



# Speed Bump

## Slow Down For Some Automotive Tales

Photos and Article by Hal Tretbar

### Was it just another adventure in the Macan or does an Evil Eye really exist?

Karma Kientzler and I were headed to Flagstaff in the 2017 Macan S for the Labor Day weekend. We were on the Beeline Highway headed towards Payson when we watched this rock, in slow motion ... float through the sky. It hit us smack dab in the lower middle of the windshield. And the crack looks like an Evil Eye.

The evil eye has been recorded as long as 5000 years ago in Mesopotamian clay tablets. It is found in almost all cultures including Jewish, Christian, and Buddhist.

The evil eye, 'mal de ojo' in Spain and 'matiasma' in Greece, is a curse believed to be cast by a malevolent glare. It is usually directed towards a person who is unaware. Many cultures believe that receiving the evil eye will cause misfortune, bad luck or injury.

On a bright warm Sunday morning we were headed towards Laws Spring, northwest of Flagstaff. It had been many years since I had been there so we had stopped at the Visitor's Center in the train station to get a detailed map. The spring is located 15 miles off the highway on graded dirt roads.

In 1857, Lt. Edward Beale USN was commissioned by the US government to build a wagon road from Fort Defiance on the New Mexico border to the Colorado River. The route goes through present-day Flagstaff, west to Government Prairie where the spring is located.

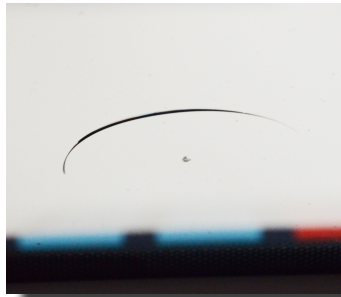
On another crossing in 1859, Beale camped at the

familiar spring. He honored a member of the party by naming the water hole after Major W. L. Laws. Another member of the crew, Peachy Breckenridge had been a tombstone carver, inscribed Laws name on a rock above the spring. Today a bronze marker shows that Laws Spring has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The warm, very dusty road to the spring passed through a forest with a few campers and picnickers. We met an occasional SUV and ATV (off road all-terrain vehicle}. As we entered the plateau at the base of the hill where the spring is located, I heard a faint dragging noise from the right rear. Oh crap, I thought, we had snagged something.

The underside was clear. The wheel and tire looked OK. But – when we started off again, there was the high-pitched shriek of a banshee. Whoa! I thought. Now what? Another check of the right rear wheel was not helpful. Again, any movement forward or backward produced a loud screech. I could only conclude it must be something like a bearing.

My phone was out of range. We called AAA on Karma's phone and got the phone number for Johnson's Heavy Towing in Flagstaff. It was then that the Macan began to act like it was bewitched.



The Evil Eye



## Speed Bump continued

We were unable to pull up the GPS coordinates on the dash for the tow company. They didn't want just the county road numbers to get there, so they had the Coconino County Sheriff's Dept. locate our cell phone location. They were on their way at 1:30 PM.

The weather was a comfortable 85 degrees with a nice breeze. We were well prepared for our outing with lots of water and food. Several times an ATV would stop to see what we needed. A group of four ATVs chatted for 30 minutes and furnished beer.



I contacted Porsche Roadside Service who suggested that I call the next day to arrange transport to Tucson. I called Enterprise to rent a car. They gave me a confirmation number for a car that day at the Flagstaff airport.

As we waited for the tow truck, strange things began to happen. We turned the key on to roll down a window and the clock spun the hands around to 12 noon. It returned to the correct time when the key was turned off. I had heard that occurred on other Macans but not on mine. Later the clock spun two more times without touching the key. While sitting quietly in the car, the car alarm went off twice ... which I had never heard before.

We turned the key again to adjust a window and warning lights began flashing on the instrument panel. In a repeat sequence it showed, *Headlight range regulation defective, Service required; AWD fault, Only rear-wheel drive; PSM failure, Consult a workshop, and Drive with caution.*

At 3:25, Dave and his flatbed tow truck slowly pulled up on the narrow dusty road. The right rear wheel squealed when we drove it onto the truck bed. The ride out was quite jiggly. Karma and I sat in the Macan with the air conditioning on and Mozart playing on the radio. Oh yes, the dash again briefly showed the three warning lights, one after the other, until the key was turned off and back on.

At 5:30, Dave took us to the airport, three miles south of town, to pick up the rental car. There was one clerk for three side by side companies. She said, "What

reservation? It is a Holiday. We haven't had any cars all weekend. We won't have any until the day after tomorrow!" Dave was gracious enough to take us to our rental apartment for a bottle of wine.



The next morning was beautiful. I had slept well, I felt relieved and happier. Porsche Roadside Service arranged for the Macan to be taken to Tucson at a cost of only \$220. Then I went into atrial fibrillation for 8 hours.

We were checking out the rental Jeep at Enterprise when I turned around and snagged my left arm on a sharp edge on the adjoining car. They had to get out the first aid kit to stop my bleeding on the floor and bandage the wound.

We had a delightful drive home in the Jeep Compass. We stopped at the Rock Springs Café in Black Canyon City north of Phoenix for some of their famous pies. They bake more than 300 a day.

Brian Herring, Porsche of Tucson service manager, called me when the Macan arrived. "I have good news for you. The car drives fine. There is no sound from the rear wheel and the computer check was OK. You probably had a stone between the brake pad and the rotor. All you have to do is drive back and forth, even though there is noise, until the rock falls out."

Oh yeah, now I find out. That tow truck in Flagstaff cost me \$500. Has all of this been the influence of the Evil Eye?

Where o'where is my anti-evil eye amulet that I got in Istanbul? I need to hang it from my rearview mirror like most of the drivers in Turkey.

