

This is the history of the trip we went on the summer of 1928 from May 24 --August 24. Mr and Mrs S A Talbott of Dupree S. D.

We left Dupree, S. D. May 24--6:30 p. m. We drove as far as Cheyenne agency that night, crossed the new bridge after night so did not see much of it.

Had to stay in the car all night because there is no hotel at that place. During the night a car came by and wishing to see who it was or perhaps why a car was parked by the road the driver turned the light of his car into our car, but seeing nothing to excite suspicion he drove on. May 25, we started before it was light and traveled as far as Blunt, S. D. Here we had breakfast and learned we had drove 65 miles not so bad before breakfast. From here we went on as far as Highmore and found we had a lose connecting rod, took 1½ hours to fix it, also six bucks.

The roads were fine but hard on tires. But on way the gravel was fresh and our tires were kind of thin, one of them was so we had a lovely blowout and had to buy a new tire and travel on as far as Madison, S. D. that night. At Madison they have one of the S. D. State Normal Schools. We thought it quite a nice town not so large as Aberdeen. Here at Madison I cashed a check, a very nice man was in the bank. He looked me over and as I did not look like a criminal, said all right.

May 26. We went from Madison S. D. to Sioux City Iowa, arrived at 2:30 p.m. shopped about an hour. We met such nice people and had no trouble in finding and keeping on the right trail out of the city.

We drove as far as Missouri Valley that night but was afraid to go farther in the night not knowing how the roads were and it was well we did. May 27/ Left before light found fairly good roads and arrived at Wilbarts in time for a late breakfast. They were sure surprised as I was not expecting us before the next week, but was

sure glad. In the afternoon there was a raxxaxx rodeo in the pasture.

We had lots of fun and saw quite a few people we knew. So ended the first stage of our trip.

We were at Nilans from May 27 - June 18. We sure had a pleasant visit with Marie and Russells and all the old friends and neighbors. But when we had visited long enough our thoughts turned toward the coast of California, the Mecca we had talked of and dreamed about for so many years but that never to see.

So on June 18 Wilberts and us went to Omaha via auto and at the Union Station bought our tickets for the west and return we bought our lunch in Council Bluffs and Inez got various eatibles for us.

After dinner we went back to the depot with only a few minutes to wait we got on the train and said good by. I rather hated to go at the last for Calif is a long ways off. We started as we traveled on through Nebr. and ran into a fine rain storm. It rained till well passed Schuyler Nebr. Then it cleared off. The crops were not so very good as there had been no rain all spring till that week. The old Platt was sun high. On the train we met a woman a Mrs. Mc Day who knew Mrs Bogue.

Tuesday morning June 19 when we awoke at day light in Wyoming we could see the mts peaks and as it was our first sight we certainly enjoyed the snow capped mountains. Elk Mt. was the first one named next came Old Baldy. We came to a little mining town called Hanna. The train stopped at Rawlins and there we bought coffee for breakfast. At 7:10 we reached the divide town Creston. 12 o'clock and we are away up in the air at Sherman Hill Wyo, Cheyenne Elevation 6264 ft. We stopped at a town called Green River and the water is green. Here we had dinner or lunch at a real chinese restaurant. Feel pretty good I believe my cough is better. We caught the 12-45 train for Ogden as we rode along we could see the snow capped mountains in the s.e. a long range of them. The conductor pointed out to us three antelope on a hill near the track. Just now we passed a band of sheep looked like thousands of them. Just at present it is raining a little. A

mountain storm. Some men are talking oil wells in the seat behind us and one of these dear children that should be angels is performing and keeping his mother in hot water. I wish she would leave him with me for a little while .

By middle after noon we steamed into Utah and I thought of Zane Greys book The Riders of the Purple Sage for the sage is purple here. They irrigate here and have fine crops, gardens and fruit trees and alfalfa--one never saw such hay. There were plenty of snow cap mts here. Later we arrived at Ogden the city I have heard so much about all my life.

June 20 Wednesday morning at Ogden we stayed all night here waiting for the train. Am feeling better, my cough is better. Ogden is quite a place and they have the most beautiful depot here. We are now crossing the Great Salt Lake at it narrowest place. 30 miles the RR has a cement and rock road across the lake. Everything is lovely this morning. Salt Lake is 30 miles wide 75 miles long and 40 feet deep 5 lb water makes 1 lb of salt. We are just passing miles of salt where the water has been piped and evaporated having only the salt.

Evening have not been able to write much all day as I have been sick, must of been the high altitude. I thot for a while I was going on and I wondered If I would find my way back home but with the cool evening things look brighter. I saw the sun set behind the high and the crescent moon show herself like a thread of silver in the west.

All day we have rode through the sage brush and a fair sized river flowed by the side of the RR . We expect to reach Sac . in the morning at 4:30 I did not dream that Wyo, Utah and Nev. were such deserts with those little one roomed shacks. We saw some sheep but not many.

Thursday we came into Sacramento this morning at 4:50. We went up town and saw the beautiful capitol building and so many flowers the Mongolia tree with its blossoms that look like pond lillies and Palm trees O so many. At 8 a.m. we started on the last of our journey and we are rushing toward Stockton. and such flowers and fruit on every side cattle , This land is irrigated and blossoms like a rose. The people were just

lay the bags of grain in place of shocks.

Well we arrived at 11 o'clock June 22 . was just three days on the road. Sister had been down to meet an earlier train but had gone home. So Iris Carl and little David met us at the train. Oh the pleasure o such a meeting and our drive up town to their place. 930 N. San Gais St. through the Palm lined streets and such pertty flowers. Of course Eliza was glad to see us and they have such a beautiful home. In the afternoon Guy's came and Aunt Florence. We had quite a family reunion. We went to bed the first night but have been to a show or something every night since. Today Sunday we are going to a barbecue and contest. We went, it was 36 miles and through the Delta the mostfertile spot in the state. such fields of corn and acres of orchards of figs, apricots and other fruits. Of course it is all irrigated.

As we drove along we could see Mt Puablo in the distance and it grew higher as we drew near it. We could see all the creases and divides at night there is a beacon light on the point for airplanes. We arrived in plenty of time for the barbecue and the parade of floats and cow boys. Brentwood was a nice little town all nations represented, it was quite a lot like a 4th of July celebration. They said they had 25000 tons of apricots in the orchards around the town. I never saw so many apricots. About 3:30 we started home, we had to cross several draw bridges on our way. We also saw a wreck where two autos had colided. We came on home and after we had rested went to Guy's to upper and Sam and I stayed all night.

June 28 Fine day , I went with Guy after eggs and fruit out in the country about 16 miles. We saw lots of country such fields of wheat with combines cutting grain and threshing and sacking it and such lots of fruit orchards. We got out and picked blue plumbs and apricots. They sure were good. The roads were hard to beat. After the people cut the grain they leave the stubble high, they then cut that with mowers, bale it and sell it to the paper factory.

We had a blow out but soon fixed it and on we went, came to an old

forsaken town where every one had moved away. Then we came back to Guy's grocery. Picked up Marie, Niel and Florence and came on to Iris to supper.

June 30 Saturday we washed and such a washing lines and lines. I am kind today, tomorrow we are going to San Francisco. I hope to take some pictures while there.

Well, we started at 5 o'clock, Guy's in one car, Iris and the rest of us in their car. We traveled on and on over the pleasant country with its great field of golden grain and orchards of fruit trees. Here I saw for the first time English walnut trees. We came to the first arm of the bay and there saw some ships just rotting away. We went on and after going about 40 miles came to Walnut Creek. Where the folks came 35 years ago when they first moved to Calif. At Walnut Creek cemetery Father and Mother are both buried and I had never seen their graves. They were laid to rest on the east hill slope. I thought a very pleasant spot. We carried flowers and then I took a picture of the graves. Guy's had caught up with us now and we went on to Oakland. Such a beautiful city. Here we boarded a street car and went across the city of Oakland to the ferry boat that carried passengers over the bay. It took 45 minutes so was quite a voyage and now we came to the wonderful city of San Francisco and such a big city. There was a fog at first but later it lifted and there was the old Pacific Ocean. I had looked at so many times on the map which only marks the ocean west of the US. There were ships of all kinds was five of them and merchant ships, ships from other countries. Then we went down to the beach and saw the waves come tumbling in. The waves came way up on the shore. Marie Burcham and I took off our shoes and waded in the water. It was sure queer the way the waves came rushing in and the steady roar of the breakers. There was an island of rocks with seals resting on them. I was not disappointed with the ocean, some are, it seemed so vast and boundless. In the evening we came home arrived about 9 o'clock tired

but happy. July 2-3 we rested and got ready for the 4th. We went to Oak Park in the morning and picked our table set the baskets of lunch on it. Then went down town to see the different parades. There were three, but the KKK was the biggest there. Were 2800 in it in dress parade with banners and bands. It was sure fun to watch them. There we went back to the park where the KKK had speaking and barbecue besides. It was like Lake Manawa only no water but so many things to see and do. We stayed till about 4 O'clock then came down to sister Eliza's place here we rested and then went down to Chinatown after fire works (While down town we saw the delegates from the Philippine Islands these were so many of them they had their flags and banners flying) came back and had supper (went to Guys after watermelon). The men and David and Iris had the fireworks after dark. Everyone was tired by then so Guy went home and we all went to rest.

July 5 Sam and I went down to Guy's all day July 6. Florence came up and we made my dress. We went to a show in the evening. July 11, Tuesday. Went to Saloma about 70 miles we went first to Johnston, an old mining town where there were some of the first buildings built there years ago. Old and weather beaten. On the way we stopped at a place where there had been a mine (gold) and one could see way back in the ground or hill the timbers were rotten and the water trickled out. We snapped a picture of it. We went on to Sanora, another old mining town where the miners used to come to spend and gamble their gold in early times and the hills here were full of holes where they had dug out the dirt and washed it for gold. Old spades and picks lay rusting here.

Next we went out to Columbia to see an old church. There was an old legend about. This happened years ago. A minister preached there and the grave yard was near the church of course there was gold there but it was unbroken law that no one would dig there or disturb the graves but later it was found that the graves were falling in and there were holes there about. The people investigated and found that the minister had tunneled from under the pulpit of the church out to the grave yard and

for gold. It of course made a great stir and the church fell into disrepute. The windows were broken and no one went near it. We looked among the graves and read names as far back as 1855 so you see it was old. We took a picture of it. Next we went on to Lake Tahoe and finished the day arriving home at 5 O'clock. On July 12 Guy's drove us up to Tahlequah through the most fertile country I ever saw. Such orchards and vineyards acres and acres such fine homes like city houses and flowers galore. We sure saw some fine country. We went to San Francisco again and we sure had a glorious time. We took the car this time across the bay on the ferry and then we had the car to ride around in. We went to Golden Gate Park there is 2000 acres of it and in it every thing one could think of to see flowers fishes seals historical relics all kinds also ostriches, deers, buffaloes, and mounted animals that look so real. The birds were so tame and dear little squirrels so tame and ferns so high as the house. We went to the Cliff House for dinner. Then we drove around where the regular army is stationed saw the forts and guns that guard the city and the coast. We saw where all the officers lived, and the cemetery with their markers. We then came to the Aerial field where seven or eight planes were practicing one went up while we were waiting. We then drove on down to the ferry crossed and were soon on our way home arrived there at 5:30 we started at 5:00 a.m. and was 2½ hours going but such roads like a floor.

July 13 Just stayed at home and rested. Oh yes we went to Guy's to dinner. July 14 Just got the washing out at 8:00 Sunday July 15 we went to Clements Park. Was such a pretty place. The children went in bathing and we looked in the sand for gold we found some specks, too. All week we just visited and had a good time took pictures and went down town and to the shows in the evening. Today July 20 we were at Guy's Yesterday was Dallas birthday. Sunday July 22 well we have come to the last evening and tomorrow we are going to Santa Cruz in the morning Flornece lives down there on her home is down there. We are having a wond

July 23. We started at 10:15 arrived at San Francisco at 2:00 p/m, had no trouble in locating our depot and crossing the bay. We arrived at Santa Cruz at 6:00 in the evening. Found a taxi cab to take us up town to our rooms. We went down down for supper but after that we did light house keeping. July 24 We went to the Caseno Baths had a fine time at such a wonderful hotel so large and so many people. Wednesday we went to the place where the big trees grow we took our dinner had a picnic. But those trees, such monsters so high and so big they say they are three thousand years old when one stops to think they were there when Pharo was in war with Egypt it makes one wonder who lived here then or if this country was unhabited. The next day Thursday we went out to Rock Cliffs. Where the ocean beat upon the shore day and night. There were caves and bridges here made by the water. The waves when they came in were 20 feet high here and as you looked over that vast body of water and heard its sullen roar one felt afraid and shrank back and thought of the Countless ages it had beat upon that shore. That night we said good-by to Sister Florences friends we had met on our short visit very pleasant people by the way for on the morrow we are to start for Los Angeles. That city that I had heard so much about but had never seen. Friday well we are on our way. I hated to leave Sister. I will always see her standing there by the depot but we had to go on. We are passing through a rather poor part, sand and not much fruit just ate our lunch. We rode for 80 miles along the coast and could see the ocean nearly all the time. We went on for a long time it was sure hot later we went through seven tunnels. We began to climb till we were 1000 feet up. We did not go straight up but looped around the mountain Santa Margarta here the view was fine then from there we went down the same as we came up. At San Louis Obispo we saw our first oil well And at Marco bay At Pismo we saw the sand duns and 17 miles of ocean view. From here we traveled on all the afternoon we passed so many orchards of prunes and other fruits. We went through Hollywood, the



center of our moving pictuer romances and on we steamed till at last we reached Los Angels here Mrs Yager and daughter met is at the depot. We were sure tired they do not live in the city but about 12 miles out at \_\_\_\_\_. They were pleasantly settled here and seemed to like it very much. Here is where Clara Bell Caughell my granddaughter lives and she sure is a dear little girl. They took us around to various places. We went first to Long Beach and such a place so many people and so much ocean. We took our dinner and while the rest went bathing Mrs. Y. and I hunted shells and sea weed onthe shore. I could of stayed there longer. At Signet Hill where oil was first discovered. we also saw the beautiful homes on long beach. Bellmount beach and several others. Saw soldiers with symbles of our America. Smith Hoover and San Pedro government harbor .Fremont is noted for its oil well they are thick like trees on the ground.

We were going home this morning but this train only carried pullman passengere so we waited for the evening train 7:35.

This afternoon we went for a drive. Herman Yager drove and we went first by the Goodyear tire manufacturing the building is  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile long and quite wide. Next we went up the mountain to what is called the Whittier\_\_\_\_\_ Here we found a wonderful inn called the Singing Kettle Inn. There was a beautiful view you could seee mountaine and cities galor. We saw orchards of orange, lemons and avacota. a tree that looks like an orange tree but the fruit is shaped like a pear. We came back by where Roy Wilcocks a brother of the Wilcocks in Council Bluffs. He has a beautiful grren house and residence here. We vame on and got supper at Ollie Cooper's and such a good supper. We are now ready to start on our homeward journey toward Iowa. Good-bye for now.

Tuesday August 1. In Williams Arizona and a typical mountain storm , rain and thunder. At Belmont Ariz divide 7535 feet 4:30p.m. Winslow Ariz. at 6:30 had a cloud burst and the water was over the RR track.

Water so high that we had to go without supper as the water was waist deep between the train and the restaurant and all the houses near the depot had water in them. There was a state road here and cars were stranded all along. Friday morning the weather is fine. We are just entering Texas 8:00 a.m. just passed Higgins last town in Texas not much to see here. 5:30 p/m. Saw lots of cattle and fine pasture here in Okla. The soil is red. ~~Brother Milt used to live.~~

We arrived at Alma where Sams Brother Milt used to live. We got a man to drive us up to the house. Mrs. was not at home but we stayed all night she came home in the morning we had a real nice little visit and then went on toward home that next evening at 8:00

We came to Kansas City the next morning changed cars at the city depot the most wonderful depot I ever saw. Then we went on and at 3:20 Sat we arrived in Omaha having made the circuit. We went on over to Clam Talbotts and from there to Wilberts. We had a fine time while there visiting various places and at Russells. Till on Sat. August 18 we started out well loaded for Dakota but we waited over in Council Bluffs and went over to see Clydes. My dear friend Mrs. Chambers went over with us we had a very nice time. Sund. evening we started out in real earnest for home. We drove as far as Missouri Valley the first night. The next night we stopped at Redfield at Ben Yeager's brother and the next night we were home was glad to be home.

So ended our trip we both had very nice time and every one was glad to see us. So good-by . Jessie B. Talbott

The End.