

Tells of 25,000 Mile Trip Across U. S. To Alaskan Wilds

Following is a continuation of the round robin letters sent to friends by Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Patton, on their 25,000 mile trailer trip to Alaska.

Dear Gang:

It has been a long time since my last episode, but believe it or not we have been as busy as a one-eyed cat. After getting back from our Nome trip the Masters Mates and Pilots decided that the Alaska Steamship companies were "Unfair to organized labor" and anyway they needed a rest from their arduous duties. They struck and we waited patiently in Fairbanks for a month. Fortunately the folks, who were to have our cabin after we left were in Seattle waiting to come north. Life in Fairbanks went along per usual, with practice dog races over a 30 mile course each Sunday. The ice carnival was due to be held in early March and the teams in Fairbanks needed exercise.

Capitol and labor finally agreed to agree and we left on Washington's birthday for the "Outside" after 8 months of new and happy experiences. The winter was delightful with its dry, calm cold. In the interior everyone expects cold weather, so dresses accordingly, with the result you are very warm both inside your cabin and when you go out. It is the first winter in my life I have had dry feet all the time.

Our first stop on the train was Nenana where we saw the tripod stuck out in the middle of the river, to signal the instant the ice started to move. Everyone was talking nothing but the ice pool. It went out a couple of days ago with \$100,000 in the pot. Only bon fide Alaskans are permitted to enter. We spent the night at Curry and moved over the Alaska R.R. next day to Anchorage, a town quite similar to Fairbanks. A few days there awaiting daily reports from the S. S. Bararof on its progress and we boarded the train for the glorious run down the Kenai Peninsula. The scenery on this part is superb I am told, but we enjoyed a snow storm all the way and concentrated on the depth of the snow. All along there are markers to measure the snow fall. This year it was not very heavy, only about 10 feet on the ground. We met folks at Seward who were going "Outside" whom we had seen in Nome and bade goodbye to them. A small world after all.

Seward's sole excuse for being is that it is the end, and an impractical one at that, of the rail road where the steamers hit for. It certainly has a gorgeous location nestled right down on the end of Resurrection Bay and flanked on all sides with rugged snow clad peaks. Monday night a whistle came in through the fog and our boat was steaming slowly in. As there had been no boats for a month she carried a full cargo, canned milk, meat, autos, tractors and what have you. Two days and a half were needed to unload her.

The trip over to Valdy and Cordova was delightful; calm sunny weather and glorious mountains on all sides. After leaving Cordova a majority of the passengers lost their appetites, when we ran into a gale, slowing the boat down to mere headway. Bucking the huge waves and resting peacefully in our cabins except for meals which the three of us partook of regularly, we finally reached the Lynn Canal. The boat stopped at all ports of call along the Inside passage getting us into Seattle, March 10th.

The first thing to do was to get Suming, our trailer out of storage and a car to pull it. You remember we turned in the Olds last July and ordered a '39 Buick. Lucky we did as we saved \$15 per month storage charges, which helped pay for Betty our Buick. Betty is a peach, built along husky lines, rather than sweet and demure. She runs like a scared rabbit and when we hit a hill, she

just digs in her toes and races for the top. Suming has no choice, but to come along.

We expected to stay a week in Seattle but were there two. It took longer to get the trailer hitch put on and do the things that had accumulated than we anticipated. We saw quite a bit of the Freeman's friends of Ray and Dorothy, who are building a new house on the hills overlooking Puget Sound. They have a glorious view across the Sound to the Olympics.

Coming down through the Redwoods we found a camp ground with toilets and hydrants in Williams Grove. It was so beautiful and peaceful among the giant redwoods that instead of over night we remained three days. I worked during the day while Sue chased down the road for grub and ice. Our first road troubles occurred just prior. One of Suming's, evening slippers picked up a nail and before I could stop was torn to shreds. Needless to say she is quite heavy on her feet, quite a bit of Ginger Rogers. In fact ever since leaving home we have had tire trouble. The Firestone station told me what to do and that was to put on Pick up truck tires with Life guard tubes, which I did. I think Suming now can enter any dance marathon there is.

We spent three weeks in San Francisco, the first week at a Trailer camp in Daly City. The camp was perched on a side hill and catered very decidedly to the cabin customers. The trailers were stuck in corners wherever they could be shoved. My sister-in-law who lives in Berkeley wanted us to come over on her side of the bay and located a much pleasanter camp at San Leandro. However, the landlord there was so afraid you might use more than your share of water, or might have some electrical appliance, not included in the flat rate, that he made us quite uncomfortable with his snooping. Furthermore Dick was no consolation to him with his love of exploration.

LIBRARY

The Literary Advisory Board of Current History magazine recently selected ten titles as the "most important non-fiction books of 1939." Seven of these ten books were written by American authors, and all the books on the list may be borrowed from the Highland Park Public Library.

Abraham Lincoln: The War Years, by Carl Sandburg.

Revolution of Nihilism, by Herman Raushning.

Thoreau, by Henry Seidel Canby.

America in Midpassage, by Charles and Mary Beard.

Life of Greece, by Will Durant.

Propaganda for War, by Horace C. Peterson.

Days of Our Years, by Pierre van Paassen.

Union Now, by Clarence Streit.

Wind, Sand, and Stars, by Antoine de Saint Exupery.

February, selected as America month, is memorable for the birthdays of her two most famous statesmen, Washington-Lincoln. It is also the birth month of other people important in America's story; Horace Wadsworth Longfellow, Susan B. Anthony, Elihu Root and Roger Williams. This month has also been selected as appropriate to celebrate National Drama Week, Boy Scout anniversary week and National Defense week.

Millions, Murder, Misery — Will they haunt the motion picture beauty forever? Adela Rogers St. Johns, famous motion picture commentator, tells why the former stage star may never escape the ceaseless feuds and tragedies which shattered the career she never really wanted. An illustrated feature in The American Weekly, the magazine distributed with next Sunday's Chicago Herald-American.

Boy Scouts Handle City Affairs with Success, Saturday

Last Saturday, February 17, a number of the Boy Scouts from various Highland Park troops had the privilege of running our city from 9:30 a.m. to 12 o'clock.

The Scouts met at the City hall where they held a short council meeting in the city council chamber. During this meeting Bob Earhart was invested in the office of Mayor and Clayburn Jones, Dave Harrington, Kelly Brent and Lewis Hutchinson were installed as City Commissioners. Bill Stratton held the chair of City Clerk.

One of the most interesting situations during the council meeting was an open discussion conducted by Mayor Bob Earhart on a recent wave of breaking of street lights and removing of street signs which the city is attempting to combat. Certain recommendations to reduce the damage being done were proposed by the Scout council and co-operation of the Scouts was pledged in this matter.

An interview of the Scouts in office brought forth the following comments: Mayor Bob Earhart stated, "There is a great deal more work involved in the office of Mayor than I ever thought there was."

Clayburn Jones, Commissioner of Account and Finance said, "The work I understudied was not a bad job. I would like to hold this position ten years from now."

Lewis Hutchinson, Commissioner of Public Property commented that he found his job a great deal of fun, very interesting and very educational. He said, "I also would like to be a city commissioner ten

years from now if the public would see fit to elect me to that position of responsibility.

City Clerk Bill Stratton volunteered, "It's a swell job but there's certainly a lot of hard work in it too."

While in office of police chief, Stansfield Turner was instructed by Mr. Moroney in the methods of taking fingerprints. Stan said, "This is a very interesting job. I like it."

Desk Sergeant Bill E. Mann when asked for a word by the reporter ventured "I want a raise." Later he added, "This has been a very interesting day."

Police Magistrate Bud Kohn commented "I don't think that I would like this job as an occupation but the experience has been a very educational one."

City Engineer Jack Sneed enthusiastically stated "What a job: I'd like this position as an occupation."

Water department head Jim Siljestrom commented, "A very complicated job but I think I could handle it if I had to."

Toby Johnson, corporation council, took a different viewpoint. He said, "I don't think this would be a good job for me."

Scout editor of the Press, Wilson Hamilton.

Infant Welfare to Meet Monday with Mrs. Albert Snite

The February meeting of the Highland Park-Ravinia Center of Infant Welfare will be held on Monday, February 26. Mrs. Albert O. Snite is to be the hostess and will open her home on Oakmont road for the meeting.

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