

# HUP DOES A STUNT UP HIGH MOUNTAIN THAT CAN'T BE DID

Pardon the Grammar, but This Was Indeed a Wonderful Performance.

## OLD TOP SMITH AT WHEEL

Hupmobile Is Revelation to Noted Race Driver in Severe Test.

Walter Gobin Smith, noted war veteran, former officer in the cavalry of the Regular Army, also widely known as the tillikum of Eddie Rickenbacker in spectacular race driving and cross-country endurance runs, performed a stunt with a Hupmobile on Sunday, May 6, or rather the Hup performed it with this motor-car magician at the wheel that might seem incredible to persons unfamiliar with the wonderful car called the Hup.

The Old Top, as Smith is known to his army comrades, with six adult persons aboard and 200 pounds of luggage, drove out to Trout Creek Villa, the other side of Molalla, about 90 miles. In speed record time, only to be told by "experts" at the Villa that the climb up the mud road to the top of Molalla mountain, 18 miles, couldn't be done by mortal man except on foot, horseback or airplane. Late that evening, bowling merrily along toward Portland, past the Villa, the Old Top was singing:

"Some folks said she couldn't make that run,

Lemme tell you, honey, what this little Hup done— She reached that summit by half past one,

And started back home by the setting of the sun."

Really Marvellous Performance.

The writer knows what he is talking about, for he was in the party—scared stiff during the arduous climb up the mountain. The women in the party—four in number—seemed to enjoy the experience, having tons of confidence in Smith.

The Hup was low-g geared for two hours and never even boiled. It was the first car to attempt the mountain climb this season. It was a marvelous performance, over a densely wooded and shade mountain trail, full of roots, rocks and deep mud ruts from end to end, jutting logs, sharp curves, high precipices below, sheer walls above, bottomless bogs and mountain rivulets without number. At many places, where even the Hup balked, Smith backed the car away about 50 feet and went over the obstruction with a racer's running jump. In record time for dry road, and it was all mud this time, the Hup made it to the summit, and on the return made even better time. The wheel chains had to be used, of course. Smith wanted to see what the Hup could do.

Why the Hup Did It.

Smith, formerly a racer and cross-country endurance driver, who has driven and handled nearly every make of car, said afterward: "A higher powered, larger car couldn't have made it. The Hup did it, owing to its short turning radius. Sometimes it was at an angle of 45 degrees. It has a good road clearance and wonderful flexibility. It rolls and keeps rolling without bouncing. I always knew the Hup was a fine car, but I didn't know it was capable of such splendid work."

Smith was in the 1910 Glidden Tour. He said he never found a road more impassable than the one up Molalla mountain on May 6. "Give the Hup due credit," he said. "There's a whole lot in the driving, of course, but this test required an honest-to-God automobile."

On leaving Portland for a day's outing the party had been arguing about road stunts, but none except Smith had ever had experience of mountain driving. He suggested "a real ride" up Molalla mountain, which everyone said was impossible at this time. He naturally likes to do "impossible" stunts and started upon this one with an enthusiasm which seemed to have been, shared by the "almost human" Hup.

## Reclaiming Men at State Prison

(Continued from Page Five.) mates are served with a skill at least equal to that of outside. They keep their finger nails clean, trying at all times to measure up to the public det-

### JOHNSON S. SMITH



WARDEN JOHNSON S. SMITH of the Oregon State Prison, veteran in the care and reformation of prisoners, is doing a most wonderful work, although his administration is only five months old. He is being handicapped and harassed by the machinations of unscrupulous political enemies, who were attaches and parasites of the previous administration under Warden Jim Lewis and "Romana Bennie" Olcott. The Western American is in possession of facts concerning the activities of some of these men which, if published, would impel them to leave the State as speedily as possible. We are not interested in personal vengeance. Let retributive justice do the work. We are determined, however, to back up Governor Pierce and Warden Smith in making the State Prison what it ought to be, in the interest of humanity and the over-burdened taxpayers.

Warden Johnson S. Smith is a gentleman. All this is due to the humanitarian policy of the Warden, who is always "appealing to the highest motive to which they will respond."

Gun Cage Is Abolished. Above the dining hall of the prisoners, in one corner of the room, there is a great cage of steel, which formerly housed several gunmen, who kept their weapons of death trained upon the inmates while they dined at the tables below. Warden Smith has abolished the overhead cage. Every man is put on his honor to be polite and considerate of the rights of his neighbor. There is no need of killing, no spirit of massacre, and instead the prisoners have adopted the great Warden's motto, "Kindness is the greatest good." There's a saying among the "cons" that "from the day you were born till you ride in a hearse, things were never so bad they might not have been worse." Under Smith this is the spirit of the whole institution. The men make due allowances for human weakness, and so does the Warden. All want to do better, to be good, "and the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Magnificent Talent. In the chapel of the prison one sees a number of magnificent paintings, 10 by 5 feet, Oregon scenery, and four or five smaller ones. This is art work of the finest kind, plainly done by a master. The author of the canvases was a convict. The guard whispers that the Warden will be pleased if no mention is made of the name. Certainly, these paintings entitle the author to everlasting honor and praise. The motif and the technical execution are admirable. The artist is superb. The creator of these masterpieces, however, must forever remain anonymous, because, forsooth, he was a transgressor of the law and paid his penalty to the State. The chapel is a homelike place, providing facilities for both the Protestant and Roman Catholic religion.

Mill a Busy Scene. The lumber mill and machine shops of the prison employ a great number of men. Expert skill on the part of many has been developed. Economies are being effected that promise profits where red ink entries have been made before. Lacking room for storage, Warden Smith has constructed a double deck, doubling the storage capacity of the main floor. The employees are busy as bees. They manufacture tables, furniture and chairs, kitchen cabinets and many other things useful to society. A carload of the kitchen cabinets was shipped on May 7. The chairs sell at about \$30 a dozen and look as good as \$75 chairs. In one corner of the great room a poor old man, expiating his crime of other years, is making doll beds—the cutest things of the kind you ever saw. Poor old chap! He looks appealingly at the visitor, humble as a dog, ever ready to tell one of the kindness and mercy of the great-hearted Warden. In this department there is much new construction, installed about January 15, and promising large profits before the year is out.

What Think Ye of This? Upon the door of one of the main industrial plants of the mill is affixed this placard: "Gentlemen: Do not use obscene or profane language. Are you a gentleman?" Think of confronting a wild outlaw with a notice of that kind! Isn't it enough to make him think? It does, indeed. Formerly the men in these shops played all the time. Thousands of dollars in equipment went to hell, as the guards explain it, but now all are producing, self-supporting. In another busy section of the plant one observes this sign: "Junk-making in this shop is a dead issue and will cease from now on. Walter M. Pierce is Governor of Oregon by 25,000 majority."

Treated as "Kids." Punishments for infraction of the rules are peculiar under Warden Smith, who is an expert in knowledge of human nature. Picture, if you can, a former wild outlaw and murderer or robber continually running around a flag-pole, or May-pole, for hours on end, like a child, with old "cons" razzooing him at intervals. "Gimme the bullpen every time in preference to that," says the offender. For offenses in the dining room the culprit is sentenced to the "hog table," face to the wall, a new fangled punishment that gets results. These punishments prove, in the working out, that indeed "men are but boys grown up."

Installing Another Turbine. Warden Smith is ordering another turbine engine in the mill shops to manufacture light and power, cutting down expenses enormously and facilitating the development of the industries.

Certain dependable men in the machine shops buy their own lathes and working wheels, paper cutters, etc., and are permitted to make many articles which appeal to the visitor and which are sold at modest prices. All funds are kept intact in the Warden's office.

There is no flogging, no hosing, in the prison management. Moral suasion is supreme. The men are treated as "human beings, not as 'ruies or as cattle." "I am not a 'con herder," is Warden Smith's proud boast, "but instead, a friend to man."

Prison Was a Wreck. When Warden Smith took charge last January the prison was a wreck. It had been "high-graded" to the limit. It was a scene of festive carnivals, a rendezvous of choice spirits. Today the "pen" is a vast industrial home, a refuge of the oppressed and the unfortunate. Instead of idling, every man in the institution today is creatively busy. No longer is the "dog-house" packed with hundreds of men and boys, all cursing and fighting, gambling, drinking and committing nameless crimes. The vile old dog-house is a machine shop now, devoted to wood working specialties. There's more or less degeneracy, of course, for "the human heart is depraved and desperately wicked," but by moral suasion, by educational and spiritual influence, the great majority of the inmates are trying to be real men, living up to the Warden's ideal as best they can.

These prisoners, let no one forget, are but unfortunate specimens of numerous others who are guilty of crimes for which these men are making atonement, and that if all, high and low, who are equally guilty were given their just deserts, the prison at Salem would have to be enlarged four times over and then perhaps would not hold the half of them. The sinners outside, enjoying liberty, have no shadow of right to poke the finger of scorn at the poor devil who have been unfortunate enough to get caught.

Making Handsome Shoes. The prison shoe shop is a wonder. It is small yet in production, but some marvelous talent is being developed. The employees are making a shoe as handsome as anyone would wish to see. The shop is being enlarged and developed. The Warden's idea is to make all the shoes for the 500 residents of the prison. The shoemakers are making "eccentrics" now, shoes of unusual size or shape, to suit peculiar needs of individuals, at a cost of \$2.10 to \$2.30 a pair.

The keep of each man in the prison is \$1.10 daily. The Warden figures he can equalize this cost in productive capacity, and this is his task and problem. The prisoners are co-operating with him right loyally.

Poisonous Propaganda Out. At a time when the great-hearted Governor and Warden are striving to do something worth while for the State and for humanity, the wicked and vile scoundrels who are scheming to defeat their purposes have let loose by cunning methods a poisonous and dastardly propaganda among the prisoners themselves. Inciting the whisper that Warden Smith is trying only to develop efficiency, and that when one proves himself valuable as a workman he will thereby doom himself to serve the full sentence, without hope of parole. This propaganda is, of course, false as hell, conceived

in sin and born in iniquity, the vicious product of jealousy and motives of revenge. Every man in the prison will get what is due him, of course, and those most deserving of clemency and liberty will be recognized and rewarded. There's a lot of fine leadership among the inmates of the prison, limited and hemmed in by conditions, of course, but nevertheless a leadership of the finest kind. It is based upon the merit system, upon the virtues of human character, upon the good and positive qualities which imbue the human being with the spirit of self-conquest, which transform the deformed, vitalize the deadened emotions which govern human conduct, and develop poor sinful men into godlike citizens, capable of high purpose and achievement.

Warden Johnson S. Smith stands so high behind every prisoner who evinces this willingness or the capacity to change his mode of life. Smith is a great-hearted American, generous and kindly, and whoever wins his friendship, in prison or out, has acquired something priceless and beyond estimation. Surely the unfortunate prisoners will pay no attention to the cunning propaganda of the "Olcott" crew—the villainous grafters who were ousted in fierce indignation by the aroused people of the great State of Oregon.

Guards Emulate Warden. The prison guards number 48. Some of them are experts in various lines of industries now being developed. Each is a man of mark, picked for his special ability, and each understands the humanitarian policy of Warden Smith. They are not "con" herders. Typical of the entire group is William A. Mullen, formerly of Portland, a king among men, now serving as Assistant to the Warden. He knows men and the motives which actuate them in any situation. During the war he was in the ordnance department and previously was a successful contractor. He is a system expert and a finished psychologist. He can figure out what a poor prisoner is thinking, mentally putting himself in the other man's place, and he has a heart under his vest as big as Lookout Mountain. Every prisoner will do well to win Mullen's friendship and respect.

Flax Industry Promising. The flax industry is one of the prison's most promising activities. The State has been experimenting with flax about 12 years and now Warden Smith is going in for profits from the manufacturing end. Even now it is profitable. Spinning tow brings \$660 a ton, and the cheapest sold by the prison nets \$100 a ton. The different grades bring various prices, 11 to 17 cents a pound. Upholstery tow sells at \$100 a ton and the demand cannot be satisfied. This industry has been going since 1915 and has been handicapped by mismanagement in previous years. A bumper flax crop is assured this year. It is worth about \$100,000 to the farmers of the State. The prison employees receive a wage of 25 cents to \$1.50 a day in the flax mill, depending upon ability. The manufacturing end, now being promoted by Warden Smith, will yield large profits. The product will include twine, fishing line, etc., and specialties. The long line hock flax sells at 75 cents a pound. A carload was shipped the other day and the State received \$10,000 for it.

This quality is used for making fine linen. By-products formerly thrown away are now sold to druggists at six cents a pound and the prison cannot supply the demand. About 2000 acres are under contract for flax to supply the prison's needs. The State furnishes the seed. It is interesting to see the employe-foreman demonstrate the wonders of flax; carded, like cotton batting, it appears like silver mane upon a pony—elegant stuff.

What the Prisoners Say. The editor of The Western American was privileged to inspect the prison without official espionage. He talked with the prisoners and probed for facts. They declared they were fed as "good as any workman," and that Warden Smith is a "brick." The grub is plentiful, clean, well-cooked. The clothing is satisfactory. Privileges are enjoyed according to merit. The honor system prevails. No man had a kick. Every man had a heavy heart, when attuned to the ear of sympathy, and most of them were innocent, of course, and this appalling fact was developed: this penitentiary is in reality a reformatory for boys! Take out 15 or 20 old "cons" of the hard-boiled variety and the average see will be less than 25 years. All told! The average length of stay in the prison is about one year and eight months. It is a problem of human reclamation. Warden Smith is trying to send every man out better than when he came in. Society has to deal with them," he said. The "pen" is not an institution belonging to the Warden or the Governor, or the Board of Control, but to the people of the entire State.

Cove's suggestive assertion is in (Continued on Page 7)

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