

at -
History Center

This is a copy of material & newspaper information contained in a photograph album found in an antique store in New England. It contains photos of a 1921 auto trip from Bridgewater, MA to Meridian, ID. (photos not sequential)

EAST BRIDGEWATER PARTY MAKING TRIP TO IDAHO IN AN AUTO-HOUSE

IT'S BUNGALOW WHEN THEY PAUSE

Electric light and Modern Conveniences While En Route

What is the fun of travelling when one has to ride in a hot stuffy train, with only the train shed vista of the cities through which one passes, and has to deal with the problems of Daylight Savings and Standard time? Such matters will not concern such travelers deluxe as Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Willett of East Bridgewater, their son Fred and Wendell Fisher, who left April 21 for Idaho and who are making the trip over the road in their automobile home.

The picture shows the house when it is "closed" and one the road. When "open" it presents an entirely different view. Off comes the canvas top, the sides come down, and there is as neat a little bungalow as one could desire.

Mr. Willett, who is a toy maker and carpenter, made the "house" himself. It is of hard work construction adapted to all inclemencies of the weather.

All Comforts of Home.

The interior is especially cosy and has cot beds, a folding tent, electric lights, a two-burner oil stove for cooking purposes and closets—verily, all the comforts of home. There are windows, so that plenty of ventilation is secured. With the house is attached a canvas tent, in which the young men who are acting as joint chauffeurs may camp at night.

The destination of the party is Meridian, Idaho, where the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willett, Miss Hazel C. Willett, who is a graduate of Whitman High school and Boston University, is teaching. They will also stop at Niagara Falls and will visit relatives of Mrs. Willett in Coggon, Iowa. They are planning to spend a greater portion of the summer in Yellowstone Park.

No one is watching the progress of the voyagers more eagerly than is Clayton S. Willett, 162 Winter street, this city, who is the twin brother of Mr. Willett. The East Bridgewater twin does not by any means have a monopoly on auto houses, for the Brockton twin has a similar house in which he camped out for four summers.

"With this difference, said the Brockton twin. "I had a horse instead of an automobile."

FROM NEW ENGLAND IN FORD HOUSE CAR

Willett Family of Whitman, Mass., Come to Idaho on Camping Trip in Search of Fun and Health

C.M. Willett, New England manufacturer, did not wait for the modern automobile caravan of immigrants coming to Idaho this summer to seek new homes. He prepared his Ford house car, loaded his family of three, with the boy friend of one of his children for good measure, and hit the trail west. He arrived in Boise Saturday, with a good summer ahead of him to look around and see how he likes the Gem of the Mountains.

Mr. Willett lives at Whitman, Mass., and makes toys. Too strict attention to business began to undermine his health., His eldest daughter teaches in the high school at Meridian. So he decided to knock off work a while and come out west for a visit, keeping close to nature on the way.

They started – the Willetts and their jitney house car, from the Bay state on April 21. For three weeks they sojourned in Iowa, visiting relatives and friends. Then they came on across the Rockies, following the routes along the Lincoln highway, furnished them by the American Automobile association. The speedometer showed 3280 miles when they reached the Boise valley Saturday. They had been on the road about six weeks, camping where they chose and pressed by no hard schedule. Not once did they encounter trouble of a mechanical nature, or difficulty in negotiating the roads, until they reached Idaho, although day after day they passed other westbound tourists in larger cars laid up by this or that handicap.

“It was a wonderful trip,” said the chauffeur and family head, after he had satisfied the eyes of the others with views of Boise the beautiful. “We wouldn’t have come any other say, and we’re glad we’re here after some of the desolate country we came through. Wyoming’s deserts, where one travels 50 miles without seeing a house, and goes through coal mining towns once populou9us, but now filled with hundreds of abandoned dwelling, were depressing. The Echo canyon was a great sight. There we passed continuous streams of cars bound eastward.

“No, I’m no farmer, and am not looking for farm land. Won’t do anything but play around and see how the climate agrees with me for several months. After that, we may stay, or we may go back to Massachusetts But we’re glad we’re here.

AWAKE TO OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS?

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Willett, C. M. Willett, Jr. and Wendell Fisher of Whitman, traveling in a house built on an automobile mechanism arrived here today enroutte to Meridian, Idaho, where they are to locate. They left Whitman Thursday.

“IDAHO OR BUST”

Lenox, Mass., May 11.—Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Willett, C. M. Willet, Jr., and Wendall Fisher, who left Whitman in an auto house Friday to seek their fortune in Meridian, Idaho, arrived at this town. They have their house on wheels, equipped with a cook stove, beds and other furniture. They also have a cat, dog and several hens. The latter so far have laid eggs enough for breakfast each day.

CONFISCATORY TAXES

Here is the story of a 50-foot lot in one of the small cities of Idaho: The assessor valued it at \$1200 in 1920.

The owner could not pay the taxes last year and went delinquent. This year he finds attached to his tax statement this notice:

The 1920 taxes on the property described . . . still remain unpaid and the amount necessary to redeem is \$567.41 if paid before January 1, 1922.. So he has \$567.41 to pay on back taxes. His 1921 taxes run like this:

State and county.	\$ 33.93
City general	59.24
City sewer.	23.88
City sewer No 2	7.82
City sidewalk	44.85
City paving	265.64

1560

City irrigation 6.00

School district 30.52

Highway district 13.47

Total Tax484.85