

The author's grandparents and an unidentified friend or relative, beneath the Father of the Forest, a 251-foot redwood in Big Basin Redwoods State Park.



*"Our drive led through the Santa Cruz Mountains. The redwoods overhung the road, at times shutting out the light, so it was damp and wild. This was the loveliest drive of the trip."* - Elizabeth Sleep, 1929



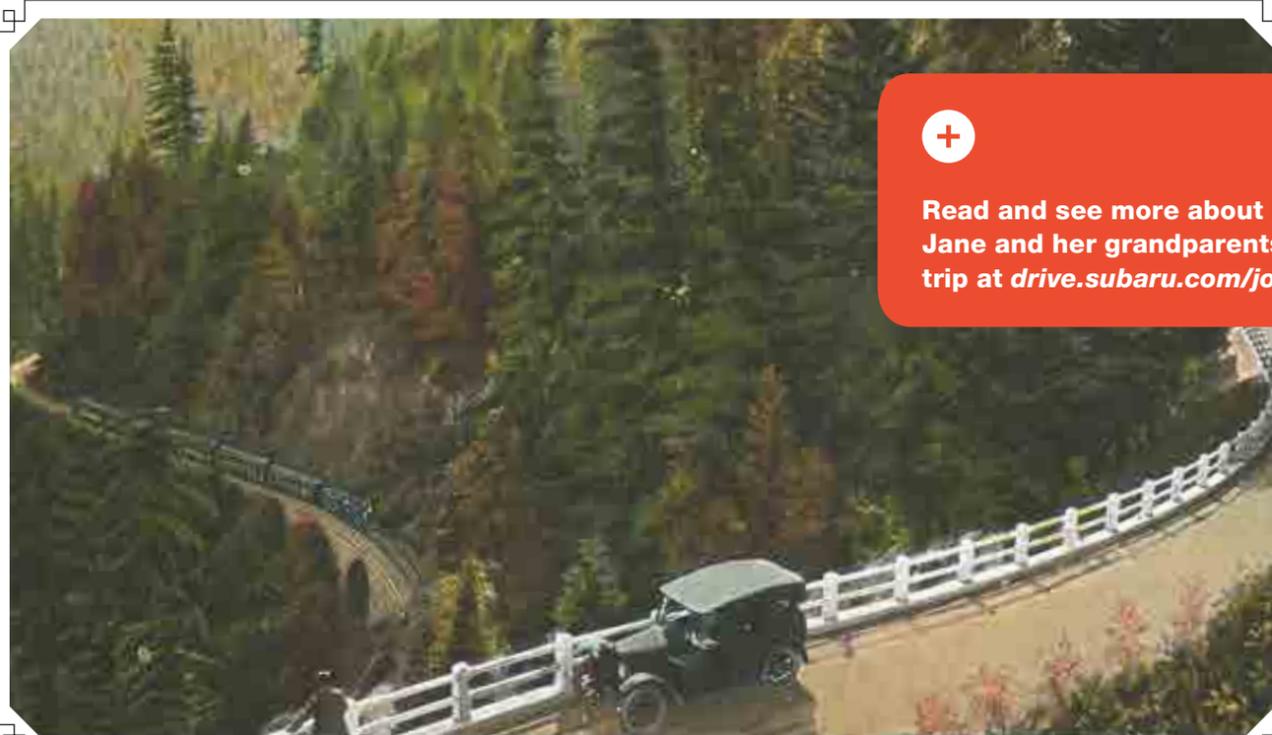
the hairpin turns and steep inclines here and in nearby Salt River and Devil's Canyons.

While we found only a few manmade structures remaining from my grandparents' trip, the natural landmarks have endured. It was beneath the towering saguaros of the Southwest and the ancient redwoods of the California coast that I most felt the passage of time and the presence of their adventurous spirits. Perhaps it is because like families, branches grow in different directions, but their roots remain as one. At Big Basin Redwoods State Park near Santa Cruz, we posed for photos beneath the Father of the Forest, the same tree that wrapped its woody arms around my grandmother's tiny frame back in 1929. It was a fitting finale.

After returning home, I have often imagined my grandmother sitting at the kitchen table, typing up her notes on a sticky-keyed typewriter and carefully arranging the photos. I'm grateful she did. Her journal gave my trip a purpose and led to the discovery of mutual interests – a curiosity about unknown places, an awe of natural landscapes and a love of automobile travel. ■



Read and see more about both Jane and her grandparents' road trip at [drive.subaru.com/journal](http://drive.subaru.com/journal).



## Festival of Bikes

The Subaru Sea Otter Classic celebrates cycling in beautiful Monterey, California.

by Kia Namin



Head to the 2017 Sea Otter Classic for cycling events galore on April 20-23. Learn more and register at [seotterclassic.com](http://seotterclassic.com).



Each April, as the northern hemisphere thaws out in spring light, crowds of cyclists and cycling enthusiasts from around the world converge in Monterey, California, for a can't-miss weekend on two wheels, the Sea Otter Classic.

One of the largest cycling festivals on the planet, the Sea Otter Classic draws approximately 10,000 participants and 70,000 spectators every year. Amateurs, pros and everyone in-between participates in a wide variety of racing events that range from cross-country mountain biking to downhill to leisurely gran fondos, or great endurance. An equally impressive number of non-race events at the festival include everything from a massive biking expo featuring hundreds of vendors to a mountain bike camp to an egg hunt for kids. In short, no matter what your interest in cycling is, you're likely to find it here.

"If there is a cyclist heaven, it looks like the Sea Otter Classic," says Joe Maloney, a Wisconsin-based professional cyclist and coach.

For Michael Hartzell, who's attended nearly every Subaru Sea Otter Classic since it began in 1991, it's hard to pin down the origin of his love for the event. Maybe it was the bragging rights afforded from participating in cross-country mountain bike races. Maybe it was the thrill of seeing a dialed-in backflip at the big air competitions. Or maybe it was just the sheer array of cycling-related offerings. "Everything that pertained to bike racing was represented," he says.

It's clear why a partnership with Subaru, now in its fourth year as title sponsor of the event, seemed almost inevitable. Frank Yohannan, co-founder and CEO of the Sea Otter Classic, recognizes the two organizations' parallel philosophies and enthusiastic embrace of the outdoor lifestyle. Add to that an overwhelming 7,000 campers that pull up in their Subaru vehicles, and Yohannan says the partnership couldn't be anything but "a great fit." ■



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