

TRIP EAST.

Vancouver Natural History Society

By Prof. John Davidson, F.L.S.

Nov. 30th. 1938.

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Left 16th. May, 9:30 a.m. 77173.

by Everett, Bothwell, Snoqualmie Pass over Cascades. Opens quite suddenly into dry belt, and before reaching Yakima we were in rolling Sagebrush country with Bunch Grass, Balsamorhiza, Blue and Yellow Erigons, Lupines and Buckbrush, (Ceanothus).

17th. May

Left Yakima 7.50 a.m. still in drybelt of Columbia Valley. Experienced sand storm, and dust drawn in with air into carburettor caused trouble. Had gas line checked and blown out at Pasco. At Pendleton, Oregon we registered; some rough detours, bumped car so much Horn bracket broke and we drove into Ontario (Oregon) with horn on floor of car.

18th. May

Got bracket electric welded and fixed at Ontario; which delayed us till 9:04. Here we had rain intermittent until we reached Boise, Idaho where we registered. Boise is a great contrast to the other towns we passed through in Idaho, nicely laid out and planted with trees and flowers on boulevards, some nice buildings. Our route went through Twin Falls, Pocatello and Hagerman. About 5:30 we saw many "farms" of Agricultural Ants just west of Burley. Twin Falls is a manufacturing town, coal and railway yards.

Camped at Lava Springs - no conveniences -

Thurs.19th. Left at 8:10.

Lake near Alexander (Idaho) with about twenty pelicans. Crossed Wyoming State line 10:30. Had lunch at Green River, beautifully colored stratified rocks, with weird and grotesque forms of erosion. Expected to photograph these on return trip but came by different route. Between here and Rock Springs we saw hundreds of water falls emerging from part way up the rampart cliffs on opposite side of river (Green River), and at Rock Springs we changed oil and loaded up with gas for the trip over 114 miles of desert to Rawlins at which we camped for the night. We expected it to be very hot, but owing to previous rains it was cool and dustless. The desert is slightly undulating country with very red sand like rust. We saw a fight between a dog and a coyote at one point, a few miles farther east we saw a few shacks, but could not understand their purpose unless they were for housing road gangs. The dog may have belonged there.

Frid.20th.May.

Left Rawlins 7:45 a.m. passed through Laramie - boys of High School band in uniform. Laramie is nice clean little town just west of Medicine Bow Natural Forest. Long climb on winding road up to 8835 ft. cars with lights on. Remains of big snow banks, sleet, slush then fog for 2 miles down winding slushly road way way down to bottom of valley. Arrived at Cheyenne "Shy Ann" still raining. Had swipe fixed. 12 miles East of Cheyenne saw more agricultural ant farms.

Entered Nebraska, only mark of State Line was a large white board - no house or even gas station. Arrived Ogallala (Kelly's cabins) went out to eat, and take in show.

Saturday 21st. May.

Got up early sun shining, make up for slower speed on wet roads today. Left 5:50 a.m. saw first streamline train. Lost cap of Carburettor, made galvan iron one at Sutherland 29 miles from start. Drove 17 miles with no cap on carb. to N. Platte got new one 25¢ and breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and soon we found we had to put our watches up an hour (1 hour lost). Omaha and Council Bluffs, Collected several plants and pressed them. At 8 p.m. arrived Glenwood (Iowa) good cabins and bedding, gas cooking refrigerators all for \$1.50. Only did 374 miles in spite of early start. Great crowd of people from country, hundreds of cars. Shopping.

Sunday 22nd. May.

Left 6:50 a.m. town looked very different. Crossed the Mississippi River at Burlington into Illinois, went through Peoria (Ill.) at 5:35 p.m. and kept on after dark to Gilman at 9:00. Cabins looked O.K. inside, but next day they looked like portable ones in sections. All supplied with H & C. and bedding, alive with locusts and beetles and moths.

Monday 23rd. May.

Left 6:50, breakfast Monticello (Indiana) been going east now turned N. between here and Fort Wayne noted abundance of Catalpa and Liriodendron trees, first unusual trees. Had been raining all morning cleared up at 5 p.m. E.S.T. (another hour lost). Arrived Ann Arbor 6:20 p.m. having covered 2834.7 miles and spent

\$29.52 for gas. - 5 tires with B.C. air in them.

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During month's stay had many invitations to dinner by members of Faculty, and receptions at 1316, Students Union Building, and sight seeing trips. Had a few golf games, did a little gardening, Jack a little fishing.

At ANN ARBOR - Rackam Mem. Bldg. Visited Dept., of Botany, Herbarium still fumigated by Carbon disulphide.

Graduation of over 2000 grads. Medical School and Museums. Scotsman in charge of preparations.

Visited Bot. Gards. large range of green-houses and experiment houses. Very good collection of economic plants.

Garden plots neglected. Lawn undulating. Families poorly represented. Apparently of secondary importance.

Arboretum. Few trees named; and when named, labels difficult to find. Many horticultural varieties. Grass knee high, ground very hilly. Difficult to find related species.

Forestry demonstration plots very useful, and affords practice in silviculture.

Fireflies - Huron Valley

(Beetles)

Trip to Detroit, tunnel under Detroit River to Windsor. On to Point Pelee. Back over Bridge.

Trip to Dearborn, Fords Village and Museum (5 acres).

Trip to Detroit Zoo. Railway profits to buy animals and set up surroundings.

Return trip - Left SUNDAY 19th. JUNE.

10:30 a.m. via Jackson, Battle Creek (Headquarters of Kelloggs) Kalamazoo, by Lake Michigan to Gary near Chicago. Heavy traffic 4 lines of cars going east and 4 west. Motor transport on fire. Near Gary many Golf courses, majority of players were negroes. Several towns mostly negroes. About 6 p.m. went through Joliet (Ill.) and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from Princeton (Ill.) gas tank dry. Got push  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to station, and about 10 p.m. arrived at auto camp alive with fireflies. Poor convenience, kerosene stove,

Monday 20th. June

Left 9:10 a.m. very hot day, 10:55 crossed toll bridge over Mississippi River from Moline (Ill.) to Davenport (Iowa) and had lunch in Iowa City. At Marshalltown (Iowa) about 3.30 had our first flat tire a small blow out. Stopped for repair. Camped at 6:00 p.m. in Boone. (Met New Jersey "Ham") passing through Ames on the way between Marshalltown and here. At Ames saw a B.C. car (m.g. magnet) like one owned by a U.B.C. assistant - It was it.

Tuesday 21st. June

Left 7:40 a.m. arrived Sioux City about noon, very hot day through flat wheat lands. In afternoon 4:40 the repaired tire gave way at Emery (S.Dakota); arriving in Chamberlain (S.D.) 8:05, No cabins - celebration filled them. Directed to American Is. Camp. Very poor - a hold up. \$3.00 water outside, no sink. - Wash house, community - Locusts, moths, frogs, beetles a real naturalists camp.

Wed. June 22nd.

Left 8:25 a.m. and things began to happen. 9:40 about 2 miles from Presho (S.D.) gas line broke. Towed in and repair - new line 75¢. Were now in dry plateau country. Roads with rattlesnakes, lizards, temperature 94<sup>o</sup>, straight road for 16 miles to near Cedar Pass. Black clouds thunderstorm, hail, gale, terrifying. Stalled.- Rained liquid mud.

Sunflower heads knocked off. Arrived "Bad Lands" 1 p.m. left 3:30, arrived Rapid City 5:30 p.m. got carbur. or ignition distributor fixed, oil change and car cleaned.

Thurs. 23rd. June

Left 7:45 pictures of Dinosaurs and on to the Blackhills at 9:30 a.m.

Left Blackhills region (Custer) S.D. 11:45 passed through Newcastle (Wyo.) in wild bleak country. Noted 2 dead **coyotes** oil wells and refineries.

Gillette Wilhelms Gas station, auto licences, cowboys and girl. Magpies, yellow headed blackbirds. More rain, thunder and lightning at 6:00 until we reached Sheridan (Wyo) 7:05 p.m. Altogether an enjoyable day.

Friday 24th. June.

Left 7:20 a.m. and at 8:10 passed from Wyoming north over Montana State Line, apparently in former Crow Indian, and Sioux Indian Territory. Monuments and signs indicating former battles, massacres, etc.

Billings(Montana)11:15 a.m. Yellowstone River in flood. Water over rail tracks, detour - car in ditch, liquid mud, high-way flooded. At Bozeman 4:50. Saw Montana State College; arrived Helena (Montana) 7:20 p.m. Algeria Temple (shriners). Collected a few flowers on way today (mileage 390). (Radio ham) static.  
Saturday 25th. June.

Left 7:55 a.m. Country here similar to B.C. Interior Pentstemons, geranium, arnica, veratrum, mullein, water butter-cups (great masses). Cattails; Redwing blackbirds, mountain blue-birds, warblers, Golf course in wild rocky country, asphalt greens. Beautiful scenery crossing the Bitter root Mountains (Pass 4727 ft.) steep descent to Wallace small town nestled in narrow valley, mining district. Scenery beautiful around Lake Coeur d'Alene, left for Spokane 7:10 p.m. about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles, through faulty oil pump one of rod bearings burned out, had to go back and stay in camp while repairs made. Towed by two young fellows. Turned in 11:45 for long sleep.

Sunday 26th. June

Left 10:35 a.m. arrive Spokane 11:05 visited ENX and looked around town. Evening contacted Vancouver and told relations of our position. Left ENX 2 a.m.

Monday 27th. June.

Left cabins 8:45 to buy radio supplies, car loaded to limit now. Scorching hot day. Whirlwinds, coulees, one had 6 miles down to bottom.

Monday 27th. (Continued)

More rain and cloud bursts. As we approach Columbia River Valley and Wenatchee rain terminates. Hot and muggy. Decided to go on through Stevens Pass and get higher altitude and cooler at night. Much *Ceanothus* in the way. Flat tire - nail. Stopped at next Gas Station to fix spare.

Evening quite cool. Snow on surrounding mountains, many *Habenaria leucostachys*. Camped at Merritt springs. Flora sub-alpine. Dinner at 9:30. Early to bed, and owing to abundance of mosquitoes arose earlier than we intended.

Tuesday 28th. June.

Left 7.00 after photo. Summit of Pass (4061 ft.) scenery very good, apart from a detour from Mt. Vernon and another flat tire nothing unusual till the boundary was reached. Passing the Customs was no ordeal. We expected to have to unpack everything - but there was no necessity. Arrived Blaine 2:10, left 2:25 arrived home 3:50 p.m.

Return trip 2902.3 miles total to Ann Arbor and return 5737 miles.