

WILL RIVAL THE SANTA FE TRAIL

Movement To Build A New Highway To The Colorado Country

On account of the rain and floods of a couple of weeks ago, news of the road meeting at Woodward is meagre.

The meeting was called for the purpose of mapping a new highway to Colorado, from Woodward thru Beaver, Forgan, Liberal on to Santa. Thence west, to New Ulysses Johnson City and Two Buttes.

Anyone with a knowledge of the country to be traversed will instantly recognize the possibilities of such a route and the east with which it can be constructed and maintained. With the exception of a very few bad places the route is already one of the best in the country and has been much used in its present condition and the present condition of the Santa Fe Trail is making it more popular.

On account of the floods in Colorado and adjoining territory in Kansas, the Santa Fe Trail is not in the best of condition for travel and will not be for a year or so. Then many sections of the trail have been torn up to permit further work, which is not conducive to satisfactory travel.

Going north from Liberal to Santa, and then on to New Ulysses one encounters a minimum of bad roads. The road north from Liberal to the river is of the best by any means but the Commissioners are determined to make a road of it before long. South of Beaver there are also some places which need continual watching, but the great length of the road and the comparatively few bad places will make it popular once it is marked and made known to the tourists.

Liberal should get in on this proposition with all possible vim and help to put it over, and assist in every way to get the road marked and in condition.

DEMOCRAT OFFICE TO CLOSE JULY FOURTH

The Democrat office will be closed all day July 4th. The force will spend the day at the races in Dodge City, at the river fishing and in other places of pleasure. It is seldom that a holiday arrives on the right day for a newspaper to shut down, but this time everything was right except the business, and we hope our customers will overlook us as we have not closed the office many times when there was work to do.

SETTING 12-INCH CASING IN NORTH WELL

E. J. Skaer, who is in charge of the drilling of the well for the Seward County Oil & Gas Company, north of Liberal, is making rapid headway.

The company now has over 500 feet of good clean hole, the water is shut off, the 16-inch casing set, and the 12-inch is now being lowered into the hole.

ELMER CREED RETURNING AFTER 4 YEARS SERVICE

"Hello, folks, you may start cooking because I'm leaving New York Tuesday at 5 p. m., arriving in Liberal Thursday, if I don't miss my train.—Elmer."

The above message was received Wednesday by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Creed of 102 South Grant avenue, and was one of the most pleasant messages ever received by them.

Elmer finished his schooling at the age of 17, and immediately enlisted in the service. He rose rapidly and for sometime has been doing clerical work for the major of the post. Previous to this, he was with the Peace Mission, and had the opportunity of becoming well acquainted with former President Wilson and other prominent men. It has been an experience well worth while, but he will no doubt be glad to again live in the good old U. S. A., and eat some of mother's cooking.

Friends of the family rejoice with them on his safe return and excellent record.

ORGANIZING ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION IN LIBERAL

R. J. Pollock, A Clever Boxer, Perfecting a Local Athletic Association

The Liberal Athletic Association will soon be in going condition due to the efforts of Mr. R. J. Pollock an experienced wrestler who came to Liberal for that purpose.

Mr. Pollock will give private lessons in boxing and wrestling in the association headquarters over the Mahoney Grocery and Market.

With eleven years experience as a wrestler, Mr. Pollock is well qualified to not only conduct the association, but to give lessons as well.

He is planning on putting on some boxing and wrestling exhibitions under the auspices of the association, but only members may attend, so if you desire to be in position to see these matches better take out a membership ticket.

The tickets are on sale at Taylor's Drug Store, The Annex Cafe and The Pullman Cafe, and are \$1.00 each.

Mr. Pollock says he is going to bring some good boys to Liberal and will guarantee to please the sport fans here.

A little boost on the part of the public will help this organization along and it will be a mighty good thing for the town making it the headquarters for sporting events in this section.

H. W. MAGRUDER TO LEAVE LIBERAL

Has Responsible Position With Large Company With Headquarters at Abilene

H. W. Magruder announces that on July 15th he will sever his connection with the Liberal Light, Ice & Power Company, and go to Abilene where he will be connected with the management of the Riverside Light & Power Company.

This company has 23 stations around Abilene, and is one of the strongest in the country. They have been trying to induce him to take a position with them for some time and finally made him an offer which he could not afford to turn down.

It is with much regret that the Democrat tells of the departure of Mr. Magruder from Liberal. He has been identified with every movement looking to the advancement of the town since it first started on the up-grade, and has spent much time and effort to that end.

Mr. Magruder established the electric light and ice plant here when Liberal scarcely justified the investment, but he has pulled it thru the discouraging periods in the town's history and has brought it to a successful condition. His last act of importance was the move to install the new 365 horse power Diesel engine now on the tracks here, and when this is started no town will have a better plant than Liberal.

Mr. Magruder helped organize the Liberal Chamber of Commerce and was its president for several years. He was active in the Great Southwest Association, the Fort to Fort Highway association, holding responsible positions in both organizations. Besides these he is recognized in the world of Electrical organizations, being an officer of the National Electric Light Association.

It is going to be a difficult matter to get along without Magruder and we certainly congratulate Abilene on securing him as a citizen. It is his nature to boost and he knows, a most valuable consideration. We wish him well.

G. E. Matkin returned the first of the week from Wichita and other points where he had been visiting relatives.

SOME STORES WILL CLOSE FOR THE FOURTH

Dry Goods and Clothing Stores Will Be Closed All Day, Others Will Remain Open

The dry goods and clothing stores will close all day the Fourth of July but other stores will remain open on account of the harvest trade, which makes it impossible to close. As a matter of accommodation to persons busy in harvest it was deemed unwise to close everything up but the dry goods and clothing people thought there would be nothing necessary to the harvest in their lines and will not open on that day.

Liberal Boy Scouts In The West

By Eli Walker

Introductory. HOW IT HAPPENED

Troops Two and Three, of Liberal Kansas, were only partially complete, and were not making any great headway toward that end.

Early in the summer of 1920, Mr. John W. Baughman, a prominent business man of Liberal, and a lover of boys, also knowing something of the value of the Boy Scout work, invited all the scouts and also other boys of 'scout age, to accompany him on a camping trip at his expense.

Forty-two boys responded. The trip into Oklahoma covering five days was so successful, and proved the benefits of scouting on boy life, that Mr. Baughman conceived a plan to encourage the boys to increased endeavor. After returning to Liberal he promised an extended camping trip the following summer, to all boys who would become First Class Scouts in one year's time.

From this time applications began coming in thick and fast, new Scout Masters were impressed into service, regular meeting places were established. Frequent hikes were had. In fact before cold weather set in, the town was full of scouts in all stages of the making from the Tenderfoot to First Class Scout. At the present time Liberal has more than one hundred registered Scouts, scout Masters and assistants. A local Council has been formed, and charter applied for. Mr. E. S. Irwin is president; Rev. Eli Walker, is Scout Commissioner. All of the interests of the city are back of the work.

By the first of June forty-one boys had reached the coveted goal, First Class Scouts, and were ready to claim the promise made by Mr. Baughman. Mr. Baughman foreseeing this, had weeks before planned the itinerary of the sight seeing trip which he planned to cover or cross five states, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and Kansas. A distance of over one thousand miles, through some of the most wild and rugged districts of the Rocky mountains, at times to reach an elevation of ten thousand feet. The time allowed for this wonderful trip was only ten days. Could it be done? Speedy cars must be selected, proper arrangements made for safeguarding the health life and limb of the scouts. Every detail was carefully worked out, practically every camp was selected before the start was made. The following organization was perfected: John W. Baughman, Transportation officer and General Manager; Eli Walker, Scout Commissioner, ranking Scout officer; Rev. Pennington, Equipment officer; E. A. Pennington, Commissary officer; Bernard Meyers, Health officer; Charles Buchanan, Drill officer; Willard Harnden, Assistant Scout Master; D. G. McCombs and O. E. Furry, drivers. It is interesting to note here that during the entire journey there wasn't a hitch, everything working as smoothly as an army camp. Reo Speed wagons were selected to carry both baggage and boys. One for the baggage and several boys, two more to carry the remaining boys. The entire party numbering just exactly fifty. The value of the selection of cars was proven by the negotiation of the steep mountain grades, the heavy loads carried, and long journey complete with but little car trouble.

THE GREAT TRIP BEGINS

Bright and early of the morning of June 14, the entire party, fifty strong, met, loaded, said goodbye to several hundred parents and friends gathered to see us off. The three cars loaded to their capacity, swung down through main street, and with many hearty cheers struck out through the country. The long trip had begun. How will it end, a thousand miles are to be traversed. Dangerous mountain roads and high mountain passes to cross. The trip to carry them into the wildest part of the Rockies. Could we keep them well, avoid accidents, give them plenty to eat, and bring them safe home again? This was the worry of the parents and the problem of the officers in charge.

The way thru Oklahoma and Texas was uneventful. The Scouts were in good spirits and ready to greet every town with a few of their lusty

yells and occasionally marching thru a town while the cars stopped for oil water and gas. At Dulhart while the main body of scouts were putting a parade, the baggage car headed west aiming to reach camp at Clayton, N. M., and be ready when the rest of the party arrived. Soon after passing the Texas line into New Mexico, one of the boys riding in front seat suddenly yelled: "Look at the mountains, look at the mountains." Far ahead could be seen two dark looking peaks not much larger than many hills we had passed during the day. "Those aren't mountains, are they, Scout Master?" upon being assured that they were, he was still doubtful. "How far are they?" "Oh, about 40 miles." "None," he replied, "can't be, really is it?" in fact, they were the Rabbit Ear mountains some 10 miles northwest of Clayton, which was then about 35 miles away.

The Commercial Club of Clayton very graciously met us, made us welcome to the City of Clayton and to the state, gave us a splendid Weenie Roast opened their swimming pool, and in fact, gave us a royal welcome.

Our camp here was typical of almost every camp. Twenty-two tents in two rows facing each other with a narrow street between. The guards to on duty in shifts of two hours throughout the night. They were supposed to patrol a beat one on each side of the camp, but before long they were discovered walking side by side busily talking to keep their spirits up or to keep awake.

The following day we were off bright and early. This day has no monotony. Mountains could be seen all day long. Much surprise was expressed because of the seeming nearness of mountains, sometimes almost 100 miles away as were the snowcapped range which could be plainly seen. At one time we would be driving right toward a mountain for some time without getting any nearer, apparently. Then a turn in the road taking us in another direction, seemed to leave the mountain far behind, when suddenly making another turn, there was the same old mountain right in front of us.

Throughout the day it was an ever changing view, extinct volcanoes, with great lava beds were passed, beautiful valleys under the irrigation ditches, were rich in growing crops, in the distance beyond the foothills could be seen the long dark range of the great Rockies, which were between us and Taos, our goal. The little town of Des Moines made us glad by stopping us to take a drink of...Lemonade. At Raton we were again kindly received. Members of the Chamber of Commerce taking us in hand and taking us to a restaurant for a splendid feed. We wanted to take time to visit these splendid fellows, but they informed us that the roads ahead of us were uncertain. We decided to hurry on, hoping to make Eagle Nest Dam that evening. We were disappointed in this. We ran into 13 miles of newly graded roads which had been recently rained on and were very heavy. A Ford stuck in the mud was approached. The driver when questioned said it was a Blankety Blank shame that even the man who made the road couldn't get thru it. In fact, he was the engineer constructing the road. Upon his advice we turned back, or rather, backed back. The drivers backed their cars nearly a quarter of a mile and up a grade at that. They couldn't tell which was forward or back to by the time they got to the top of the hill. We camped that night in Maxwell.

The third day saw us well above Cimarron and beyond Ute Park. During a brief stop above Cimarron we nearly lost three of our boys who were anxious to climb a mountain. We had stopped a short time for a lunch. While this was in preparation the boys scattered some to wade in the mountain stream; others to climb among the rocks above us. Mess was called, all were fed and loaded up to resume the journey. But when the roll was called, three boys were missing and no answer could be gotten from them when they were called. Two cars went on while the third remained to pick

them up, which they soon did for as they heard the recall of the bugle they began their descent of the small mountain they had started to climb. Having missed their dinner, they had nothing to eat till supper. Our camp that evening was at Eagle Nest Dam. A huge dam far up in the mountains used to store water in irrigation out on the valleys beyond Cimarron. Here our tents stretched out in one long line facing the lake made a pretty picture.

The ice froze in water basins that that ice froze in water basins that night. Scouts who had been in the habit of wearing pajamas, now wore about all the clothing he had along. It was remarked that it didn't take long to dress for all a fellow had to do was to put on his shoes.

The following day a short move was made into the Red River Canyon over a pass 10,004 feet high. The descent into the Red River canyon was the steepest grade we had yet encountered. The road descending in sharp curves winding backward and forward across the face of the mountains. Most every body but the drivers, however, unloaded, and descended by foot, making a short cut, and were at the bottom by the time the cars arrived. Our camp was in Bob Cat Canyon, just off the main canyon. Here we began to feel the wildness of our surroundings. A passing trapper told of Bob Cats, and Bears lately seen by ranchers and of a huge bear that had lately killed some cattle for a rancher not far away. A great eagle was seen perched high on a tall pine far up the mountain side. A few shots from a small rifle drew but little attention from him. After a hasty lunch hiking parties were formed. Some to fish, others to climb mountains, while others were anxious to explore some old caves and copper mines, which had been seen from the trail.

By 5:30 all were back and keen to fall upon the supper steaming hot ready for them. Indeed they were keen to eat at almost any hour of the day. Every meal was abundant somewhat after the following: bread and butter, scrambled eggs, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, crackers, cookies, fruit, cocoa, and coffee. Sometimes we added bacon, beans, salmon, oranges, bananas and jam was served at nearly every meal.

Bob Cat Canyon, The name is suggestive of wildness, of excitement, of danger. Our camp only increased the suggestion. The tents pitched promiscuously by the side of a rushing mountain stream. Mount Wheeler at the mouth of the canyon in the darkness looming up in the dark bold relief, steep mountains on either side, back of us the narrowing canyon, which held many a hiding place for some dangerous beast. As the shades of night fell around us all were glad to find a place around the huge camp fire, the blaze of which lighted up the sides of the canyon only added to the weird wildness of the place. Here C. R. Dwire, Deputy Forest Supervisor, who with three guides had joined us the day before, gave a splendid lecture on Forestry. This with his lecture the previous evening on Fire Prevention will prove of value in the education of our scouts. He told of our government's work in preserving and protecting our vast forests, which might often be destroyed by fire if there were no steps taken to prevent. During the summer months, lookouts are stationed on high mountains, constantly keeping their district under observation. By telephone sending word to the foresters' station, who in response hastens to the scene of fire and takes steps to fight it. Mr. Dwire is a college man of pleasing address and proved himself worthy the position he holds. He won the esteem and admiration of all. Many of the boys after knowing and hearing him, expressed a hope that they might some day return to New Mexico as foresters. Mr. Cotton, a forester of that district also made us a short talk full of wit and humor, also telling some of the work of a forester. After these speeches a few jokes and funny stories were told. After which each scout was asked to speak upon the subject of "What Think of New Mexico, And The Mountains." Some very bright speeches were brought out, causing a lot of fun and laughter. Each was delighted with the trip, and most every boy expressed regret that we

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TEXAS COUNTY IS ANXIOUS FOR ROAD

Commissioners Appropriate For The Right-of-Way Road to Line

In a letter to Liberal business men, F. Hiner Dale, secretary of the Good Roads Club of Guymon, gives the information that the Commissioners of Texas County, Oklahoma have agreed to an appropriation for the right of way, paralleling the Rock Island through Texas county to the Kansas line, providing the Seward county commissioners will agree to build the road into Liberal.

This proposition was talked considerably a few months ago but definite action delayed. Now that the Texas county fellows have set the pace it would seem that Seward could hardly afford to lie down and let it go by the board.

The idea is to buy enough land along the Rock Island to construct a road, which is already a part of the Camp Funston-Fort Bliss road. This road would bring a lot of traffic through Liberal and mean a lot to the town.

Eventually this road will be constructed to parallel the Rock Island east to Hutchinson, and possibly to Kansas City.

The possibilities of such a road should get busy right now on the matter. Even if no eastern extension is planned for several years, this road reaching into Liberal's wholesale territory to the southwest is a reason for its being builded.

BOARD OF TRADE ELECTS NEW OFFICERS SATURDAY

The Liberal Board of Trade had a very interesting meeting Saturday evening at the Cimarron Hotel, and a banquet was served to the members and visitors.

A. E. Taylor resigned from the presidency, and Chas. Summers was elected to the vacancy. Mr. McIlhenny, who is soon to leave for Colorado, also resigned as secretary, and W. L. Ekel was selected for the place.

A goodly number of the members from the surrounding towns were present and a pleasant and profitable evening was spent.

Matters of interest to the grain dealers were discussed and especially the matter of a threatened car shortage. After considerable discussion, the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas—The members of the Liberal Board of Trade met in assembly with the local dealers of the Southwest part of Kansas,—

Realizing—First, that the largest wheat crop ever known in this part of the country is now being harvested, and ready for movement, and Second, a large portion of our old crop of both wheat and kafir is yet in the country;

And whereas—to properly move this said enormous amount of grain to terminal markets and mills, it will take at least an average of fifty grain cars a week for each and every grain loading station in this southwest part of the state.

And whereas—present supply of cars is inadequate, and unless quick and efficient action on the part of the transportation companies is taken we are facing an acute car shortage at the very beginning of this movement.

We, therefore, most earnestly beg your immediate attention and direct action in taking what steps you may deem necessary to relieve this situation.

The Liberal Board of Trade is a live wide-awake bunch and are doing their part in making things happen in the grain business in this section. Secretary E. J. Smiley of the State Grain Dealers Association, was a guest at the meeting.

Howard Jadin of Topeka is here visiting Miss Elizabeth Henry.

No, Susan, the declaration of peace by congress does not mean that war taxes will be repealed.

E. M. Waters of Hutchinson, is a business visitor in Liberal for a few days.