak today. That will be the first thing on the agenda tomorrow.

As I was moving in to my room, there were some people on the porch sitting and chatting. Of course the car started the conversation with them, and we chatted for quite a while.

I walked just a couple of doors down to the Stagecoach Inn for dinner. Definitely the best meal I have had on the whole trip. Even got a discount from a coupon that the motel proprietor gave me. What a deal. A shrimp skewer, and a Mahi Mahi skewer, veggies, and wild rice. Just excellent.

After walking back from dinner one of the couples from earlier (Matt and Allison) were on the porch and he had his guitar out. We had a little jam session. A lot of fun. That is why this is getting posted so late. These were the high points.