

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

THE 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 "wildcatters" 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, veined and boulder-strewed desert, endless save for distant mountain peaks.

Manifestly, the old "wildcatters" could not make it, 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 69 1/2 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 "wildcatter" is the Columbus of oil. He is to petroleum, as the Columbus of the sea, as the discoverer of 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.

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-feathering tropic jungles alike attract the hardy "wildcatter." 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 "wildcatter" is well nigh the Atlas of this modern mechanized world.

MORGAN NEWS

Morgan held a school meeting, Saturday to discuss the question of the transportation of pupils to lone.

Noah Pettyjohn and Pat Menlock unloaded a carload of wood Thursday.

Mildred Morgan is working for Mr. Chester Hutecroft.

The school meeting held at Morgan first Saturday, voted to provide transportation to lone for all pupils above the primary grade. Hershel Townsend hauled wheat the past week for Noah Pettyjohn.

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Palmateer were transacting business in Arlington, Monday.

James Hardesty went to Arlington Saturday and had his teeth worked on.

Mr. George Dague and son of Valva Walla were down Sunday, looking after his interests in Morgan county.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Workman and son, of Beaverton, are spending a few days with Mrs. Workman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Harrison, before going to Marshfield, Oregon, where they will engage in the operation of a greenhouse and florist's business. They have leased their farm property near Beaverton.

LEXINGTON NEWS

Mr. Vere Cummins accompanied by Alfred Sibley started Saturday morning on a visit to relatives in Nebraska. The young men are going in Mr. Cummins' car and expect to be gone a couple of months. On their trip they expect to visit Yellow Stone Park and other famous points of interest.

Miss Doris Wilcox entertained Miss Vera Brashers and Miss May Gentry at her home on Willow Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Kene after a pleasant visit with Mrs. Kene's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Slocum started on a trip to Ohio.

Word was received here that Lauence Copenhagen had joined the army.

Some real nice peaches are on display in N. F. Barnett store window. We understand that this fruit was raised on T. L. Barnett place on Knob Hill and it shows that Lexington can hold her own when it comes to raising fruit and vegetables.

Galey Johnson our general school gantor is working diligently these days getting the school house and grounds in good condition for the fall term. At present he is erecting slides which are part of the new playground apparatus recently purchased by the Board.

Rev. James Pointer preached at the Christian Church Sunday Morning.

Don't forget to come and see "Harry Carry" in the roaring forties at the Lexington theater this coming Saturday.

Mrs. Ted McMillan and daughter motored to Arlington from there they will go for a visit over the mountains to Union and Baker, Ore. and they will be accompanied by Mrs. McMillan's mother Mrs. Clara.

Island Never Had Frost

Although North Carolina often has several snowstorms in winter and cold snaps are common, there is one spot in the state where there never has been so much as a frost. This is Bald Head Island, at the mouth of the Cape Fear river, not far from Southport. It covers ten or twelve square miles and the growth is subtropical, says the Raleigh (N. C.) News and Observer. Nowhere have live oak trees attained such magnificence, and nowhere else do palm trees thrive without protection of some sort from the cold. The island is a veritable jungle with about as equable a climate as could be desired. It is never hot and never cold.

Doesn't Follow

"Strange that with your liking for the fair sex you never married."
"Oh, I don't know. A man may love lovers and not care to be a gardener."

ITALIAN PRUNES

2ct at Orchard

C. L. Upham,

Three miles east of Hermiston.

NOTICE OF HEARING OF FINAL ACCOUNT.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed his final account as administrator of the estate of Perry C. Dennis, deceased, in the County Court, of the County of Morrow, State of Oregon, and that Monday, the 4th day of October, 1926, at the hour of 2:00 o'clock P. M. of said day, and in the County Court Room in the Court house at Heppner, Morrow County, Oregon, is the time and place appointed for the hearing of objections to such final account and the settlement thereof, at which time and place, any person interested in said estate may appear and file objections thereto in writing and contest the same.

F. H. Robinson,
Administrator of the Estate of Perry C. Dennis, deceased.

Date of first publication of this notice, August 27, 1926.
Date of last publication of this notice, September 24, 1926.

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