

Summer Camping Trip Is Enjoyed By W. A. Freeburg

After wondering for many, many miles away from Ashland during the past six months, while on a long overland trip, W. A. Freeburg is again back in the city, where the "pine and palm trees meet," and publishes the following account of this trip:

in the United States. The roads to Nashville were very bad. This is a large manufacturing city. On the 29th of August, we camped on Cumberland mountain and next day ferried across the Tennessee river. We crossed Lookout mountain, at the foot of which is Chattanooga, Tenn., a beautiful city. Near here are battlegrounds of the Rebellion, where many monuments and tablets describing battles once fought on that ground are seen, and camped 20 miles south where an old stone church stands near the highway. In this church General Grant and his staff had their headquarters for some time. Leaving Georgia, we crossed St. Mary's river into Florida, and crossed St. John's river at Jacksonville to St. Augustine. A part of this town was built by the Spaniards over 300 years ago, many of the buildings being still in existence. Daytona is a beautiful resort town—all of these cities are on the east coast. Here we turned inland to Leesburg, where we laid over three days, and the mosquitoes nearly ate us up. All of this southern country is swampy, more or less, and very flat, and alligators cross the roads in the daytime. In the country, out-

side of towns, there are only darky shacks and huts, no window glass, only big rough shutters, not a house with any paint on. These shacks are strung along both sides of the road. You never get out of sight of them scarcely from one town to the next except in very swampy districts. The front yard is kept swept clean. They use a bunch of brush for a broom. Bleeding the pine trees for turpentine is a big source of employment for the darkies. Millions of trees are bled by stripping the bark off for three feet, and cans are placed at the bottom of the cut to catch the gum. Then it is collected and hauled to a turpentine still where it is refined. This prevails all through the southern states. We were surprised at the vast forests and the great number of sawmills at various points. The darkies are kept in debt to the whites all the time and never can get away from them. They are brought back if they attempt flight. The white landowners parcel out patches which they think a family can handle, perhaps four to six acres. They raise a little cotton, corn, sweet potatoes and peanuts. If any should get ambitious to own a little land and work hard to clear and improve it, the money lender will manage to get it shortly. They will not permit the darkies to have anything; they are not considered; and a darky's life is removed on the least provocation and nothing ever said about it. A darky will not speak to a white person unless first spoken to and is polite when addressed. It is very dangerous to mix with them. A white person must go right along—never notice them, and they will never bother. They run some little stores in darky districts. In Florida there is a toll bridge every few miles—so much water, many swamps, rivers and lakes—they are all 50 cents each, little or big. We camped for noon on the banks of the Swanee river and later crossed it at Ellaville, Fla. The trees are festooned with a grayish moss hanging down three to six feet. It is very dense all through the swampy south. On the 12th we arrived at Pensacola on Mobile bay. This is a beautiful large city. At Fairhaven we embarked on a steamer to cross Mobile bay, 19 miles, fare, \$3 for Lizzie, 50 cents each passenger. Mobile, Ala., is a large old fashioned city. We bought bananas at 15 cents per dozen, fresh oysters, 50 cents a quart. Jackson is the capital of Mississippi, where they are building a new capital building. At Vicksburg we saw war scenes. Where General Grant laid siege to Vicksburg, the United States government made a park of thousands of acres, costing a million dollars. Immense statues and monuments—everything laid off in battle array, designating where attacks were made, and drives winding through. This is a very hilly country. The city of Vicksburg is so hilly that we failed to see

a level spot anywhere. We crossed the Mississippi river on a large steam ferry—fare \$1.50. Now we are in Louisiana, going through the Dismal swamp for seven miles, in and out among the cypress trees at the rate of three to five miles per hour. This was some road, it having been somewhat drained or it would be impassible. We had previously been in four days' rain, but fortunately it was fairly dry here. Roads very poor until we got to Shreveport. Here we went into Texas, where the roads were good to Dallas. Thirty-two miles west of that city, we went through Fort Worth, a city of over 100,000 population. Roads are paved all through here for miles. Large cotton fields but not so many darkies. We went through Socorro, New Mexico, an old Mexican town, mostly flat adobe houses. From here it is some 200 miles to the Arizona line. Near Flagstaff we detoured to the Cliff Dwellings, prehistoric homes of an ancient people. We stood in some of their rooms. It looked as if several thousand people might have lived in these cliffs. A deep canyon drops off here, which looks as if a stream had at one time run through it, but now not a drop of water in miles. This is a government reserve and a cistern furnishes some water for the rangers and tourists. It is 22 miles from Flagstaff, where we camped for the night very tired from climbing to and around the cliff dwellings. Roads very poor. Near Oatman, we got the surprise of the whole trip. Evening was coming on, but we thought to camp there, it being only ten miles, but we had no idea there was a steep six mile grade, very crooked. Night was on and no place to camp. So we kept on. When we got to the summit, it was still steeper down. We thought we would never get to Oatman, but little after 9 we got there. Scarcely a place where we could get off the road, but we crowded in with other campers just about worn out. Next day we crossed the Colorado river near Needles, and were in California. Roads very poor. At Barstow we left the highway, turning north to Mojave and went over the Tehachapi pass to Bakersfield, through Sacramento, on up over the Siskiyou to Ashland, Oregon, our home, having now traveled and camped out through 21 states and our speedometer showed 9000 miles. We left Ashland last May on the 8th in a snow storm, going through Reno, Nev., Salt Lake City, Denver, Omaha, Fort Dodge, Iowa, Minneapolis and St. Paul, Madison, Wis., to Beloit, Wis. We failed to mention that at Crowell, Tex., we fell in with a young couple by the name of G. Spindle, with whom we traveled and camped for two weeks, leaving them at Barstow, Calif., they going to Pasadena. We enjoyed their company ever so much and were quite a little help to one another through the terrible rough roads. We were well provided for camping, rain or shine, never using a tent, cooked on wood fires and slept in the car. We saw no auto camp to compare at all with the one at Ashland.

COUNTY COURT PROCEEDINGS

(Continued from yesterday)

Table listing County Court Proceedings including Road District No. 11, Road District No. 12, Road District No. 13, and General Roads. Total: \$3243.41.

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Table listing various road expenses and supplies, including Medford-Crater Lake Road, Blue Lodge Road, and various contractors.

Total, \$2776.93

(To be continued tomorrow)

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