

News of Roads Throughout West

The desert road from Victorville to the Big Bear Lake country is in fine shape up to the bottom of Cushmanberry grade. However, motorists are advised by the touring department of the National Automobile Club to put anti-skid chains on at the ranch. The snow has been partly cleared off, but the warm weather makes the road very slushy.

The road around Baldwin Lake is quite muddy. From there to Pine Knot it is in fair condition. Fast driving on the present roads in Bear Valley is not advisable.

The road from Los Angeles via Bishop and Benton in Mono County and Deep Wells into the Mono Lake Basin country to Silver Lake is now open, according to the touring bureau of the National Automobile Club. There is very little snow on the road now to the west of Benton.

The following road reports are given out by the touring department of the National Automobile Club:

Los Angeles to Phoenix by way of Salton Sea and Imperial Valley, 499 miles—Good.

Los Angeles to Phoenix by way of Parker, 533 miles—Fair to good. Los Angeles to Phoenix by way of Ehrenburg Ferry, 417 miles—Fair. Los Angeles to Phoenix by way of Needles and Ash Fork, 697—Good.

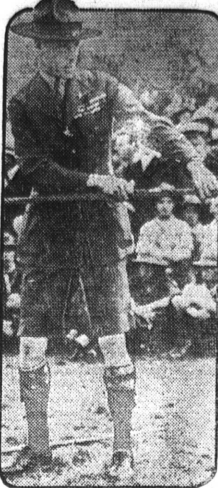
Latest reports of road conditions in and around Grand Canyon National Park, according to the touring bureau of the National Automobile Club, are as follows: Williams to Grand Canyon road, and Main and Flagstaff to Grand Canyon road, are both closed.

The western drives in the park are open and paved, but both the Grand View and Desert view, and the Moenopi-Hopi Indian Village roads are closed. All trails in the park except the north rim and Utah country are open and good.

Twenty Latin-American nations were invited to participate in the 1927 road congress, to be held in Chicago during Good Roads Week, from January 10th to 15th, according to the touring bureau of the National Automobile Club.

Invitations had been extended to the presidents of all South American republics to appoint official delegates to the convention. According to H. G. Shirley, president of the association, "The increasing interest of the Latin-American countries in the building of roads has made it essential that

Using His Pull



—NEA, London Bureau

The Prince of Wales had a little time when he spent a day and a night at the Boy Scout camp in Wales. Here he is, all dogged out in Scout uniform, starting the tug-of-war in the field day held in his honor.

representatives of these nations assemble in such a meeting. During that period the visitors may absorb the better points of highway development in this country and apply them to construction in their own lands. Brazil and Mexico, the two nations now leading in the construction of roads in Latin-America, have approximately 50,000 miles of highways. Of this mileage only about three thousand is improved."

Motorists are warned by the touring bureau of the National Automobile Club not to attempt to cross the Colorado River on the Gillespie dam at night, unless familiar with the crossing. Cars should always drive close to the outer edge.

Roads in Southern Nevada have generally been improved by the recent light fall of snow, according to the touring bureau of the National Automobile Club. Most of the snow is now gone, and there is none at all in the valleys. Good time can now be made between Los Angeles and Tonopah, but motorists should carry non-skid chains for use in the higher passes.

GOPHERS TO PICNIC

The Minnesota State Society will hold its midwinter picnic in Bixby Park, Long Beach, on Saturday, Jan. 29.

Wholesale War on Mice Millions Started at Taft

Thousands on Thousands of Pests Killed Daily in Campaign

A second attack of house mice upon Taft and vicinity is now taking place. In order to protect the homes of those living in the oil fields poisoned wheat is being

placed in trenches dug around the camps.

At the Midway Gas Company's camp at compressor station A the daily kill is amounting to between fifteen and twenty thousand mice. So numerous are they that the carcasses are raked together and shoveled into wheelbarrows.

This is the second wave of house mice which has made its appearance within the last two months. Before precautions were taken several families were forced to move out of their houses until the mice were killed. In one small granary over fifty thousand were killed by a crew of forty men in four hours. In a grain bin in one chicken coop 2180 were killed by actual count. So numerous are the mice that

they are weighed in order to establish their number. It has been found by careful checking that 100 of these house mice weigh three pounds.

F. H. Holden, who for seven years was connected with the museum of zoology at the University of California in Berkeley, and who is now employed by the Southern California Gas Company, has identified these mice as the common house mouse, mus musculus, with occasional representatives of the white-footed mouse, peromyscus, and the field mouse, microtus. As far as has been determined, he states, none of these mice are carriers of human disease.

Active steps are being taken throughout the region to exterminate these rodents, and hundreds of tons of poisoned grain have been purchased for this purpose.

Dear Sir:

A bill has been introduced increasing the gasoline tax from 2 cents now charged to 3 cents, the extra charge being for the purpose of providing a fund for the construction of new roads, ostensibly a large portion intended for northern California. As this means a tax of 1 cent per gallon for every person using an automobile or truck, I deem it of such importance to the public that I should like to receive an expression of your opinion, before voting upon this matter. Respectfully yours, HENRY E. CARTER.

The Voice Of the People

(Henry F. Carter, assemblyman from this district, has written us a letter requesting our opinion on the bill which proposes a 1-cent increase in the state gasoline tax. We suggest that persons having an opinion on this bill communi-

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