



Buffalo Tales



Volume 15, No. 6 Buffalo County Historical Society November-December, 1992

AUTOMOBILE TRIP FROM KEARNEY TO ESTES PARK, COLORADO

August 5 - 7, 1914

Introduction

Many residents of Buffalo County have enjoyed a summer vacation in Colorado. The following is a description of a trip made by car from Kearney to Estes Park, Colorado in August of 1914. The people making the trip are Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Crossley and their daughter Wilma (she later married Ira Anderson), Emma A. Kemmerer, Bessie Manuel and Nellie Stevens. There is a mention of a Mrs. Switz but it is not clear that she was a part of the traveling party.

The authorship of the journal cannot be established. It is assumed that it was either Mrs. Crossley or her daughter Wilma since it was included in material turned over to the Buffalo County Historical Society by Wilma's daughter.

Enjoy this three-day trip over unimproved, often unmarked roads in a car equipped with tires which we would consider totally unreliable.

—Philip S. Holmgren

On Wednesday morning August 5, 1914, after getting all our band-boxes, suitcases, etc. snugly stowed in the *Reo*, we left Kearney at 10:30 on our way for Estes Park.

We arrived in Elm Creek at 11:00 a.m. Overton was reached at 11:40 and we stopped in Lexington at 12:20 where we saw Mr. See and got ice-water. We left Lexington at 12:40 and went on until we came to a nice shady place near a farm house. We had our lunch at one o'clock. Mr. Crossley brought water in a pail from the farm house, also some splendid apples. The lunch was lovely and had been prepared by Mrs. Manuel.

We passed thru Cozad at 2:00 p.m. and arrived in Gothenburg at 2:50 and crossed the Platte River and from there to North Platte had the best roads since leaving Kearney, with the exception of where we crossed "the Continental Divide" which was the result of worked roads. We arrived in North Platte at 5:20 and had supper at the Vienna Cafe. Here we had our first view of Sioux City, Nebraska (two men and three ladies in a Cadillac) who stuck "closer than a brother" all the way and changed their plans to be with us. We left North Platte at 7:12 and were speeding along over a hard, level road when very suddenly Bessie decided to leave the car via the "air-line" but on quick action on the part of Emma changed her course and came back to the seat.

We stopped in Sutherland about thirty minutes and decided to go on to Ogallala. Thought we had lost the road in the sandhills but after going over it three times decided to go on, following fence posts instead of telephone poles. We were informed by a farmer that we were on the right road. The Lincoln Highway here was nothing but a wagon track road and good at that. Moon gorgeous. A few sprinkles of rain fell on the road but none on us. Saw lots of owls and birds in the road.

Arrived at Ogallala at 10:00 p.m. and stopped at the Hollingsworth Hotel. Nice, clean, new place with garage below. After a good night's rest we left there at 6:25 a.m.

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WITH THE SOCIETY

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 1992, is fast coming to an end and what a year this has been! Your HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD members have had their hands full of planned events and unexpected surprises, all of which have required many, many special meetings. The end result of all those meetings has been progression and expansion.

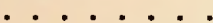
The museum grounds has obviously been the main nucleus, "a complex structure within a living cell", the Buffalo County Historical Society. Examples of the expansion can be seen with the new buildings; the new items such as the Mormon Cart, to name a few.

The progression has been the result of your Board's determination to make your Historical Society one of the finest in the state of Nebraska. That's not brag, folks, that's a fact. Plans for future building projects such as the carriage barn to house our wagons and provide a workshop area have been cemented. The Boyd Ranche House moving and restoration will soon begin. The log cabin has not only been completed but has been visited by many. This is just the beginning.

I would like to remind everyone to come down to the Trails and Rails to visit the Christmas Tree Walk and partake of a glass of hot apple cider. Drive by at night and see the Train decorated in its holiday cheer.

Happy Holiday Season to all of you.

Susan C. Lynch



Christmas Shop at Trails & Rails Museum during the Christmas Tree Walk. A gift membership in Buffalo County Historical Society is an ideal gift:

Basic Membership	annual dues	\$ 10.00
Business Membership	annual dues	\$ 15.00
Supporting Membership	annual dues	\$ 25.00 +
Life Membership (one payment):		
Individual		\$100.00
Husband and wife		\$150.00

All memberships entitle the member to the publication *Buffalo Tales*, participation in meetings, tours and other events sponsored by the Society.

Our own books on local history, "*Tales of Buffalo County*", Volumes 2, 3 and 4, contain researched stories and photos of Buffalo County's rich history. There are many other books and miscellaneous gift items for your shopping pleasure.

Memorials

In memory of Dan and Lydia Quinton, parents, and Barlow Nye, husband, given by Mary Q. Nye for Boyd Ranche House Fund.

In memory of Irvin G. Urwiller, given by Dr. and Mrs. R. L. Link, Frances Link and Larry Musil.

NEW MEMBERS

Supporting

Kathy Pierce Gibbon Joan Smith Kearney

Basic

Wm. C. McMullen Kearney Joan F. Longacre Lincoln
Tom and Barbara Heaston Elm Creek

Had orange, nut bread sandwiches and frosted cream cookies for breakfast.

Went thru hills to Julesburg, Colorado where we arrived at 7:55 a.m. Stopped about an hour visiting the Post Office and sending cards to home folks.

We saw prairie dogs and lots of jack rabbits before we got there and some things that looked like this.



Passed up all towns except a town pump or so before reaching Sterling where we arrived at 11:45 a.m. Met Miss Stevens at the Annex Hotel. Had dinner which was mighty good and hit the right spot. Mr. Crossley deserted us for a fried chicken dinner at Dr. Kellogg's.

Left Sterling at 2:35 p.m. and went on our way rejoicing. Passed thru Merino, crossed the South Platte and celebrated with a **blow-out** in the sand. Had over 100 lb. tire pressure. Everyone had a hand in putting on new tire. Washed our hands in the river. Drove down in front of a farm house and all had a drink in the kitchen. House occupied by two bachelors who looked good to the girls.



Our blow-out

The crops here were exceptionally good — shocks and stacks of grain and hay everywhere. All under irrigation and in a few places even the roads.

Arrived in Ft. Morgan at 6:03 p.m. where on the corner we had supper — rather bum — all but the pork chops. While at supper garage man got gay and tried to get an all-nights' job by taking the blow-out tire off and all to pieces but when we came back we told him "what's what, etc." and left there about 8:00 p.m. for Greeley. Went over the hills and came to the State Road where we made at least 35 miles per hour. Struck some rough roads and stopped at several town pumps. Passed thru LaSalle and all the suburbs.

Overtook Sioux City after reaching gravel road again. They liked our driver so well they decided to go on to Greeley. Came to a sign across the road telling of a wash-out ahead. Crossed the railroad track and followed an old road for a while and then came

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back to the good road, finally reaching Greeley at 11:35 p.m.

Greeley was the best looking town of all — big trees, beautiful lawns and homes, fine stores and very clean streets.

Spent the night at the Hotel Marlborough which was a splendid place.

Sioux City tagged us although we thought we had them switched. The next morning we had breakfast at Ye Lytle Blue Kitchen.

Left Greeley at 9:40 a.m. Friday and here had our first view of the mountains. When we got out about 3 miles it began to blow and sprinkle so we turned back to get away from the storm. Left again about 10:15 a.m. Fine roads all the way to Loveland. Met Ben Olson and the Swanson's coming from Loveland. As we went over a bridge into town we had a squeaky blow-out. Had the tire taken off at the garage and purchased a new tire which was the **only one** of that size they had.

Saw the town and bought some fruit, etc. for lunch.



Street in Loveland

Left Loveland at 12:30 p.m. for Estes Park thru the Big Thompson Canyon, which was magnificent. The road was only wide enough for one rig, having specially made turn-outs every little way.

Passed Sioux City at a grassy place where they were having lunch. Went on for about five miles and had our lunch under a fir tree.

Lunch Menu

Ham Sandwiches
Apples

Plums
Bakery Cookies

Pears
Chocolate Candy

Water from the Big Thompson.



After lunch on the Big Thompson.

Sioux City passed us here and that is the last we saw of them.

Arrived in Estes Park about 3:20 p.m. where we were run down by the widows and the orphan (Mrs. Crossley, Mrs. Switz and Wilma Crossley).

Had traveled 454 miles since leaving Kearney.

— Not The End —



At Home



Front Porch Scene



In Crossley's Backyard



Ready for Fried Chicken

NOTE: We are not told the length of the stay in Colorado, or if the trip back to Kearney was as eventful or less so than the trip to Estes Park. Pictures included indicate they enjoyed the sights of the area and many of the activities, which people have continued to enjoy.

P.S.H.

CHRISTMAS TREE WALK AT MUSEUM

December 5-13, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Christmas is coming to Trails & Rails! A bigger and better Christmas Tree Walk is being planned. We have several new organizations putting up trees. Some of you may have been called to volunteer some hours and others will be called. We also need items for the bake sale. Those who are coming to sit in the buildings may bring your baked goods at that time. We try to stagger these items so we will always have fresh food.

Don't forget that we have a good supply of "Tales of Buffalo County" in the gift shop, along with other books, belt buckles, cards, and many new items for your Christmas gift shopping.

—Margaret Hohnholt
Volunteer Museum Director

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Basic Membership	\$10.00
Institutional Membership	\$15.00
Supporting Membership	\$25.00
Life memberships are \$100.00 for an individual; \$150.00 for husband and wife, jointly.	

Directors

Term expiring June 1, 1993: Alice Howell, Elmer Holerichter, Susan C. Lynch, all of Kearney; Viola Livingston of Gibbon.
Term expiring June 1, 1994: Howard Kolbo, Mardi Anderson, Lois Rahmann, all of Kearney; Jim Cudaback of Riverdale.
Term expiring June 1, 1995: Glen Wisch, Philip Holmgren, Larry Nansel, all of Kearney; Floretta Sullwald of Elm Creek.

Officers (1 year term)

President	Susan C. Lynch
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