



the reactor

by Paul Azevedo

In 1912 going to Half Moon Bay was a rare and thrilling adventure. Leon J. Pinkson had already begun his distinguished and lengthy career as a writer on automotive subjects for Bay Area newspapers. Here are some Pinkson quotes from the San Francisco Call, March 17, 1912.

"SHORELINE ROUTE FULL OF THRILLS"

"Call's Studebaker-Flanders Car Maps Exciting Tour to Halfmoon Bay."

"Automobilists who revel in exciting journeys where the source of excitement does not depend upon speed, but upon the nature of the road and its scenic surprises could find no trip close to San Francisco which would more meet with their approval than to duplicate the journey of the Call's Studebaker-Flanders "20" path-finding party last Sunday, when a trip from this city down the coast to Halfmoon Bay was made.

"**THE ROUTE IS ONE** which is seldom visited by automobiles, and the Call's car enjoys the distinction of being the first machine to make the trip, not only this season, but the first car in many months to do so, the last car attempting to accomplish this task having met with disaster, in which the driver and occupants had a remarkable escape from death.

"Leaving San Francisco by the Mission road, the motorists went first to Colma, thence through that town, across the tracks of the Ocean Shore line and over the hills to a point above Mussel rock. From there to the town of Halfmoon Bay the route lay along beaches, through mile after mile of artichoke ranches, over the mountain ridge and along the shore line of Halfmoon Bay.

"At Colma the motorist may be informed that there are two roads which lead to the coast, one coming out at Salada beach and the other, as mentioned above—just over Mussel rock.

"**TAKE THE LATTER ROAD**, which is known as the new road to Salada, for it is in much better shape than the old road and provides...a striking view of San Pedro point and the intervening beaches. The latter present a pitiful and lonesome appearance.

"...From this magnificent viewpoint the road glides along down the sides of the ridge for a distance of two or three miles until it passes through Edgemar, Salada, Brighton, Vallemar, and Pedro valley, the latter famous for its artichoke ranches and delightful climatic conditions...The spectator recalls with a half-shudder the treachery that lurks in the rocky jaws of (Pedro) point and the fate of the many vessels that have been pounded to pieces in its hold.

"Leaving peaceful Pedro valley one immediately commences the ascent of the ridge just back of Point Pedro. For two miles the car winds up the side of the mountain, over as treacherous a piece of road as can be found. Death stalks in front and lurks behind every foot of the climb to the summit..."

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