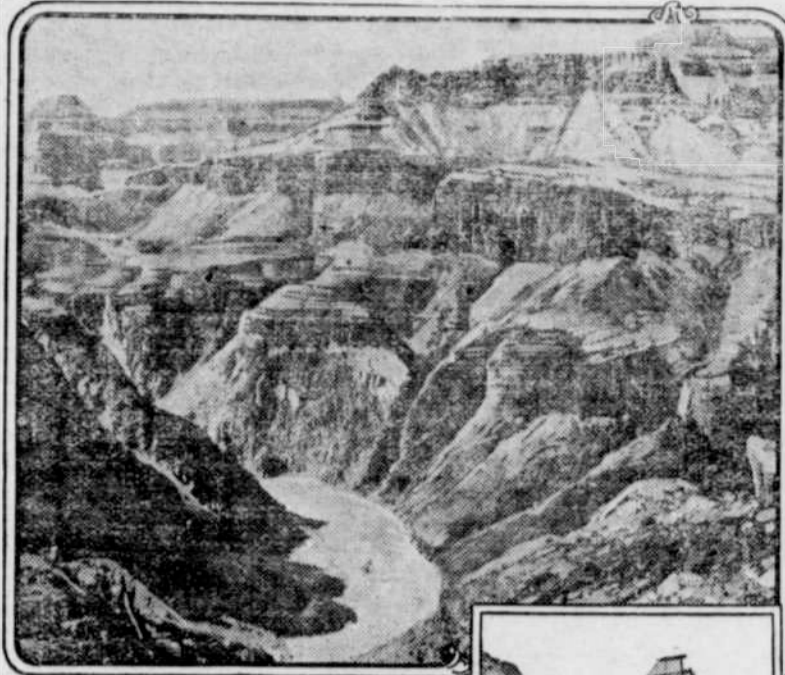


# A Grand Canyon Marvel

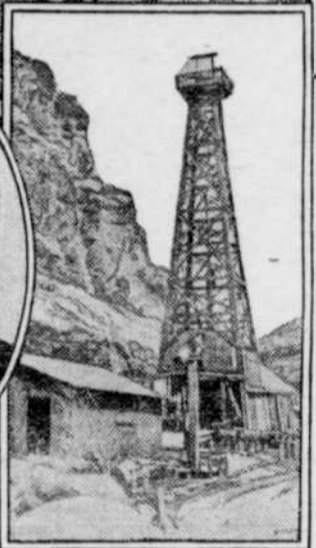


Where the Grand Canyon is Grandest

World's Premier Scenic Region Suddenly Produces a New Development of the Greatest Economic Interest to the Entire Nation.



U. S. Senator Cameron



Just Room for the Derrick

**By JUDSON C. WELLIVER**  
**T**HE Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, widely regarded as the world's most imposing natural wonder, has suddenly taken on a new and startling interest.

A few years ago, when it was as inaccessible as the North Pole, John Wesley Powell won fame by making the first trip through it. A little later another adventurer conceived opening a trail from the canyon's rim down to the river, a mile below. It seemed grotesque, but the impossible was accomplished, and its accomplishment has made the canyon's innermost wonders accessible to thousands of tourists each year. They come from all quarters of the world every season in greater numbers to traverse the Bright Angel Trail. That trail is truly a monument to the daring and devotion of its builder. He worked at it for ten years, almost without help or financial backing, at one period spending almost half a year alone in the vast gorge. But today Ralph Cameron, builder of the Bright Angel Trail, occupying a seat in the United States Senate voted to him by the people of Arizona, has his reward.

### Greatest Artificial Lake

But the conquest of the canyon had hardly been realized when the engineers discovered a new use for it. At Boulder Canyon, Arizona, the greatest dam in the world, a third of a mile high, should impound a lake which, spreading over a great area in Arizona and Utah, would be, next to Lake Michigan, the largest fresh water body entirely within the United States. Harnessed to mighty turbines, the water, falling hundreds of feet, would produce a power greater than Niagara, and irrigate an area several times that of the Nile Basin, which served for uncounted centuries as granary of the ancient world.

The Boulder Canyon dam has not yet been built, but the people of the Southwest are as confident of its construction as that the Colorado will continue to flow between its giant walls.

Now comes a new chapter in the romance of the Colorado. The intrepid "wildcat" of the oil industry, scouting for new sources of petroleum, have brought in an oil well right in the canyon! Drilling from a narrow shelf at the gorge's bottom, they have overcome unbelievable obstacles. Perpendicular walls of rock grimly forbade construction of road or trail to transport machinery and supplies. From the river a succession of rock walls rise in gargantuan terraces to a height of 3,000 feet.

### The "Great American Desert"

The little Mormon town of Moab, eighteen miles upstream, is the nearest supply base. But Moab is not a railroad town; a drive of forty miles is still required to reach the Denver & Rio Grande railroad. Salt Lake City is 250 miles away, to the northwest.

Standing at the foot of the derrick which marks the site of the new oil well, one's back is fairly against an 800 foot cliff, which is matched by another immediately across the river. Looking up, one imagines that if he could climb one of these walls he would be "outside." But, trying this, he finds himself on a plateau or terrace, with another cliff a little way ahead. To climb this, in turn, would only bring him face to face with still another cliff, and so on till he had mounted full 3,000 feet from the river.

Not only must this succession of cliffs be mounted, but to traverse the rock terraces, gashed and torn, is only less difficult. And finally, the ascent to the outer rim accomplished, one confronts a waste of ridged, seamed and boulder-strewn desert, endless save for distant mountain peaks. Manifestly, the oil "wildcat" could not make roads, so they built

a flat-bottomed boat and floated down from Moab. It was a daring performance, for the stream twists constantly; unseen rocks and shifting bars add to its difficulties, and the canyon's perpendicular walls threaten instant wreck.

But it was done. Materials were brought, a derrick reared, machinery placed, a camp built and drilling begun. Now, with oil flowing from a depth of 2,035 feet, the Crane Creek well is suddenly the wonder of the whole intermountain country.

### A Maze of Difficulties

Just about a year from the beginning of drilling the well began to flow, with every indication that when the drill goes somewhat deeper into the producing sand it will be an important producer. For the present, drilling has been suspended, awaiting provision for taking the oil away. It is doubtful if in all the history of the 600,000 wells that have been drilled in this country, largely in regions difficult of access, any one has ever presented such a category of obstacles as this canyon well in Utah. How the oil will be transported to a refinery is still sheer guess work, but a way will be found, for the ingenuity and resources of the oil engineers have never failed.

The "bringing in" of this well illustrates the difficulty of petroleum development. Convinced that the geological structure was particularly favorable, the projectors determined to gamble \$75,000 on drilling. Before they got oil they had spent more than twice that.

For years wells have been drilled in various parts of the state—fully 200 in all—at a cost of probably \$5,000,000, and this canyon well is the first real producer! It is only by dint of such persistence in coping with natural obstacles and financial hazards that the country's supply of oil is maintained. The first oil well in Western Pennsylvania became a producer at the depth of 89½ feet. Nowadays wells a mile deep are not uncommon, and they have gone down as far as a mile and a half.

### Every Well is a Gamble

A large proportion of wells produce nothing whatever and represent total loss. It was recently estimated that in the last twelve and a half years \$1,200,000,000 was sunk in wells which were failures. Despite every effort of science, engineering and long experience, and notwithstanding the stupendous depths now reached, 25 per cent of wells last year were dry.

The "wildcat" is the Columbus of oil. He is to petroleum, to gasoline, to the fuel supply of the country's 20,000,000 automobiles, what the old time gold prospector was to building the empire of the far west. He is essentially a gambler; good loser or good winner. The lure of enormous winnings keeps him tirelessly searching, and sometimes he finds his reward. But in the aggregate, offsetting all winnings against the total cost of this engrossing gamble, it is not improbable that all the oil that has been taken from the soil of this country from the beginning cost more than its producers got for it.

### A World in the Big Game

But their huge gamble is the basis on which the whole industry rests. The ice-bound Arctic and the fever-festering tropic jungles alike attract the hardy "wildcat." To them the world owes its newest and best in transport by land, sea and air. They help light its homes and streets, provide an astonishing share of its power, furnish an endless list of necessities which are by-products of petroleum. The "wildcat" is well nigh the Atlas of this modern mechanized world.

## Notes and Comment

By CHAD ALTON

It is only the unsuccessful ones who desert the farm for the city, and it may not be a circumstance held against him, for in some other line of industry, he may prove entirely competent. So in the abandonment of the one he leaves place for the man who has intelligent knowledge of agriculture, and both are thereby benefitted. This latter knowledge not all men possess, and it is very necessary in becoming a satisfied, prosperous farmer.

The editor of the London Daily Herald, an English labor paper, has just quit his job and gone "vagrabonding" as he calls it. There are one or two editors in this country who reversed that during their lifetime, and who might give the gentleman lessons in how to properly take up his belt and board a fast-moving freight at night.

Tom Taggart, widely known Democratic leader, protests the sale of a recent novel because, he says, it contains an inference that he was once a professional gambler. Tom is super-sensitive. If any or all of us would protest what the novels contain by inference or otherwise which we might take to ourselves, there would be no novels. It does not matter so much what we once were as what we are now, at the present.

This is the age when the average man dreads to open his daily bunch of mail, fearing it contains notices of instalments due, acquired by some members of the family.

The season of shortened days, of falling leaves, and county fairs is enfolding its mantle about us. The many exhibitions of what the earth produces guided by the intelligent hand of man, evidences to what a happy station we may arrive by devotion to labor.

Commander John Rogers, aviator, drifted on the Pacific ocean in a cockleshell for nine days and fate decided he should be rescued and saved. Then last week he fell from the air a short distance to land, and the same fickle fate decreed his death.

Joan of Arc, whose leadership drove the English out of France 500 years ago, is to be preserved in memory at least by a church erected at her birthplace. Looking down from her present high estate, she may now view the same religious organization which burned her as a witch bending the knee in devotion.

In the film actor's funeral were three interesting personages. His first wife, his second wife, and the lady who expected to be his third wife when Death stepped in and claimed him. From the latter there was no escape, and the contract is forever binding.

With ma and daughter in no-seem dress and bobbed hair and son attired in sheik style with pants flopping like sails in a dead calm, Dad needs a cowbell about his neck to draw any attention when he steps out with the family.

Ma Ferguson has gone down to defeat as governor of Texas, having been defeated by Moody by about 250,000 majority. The lady who had served one term with great credit, lives to learn how fickle her reputation was in reality.

The Bell motor line between Seattle and San Francisco is to have a Fokker plane as a service car which will be used in cases of breakdown. It will be used to rush repairs and

also to pick up passengers in emergency cases. This is the first line to adopt this mode of service.

Nebraska has a man who claims to be the champion hog caller. His voice can be heard for two miles, and it is said the hogs when they hear his call will leave everything else and climb fences to get to him. What a handy guy that would be around a newspaper office to call in delinquent subscribers.

Two exponents of different sorts of religion, one from India, the other

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Clackamas	2:30	6:50	Eagle Creek	8:15	4:45	7:45	8:45	
Carver	2:40	7:00	Barton	8:25	4:55	7:55	8:55	
Barton	3:05	7:25	Carver	8:45	5:15	8:15		
Eagle Creek	3:15	7:35	Clackamas	8:55	5:25	8:25		
Ar. Estacada	3:30	7:50	Ar. Portland	9:30	6:00	10:00		

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