

Ferguson Highway Full of Thrills for Unwary

United States Visitors Think Once is Enough for Such an Experience as Driving Over the North's One Road, Such as it is. Bad in the Daytime, but it is Worse at Night.

The Ferguson Highway is still bad. It's probably the most surprising road in the country. American tourists who tried it last week-end went along in a sort of daze. They'll certainly have something by which to remember Northern Ontario and if their friends crave a new thrill, they'll send them along.

The famous gravel road stretches out straight and broad, with here and there a little loose gravel. It's inviting, particularly when there's no dust. The tourist steps on the gas, gets up to the crazy speed of 40 miles an hour. Then suddenly, without warning, the undercarriage of the car comes up with a terrific bang that jars the teeth of everybody in the car. That's where the surprise element comes in and for those who want to try it, the stretch of road most prolific in the production of these is between Timmins and Porcupine Junction.

Made for Thrills
For thrills, the stretch from Porcupine Junction down nearly to Matheson is far and away ahead of the others. This is in the area where a fine, narrow, curving road dips and dives over the knolls of that typical Northern countryside. At the bottom of some sharp

dips are to be found the things that really make Northern driving a never-to-be-forgotten experience. These are bridges, so narrow that two cars would have difficulty passing, so peculiar of approach that no guard rails have been provided. But the best part of them is a neatly lettered sign, visible almost 10 feet from the bridge, that shouts in letters all of two inches high that the bridge won't carry more than five tons, and nobody must cross it at more than 10 miles an hour.

As an added attraction, there is at least one place where one of these cleverly hidden bridges is approached just like any of the others but over the crest of the ungraded hill there is a turn, then a nice narrow bridge, turned at a tricky angle, with another nice rise at the other side. This one is marked, however. Before coming to the first hill, there is a sign that says distinctly "danger." A death's head, mounted over the sign and finished in luminous paint, is all that's needed to complete the picture.

Graders Find No Gravel
In no stretch of more than two miles could the Ferguson highway be said to be good. But from Matheson down nearly ten miles it's fair, or was until

the heavy rain of Monday night and Tuesday morning. Power graders were on the job, even on Labour Day, smoothing out the spots where there was gravel. It must have been disappointing to the graders, though, when they struck those numerous spots on which there was no gravel to spread.

On the whole, though, people who travel by daylight and keep both eyes glued to the road, both hands on the steering wheel and modest pressure on the accelerator, may reasonably expect to reach North Bay with little worse than a shaking up of internal organs, a headache, and a few less parts on the car.

Fun in the Rain
It's at night when the Ferguson highway really gets the traveller down. Particularly a rainy night, like Monday. More than a dozen cars stood abandoned beside the road during the rainstorm. Some had wet distributors from splashing through puddles that stretched from one side of the road to within two feet of the other side. Some had just stopped, too tired to go on, with perhaps a necessary part left behind in some great pothole. It's at night that a motorist who travels even 30 miles an hour takes his own life and that of his passengers in his hands.

Traffic is no longer heavy on the Ferguson highway. People are learning.

Barrie Examiner:—Klefs from Ontario motorists as to the size of the gasoline tax are not infrequent. They should live in Decatur, Ala., where the tax is 11 cents. The motorists pay 1 cent federal tax, 6 cents state tax, 2 cents county tax and 1 cent city tax.

Classes in English Show Much Growth

Second Week of Free English Classes for Finnish Adults Opens with 53 Pupils. More This Week.

The free English language classes for Finnish adults, conducted by the Timmins Finnish United Church, are attaining much popularity, as the second week of the enterprise opened with 53 pupils, and more are coming this week. The large attendance and the keen interest shown by all in the classes will prove of outstanding value to the community.

At a well-attended meeting of the Ladies' Aid of the Finnish United Church it was decided to transfer all Wednesday night activities of the various organizations of the congregation to the church building, as the manse has already proved too small for these activities.

Baby Grand Hotels Now the Fashion in Europe

The Japanese periodical "Nippon" tells this one: In the 1870's there appeared for the first time in Japanese waters a German torpedo-boat. The commander of the boat, in accordance with international custom, proceeded to pay his respects to the Admiral of the Japanese fleet. As he was not acquainted with the Japanese language, and hardly expected that his host would be

any more familiar with German, it seemed immaterial to him what he said in greeting. He made a very low obeisance to the commander of the Japanese fleet and in reverent, dignified tones, spoke these words: "Ein und zwanzig—zwei und zwanzig—drei und zwanzig" (twenty-one—twenty-two—twenty-three). The gentleman being addressed in these terms received this greeting with courteous gravity. Then, bowing low in his turn he answered with equal reverence and dignity: "Vier und zwanzig, funf und zwanzig—sechs und zwanzig" (twenty-four—twenty-five, twenty-six).

Classes in English at South Porcupine

Finnish United Church Opens Free English Language Classes at South End.

At a congregational meeting of the South Porcupine Finnish United Church held last Sunday after the service it was decided to open Free English language classes for Finnish adults at South Porcupine. These free English classes have already proved a notable success at Timmins Finnish United Church. The classes at South Porcupine will open to-day (Thursday), Sept. 10th, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the South Porcupine United Church, Bloor avenue, and will be continued every Thursday at the same hours. The Ladies' Aid will also hold their

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first meeting in the same place at 8 p.m., and thereafter every Thursday at the same hour.

High-grade Samples from Week's Run of the Press

Renfrew Mercury:—A story comes from Mendon, Missouri, of the birth of sextuplets, with the mother a slender farm woman whose health was somewhat poor at the time. And as the story goes, there was a good chance of all six babies living had the mother not been in poor health. One of the children, a ten-pounder, is said to be living. What the weights of the other five were is not stated. "I'm from Missouri," is a well-known phrase. This story is from the same state.

North Bay Nugget:—Possibly the Liberal Association of Michipicoten was a wee bit ahead of the times in proposing secession from Southern Ontario as a Northern Ontario protest against

inattention by the reigning government, but Premier Hepburn is deceiving himself if he believes there isn't plenty of discontent in these parts.

North Bay Nugget:—Budapest barber claims a new world record in shaving a man in 28 second flat—or sharp. It would be preferable to have the razor welder pause occasionally to explode his "Did you hear the one about..."

Port Arthur News-Chronicle:—If the premier plans to engage in controversy with every man who says improper goings on are associated with the operation of beverage rooms by mushroom hotels, he will be in trouble much of the time.

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