

DAMASCUS ROUTE OFFERS SPLENDID WINTER AUTO TRIP

The Portland motorist who is loath to keep the car indoors during the wintry months is in some difficulty when it comes to determining routes to follow when deciding upon the direction of the Sunday afternoon drive. The city streets stretch in all directions, and even the man with a car does not know all the nooks and crannies about the town. But few car owners get much of a "kick" from simply driving about town, and there are others who like to blend their out of town runs with a little variety.

The road to Hillsboro has been mentioned as one route that should meet with year-long approval, and the road through Damascus, Gresham and back along the Powell Valley road is another. The latter route was one followed by The Journal road scouts last Sunday in a Sayers Six, piloted by H. W. Denis of the Sayers Pacific Motor company. The road was discovered to be in good motoring condition from one end to the other—with the exception about 300 feet of rutty, frozen mud, from which no difficulty of passage was experienced.

Leaving The Journal building about 2 p. m., the party took its way over the Hawthorne bridge, out East Clay street, Division street and along Eighty-second street. Eighty-second street is well known as part of the run to Oregon City. But the turn to the left at mileage 10.8 is not so familiar, and those who have not taken it have missed one of the pleasantest of the short "round-city" trips.

The paving runs for a mile and then ends abruptly, a fairly wide road of smooth macadam taking up the burden toward the wooded hills and dairy country around Sunnyside. Near the 12 mile mark the road dips into the valley, where snow still holds in the sheltered spots away from the rather weak rays of the sun, and where most of the fields and woods bear a distinct cold and straggly appearance. A machine or two were passed and a wagon bearing a rush order of wood for the city, and on the hill leading up to the long bridge at 12.4 the Sayers squeezed past a buggy chaperoned by a dog, whose three-quarter tail probably accounted for his shortness of temper.

ROAD IS GOOD

But the road is good and leads on in a never ending series of twists and turns, dips and hummocks, through the sunny fields and past thickets where the green of summer has been forgotten and the glory of fall scarcely remembered. The 14 mile point marks the only really bad portion of the road, but the driver takes it easily in second and will come to the turn at the church with temper unruffled and the rear end of the car fairly well together.

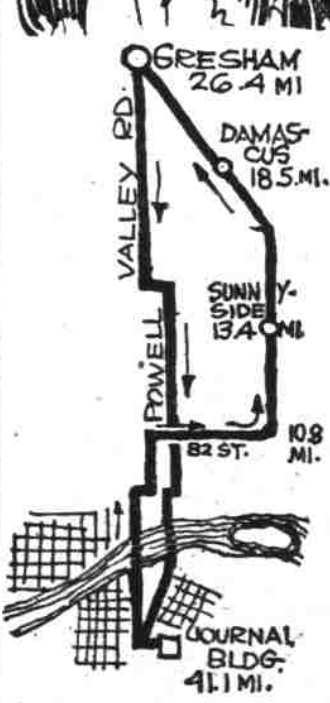
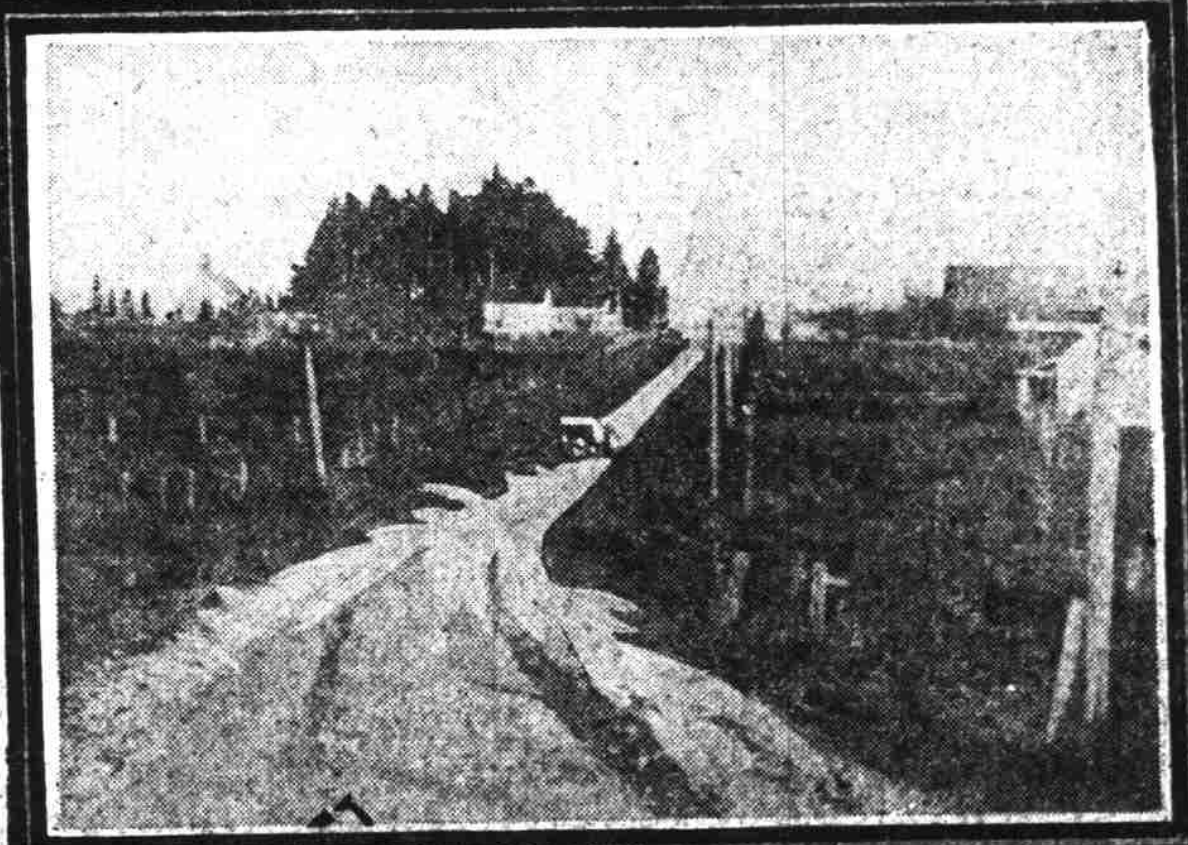
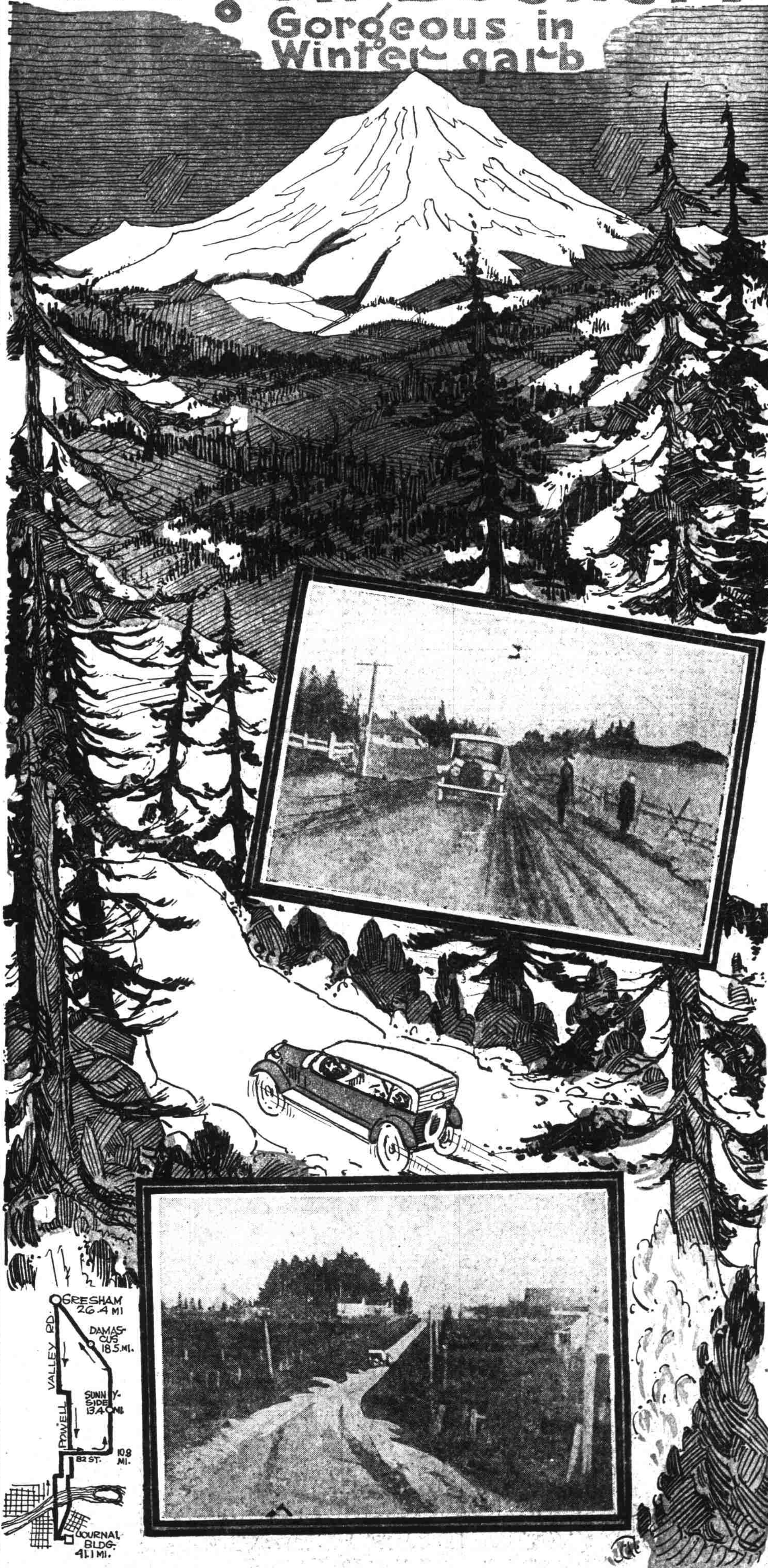
After a turn to the right by the church the road is much better and a sprinkling of crushed rock—all too thin—testifies to the labor of the Clackamas county road crews, whose rock crusher is passed farther down the straight stretch. The bridge at the bottom of the steep hill at 14.8 is good and a run for the hill beyond the structure is permissible—no fear of a rough jolt from holes at either end. The macadam which may have been macadam at one time—who can assert definitely to the contrary?—is worn beyond all recognition, but there is plenty of room for the wheels of the car to find smooth running space.

FRESH GREEN OF WHEAT

The emerald freshness of the fields of fall sown wheat form bright patches here and there where a turn permits a glimpse of the rolling country. Far off on the side of a hill a few outbuildings form a miniature city about the base of a silo, whose leaning bulk reminds one—somewhat remotely—of pictures of the tower of Pisa. The roads are good, allowing rapid passage, though the turns are of the right angle kind that cause the car almost to meet itself getting around them. Most of them should be banked. Meeting another machine at such a point demands that one or the other go out onto the frozen turf and away from the hard crown of

Oregon Scenery

Gorgeous in Winter garb



Journal party in a Sayers Six takes a delightful midwinter jaunt of 40 miles out to Sunnyside and Damascus and return. The time required to make trip was a little over two hours, and good roads were found all the way.



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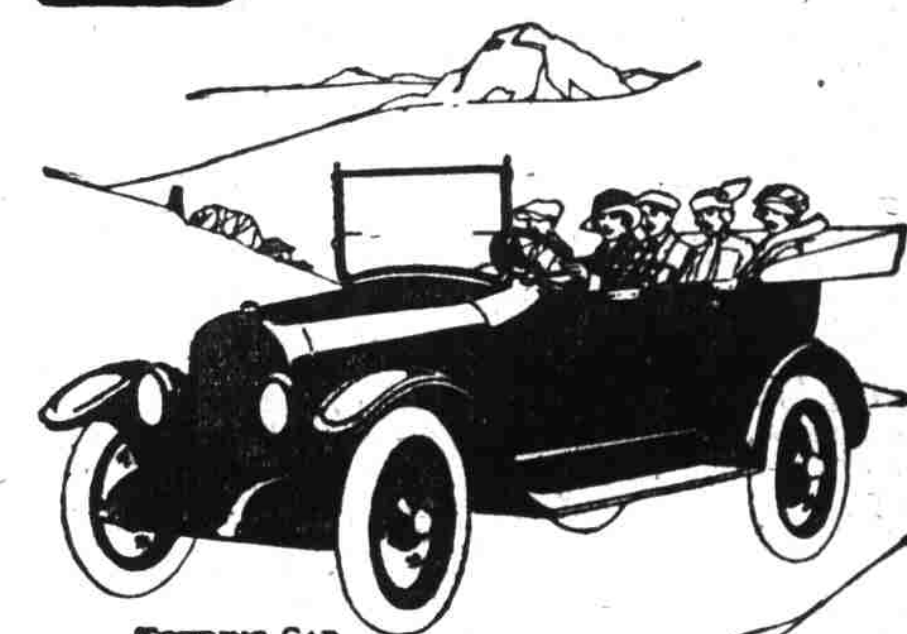
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