

R. M. DOCKERY GIVES ACCOUNT OF HIS TRIP NORTH INTO CANADA

Perhaps some of your readers would be interested in an account of a trip taken by this writer this summer.

First of all, let us say that we traveled by bus, that we were out to see the country, that we did no traveling at night and that we were in no hurry, that is why we spent eleven weeks on the trip. We visited fourteen states, the District of Columbia and two Provinces of Canada.

At the first rooster crow (or before) on the morning of July 3rd, in company with a nephew, Ralph Dockery and family, we left Winston-Salem headed for near Norfolk, Va. to spend the 4th with his wife's people. And finer folks you couldn't find anywhere. You would have thought they were Tar Heels. We don't recall ever having seen so much fried chicken after everyone was fed to the limit. After the day's feasting and visiting and general good time was over, a member of the family who lives in Norfolk drove us to the home of another nephew (Dock Foster) who lives in that city and almost grew up in the Navy. Up to the time of his retirement two years back he trained more rookies than most of us hill billies ever saw. While there we visited the naval base and went aboard an airplane carrier and hoped to go on board a hospital ship but we were there on the wrong day.

On July 8th we left Norfolk and headed north. We made a twenty-four hour stop in Richmond and hoped to visit the State Capitol but it was closed over Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

Our next stop was in Washing-

ton, and if any there be who doubt that we have a Capitol befitting a great country just let them pay it a visit. The White House is closed to visitors because of the repair job being done on it. In addition to the National Capitol we visited Mount Vernon where we saw the Washington home furnished as it was in colonial times. Also the Lee Mansion in Arlington Cemetery furnished as it was in Civil War times. The Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Washington Monument, the Archives building, the Mellon Art Gallery. The tomb of the unknown soldier and the Smithsonian Institute where you can spend all the time you have to spend.

We attended Sunday school and church at the First Baptist where President Truman and family worship and heard Dr. Druden whom many will remember from his visit here three years ago. Senator Gore of Okla., was teacher of the men's adult class. All visitors were asked to stand up and tell where they were from and tell about their home town. When we told them that North Wilkesboro was near the N. W. corner of the state in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains and that it was in Farmer Bob Doughton's District, and that it was a small town but was growing they seemed more than pleased and said it sounded like a boost for the Chamber of Commerce.

At the Smithsonian Institute we saw the Wright Bros. Kitty Hawk airplane. The Spirit of St. Louis. The Winnie May in which Wiley Post flew twice around the world and many other interesting sights. One that brought us nearest home and gave us a feeling of real pride was a coverlet woven by a Mrs. Mast of Valle Crucis, N. C.

We only spent a couple of days in Philadelphia and used most of one of them in a trip to Atlantic City, N. J. to leave our footprints in the Boardwalk and of course take a look at the bathing beauties.

Back in Philadelphia we saw Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, ancient fire fighting equipment and other historic objects.

A week spent in N. Y. City wised us up somewhat as to life in the world's greatest metropolis. A sightseeing trip known as the "Ground Tour" that gave one a glimpse of everything from the Bowery and China Town to millionaire row on 5th Avenue, Columbia University, Eisenhower's home, Cathedral of St. John the Divine (which is beyond description), Coney Island, all that we ever heard it was and more. The Statue of Liberty, Central Park with its lakes, drives, walkways, cliffs trails for horseback riders, Cleopatra's Needle, a granite shaft several feet in diameter and towering many feet into the air, the entire length of it carved with hieroglyphics. It was first erected at Heliopsis, Egypt, in 1600 B. C. One is made to wonder how they managed to handle

so much weight at that time. A trip to the top of the 102 story Empire State building, Museum of Natural History where one can see just about everything from prehistoric times down through the ages. Fossil remains of animals so huge as to be almost unbelievable. We saw an elephant tusk sixteen feet plus, just to mention one object. At the Planetarium there we saw a Meteorite that weighed fifteen and one half tons.

We spent a week in Boston. There we saw the Fine Arts Museum and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, both containing exhibits gathered from the four corner of the earth. A wooden chest brought over on the Mayflower, silverware made by Paul Revere, antique furniture, rooms furnished in Colonial style. We visited Boston com-

mons and the State Capitol and attended a session of the state senate. When a new state house was erected it was built around the old and the senate still sits in the room where it sat in pioneer times with a fireplace in each of its four corners now covered over with the same material as the lining of the room. We visited Fenway Park rose garden where they have one hundred and four different varieties. We climbed the two hundred ninety-five steps to the top of the Bunker Hill Monument. We visited the fish market where they pack tons of fish in ice and haul them away by the truck load and many other interesting sights.

In Portland Maine we saw the home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. We visited the water front and took an excursion boat

ride on Casco Bay where they tell us there are three hundred and sixty-five islands. We spent a week on a farm near Sebago Lake where Portland gets its water supply and enjoyed it immensely. The arrangement of the buildings was new to us. Onto the rear of the house was a work shed, on to the shop was connected a wood shed and connected on to the woodshed was the barn. In winter the barn chores could be done without being exposed to the weather. We saw many homes in the vicinity built that way.

From Portland through the White Mountains of New Hampshire to Burlington, Vermont on Lake Champlain is a fine trip for anyone to take. There we had a ride on the lake and visited the University of Vermont museum. Montreal is a fine big city

with a lot of interesting things to see. We were somewhat surprised to learn that two thirds or perhaps three fourths of the people there spoke French. And just to make the trip more interesting we spent a week in a French Canadian home. The elder members of the family could speak English but little better than we could speak French. With the aid of the younger members of the family we managed to get along very well. We had an excursion boatripe on the St. Lawrence river. We visited the Catecombs, The Shrine of Saint Andrew and the Cathedral of Notre Dame. To any traveler we would say, don't leave Montreal without seeing the Cathedral. Over there they do not seem to be in so great hurry as we are here. Grocery wagons, bread wagons, milk wagons and a

lot of other carting is still done with horses. We even saw a string of horse drawn dump carts. Where could you find that in the states?

From Montreal we took a west course across southern Canada. We saw signs of much dairying. In places we saw trees breaking with fruit. In one place we traveled thru several miles of big rank tobacco.

Between Toronto and Niagara Falls we came thru a fruit district that would be a credit to any country.

Niagara Falls — as everyone knows — is one of the show places of North America. We viewed it from both sides of the river and from above and from below. It is wonderful and awe inspiring any way you look at it. In the center of the rainbow bridge below the falls where the stars

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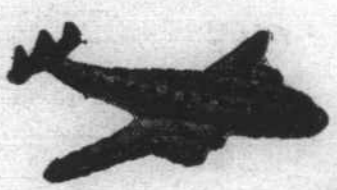
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