

THRILLS CAUSE BUTCHER'S HAIR TO STAND STRAIGHT

S. R. Obarr's hair is no grayer today than usual, notwithstanding the fact that he went through experiences last night which caused his hair to stand straight up. His experiences were the result of attempting to drive over mountain roads after dark without lights on his machine.

Mr. Obarr is a member of the butcher firm of Obarr & Bergman. He started out early yesterday morning for the wilds of Trabuco, accompanied by County Treasurer J. C. Joplin. He and Mr. Joplin did not go into the mountains for the purpose of a quiet conference on the county money situation developed by the action of the Taxpayer's League. The object of the butcher's trip was to buy cattle and Mr. Joplin went along for the purpose of placing the butcher firm in position to gather in more shekels by selling it some Orange county raised steers grazing on the Joplin pastures in Bell Canyon. Calls were also made on cattle raisers in the Trabuco canyon. Negotiations for live stock consumed the day in a hurry—faster than some machines burn up gasoline—and darkness was upon the cattle dealer before he was ready to trek homeward. Mr. Joplin concluded to remain in his mountain retreat over night, and 7 o'clock found Mr. Obarr at the Trabuco ranch of W. K. Robinson.

He started for home with all four cylinders of his "Tin Lizzie" crackling the beautiful and cheery tune so much enjoyed by the auto enthusiast, and head lights burning brightly. Down the Sleeper hill from the Trabuco mesa into Live Oak canyon went the butcher in his machine. Up the grade between Live Oak and Aliso canyons the sturdy little machine went its way. It was at the crest of the grade that Mr. Obarr's troubles commenced. His head lights went out—the bulbs burned out. It was dark as pitch. Oil side lamps were lighted—they were worse than none and were put out. The road ahead of the driver was treacherous, and he could see nothing. He must get home. He must drive slowly. He slipped the clutch into low and started. Several times he found himself on the edge of a deep ravine just in time to save the car from toppling over. At a point below the ranch of Mrs. Cook, south of the Aliso school house, he did not observe his danger in time to save the machine going into a wash-out. The butcher-man found himself stalled—with his machine in the ditch. He had been in that predicament but a short time when County Assessor Sleeper happened along in his machine, returning from his ranch. With the combined strength of four men the little Ford roadster was gotten back in the road and Mr. Obarr resumed his journey, feeling his way to El Toro, where he purchased bulbs for his lamps and his troubles ended.

It was 9:30 when he reached home last night and found that his wife had about completed the organization of a small searching party to start out in an effort to locate him.

Mr. Obarr will hereafter carry extra bulbs in his machine for emergency use.

21 Apr 1916 Santa Ana Register - Reference to 'Sleeper Hill'

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