

# AUTOMOBILES CONQUER WILDS OF DIXIE LAND

E. G. Woolley, Jr., and Party  
Home From Notable Trip  
to Grand Canyon.

## TERRIFIC OBSTACLES SUCCESSFULLY MET

CAMPED AT BRIGHT ANGEL,  
HIGH ABOVE WATERS OF  
THE COLORADO.

For the first time in the history of the state, the remote southern portion of Utah has been conquered by the automobile. Two automobiles have just returned from Bright Angel, on the Colorado river, after a most remarkable journey. The most southerly point in this state, heretofore reached by an automobile was when a drummer, five years ago, managed to get to Panguitch, in Garfield county. But the drummer never came back in the machine; he shipped his car out by freight.

The party left Salt Lake Saturday, June 19, in two automobiles, a Locomobile of forty horsepower and a Thomas car of seventy horsepower. Those who comprised the party were David A. Affleck, Adela Burt, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Woolley, Jr., and four children and "Sandy" Dunlop, chauffeur. At Kanab, where the camping outfit was taken up, Ed Little joined the party as cook and George Emmett as horse wrangler.

### Trip Without Accident.

The two automobiles were marvelously fortunate in that they met with no accident which could not be repaired by the occupants. The machines made the journey on their own power and with the same tires with which they left Salt Lake. It is true that the tires present a sad appearance, but the fact that they stood the great strain speaks well for their toughness. Two mishaps occurred, one to each machine, in the twisting of the transmission shaft, but these disarrangements were remedied without outside help. Once the Locomobile was stuck in the mud and once the Thomas had the same trouble. As each pulled the other out, honors on this score are considered even.

### Good and Bad Roads.

Mr. Woolley's description of the trip is intensely interesting. "We found the distance from Salt Lake to Bright Angel to be 430 4-10th miles," said Mr. Woolley yesterday, "and it is a curious thing that we covered the return in exactly seven-tenths of a mile less. These are the records of both machines, which were equipped with Warner speedometers. We account for the slight difference in going and coming back by the fact that, on the downward trip, we took a few little sidesteps, so to speak. In every case we found that we had the oldest inhabitant's distances beaten. Our instruments proved that our distances were shorter than the local distances, sometimes by two or three miles. "We found the best roads in Sanpete and Sevier counties, but we found some stretches further south that were real horrors. You can say that we worked our poll tax from Monroe to Bright Angel and back again.

### Some Bad Going.

"We had a mixture of good and bad roads from Salt Lake to Kanab, which we reached the fourth day. From here to Monroe the roads were good. From Fountain Green to Sterling there was a splendid road, and from Sterling to Gunnison there was some sand. From Gunnison to Salina the roads were average. They were on the benches, and had some cuts, but on the whole they were good. Then on to Willow Creek we found them cut up. From Richfield to Monroe, however, they were fine. The people have been improving with gravel which is found thereabouts in great quantities.

"Monroe mountain is very steep, and very smooth and slippery. We encountered two very bad places. From Marysville, the end of the railroad, to Circleville, thirty miles, the roads are fair, but in Circleville, canyon they are wretched. "Our chief trouble all along was taking out high centers, obstructions in the middle of the road—sagebrush, stumps and rocks—which could be negotiated with a wagon all right, but which we had to remove. We dug out hundreds of stumps, going and coming.

"Another trouble we met with was sumpback bridges over irrigating ditches. Dozens of times we found bridges without any appreciable grade in the approaches, and as we had to take these at the slowest speed, we lost much time.

### Across Sevier Dam.

"One of our worst experiences was our passage across the Sevier river dam. This embankment has recently been put in to hold the waters in a great reservoir. It is sixty or seventy feet high, and the top is just wide enough to accommodate a wagon. We unloaded the folks and crept across. The Thomas skidded three times, but held.

"When we reached Alton, or Upper Kanab, we stopped to repair the twisted shaft on the Locomobile. From Alton to Kanab is forty-four miles, all except fourteen of which is the worst lot of roads imaginable. Of these fourteen there are four at Johnson's wash that are ideal. For the rest, they are sand, sand without bottom.

### Gay Times at Kanab.

"Through every settlement we passed the people turned out en masse to see the cars. It was quite amusing to see them make a bee line for the fence when the power began to make a noise.

"Our entrance into Kanab was in the nature of a triumphal procession. The whole town turned out, and all night long scores of curious people visited the shed where we put up the cars. We made several drives out of Kanab with people of that place, and they were immensely tickled.

"On the fifth day out from Salt Lake we rested, and on the sixth we reached Ryan, having sent the camping outfit ahead with a start of a day and a half. The outfit includes a wagon for provisions, another wagon for extra passengers, saddle horses and, in short, a complete camping outfit.

"Ryan is where the big Coconino smelter was built. The plant was put up at a cost of a million and a half dollars, all

# AUTOMOBILES CONQUER WILDS OF DIXIE LAND

Continued from Page 1.

of the heavy machinery and equipment being freighted from Modena and Marysville. There is as complete a smelting plant at Ryan as is to be found; but it is idle because the ores which were to be treated were rebellious, and the metallurgical problem could not be solved.

### On the Buckskin Mountains.

"At Ryan the government has erected houses and corrals for the use of the forest service. The American flag is flung to the breeze and the place looks for all the world like a military post.

"We struck the famous Buckskin mountain on the seventh day. We went by way of Nagle's and Pratt's canyons. The mountain presents a steep climb, and is heavily timbered. I believe the timber is not found in the state of finer quality or denser growth. We attacked the mountain at Dry Park, and on the eighth day we reached Big Park.

"The next day, the ninth out, we made Bright Angel, where we pitched our permanent camp.

### Gorge Thousands of Feet Deep.

"Bright Angel is 8,200 feet high and it is 7,000 feet to water. It is directly across the Colorado river from the famous El Travor hotel, the only resort of its kind in the world, perhaps. This place is reached by a branch of the Santa Fe from Williams, Ariz., forty miles long, and is much frequented by tourists. The hotel practically overhangs the gorge. From the hotel tourists make the descent down to the water, an undertaking which requires a day and a half in time. The descent on our side would probably take equally a long time, but we did not make it. My experience of five years ago when I made the trip having been sufficient to last me for all time.

"There is a tramway across the river, so that people may cross in a wire basket swung on two steel cables and operated by a windlass or gasoline engine.

"The sheer height upon which our camp stood is composed of seven enormous layers of different formations. There is white sandstone, red sandstone, basaltic rock, marble, the whole resting on a granite base—the river flows between the granite walls.

### A Visit to Greenland.

"On the tenth day we rested, and on the eleventh we took a trip to Greenland, the easternmost promontory. The climbing was stiff, but we were rewarded for our pains by the magnificent views. We

could see mountains 300 miles away, and the San Francisco mountains in Arizona, 150 miles away, were quite distinct.

"There are five of these 'fingers' or promontories on the north side, and between them immense gorges. They are called Powell's plateau, Point Sublime, Basin Point, Bright Angel and Greenland.

"The next day we struck camp and made Dry Park. On the thirteenth day we reached Kanab, where I had ordered tires and oil to be sent, and we spent the fourteenth in working on our cars; we had no need of the extra tires, however.

"On the fifteenth day we reached Johnson's wash in the evening. On the sixteenth we got to Panguitch. On the seventeenth night we reached the top of Salt Creek canyon, and on the morning of the eighteenth we dropped down to Nephil for breakfast.

"We got back to Salt Lake at 3:45 o'clock on the afternoon of the eighteenth day, sunburned, hard as nails and feeling fit as a fiddle.

### A Peculiar Animal.

"Did you encounter much game?"

"Well, I think we saw one of the most peculiar animals in the world on the Kabi plateau. It is a squirrel about as large as a cat, with a coal black body and a perfectly white tail. We were told that the animal is found nowhere else. The government is giving it the fullest protection, and the specimens we saw were quite tame, running down the tree trunks apparently without the slightest fear.

"We saw thousands of deer in the reserve, which is to be made a national park for the preservation of wild animals. There is already a herd of buffaloes, and there will soon be a band of elk.

"Cougars abound and are very destructive to livestock. Three or four hundred mountain lions have been killed within a short time. They are hunted by men in the employ of the government under the direction of an officer called the game warden. These animals attack all kinds of young stock; but are especially fond of colts and deer. The wild cattle down there showed no fear of our automobiles and paid little attention to us when we came near them."

Continued on Page 3.