

Chickasha Pre-War Swap Meet

Walt, Joe and I went to the Chickasha, OK pre-war swap meet. This is about a 5-hour drive from Athens. We spent the night on Wednesday so that we were ready to hit the gates at the 7 AM opening. We had difficulty finding a restaurant open for breakfast and after finding one, learned that only one of the four cooks came to work that morning. Needless to say, we did not make it to the swap meet until well after 8 AM.

Since all parts and cars were required to be pre-1941, this is a major meet for Model A and Model T folks. There were parts for cars beginning with steam engines, going through the 1900-1920 era, Model T's and Model A's. There are about five acres of vendors outdoors plus two large buildings containing cars and car parts. Several nice Model A's were for sale along with assorted cars like a 1913 Cadillac (\$40k) that needed restoring, a 1925 Viel of which only 223 were made before the depression hit. There were single cylinder oilfield engines, old gasoline pumps and some items that were unrecognizable. About 65% of the parts were for the Model T, 25% for the Model A and the remainder for all other vintage cars.

I had "lust in my heart" for a 1922 Packard that had been mechanically restored, but needed body and upholstery work to complete. This was a real classic car that had about four feet of legroom in the back seat! After deciding that I would have to sell both A's to fit this monster in my shop, my lust was contained.

We made several trips to the car with Walt's wagon to unload purchases. My Expedition had a good load in it on the return trip. It was clanking and clunking all the way home like a Gypsy wagon going down a bumpy road.

An excellent swap meet! We plan to return next year. Maybe more of you will join us.

Bill Wittner