

Blazer of Ox Team Trails Flies Into Omaha

Ezra Meeker, 94, Sees Old Trails From Place in Sky

Nonagenarian on Way to Toledo Air Races and to Visit President Coolidge.

Seventy-two years ago a robust young man with a team of oxen followed the faint line of the Oregon trail to Puget sound.

This same man, his hair whitened by the snows of many winters and his face tanned by the suns of many summers, has come back over the same trail. He is using the most modern means of transportation—the airplane. But he yearns for the old days that enrich a memory which has in its ken events that would bewilder men who have lived gentler lives.

Ezra Meeker, 94, and sturdier than most strappings born a quarter of a century after his debut into the world, reached Fort Crook, Omaha, Friday morning, and spent an hour there. Another famous trail blazer was his pilot, Lieut. Oakley G. Kelly, one of the two army fliers who made the dawn-to-dusk flight from Mineola to San Diego.

To Visit Coolidge. The venerable pioneer is on his way to Dayton to witness the Pulitzer cup race Saturday. Later he will go to Washington to confer with President Coolidge on his pet project of making his beloved trail a military highway.

A journey from the Missouri river to the wilderness that now peoples millions in the Pacific northwest was quite a feat in 1842, even for men with stout hearts and an accurate aim with the rifle. Long before Horace Greeley issued his advice to young men to seek their fortunes in the west, Ezra Meeker had begun his tortuous trip to the land which beckoned him on toward the setting sun.

It took Meeker six months to traverse the vast territory then inhabited only by the red men and a few adventurous settlers. He finally reached the tiny frontier town of Seattle, which at that time could not boast of 100 inhabitants. He has seen the settlement grow to a great city of



Lt. Oakley G. Kelly and Ezra Meeker

400,000 and become the dominant commercial capital of a district larger than France and Italy combined.

Speedier Tourist Now.

He is a speedier tourist now. On Wednesday he and Lieutenant Kelly traversed one-third of the old Oregon trail before breakfast.

The patriarch of the northwest is an impatient traveler. Lieutenant Kelly said on his arrival at Fort Crook.

"He never wants me to stop," the dawn-to-dusk pilot declared. "It seems a waste of time to him to halt long enough to get gasoline or a bite to eat. At North Platte last night he tried to get me to go on through the night."

Meeker was asked if he preferred the airplane to the slower method he employed on his first trip across the continent.

"Give me the oxen every time," he replied.

Undertaker-Dodging Recipe.

Unlike most nonagenarians, Meeker ascribes his success in dodging the undertaker to sensible habits, the Puget Sound climate and the fact that he has never quit work. He recently was a candidate for the Washington legislature and was beaten by only 31 votes. He is on his way east as the official representative of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce and to further a desire to find out why the government has pigeon-holed the plan he and Colonel Roosevelt concocted to make the Oregon trail a permanent national highway.

Meeker told Lieutenant Kelly he wanted to spend Friday night in In-

dianapolis, and the pilot readily acquiesced. The next stop after leaving Omaha was to be Rantoul, Ill., 400 miles from here.

The machine, a De Havilland, left Vancouver Barracks, Wash., Wednesday, stopping at Boise and Pocatello, Idaho, that day, a total distance of 600 miles. An Thursday Lieutenant Kelly and his aged passenger went to Rock Springs, Wyo., a distance of 200 miles, and then on to North Platte, 450 miles further on. Omaha is 250 miles from North Platte as the crow, Kelly and Meeker fly. Upon his arrival here, Lieutenant Kelly had spent just 13 hours and 30 minutes in the air.

After getting into his flying togs again, Meeker was strapped in his seat. He was wearing a Coolidge-Dawes button. Lieutenant Kelly started the engine.

"Let her rip," shouted the old fellow, and away they went like a gigantic winged bird.

Y. M. C. A. to Entertain Boys on "Harvard Plan"

Columbus, Neb., Oct. 3.—The "Harvard plan" will be used to entertain 300 boys who will attend the annual statewide boys' Y. M. C. A. conference to be held at Columbus, November 23 and 29, C. A. Wise, Y. M. C. A. secretary, announced today.

Husking to Start Soon.

Callaway, Oct. 3.—Farmers in this part of the state plan to start husking in about two weeks. It is expected that the corn crop will be normal. A great amount of cattle feeding will be done.

MEDICAL ARTS CASE UNSETTLED

A. J. Vierling, 72, head of the Paxton-Vierling iron works, took the witness stand in District Judge Hastings' court to prove his claims towards the suit of which his company seeks to establish priority for its lien of \$158,410.93 against the Medical Arts building.

No settlement seemed likely, according to the litigants as they left the court room for their noon luncheon. Attorneys for the iron works claim the Kulp Investment company of Chicago has \$500,000 available to pay liens on the structure. They want the iron company paid from this sum or else the uncompleted structure sold under foreclosure to satisfy the lien.

Harvard—Julius Schultz, a resident here for many years, died at his home in West Harvard.

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La Follette Cutting Down Coolidge's Lead

689,019 Votes From 18 States in the "Digest's" Nation-wide Poll Are Tabulated and Analyzed This Week

California a Hotly Contested Battle-Ground— The "Solid South" May Turn Tide for Davis

Interest in the "Digest's" nation-wide Presidential poll is mounting to great heights as the hundreds of thousands of votes are being received and tabulated weekly. An interesting side-light upon the La Follette strength and whence it is drawn is shown in the "Digest" this week by the opinions and observations of editors throughout the country, especially by those in California.

The "Digest" also carries a detailed record of the previous affiliations of those who vote in this largest of Presidential straw-vote polls, and this record is shown weekly in the tabulations. It will become increasingly illuminating as the vote mounts up. As the Richmond, Virginia, **Times-Dispatch** says, this poll "is an undertaking of real value." At its conclusion it should point unmistakably to the winner in the Presidential election in November.

Other news-features of unusual interest in THE LITERARY DIGEST for October 4th are:

- La Follette the "Stormy Petrel"
- Science to End War or End the Race
- China's War Flaming Higher
- Mr. Davis's Attack on the Republican Tariff
- British Fears of Franco-German Competition
- The Puzzle of Ireland's Trade
- Spectacles for Cataract
- A River That Gets Rusty
- Radio Censorship
- A New and Hard-Boiled War Play

- Do You Know How to Read?
- Farming for the Lord
- Easy Times for Murderers
- Trying to Civilize the Filipino
- The Real "Babe" Ruth
- Polo, the Father of Baseball as Well as Croquet
- Distortion; Foe of Radio
- Topics of the Day
- Investments and Finance
- Many Striking Illustrations

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