

Reliable Tires Mean Much in Life of Correspondent Who Goes Down to Mexico Fight

By FRANK ENGLER

Such was true in my case during the recent Mexican revolution when traveling as a newspaper correspondent accompanying the rebel armies on their retreat from the state of Chihuahua over the "pack track trail" of Pulpito Pass into Sonora.

On April ninth the last troops of the Insurgents, under the command of General Marcelo Caraveo, were ordered to evacuate Chihuahua and proceed to the Pass and hold it against the advance of General Almaban. The three Americans then comprising the rebel air service, in addition to two newspaper correspondents—myself and Ray Miller, special writer for Universal Service—were given permission to travel with this contingent.

After taking a troop train to Cast Grandes we disembarked with the troops. The general staff furnished us with an ancient flivver, which a few gleaming silver pesos had coaxed out of the possession of one of the more ambitious peons of the district.

"This flivver had no starter, no batteries, and he accessories were conspicuous by their absence. However, the motor turned over and it progressed in a fashion peculiarly its own over the uneven terrain. The tires were solidly built, sturdy cords made by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber company. It would take good tires to cover the territory we expected to cover in the next few days. Punctures would be calamities and enduring rubber was the highest necessity.

Our supplies consisted of the essential gasoline and oil, which we strapped to the side of the running boards, along with can-

teens of water, jerked beef and tortillas, who had a load.

Burns Trail Ahead

We were soon to find out first had the perils of Pulpito Pass. For a time there was a road, and then, suddenly, there was no longer a road. A burro trail stretched ahead. It was awful. Rocks were strewn as if by a designing hand to impede progress of travelers so rash as to brave the pass. We jolted and rolled along. Up one side, down on the other, slipping hither and yon. There were places too narrow to travel horizontally, and we would very carefully run up a hillside and with the car tilted at an angle of thirty degrees, travel ahead by jerks and starts.

Winds would howl down the canyons carrying cutting sands that stung like fury. At every mountain stream we would water

up and so, in a fashion, moved along.

It was a source of amazement to us that the tires held up. We would get out and carefully look them over for signs of weakness. They held, in spite of the diabolic trips that nature had so bounteously thrown in our path.

Two Days Without Food

It took five days to get over the pass, two of which we went without food. Still the tires held. So long as they did we would hold the flivver. When they gave out we would have to walk and it was not a pleasant prospect. Frankly, we didn't believe our luck would hold. Rubber and fabric fashioned by man surely couldn't withstand the innumerable hardships of the trail we followed.

But they held, and we arrived at Oja de Agua, and then the fun began. Three of us were in the front seat and three in back, a Colonel Del Rio having joined us at the last camp. We were singing. Without warning there was a crash and glass splintered over us. A neat hole appeared as if by magic in the windshield. Someone was firing at us.

"Curtains" For Us

"Alto!" That meant stop—there they were—less than two hundred feet away—ugly looking devils. We jumped from the car. More shots were fired and Colonel Del Rio slumped in the seat, unable to get out in time. A trickle of red ran down his face and above it was a purple, jagged hole. It was the end for Del Rio. Up went our hands. Quickly we were surrounded and disarmed. These fellows were Agristas (most loyal of Calles' troops), and being unable, or unwilling, to read credentials, took no chances. Ev-

eryone was a potential enemy to them. We were lined up along the car. It looked like curtains for all of us when one of them shouted:

"Dos carros"—(meaning two more cars). At this they scurried for the bushes and began firing. It was our rear guard coming up with y-u -q-b omf.... ece... mn General Medina in command. No man in all Mexico has more courage than Medina, and with a short skirmish it was all over. The leader was killed and the rest rode hard for the mountains.

Once more we were under way. Soon we came down from the mountains and entered upon the desert in Sonora. Across the red hot sand skirting cactus and mesquite bushes we finally arrived at Nogales, thankful that American craftsmanship had provided us with tires that stood the gaff and saved us from hardships and probably death. And they are still good for a few thousand miles. It's Goodyear tires from now on for any car I drive.

SHANGHAI HUGE CITY
SHANGHAI—(AP)—Chinese authorities report the population of Shanghai as 2,276,046, of whom 47,760 are foreigners. There are less than 5,000 Americans in the city. French, British, German, Portuguese, Swiss, Italians and Japanese are numerous.

DISEASE DECREASES
MOSCOW—(AP)—The public health department has reported steady decreases in disease and mortality in Russia in ten years. Since 1914 smallpox has decreased eight times and typhus three times.

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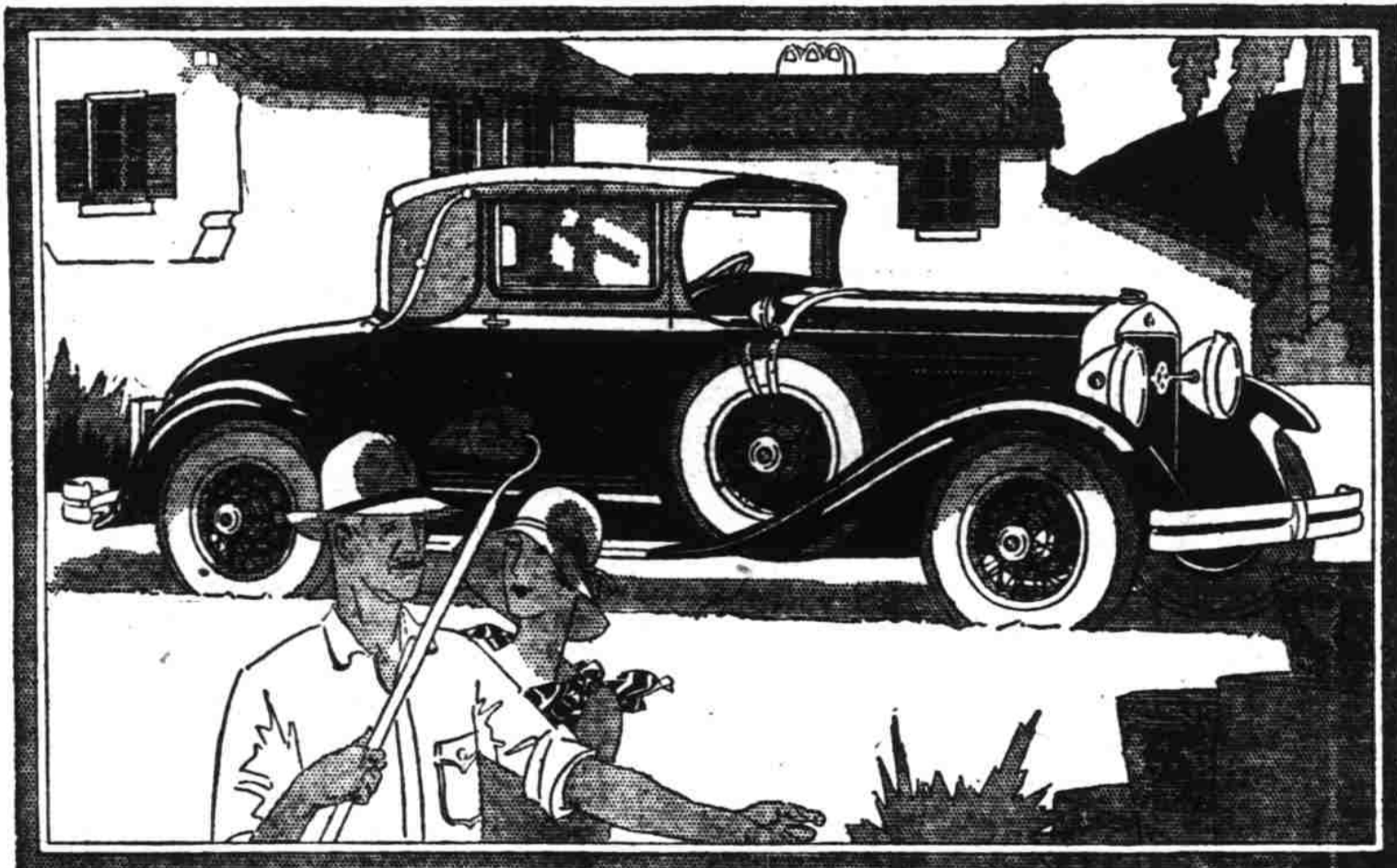
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