

I purchased my white LS in 1989, the first year Lexus vehicles were available in this country. I was running a land-development consultancy firm in Thousand Oaks, Calif., and also owned an apple farm in Tehachapi, Calif., about 140 miles away. We sold apples at a roadside stand and had an old-fashioned cider press. Parents who bring their kids today used to come with their parents when they were kids.

Anyway, for 10 years I kind of lived in both places and drove back and forth between

them. I'd do it about twice a week, so the miles began to add up. We were also involved in local county political campaigns, so I had to drive wherever the campaign had to be.

And, of course, my wife Nina and I took the car on vacations—to national parks, mostly. We went to Zion and Bryce Canyon, the Grand Canyon and Yosemite. We would just get in the car and drive. I guess I was the one who put most of the miles on it, but she enjoys it, too. Now I'm retired, and we sold the apple

farm to a wonderful young couple—but we kept visitation rights! We moved to Utah—the most beautiful place on earth—and I'm doing some land development and building a business and industrial park here, so I'm really not slowing down.

I have 555,000 miles on my Lexus, and the way I see it, that's just the beginning... \Box

Laycook recently purchased a new Lexus LS, but he plans to keep his first vehicle, which, like its driver, is nowhere near retirement.

Mileage performance is not typical of all Lexus vehicles.