

2

BUILDING OF THE ZION CABLE AND SAW MILL

David Alma Flanigan was born June 29, 1872, at Toquerville, Utah. First Rockville, then Springdale became his home.

He was a boy of 15 when, in 1888 he, with three companions, climbed the Red Ledges east of Springdale to explore, becoming lost without food for four days, traversing the wild country east of Zion, passing thru the beautiful stand of Western yellow pine back from what is now called Cable Mt. and at the close of the fourth day arriving safely on the floor of Zion Canyon, after having found the old Indian foot trail.

Dave was a very young man when I, W. W. Flanigan, heard him say, "I know that a cable can be built to reach from the canyon to the top of the Ledges. It will work, for I will build it so that it will."

In the earliest days of the settlement of the Upper Virgin', Brigham Young had prophesied that lumber would come down from those high ledges "like a hawk flying."

We were poor—as families, as communities. The little which we could make or produce was not enough to decently clothe and feed ourselves. Paying work was scarce. We were forced to go away to try to find jobs and felt lucky if we could get any. I, W. W. Flanigan, tried both before and after my marriage in 1898. The extravagant sum of 75 cents, maybe up to \$1.50 per day for grown men was the most we could get, with board taken out of that.

Up to this time, March, 1898, W. W. Flanigan had kept notes of the most important happenings. After I, W. W. Flanigan married, I determined to keep a consistent day by day record. This I began to do starting with January 1, 1899.

The following pages are copied from these little diary books. They make a truthful, indisputable record of W. W. Flanigan's daily work, which, upon examination, shows many of the events of the community history.

Book for 1901

Friday, March 29, 1901

Went to Zion and worked for J. Winder on the Big Bend trail. It is just getting over the first bad place. Stopped there at night. J. Reusch, William Reusch, J. Winder and I worked.

Saturday, March 30, 1901

Worked on the trail again. Came home at night.

Saturday, April 13, 1901

Went to Zion and bought a saddle from J. Winder—for 10 days work, and worked today on the Big Bend trail.

Friday, April 26, 1901

Went to Zion on George (horse) to work for J. Winder on the Big Bend trail. We worked on the second bad ledge.

Saturday, April 27, 1901

Worked as I did yesterday. J. W.'s team came home and Dave and all of us started in J. W.'s buckboard and broke it down. Dave was up there to get the height of the ledges to fix a cable down from the top.

Monday, April 29, 1901

Watered my grapes. Went to Zion with Dave and father. I went up in the canyon, above Moses Gifford's potato patch, to look around. It is a nice place. Camped in the Big Bend at night.

Tuesday, April 30, 1901

Went with Dave on the highest peak by Big Bend to let a wire down. We packed 40 lbs. of wire up, and let it off the ledge and down into the flat. Is about 3,000 feet high. He is talking of fixing a cable there. Started home and left the wagon by my old field on account of the river too high.

Monday, May 20, 1901

Watered my grapes and went to Rockville, then went to the Big Bend with Dave and Bert Farnes to go on top tomorrow.

Tuesday, May 21, 1901

We all three went on top and packed 100 lbs. wire, quilts and grub. When we got within  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of the top, I bet a day's work with Bert Farnes that I could pack the wire the rest of the way and not stop to rest. I won it. We weighted the wire and run it down the other wire we put down before. Camped there. The roll of wire weighed 100 lbs., the other packs about 35 lbs. each, so we had plenty to pack.

Wednesday, May 22, 1901

I went down a new way. It was by M. E. Gifford's potato patch. I got thru and think it is the best way for the stocktrail. There is a crowd going up to look at it. Everybody says it is impossible to go down there but I got down. Dave and Bert sent the bedding over the wire—the first load that ever went over it.

Sunday, May 26, 1901

Went to Big Spring up to the Narrows to take the pigs because they had the scab, eight of them. Ren and Dave (brothers) went, too. Came back and went up the trail I found the other day. Too steep we thought for a stock trail. Fetched the wire on down that we let off the other day—camp.

Monday, June 3, 1901

Went to Rockville for Dave to get 120 feet of rope and some bolts for the cable up at Big Bend.

Tuesday, June 4, 1901

Went to Northrup for Dave to work for Bert Farnes. Hoed cane. Went to Zion at night.

Wednesday, June 5, 1901

Went on Mt. and made a windlass for the cable.

Thursday, June 6, 1901

Tried to get the wire on the other side up where we wanted it but could not. Came home. Fetched the horses home to take on the Mt.

Tuesday, June 11, 1901

Went to Zion with Dave and made a windlass and wound the wire on it.

Wednesday, June 12, 1901

Stepped in the bottom to tend to the windlass while Dave and Aaron (another brother) went on top and wound the wire up. Came home and went to John Gifford's wedding dances. He had 15 numbers.

Sunday, June 16, 1901

Went to Zion with Dave and Aaron to camp, so to go on top tomorrow.

Monday, June 17, 1901

Went on top and I went with Aaron to the big trough. Made a platform to raise the wire from the ledge. Camped there.

Tuesday, June 18, 1901

Put the platform out in place and I came to the bottom and we pulled a wire up. D and A on top.

Wednesday, June 19, 1901

Dave, J. Winder and Dave Lemmon went on top and pulled 3 wires up. A. and I at the bottom.

Monday, June 24, 1901

Went to Zion with D. and made a windlass and wound wire on it.

Tuesday, June 23, 1901

Dave went on top. I stopped at the bottom and worked pulling wires up.

Wednesday, June 26, 1901

Worked pulling wires up. D. came down and we came home.

Friday, July 12, 1901

Dave went yesterday with the horses. Went on top by the cable and worked getting a big log for a windlass.

Saturday, July 13, 1901

Worked getting timber and came to the bottom.

Thursday, July 18, 1901

Worked getting timber out on the cable point. D. L. killed a deer.

Friday, July 19, 1901

Same as yesterday.

Saturday, July 20, 1901

Worked getting timber out on the cable point in forenoon and came home.

Monday, July 29, 1901

Watered cane, lucern. Helped J. Reusch hoe my grapes. Went to Zion to work on the cable. Dave went up last Friday.

Tuesday, July 30, 1901

Went up on the Mt. to hunt A.'s horse. Could not find him. Came home at night to see if W. C. and F. D. C. had found him. They had not.

Wednesday, July 31, 1901

The river is about the muddiest it has ever been. Started last Saturday. Went back to work on the cable. Worked at drums at the bottom.

Thursday, August 1, 1901

Worked the same as yesterday. D. W. L. (Lemmon) went on top the Mt. and cut a big tree on the edge of the ledge to see where it would hit. Dave and me are thinking of throwing saw logs off. The tree I speak of is possibly  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet through and heavy-limbed. But when D. Lemmon cut and it fell, it was cleared of all limbs by the time it fell two to four hundred feet. The main trunk crushed into fine kindling wood. When it hit the ground it fell possibly 2,000 feet before landing, then rolled some, but we decided not to drop them and then expect to saw them.

Monday, August 12, 1901

Went to Zion and worked for J. Winder a half day on the trail. Dave worked one-half day on cable.

Tuesday, August 13, 1901

Dave and me went on top to work on cable. Fixed the drum and pullies on top of ledge. F.D.G. and S.M.C. went up to cut staves.

Wednesday, August 14, 1901

Spliced the wires together and D. and me came to the bottom. Dave went back on

top and tried to let a load down and pull one up. Did not work very good. Got it about half way up and quit for the night.

Thursday, August 15, 1901

Got the loads through this morning and then run two more through. It worked all right. The last one run in 20 minutes. 55 staves on it coming down and 40 lbs. going up. Came home, walked part way.

Friday, August 16, 1901

Rained quite a lot. River up this morning. Went to Zion with a team. I hunted stock to see how they were. They were all right. Dave went on top the Mt.

Saturday, August 17, 1901

River up official high. We took the wagon wheel and some bedding up the cable and then all came home.

Tuesday, August 20, 1901

Got the water in the ditch and went to Zion to help take some grub over the cable. Sent two loads up.

Tuesday, September 10, 1901

We went to Zion to take a wagon up the cable and let staves down. Took one load up and down.

Wednesday, September 11, 1901

Run five loads and they worked on the road on top. Took all the rest of the wagon up.

Thursday, September 12, 1901

Took three loads through.

Friday, September 13, 1901

Run six loads through. Some had 80 staves in. Come home.

Tuesday, September 17, 1901

Went to Rockville to store, and went to Zion at night to work letting down staves.

Wednesday, September 18, 1901

Let down twelve loads of staves in the forenoon--60 to 70 in a load. Went above and got old Jersey in the afternoon.

Thursday, September 19, 1901

Let down seven loads of staves as fast as F.D.G. could haul them over there.

(Freeborn D. Gifford).

Friday, September 20, 1901

Let thirteen loads down. We put old Darkey (dog) in the basket and took him up.

He was quite scart.

Saturday, September 20, 1901

Let seven loads of staves down and the wagon in four loads and the bedding camp outfit in three loads about 200 lbs. each. Came home.

The darkey dog sure was real scart and when he came back over to the cable when all was going home he ran back to the camp, and Dave followed him back and put a rope on him and led him down the new foot trail I found last May 21. It is a real shame to frighten a dog as bad as Darkey was frightened. I think he is scart enough that he is never caught going close to where they put him in the basket on the cable.

Following the entry of September 21, 1901, when we finished running down the cable those thousands of barrel staves which we had chopped out, we scarcely used the cable for over  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years. However, our townspeople and neighbors made good use of it. It was generally understood by everyone that they must have our permission, and one of us must be there to handle its mechanism. It took  $2\frac{1}{2}$  minutes to run a load.

My diaries go on recording our activities in the daily notations. The cable had proven its usefulness and workability. It was built for sturdiness and use--although out of crude, natural materials, and by the trial and error method.

As soon as Dave was satisfied as to its success, he and the Trumbull mill owner <sup>Petty</sup> drew up a contract providing that within a given length of time this mill would be moved into the Zion timber to begin sawing so that we would receive something for our time and effort. The time limit came and passed. The man stalled, asking for more time.

When it became evident to us that his objective was to keep us from producing lumber or keep us out of the business, we set about to make other contacts.

In September of 1904 Dave bought the Rube Jolley mill which at that time was in operation above Mt. Carmel in the vicinity of John Seaman's ranch.

During the 2½ years in which we waited while the Trumbull mill owner stalled, we cared for our farms, did various other kinds of work, and let each and every one use the cable so long as some one of us four Flanigan brothers were there to handle it. They had to first get permission. Farmers, ranchers, dairymen could haul their produce, such as grain, potatoes, posts, cheese and etc. over to the cable and let it down, walk down the Big Bend trail--trade or sell--put fruit, factory goods, or other stuff back up, thus avoiding a ten day trip by way of the wagon road. At that time its worth as a time-saver was demonstrated over and over again.

In the late summer of 1904 we began preparing to finish other work and collect outfits preparatory to the moving and setting up of the Rube Jolley mill in that stand of Western yellow pine near the Zion Cable.

I quote from my diary books again, those items which pertain directly to the work of the sawmill, the cable, and the hauling away of the lumber through the two years following. By then the greater part of that stand of timber had been processed, and the outfit had passed into other ownership.

Thursday, September 22, 1904

Started for Longvalley. Dave, Ren, Aaron and me are going and we are calculating to move the sawmill before long.

Thursday, November 3, 1904

Got ready and went to Mt. Carmel on my way home, going around the road alone. The rest is going over the Mt.

(Refer back to diary for the hardships of this trip and through the times following till December 14, 1904)

December 14, 1904

Went and helped Dave and his folks up the Big Bend trail. They have gone out to the mill to live for awhile.

(The mill had been moved without my help on the heavy part, while I went to try



and get work for a little cash in order to help get necessary replacements.

Tuesday, December 27, 1904

Went on the Mt. to work on the sawmill. Worked on a stable for Dave in the afternoon.

Wednesday, December 28, 1904

We melted snow to make water to run sawmill.

Thursday, December 29, 1904

Went up to Hicks for straw for hay.

Friday, December 30, 1904

Worked around the mill.

Saturday, December 31, 1904

Started the sawmill for the first time. Sawed a little lumber. The first sawmill that was ever on that mountain.

1905

Sunday, January 1, 1905

We run the saw mill so to get lumber to run tomorrow down the cable.

Monday, January 2, 1905

We run the mill till noon and then Aaron and I came to the bottom to run lumber-- the first lumber that was ever run down. There was a crowd down to the bottom to see it. Aaron and I seen a cougar when we was coming. It was in a cave.

Thursday, January 5, 1905

Worked hauling snow and logs and off-bore on the mill.

Friday, January 6, 1905

Hauled snow and piled it up for water to run mill.

Monday, January 30, 1905

Aaron and I started for St. George with a load of lumber . . . the first that was ever sold to anyone that came over the cable. Drove Prince and Calico.

(Through the year of 1905, we took care of our farms, hauled out the lumber that we were able to saw and put down. Mostly what we could produce was absorbed by local people in the towns down the River and Dixie. This is all confirmed by day by day notes in the diary book for that year. This year shows excessive moisture.)

Through the year of 1906 we progressed and worked somewhat as in 1905. There were days when we run down 7, and as high as 10 thousand feet. In hauling it away from the cable there would be sometimes many teams and men. Roads were poor, and in storms, terrible. Under the date of Thursday, March 14, 1907, after experiencing some exasperating trials of loading, unloading, and reloading, due to storm and bad roads, I have made this entry:

We wanted to get to the top of Harrisburg bench. It looked like storm, we had heavy loads, the road was spongy and wet. We get into the wagon hubs. At 4 o'clock next morning we had lumber from the bottom to the top of the hill and were give out. I think I am about through hauling lumber, and I think Dave is selling the mill on the Mt. I know that I will be an old man if I go on this way.

Summer of 1907 Dave sold the mill to Ap Steut and O. D. Gifford.

After working in Longvalley for a few days, logging on top for engine firewood so that we would be ready to start as soon as we had the mill set up again, and doing various jobs at home through the rest of September, October, and until Thursday, November 3rd of 1904, I found myself back in Longvalley ready to leave with my team and wagon (which the others had been using to move the mill with).

Friday, November 4, 1904

I am taking some lumber and shingles home and will donate it for the new addition to the Springdale meeting house. I hope they appreciate what I am doing for the Springdale people.

The night of November 3, 1904, I had supper at Ralph Connel's place in Mt. Carmel, also breakfast on the 4th. At noon out in the sand, I discovered someone had put a box on my wagon that was meant to feed to pigs. The first few meals I did not eat much of the mouse-eaten bread, but it tasted fairly good at last.

I had a good team but when I got in heavy sand, in bad swales, I would have to take some of the load off and make a stretcher of 2 x 4's and 2 x 6's and pack part of my load across. Such is life in sandy country. Camped at Moccasin Road on night of 4th, Short Creek on 5th, got home on 6th. Had six bundles of shingles and some potatoes, besides lumber.

Friday, April 13, 1905

Worked in timber. We have got about enough trees cut for 100,000 feet of lumber.

On Wednesday, March 21, 1906, I started around the road to the sawmill with Speck and Brin to work on the mill -- To Caanan and camped. Travelling with Frank Stephens.

March 22 - to Pine Springs above Cane Beds.

March 23 - to Stephens' place in Orderville.

March 24 - Stormed all last night and today.

March 25 - Stormed all last night and from noon till dark. Left wagon and came to the mill with a pack. Started to go up mts. on the South trail and across Deer Creek.

I was held up on account of floods. It was about midnight when I got to the mill. Dave and other men were to have been there. But they, thinking I could not make it through the mountains for a few days, had not come. I walled through snow and mud over to the cable, then back to the mill. I had no dry clothing or bedding and nothing to eat. About noon I started down the trail toward home afoot. Down in the gulch on the trail, the water was too high to cross. I waded in up to my hips but had to wait till in the night to cross the gulches. When I got to the river it was up, and I had to keep to the hills on the east side, till I got to a flume at Crawford's field. To follow the road, one had to cross the river one to three and four times in each mile. I got home at 2:00 a.m. March 27th. Such is life trying to run a sawmill in this country.

June 19 - Ever since I was out in that cold, stormy weather March 25, 26, and 27, I have not been able to do much hard work. About sick with hacking cough. Cannot work more than half a day till I'm give out. On Tuesday, 19th of June, I left at 7:00 a.m. to go to Longvalley to get the wagon I left there last March. I rode the team with harness on. On the 20th, I came back to the Hicks' ranch too sick to go on over to the mill. Had a nice mutton supper, a nice breakfast on the 21st, then came to the mill. I have felt lots better since this trip.

Hauling lumber out of Zion and to St. George, working in storms is making of us boys, old men. I hope to get something that is not a man-killer starting the year 1907.

Frank Isom was drowned in the river near LAVerkin during those March storms. I heard of his drowning just before I left Longvalley on March 25th. It made me feel a little funny, there in those floods, but I guess my time had not come yet.

On April 14th, when my family moved up to the mill, Barney Gifford packed our little boy, Glen, up the trail. He charged 2 cents a lb. to pack young kids too young to walk, all the way. When John Winder moved his family up and over to his ranch, he just put his small kids in the alfbags (pack saddle bags) of the pack saddle and let a horse carry them.

The Huntington Library of California has taken my diary books (numerous), approved, and made photostatic copies of them for the history that they contain.

They are available to anyone who is honestly seeking to establish or verify the truthfulness of the statements as herein set forth.