

LITTLE STORIES OF THE AUTOMOBILE

"Following the Schedule," a Story of the Stone Age in Motoring—By George D. Wilcox, Ass't. Gen. Mgr. Regal Motor Car Company.

Once there was a railroad that, after many vicissitudes, established a right of way across New York State, from the sea to the Great Lakes at Buffalo. This roadbed had iron-shod wooden rails and the locomotives were the prey of every mechanical disease that can accompany an experiment; hence the time-tables on the train were two full days for the 440-mile journey, and the venturesome passengers were, it is said, glad of the night stop after a 24-hour run between New York and Utica over the uneven roadbed.

Sixty years of this exclusive form of quick transportation followed, bringing marvelous changes and improvements, and then came the automobile. How alluring it sounded! You were to be your own engineer, free to travel where you pleased, unhampered by the limitations of steel rails. You could at last see the country unhampered by the confines of a "two-by-four" window in a stuffy railroad car, and so in the year 1903 you bought your first "horseless carriage," in appearance the name ably fitted the vehicle, for the absence of horse, shafts and a whip socket were the only exterior evidences to the public of its claim to the motor-car family.

Mysteries Finally Mastered. Finally you mastered its mysterious internal mechanism, and made all the necessary changes and repairs had been made and paid for, alas, you decided on the tour which should take you from New York along the railroad, and so in the year 1903 you bought your first "horseless carriage," in appearance the name ably fitted the vehicle, for the absence of horse, shafts and a whip socket were the only exterior evidences to the public of its claim to the motor-car family.

Mail Delays Trip. Eight o'clock found you in Yonkers, 16 miles out, and you had figured in your schedule to arrive at 7, but how were you to know that the particular mail which punctured one of your tires was lying in wait for you on Upper Broadway—and besides patching a tube and replacing eight "staybolts" which you know hold the tire on the rim take time, and an hour at this isn't slow either, is it?

What world of difference between the fellows that build railroads and wagon roads. Somehow the railroads and all the level country and the wagon road goes out of its way to find the steepest hills, or so it seems, for about one every two miles is accomplished on "low gear" and your "understudy" declares he has dislocated his arm carrying water to that "ever thirsty motor." Would you believe that a fellow could spend ten hours going 86 miles to Poughkeepsie in a car guaranteed (?) to do 35 miles an hour? Well, he can if most of the 86 is up and down and he has four punctures, and runs out of lubricating oil, necessitating a four-mile walk to town, and he can be awfully tired hanging on to that "killer steer."

Experiences Return in Dreams. He feels that he could have walked all the way on his hands and have felt no worse—and so, at 8 o'clock, you "house" the car in the ivory barn and three hours later, with a "hunk" of cold cream on your blistered "phis" you retired to dreams of the endless hills, irate farmers and "rube" equines that had added to your day's happiness and who now persist in following you in endless files as you pass.

The happiest moment in the life of a hotel night clerk comes at that moment when, with his finger on the push button of your room bell, he summons you to the door.

BLOSSOMS TO BE KING HOOD RIVER AND THE DALLES PLAN CELEBRATION. Portland Invited to Take Part in Festivities May 3-5—Press Club to Be Entertained.

Blossom season will be celebrated at Hood River and The Dalles with appropriate festivities, in which Portlanders have been invited to participate. Fruitgrowers estimate that the blossoms will be at the height of their glory early next month and have fixed May 3, 4 and 5 as the dates on which they will be received. A special train leaving here on the morning of Friday, May 3, will bear a party of Commercial Club members and their friends to The Dalles, where they will remain until the following morning. Automobile trips that day will be made to orchard lands which will be features of entertainment. In addition there will be something to eat, music and other forms of celebration.

Leaving The Dalles on Saturday morning, May 4, the party will arrive at Hood River in time for almost a full day in that city. There a similar programme will be provided. Hood River has prepared an extensive picnic grounds near the city where most of the exercises will take place. The special train will leave Hood River late Saturday evening for Portland.

Sunday probably will be filled with more fun than any of the two preceding days, for it is on that day that the Portland Press Club will be entertained at Hood River. Members of the club, their families and their friends will be entertained by the Hood River Commercial Club at a picnic. It is probable that 100 or more will be in the Press Club party.

J. H. O'Neill, traveling passenger agent for the O.-W. R. & N. Company, has just returned from Hood River and The Dalles, where he completed arrangements for the blossom celebrations. The orchards, he says, are in excellent condition, many of the trees already coming into bloom. They will appear in glorious array at the time of the festivities. Growers are looking forward to record-breaking crops this year.

AD CLUB HOST AT DANCE Informal Affair at Multnomah Attended by 150 Couples. Members of the Portland A. J. Club were hosts Thursday night at an informal

mons you with prolonged and insistent ring to arise at A. M. for an early start. At least you felt that this was true as you donned your "armor" and sallied forth to the all-night lunch wagon for breakfast. After two hours you groomed, tightened, "tuned" and adjusted your steed and at 6:30 were away, determined to make up lost time or "bust" and "bust" you did, for an hour later in coasting a long hill the chain "rode" the rear sprocket, snapped and was left a quarter of a mile eastern in a cloud of dust and profanity.

Broken Chain Puzzles. Of all devices patterned with care to resist roadside repairs when broken, a chain, you think, is easily the winner. You add a link from spare parts, and it's too long for the adjustment; subtract one and it's too short, and so finally, having carefully transferred all of the grease from the under-side of the car to your person, mashed your finger in an attempt to use the monkey wrench for a hammer, and argued with your companion until you are not on speaking terms, you hire a farmer to ignominiously tow you five miles to the "village blacksmith."

Watches are peculiar devices, when one counts the moments on one in waiting—they seem to refuse to move, but when in your pocket and attempt the repair of a motor car, and immediately it springs into life, minutes whiz by into hours, and today prove no exception to the rule. You are surprised that it's after 12 as you mount the seat for the fresh start and, upon inquiry, find it's 15 miles to Albany—but you are determined.

You guess you can make Utica if nothing happens by dark. Alas, that the Nemesis of prehistoric "motor cars" should again overtake you—but it does, in the shape of ignition trouble, and that's the one thing you had dreaded, for you confess to yourself its ungodly mysteries when, 10 miles from the capitol city, "she dies on your hands."

Farmers Ask Fool Questions. You crank in turns—that is, you experiment with every part of the electrical equipment while your partner in despair does the "heavy work." The hours slip by. Farmers stop, each with the query "Broke down? You detect the unholy joy that dwells in the heart of each as he makes the inquiry. Broke down? Not much. Of course not. Merely adjusting, you assure each one.

Finally, and who could have guessed that the "vibrator screw" had worked loose—you discover the cause of all your woes—she starts. You collect the tools and parts that litter the road and are away. Albany is in sight, and 10 o'clock. Rapid calculation shows you that it's still 275 miles by road to Buffalo. You begin to respect the prehistoric time table of 60 years ago and marvel at the modern one. The railroads do sure go some.

Night Boat Ends Troubles. At this rate of progress you can see three more long days of driving to reach your destination. As you reason you approach the long bridge over the Hudson leading into the city. For the first time during the trip your eyes leave the road as they fling themselves at the dock lies the New York night boat, steam up and soon to sail. How easy it seems the return—if you dared.

Your companion who has not spoken for some time, moves uneasily, and hesitatingly speaks, "I've just thought what a beautiful moonlight night this will be on the river and besides, we have a very important engagement in New York tomorrow, old man."

The ice is broken. Further explanation is unnecessary. With one accord you halt the "revised tour" toward home, and turning through the nearest street are soon at the boat landing.

After dinner, reconnoitered upon the upper deck, you "frame up" the story that's to be told at home and admire the beautiful scenery that you didn't have the chance to even glance at coming up. Also you gamble that had you had a pair of rails, even if they were wooden ones, and no hills, you could have beaten that prehistoric schedule into Utica—easy.

Touring in the old days was great sport, but it worked your passage. Looking back, however, you feel that somehow you wouldn't have missed it, would you?

dancing party at the Multnomah Hotel, at which 150 couples were present. Between 9:30 o'clock and midnight there was dancing in the main ball room. The mezzanine floor and the ladies parlor were thronged with guests. Those not dancing were entertained at cards. The rooms on the seventh floor maintained by the A. J. Club were visited. The various publications and scrap books of the organization were displayed.

The reception committee included: Geo. L. Baker, chairman; Mrs. Geo. L. Baker, Mrs. L. A. Colton, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Berg, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall N. Dana, Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Gollebur, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Hard, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Henry, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. M. Hyland, Mr. and Mrs. Will A. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar B. Piper, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Schell, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Hodson.

The committee in charge of the entertainment was composed of the following: C. H. Crisley, chairman; Geo. L. Baker, W. L. Crisley, L. A. Colton, F. I. Gollebur, H. R. Hayek, G. B. Lindsey and L. L. Riggs.

EDUCATORS WILL SPEAK Well-Known University Professor to Be Heard at Eugene. UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, April 20.—(Special.)—Dr. Joseph Schaefer, director of the 1912 Summer school session at the university, has secured two more eminent educators to contribute to the success of the coming vacation gathering.

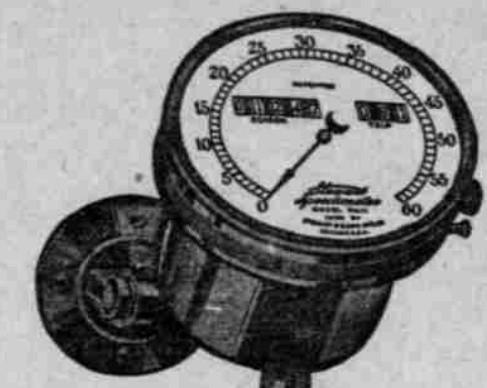
Dr. Richard Hurton, of Minneapolis, head of the English department at the University of Minnesota, has been engaged to deliver lectures during the month of July. Dr. Hurton is a poet, writer and critic of wide repute and is one of the most popular lecturers on the Chautauqua platform.

Dr. Grant Showerman, professor of Latin literature at the University of Wisconsin, a distinguished author and essay writer, will give a course at the Oregon Summer session, aimed to benefit especially the teachers of Latin in the Oregon high schools.

Marconi Increases Stock. TRENTON, N. J., April 20.—The Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company filed with the Secretary of State today a certificate increasing its capital stock from \$1,622,500 to \$10,000,000.

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"SPUD" CONTEST IS ON

BOYS OF EASTERN PART OF COUNTY ENTERED.

Prizes Amounting to \$80 Will Be Given by Farmers and Fair Association—Granges to Compete.

GRESHAM, Or., April 20.—(Special.)—The sum of \$80 will be awarded the boys of Eastern Multnomah County who are willing to raise a patch of potatoes this Summer. The Farmers Society of Equity has donated \$40 for the purpose and the County Fair Association has doubled the amount, the final judging of the products to be made at the County Fair next Fall.

Each competitor must grow a patch 100 feet square of potatoes and do all the work himself, except the plowing of the land. Five bushels must be shown at the fair and they may be of any commercial variety. The board of directors of the fair association has decided to advertise the coming festival by making personal visits to all the granges of Eastern Multnomah and Clackamas counties on their regular meeting days. Three prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$40 will be awarded the best Grange exhibits, and it is to stimulate the Granges into active competition that the visits will be made. Copies of the premium list will be distributed on these trips and some good missionary work will be done by the fair boosters during the

visits. Announcements of their coming will be sent out in advance so as to insure a good attendance at each place. Arrangements are being made to secure an exhibit of all the products of the county for the State Fair, which collection will be returned here for exhibition.

The Commercial Club of Portland has promised the services of a chemist free to preserve all fruits and vegetables, and the growers are requested to provide anything suitable for the purpose that may be available. This work will begin at once, with the earliest fruits, and continue during the Summer. Later a complete collection of grains, grasses, and ripened fruit and vegetables will be made.

STUDENTS AWAIT CLASH

Field Day Promises Interesting Athletic Events.

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY, Forest Grove, Or., April 20.—(Special.)—Pacific University will suspend classes to observe on Monday the annual "Field day" interclass track championship meet. The class securing the highest number of points will be awarded the Mills cup, which is at present held by the junior class. There will be a battle royal between the freshman and junior classes for the championship title. Both classes have strong teams representing the best athletes in school. The ranks of the freshman have been strengthened by the return of Ben Mayfield, who is slated to win the shot-put, discus and hammer throw. Austin and Ferrin are the junior

stars. Ferrin is good for 11 feet in the pole vault, and Austin will easily win the distances and the broad jump. Track prospects are not as bright as usual for Pacific this year, on account of losing some good men. However, several new men are showing up well. A meet with Willamette "U" at Salem

has been arranged for May 1. A return contest will be given them in Forest Grove about May 25. There is also a movement on foot by the Corvallis management for a triangular meet to be held between Oregon Agricultural College, Willamette and Pacific Universities in the near future.

Pacific has voted her consent to such a meet. There is also a meet under consideration with Archie Hahn's Whitman athletes early in June. The snuff habit started in England in 1773.



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