The Saga of a Home-Made Trailer; Texas to the New York World's Fair

A Texas journalist built himself a trailer, loaded in his wife and 11-year-old son and started on a 2,000 mile trek for the New York World's Fair with $50.00 in his pockets. His experiences are recounted in the following story:

By TOM CAUFIELD

(who covers police, fire alarms, boll weevils and all news in and about the Brazos Bottoms of Central Texas for the Waco Times-Herald).

WORLD'S FAIR, New York — Frances and the eleven-year-old and I have seen the Fair and all the folks back in Waco told us it couldn't be done on the Caufield nickrell. The speedometer on Ancient History II reads 2,000 miles from Fifth and Austin; the wallet is out $50, and we've got $10 left. I've just wired the boss for the $25 he promised me to get home on, and if the chewing gum and boiling wire on the trailer and sloppy don't relax their holds during the homeward 2,000 miles, we shall have made the whole junket on $65.

We spent a little over $1.50 each per day on the Fair itself, counting admission at the gates. Thomas, the eleven-year-old and Frances, the woman who tells me how to drive, and I walked and walked and looked and stared, finally becoming convinced that the best parts of the Fair are free. We could while away two weeks here looking at the free shows, and never repeat and never suffer from what the slick paper writers call ennui. We are leaving only because a wolf is howling at a door bearing the coat of arms of a certain small town newspaperman in Texas.

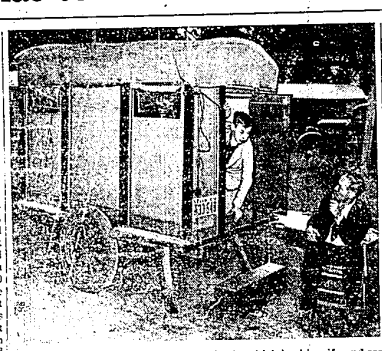
Nothing Like the Brazos

We stood and gulped when we saw the illumination at the lagoon of nations last night. Nothing like it along the Brazos, nor anywhere else.

A lightning bolt hit a telephone post as our car-trailer combination passed it on the road to Knoxville, coming up. It smashed the post, splintered our car with splinters, made an outrageous noise, scared us stiff. We saw it all over again, free, at the General Electric show here. They made 16 million volts for us—BANG! and we thought we were back on the Tennessee highway in the storm.

We fought good roads and bad coming up. General Motors showed us all good in a panorama that 27,000 people a day look at. GM parked us in upholstered chairs, started a public address explanation from the chair arms, and showed us the highway system of 1960.

If it hadn't been for that roads system display, we might have thought, in the aviation building, that man was fixing to leave the ground for good; but GM gave us hope for the highways. We could hardly get the boy away from the aviation display. Instead of wanting to ride on the carnival gadgets, he wanted to go back and look at the model wind tunnels, the cross section of the Yankee clipper, and things like that.



Here is Tom Caufield's homemade trailer in which he, his wife and son traveled all the way from Waco, Tex., to see New York World's Fair.

Need for Adjectives

We heard the Voder. That's a contraption we had read about, a sort of talking typewriter. Pretty girl punches keys and make a combination of hisses and grunts that sounds like Charlie McCarthy at his worst, but is understandable.

I never was much on adjectives. The one adjective needed around here is "marvelous." Give me enough synonyms for that, insert them as needed, and that's the Fair.

There's a moving mural in the Ford building. Pistons, cogs, things like that fixed in the wall, all moving. Time for one of the synonyms. In the same building, walls hung all round with a one-piece yellow curtain made of spun and woven glass.

More free stuff; the City of Light, with 100,000 individual bulbs; the Forward March of America, showing how lighting has changed. They've got a fountain running over the exit of that building, and when I lost Frances and Thomas, by getting mixed up on a rendezvous, they waited an hour for me there, perfectly satisfied, while the fountain splashed outside.

They've got a real ship parked in a pond by the New England building. They've got life-sized toy monkeys climbing trees in a toy exhibit and real monkeys climbing on a rock inside the Frank Buck enclosure. The rock is higher than the bamboo walls, so you can see the monkeys without going in.

Escalators and Ramps

About transportation; this fair is great on saving shoe leather. It has to be, it is so big that unless there were a lot of escalators and moving belts the cobblers would have a field day at every exit. You go up into the Perisphere on an escalator, and ride around it on a moving belt; and there's the moving belt at the GM building. Everywhere you find ramps instead of steps, and the ramps are exactly calculated to ease your legs as you go up or down. Streets and walks are asphalt, and the buildings generally have rubber composition flooring. And if you want to ride, it costs a dime for a bus from any point on the grounds to any other point.

If your feet do get tired (and they oughtn't to often if you've got the right kind of shoes, which is important, especially to the women) you can stop in at any of the first aid stations and get a free foot treatment to ease them.

Now for the Tariff

Let's count the cost, after you get to New York. Figure you're in a trailer—that's $1 to get over the George Washington Bridge, which is the best way for a trailer; 75 cents a night at the trailer camp; a few cents for milk and whatever other groceries you need for eating at the camp; 25 cents toll over Whitestone Bridge for your car (leave the trailer at camp) and 25 cents toll back again (or ride a bus, fare ten cents each); 50 cents to park in the parking grounds at the Fair; 75 cents admission for adults, 25 cents for children; 25 cents each for the Perisphere, which is a must because it is the Fair's symbol; 10 cents for the Town of Tomorrow, which also ought to be a must for any householder, and gas and oil.

We ate dinner at one of many restaurants in the Fair grounds. My wife had chicken and mushrooms with coffee for 60 cents. I ate a salisbury steak with coffee for 60 cents, and lamb chops for the boy cost 75 cents. For lunch we had hamburgers and pie, which ran us 20 cents each. It costs a nickel for pop or root beer at any of a dozen stands. We got to the Fair for lunch one day and had dinner there that night. We had breakfast in camp next day, lunch at the Fair and pulled out late that afternoon for home.

Seeing New York

You can see something of New York while you're at the Fair, for the mere cost of gasoline. The night we arrived, we took a 50-mile drive across town, along the Hendrik Hudson Parkway and back from the Battery up Broadway to Times Square, then back to camp. We had a volunteer guide—one of the officials at the camp.

The policemen go out of their way to help a visitor. One of them talked to us for a half hour about things in general while we waited for an open-top bus next morning for a sightseeing trip in Manhattan. In fact, any New Yorker goes out of his way to help a Fair visitor.

We felt so much at home that when we parked our car to catch a bus to the Fair on our first day's visit, we forgot to make a note of where we left it; just walked away from it like we would have done in our own home town. And believe it or not, we found it when we came back in the rain—with the help of some of the passengers on the bus.

Bear in mind that the cost of coming to New York depends on how you are willing to come. We had a camp trailer, slept in it, using a trailer camp once, a cabin one night during a pouring rain, using school grounds twice with the permission of rural neighbors, and parking three times at filling stations. It took us six days to get here.

That $85 is an education worth thousands, for a boy of 11, and worth plenty more for his father and mother.—*Reprinted from the New York Herald-Tribune.*

Ample notice of change of address should be given when moving. Notice should be given before changing it possible.

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Vegetation continues to thrive on the new land formed by the volcanic eruption in the Rabaul district of New Zealand. During the eruption an island 16 feet above the sea rose to 600 feet and covered the land nearby with pumice ash. Later heavy rains washed this into the soil and the vegetation is more abundant than ever before.

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2348

SAMUEL J. & HARCOURT S. PATTERSON, Attorneys, 916 Peoples State Building, Pontiac, Michigan

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE SALE

Default having been made (and such default having continued for more than ninety days) in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Earl P. McNett and Anna J. McNett, his wife, of the City of Royal Oak, Oakland County, Michigan, to HOME OWNERS' LOAN CORPORATION, a Corporation organized under the laws of the United States of America, dated July 18th, 1931, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Oakland County, Michigan, on August 3, 1934, in Liber 222 of Mortgages, on Pages 255-256, and said mortgagee having elected under the terms of said mortgage to declare the entire principal and accrued interest thereon due, which election it does hereby exercise, pursuant to which there is claimed to be due and unpaid on said mortgage at the date of this notice for principal and interest the sum of Two Thousand, Twenty-four and 28/100 Dollars ($2,024.28) and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage and pursuant to the Statutes of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, October 3, 1939 at ten o'clock in the forenoon, Eastern Standard Time, at the easterly door of the Court House (that being the Saginaw Street entrance thereof) in the City of Pontiac, County of Oakland, Michigan (that being the place of holding Circuit Court in said County) said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale at public auction to the highest bidder of the premises described in said mortgage, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amount due as aforesaid, and any sum or sums which may be paid by the undersigned at or before said sale for taxes and/or insurance on said premises, and all other sums paid by the undersigned, with interest thereon, pursuant to law and to the terms of said mortgage, and all legal costs, charges and expenses, including an attorney's fee which premises are described as follows:

That certain piece or parcel of land situated in the City of Royal Oak, County of Oakland, Michigan, more particularly described as:

Lot One Hundred twenty-six (126) of Orchard Knoll Subdivision of part of the southeast Quarter of the southeast Quarter of Section Twenty-two (22), Town One (1) North, Range Eleven (11) East, Royal Oak, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber Thirteen (13), page twenty-six (26) of Plats, Oakland County Records.

DATED: July 1, 1939.

HOME OWNERS' LOAN CORPORATION
Mortgagee

Samuel J. & Harcourt S. Patterson
Attorneys for Mortgagee
Business Address:
916 Peoples State Building
Pontiac, Michigan

July 6-Sept. 28

2349

LESLIE T. JONES, Attorney, 931 Penobscot Building, Detroit, Michigan.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by FRANK FLEMING & EDITH FLEMING, his wife, of Ferndale, Michigan as Mortgagors, to The United Savings Bank of Detroit, Michigan, a corporation duly organized and doing business under the laws of the State of Michigan, as Mortgagee, dated the 2nd day of Dec. 1937 and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Oakland County, Michigan, on the 7th day of December 1937 in Liber 321 of Mortgages, on Page 379-82 on which mortgage, because of said default, there is claimed to be due and unpaid at the date of this notice principal and interest in the sum of THIRTY-SIX HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT & SIXTEEN HUNDREDTHS ($3,648.16) DOLLARS And no suit or proceedings at law or in equity having been instituted for the recovery of said amount, or any portion thereof, now, therefore, by virtue of the power of sale in said mortgage contained and of the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said Mortgagee will sell the premises described in said mortgage at public auction to the highest bidder therefor, at the Easterly or Saginaw Street entrance of the Oakland County Building in the City of Pontiac, Oakland County, Michigan (that being the place of holding the Circuit Court for said County), on Tuesday the 3rd day of October A. D. 1939 at 12:00 o'clock noon (Eastern Standard Time) of said date, or so much of said premises as shall be necessary to satisfy the amount due on said mortgage as aforesaid, together with five per cent interest per annum from the date of this notice and the costs allowed by law and provided for in said mortgage, including an attorney fee, said premises being situated in the City of FERNDALE County of OAKLAND and State of Michigan, described as follows:

Lot Numbered 2, Anderson's Subdivision of Ridge Heights of the South 13.195 Acres of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 23, Town 1 North, Range 11 East, Royal Oak, Oakland County, Michigan, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 12 of Plats, page 10, Oakland County Records; said property being located on the East side of Pinecrest Drive between Hazelhurst and Marshall Avenues.

Dated, Detroit, Michigan, July 6, 1939.

THE UNITED SAVINGS BANK OF DETROIT
By Maybel C. Oliver,
Vice President

Leslie T. Jones,
Attorney,
931 Penobscot Building,
Detroit, Michigan.

July 6-Sept. 28

2350

JAMES H. LYNCH, Attorney, Pontiac, Michigan.

STATE OF MICHIGAN,
THE PROBATE COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the Third day of July A. D. 1939.

Present: Hon. ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Martha Kurz, Deceased.

Isaac Bond, administrator of said estate, having filed in said court a petition praying that the time for the presentation of claims against said estate be limited and that a time and place be appointed to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands against said deceased by and before said court.

It is Ordered, that four months from this date be allowed for creditors to present claims against said estate.

It is Further Ordered, that Fourth day of December 1939 at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for the examination and adjustment of all claims against said deceased.

Arthur E. Moore,
Judge of Probate.

A true copy
Maurice E. Finnegan,
Deputy Register of Probate.
James H. Lynch,
Attorney for Estate,
Pontiac, Michigan.

July 6-July 20

Report of Condition of THE FARMINGTON STATE BANK

of Farmington in the State of Michigan at the close of business on June 30, 1939.

Published in accordance with a call made by the Federal Reserve Bank of this district pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Reserve Act and by the Commissioner of the Banking Department pursuant to the provisions of Section 82 of the Michigan financial institutions act.

ASSETS

Loans and discounts (including no overdrafts)		$ 572,736.86
United States Government obligations, direct and guaranteed		133,682.00
Obligations of States and political subdivisions		79,748.10
Other bonds, notes and debentures		105,430.78
Corporate stocks (including $1,900.00 stock of Federal Reserve bank)		1,900.00
Cash, balances with other banks, including reserve balances, and cash items in process of collection		197,950.40
Bank premises owned None, furniture and fixtures	$ 7,273.26	7,273.26
(Bank premises owned are subject to no liens not assumed by bank)		
Real estate owned other than bank premises		4,178.86
Other assets		839.91
TOTAL ASSETS		$1,103,740.17

LIABILITIES

Demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	$ 334,004.02
Time deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	439,795.76
Deposits of United States Government (including postal savings)	1,111.22
Deposits of States and political subdivisions	211,188.95
Deposits of banks	5,000.00
Other deposits (certified and officers' checks, etc.)	19,619.59
TOTAL DEPOSITS	$1,010,719.54
Other liabilities	12,087.89
TOTAL LIABILITIES (not including subordinated obligations shown below)	$1,022,807.43

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital*	$ 40,500.00
Surplus	21,500.00
Undivided profits	6,869.92
Reserves (and retirement account for preferred capital)	12,062.82
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	80,932.74
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	$1,103,740.17

*This bank's capital consists of None of capital notes and debentures; first preferred stock with total par value of $15,500.00, total retirable value $15,500.00; second preferred stock with total par value of $none, total retirable value $None; and common stock with total par value of $25,000.00.

MEMORANDA

Pledged assets (and securities loaned) (book value):	
(a) U. S. Government obligations, direct and guaranteed, pledged to secure deposits and other liabilities	$ 5,011.45
(e) TOTAL	5,011.45
Secured and preferred liabilities:	
(a) Deposits secured by pledged assets pursuant to requirements of law	5,011.45
(c) TOTAL	5,011.45
(a) Unpaid dividends on preferred stock and unpaid interest on capital notes and debentures, accrued to end of last dividend or interest period, not included in liabilities or reserves above	None
(b) Other obligations not included in liabilities which are subordinated to claims of depositors and other creditors	None
(a) On date of report the required legal reserve against deposist of this bank was	82,208.00
(b) Assets reported above which were eligible as legal reserve amounted to	85,158.26

I, H. C. Knickerbocker, Cashier, of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear/affirm that the above statement is true, and that it fully and correctly represents the true state of the several matters herein contained and set forth, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Correct.—Attest:

H. C. KNICKERBOCKER, Cashier

HOWARD M. WARNER
FLOYD H. NICHOLS Directors
EMORY O. HATTON

STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF OAKLAND, ss:

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of July, 1939, and I hereby certify that I am not an officer or director of this bank.

My commission expires June 5, 1942

Arvale Tipper, Notary Public.