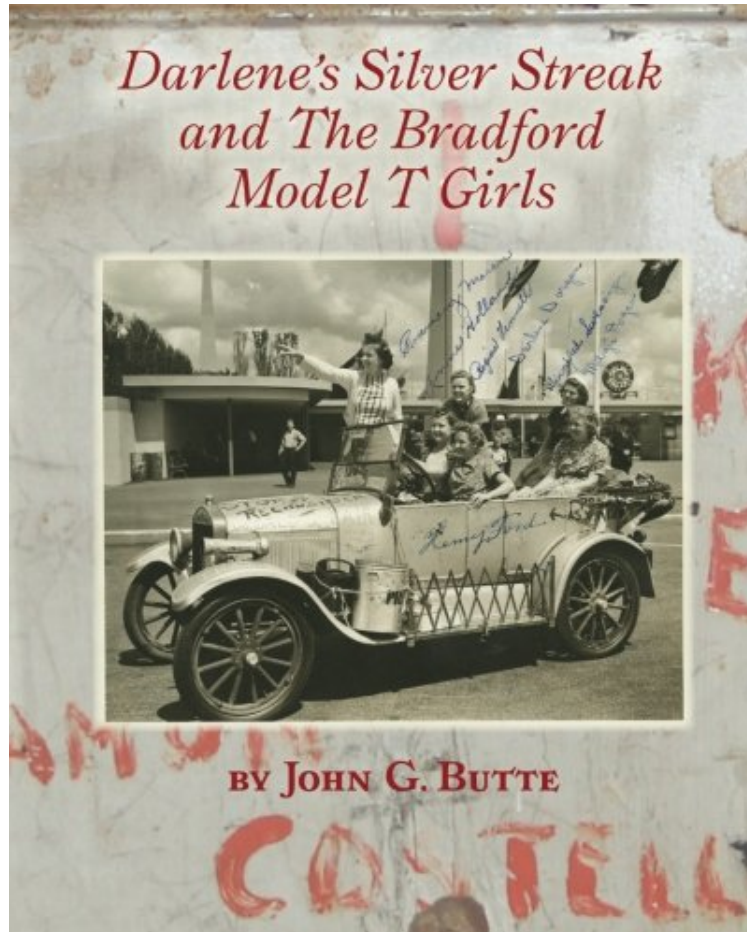


Darlene's Silver Streak and The Bradford Model T Girls

John G. Butte

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John G. Butte : Darlene's Silver Streak and The Bradford Model T Girls before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Darlene's Silver Streak and The Bradford Model T Girls:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. ride with the gypsy coeds By Joel Bjorling This is the story of a group of girls, who called themselves "gypsy coeds" that made a number of trips throughout the US in a 1926 Ford Model T. These trips were from the mid-1930s to the early 1940s. They included Mexico and Canada. The author purchased and restored the car. It is called the "silver streak" (the girls painted it silver). I became acquainted with him as he was researching the "coeds." Both of our mothers were among them. My mother was in the 1940 trip, and she frequently spoke of her trip in the "model-T" to the World's Fair in San Francisco. She told about driving through the desert at night (wearing a ski jacket), sleeping in church yards, and pushing the car up a hill. Mom also met and got an autograph from Don Ameche (which I still have!) This story has lots of adventures, but it is also significant to the history of auto transportation. When the car was in its infancy, what was it capable of doing? Could it do long distance

travel? This book is a memoir of youthful drive and enthusiasm, as well as very insightful planning. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Full of Amazement, Sighs and Laughs. By Etienne John's meticulous research has produced an evocative and entertaining account of the adventures of young women from central Illinois, in an era that made them true pioneers. As the stories unfold, the reader is drawn increasingly in--vicariously experiencing life on the open road. It is an amazing story of courage and conviction to achieve extraordinary goals. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book, takes you around the country on various ... By Rick Keating Excellent book, takes you around the country on various adventures with the charming small town girls. I live not too far from Bradford, IL so was able to relate to a lot of the things they talk about. This is the kind of book that just puts a smile on your face.

Bill and Daisy Dorgan ran the popular Dorgans Caf on Main Street in Bradford, Illinois, for almost 50 years. Legend has it that Bill bought a six-year-old 1926 Ford Model T for his daughter Darlene, who immediately organized a summer vacation, inviting several girlfriends to join her camping in Devils Lake, Wisconsin. Seven more summer trips, from 1936 through 1942, took these twenty-something girls through 44 states, Canada, and Mexico in an era when such travel by a group of coeds was not common. These gals seemed to find adventure at every turn, attending Worlds Fairs in New York and San Francisco and traveling to Canada to see the Dionne Quintuplets. Los Angeles, New Orleans, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Toronto, and Montreal were all visited. They slept in jails and schoolyards along the way. They made the acquaintance of movie stars and moguls, as well as dignitaries and corporate leaders. There was a special, enduring relationship that developed between the girls and Henry Ford, who met with them twice. Most Model Ts were black, but not Darlene's! She painted it silver, and on each trip, hand-painted red signage called Lizzie Labeling adorned the hood, fenders, and doors, telling the story of where the girls had been or were going. The car was nicknamed the Silver Streak. At first, the girls referred to themselves as the Bradford Model T Girls. Later they called themselves the Gypsy Coeds, a name that seemed to fit them well. There was a strong kindred spirit among the girls and an equally strong love for the old Model T that carried them on their road trips. Relive those eight adventurous summer vacations recreated from diaries, letters, newspaper accounts, and interviews, and learn how the author eventually found the Silver Streak, a true piece of Americana, and returned it to Central Illinois.