

MEEKER TO MOTOR OVER OREGON TRAIL

Easy Riding "Schoonermobile" Will Be Vehicle of Famous Old Pioneer.

IS WELL KNOWN IN OMAHA

For the second time Ezra Meeker will make a transcontinental tour on the now nearly lost Oregon trail. He made one trip from coast to coast driving a yoke of oxen in the years 1810, 1811 and 1812. His first trip was from Indianapolis to Oregon in 1832 and was an almost indescribable series of hardships and privations. His present trip will be far different. Instead of the oxen-drawn prairie schooner, cramped and uncomfortable as a cage, creeping and bumping along a ribboned scar across the deserts, the wilderness, and the snowy Rockies, to a promised land of plenty, this journey will be made in a twelve-cylinder motor car, equipped properly for such a long distance and on roads, which while in many places leaving room for great improvement, by comparison are smooth as paper.

Ezra Meeker is old now, or, as he says, "35 years young," but the unquenched fire of youth still burns in his veins. He is no longer the stalwart young man with the indomitable pioneer courage that was ready to face the weary march, the contingency of meeting savage Indians, disease and the gnawings of famine. He is slightly stooped now and his snow white hair flows to his shoulders, but in spirit, at least, he is no older than the 32-year-old youth of '32 for he has a mission in life. This is to instill the flower of patriotism in the breast of each person with whom he comes in contact, and to fittingly commemorate with solid monuments the work of the pioneers in penetrating the virgin west, by erecting stone monuments along the old Oregon trail.

Recalls First Trip.

Much of this work has already been by Mr. Meeker by driving a yoke of oxen from the Atlantic to the Pacific, a trip which took twenty-two months, selling his books along the route, the proceeds of which are devoted to a self-appointed task. Mr. Meeker was born at Hiramsville, O., December 23, 1829. His parents moved to Indiana near the village of Rising Town, now called Indianapolis, when he was only a toddling youngster. Here he grew to manhood following the usual life of the pioneer boy. He hunted and fished in the district which is now covered with factories and residences. He was unable to secure much schooling—six months was the actual time he attended school—but he has always been a voracious reader and attributes the ability he possesses of speaking and writing the purest English dialect to reading the country's leading newspapers. For a time Mr. Meeker worked in the Indianapolis Journey printing office as "devil" for E. V. B. Noel.

At the age of 21 he married and soon after, with his young wife, set out on an unknown destination, velle in the mysteries of secret dangers, that led him after much delay to Portland, Ore. "When I decided to make this transcontinental trip in an automobile I commenced looking around for a suitable car," said Mr. Meeker. "The Pathfinder twin-six appealed to me as the logical motor car for the long journey. The honestly earned reputation it possesses for sound mechanical ability, road-worthiness and long touring ease made it the one car for me. Then, too, my early home was very near the site of the factory and many a day I have hunted rabbits and 'coons' where the big Pathfinder plant now stretches west of White river.

Prairie Schooner Body.

The car is a special job, being stripped to the chassis and a prairie schooner body and top built on. While there is of course nothing beautiful about my 'schoonermobile' in comparison with the graceful liquid lines of the regular car, I chose this type because I intend to live in the car until the trip is completed. By careful planning and minimizing useless space, it is surprising how much a prairie schooner body will carry and still be homelike, indeed.

"I was delayed in Indianapolis, while my latest book was being printed, and left this city April 22, starting from Monument Place, or 'Governor's Circle,' as it was formally called, before the beautiful monument was even a creature of dream. I expect to leave the capitol at Washington, D. C., about the middle of May, driving by easy stages into the heart of the setting sun on the long trip overland."

Mr. Meeker is a familiar figure to Omaha people, who have seen his oxen and schooner on the streets.

Saxon Opens New Branch Factory For "Sixes" Alone

To supplement the facilities of its main factory, the Saxon Motor Car company has opened a branch plant, which will be devoted to building "six" roadsters. For the last three months this factory building, containing 60,000 square feet of floor space, has been used as a service station for the factory, but the demand for Saxon cars has made it necessary to equip it with assembling machinery and turn it over to manufacturing. Thursday a force of workmen started building "six" roadsters there and the production mark will be twenty-five cars a day in the plant, known as the Franklin street branch.

It is the plan of the Saxon company to build practically all of its "six" roadsters in this branch, leaving the main factory for the construction of the touring cars and "four" roadsters. In this way the officials hope to keep up with the demand for cars that is being made daily from all parts of the country.

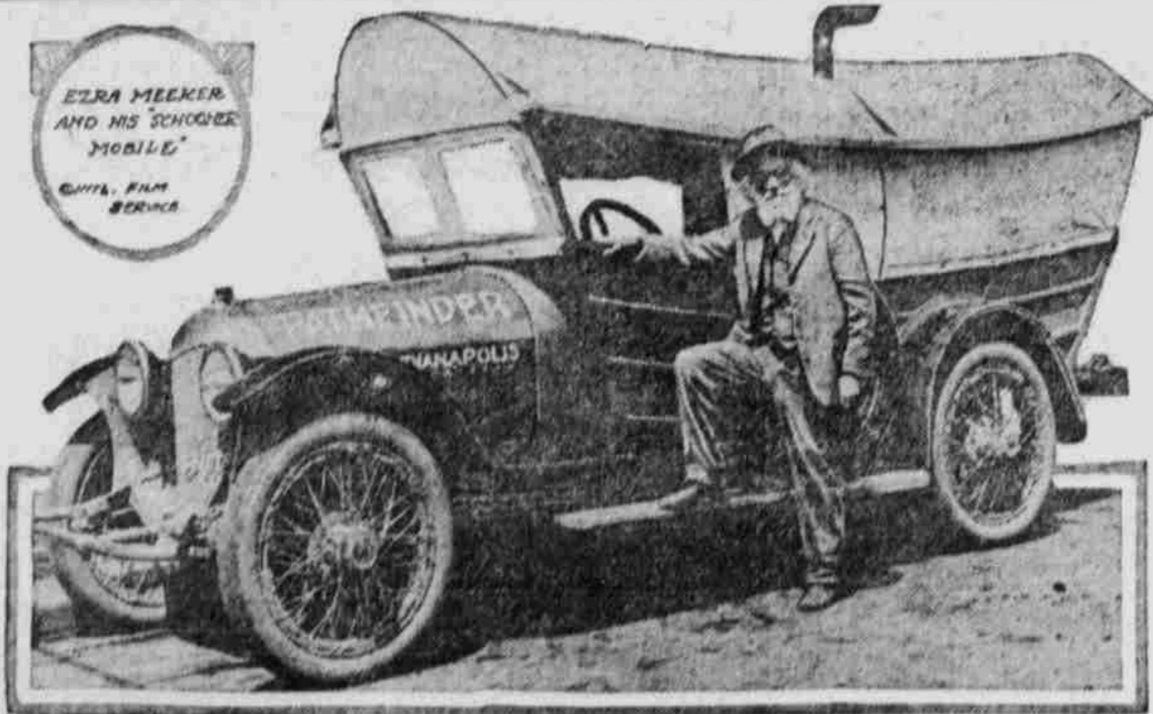
The opening of the branch adds twenty-five cars a day to the total number that the Saxon is now building. In the main factory about 100 "six" touring cars and seventy "four" roadsters are being turned out daily. It is reported.

DRIVES CADILLAC EIGHT 10,000 MILES ON ONE TOUR

To Dr. Benjamin H. Mendenhall, chairman of the Board of Health of Washburn, Mass., belongs the distinction of making, without a hitch, one of the longest motor car tours on record. He recently arrived home after driving his Cadillac eight from Washburn to the Panama-Pacific exposition at San Francisco, and back again.

Not All In. Although it was figured that "Mad" Amos was about through when he was traded for the Cadillac several years ago, the "Mad" Amos is still out there floating up towards the Cardinals.

WATCH FOR EZRA MEEKER AND HIS AUTO PRAIRIE SCHOONER—This photograph of the transcontinental traveler and his "schoonermobile" was made at Washington, D. C., as he started on a cross-country trip to Olympia, Wash., a distance of 3,560 miles. Mr. Meeker, who is 85 years old, has made three trips across the Oregon trail by oxteam.



Omaha Automobile Club Motorisms

Co-operation from City Officials.

The Omaha Automobile club is receiving splendid support from the city commissioners on complaints filed by motorists relative to bad condition of certain streets, building contractors obstructing the streets with building material, and broken glass littered on the street. The Omaha Automobile club is not making an obnoxious habit of pestering busy city officials with minor complaints of no importance. Every complaint filed is first looked into and if of a serious and important nature, then action is requested from the city commissioners.

New Club Tour Strips.

The 1916 tour strips will be off the press in a week, and will show the highway mark, city call, towns and mileage, tour map, hotels in principal cities, points of interest and camping sites, and fishing, hunting and auto license required in the state passed through.

State Fisheries Illustrated Log.

The club men car recently logged the route to the state fisheries by way of Millard, going down, and returning by way of Springfield, Papillon, South Omaha, Syndicate and Riverview parks. Scenes at the fisheries will be included in the log, which will be off the press

shortly, and ready for distribution to members.

Blue Book Road Reports.

The club is receiving weekly road reports from the Blue book headquarters giving general road conditions in the country. Cheyenne, North Platte, Denver and other cities have promised to exchange daily road reports with the local club.

High Water at Davenport.

The club is in receipt of telegram from Davenport, Ia., on the River- and White Pole roads, saying the high water of the Mississippi river has made travel nearly impossible on main highways.

O. L. D. Good Roads Meeting.

Counsel Wells of the club attended the good roads meeting at Lincoln on Tuesday and reports that the enthusiasm of the delegates for bettering road conditions in Nebraska was prophetic of the good condition of highways tourists will find here this summer. The Omaha-Lincoln-Denver highway is one of the most progressive road organizations in the country and has recently marked the road across the entire state. The new route book from Omaha to Denver will be off the press shortly.

"On Your Right is the Auto Club."

Sounds like road directions from the Blue Book, or a spiel from a sight-seeing car, but it's simply the remark dropped by hundreds of members and friends who pass the club room door each day.

Tire Company Has Method to Recover Stolen Motor Cars

"The police departments of every large city are about the only organizations that have any idea of how many automobiles are stolen in a year," said Charles M. Du Fay of the Pennsylvania Tire company.

"There stands \$500 or \$5,000 of convertible wealth, all ready to be moved to a point where it can be turned into cash."

"The man with perverted ideas of property rights so reasons and as a result the loss to motor owners has been enormous."

"The owner of any car equipped with Pennsylvania vacuum cup or ebony tread tires who will immediately notify the Pennsylvania Rubber company or any of its branches of the serial numbers of his tires will receive without charge the co-operation of an organization which should result in the rapid recovery of his property. Naturally the details of this organization's methods will not be printed."

"Its efficiency, however, has been proven in several of the larger cities and the system has now been extended to cover the entire country."



CHARACTER IN CARS

The qualities of permanent success back of the Packard Twin Six definitely indicate the type of service to be expected from the car itself.

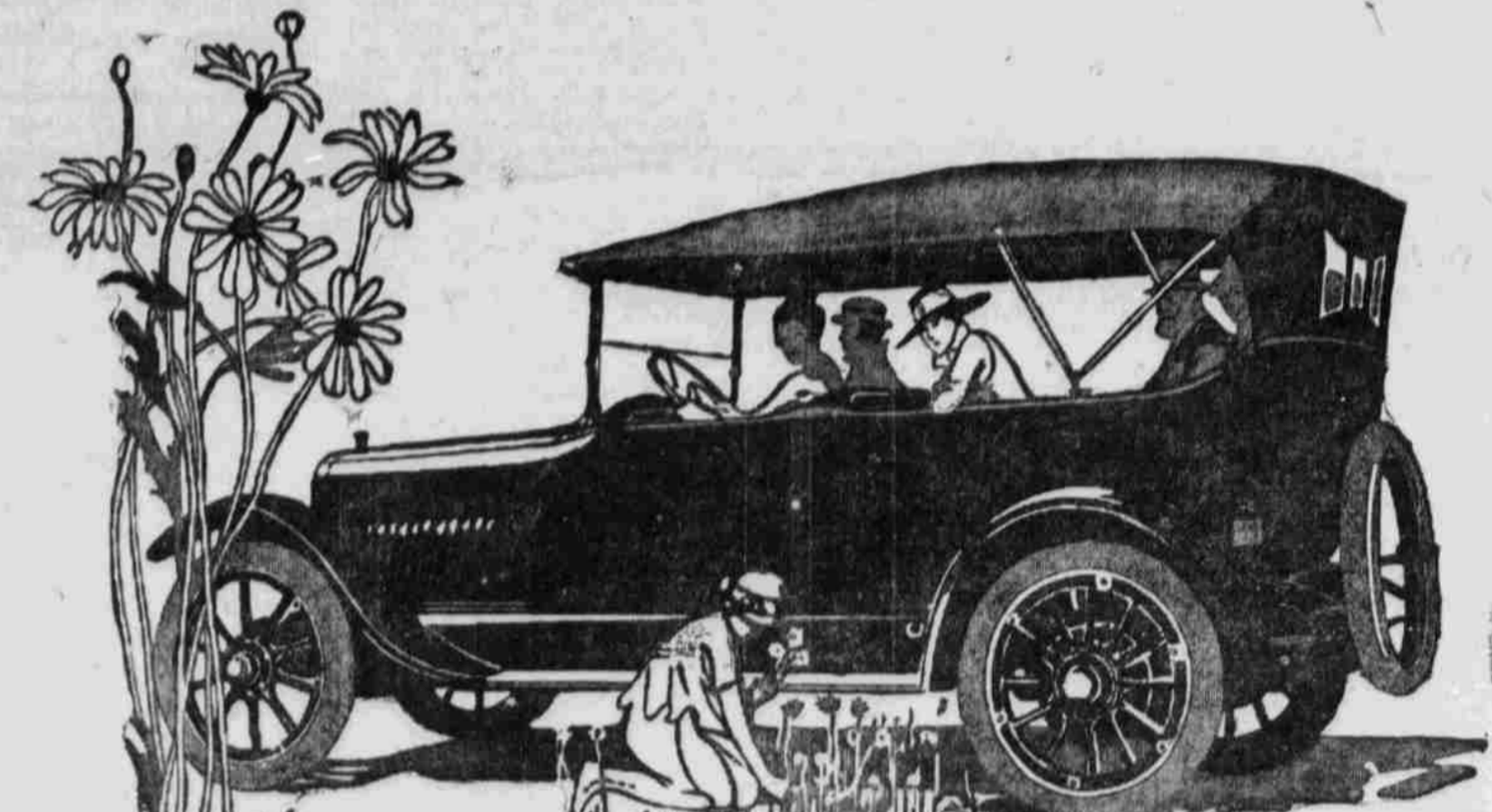
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