

RADIO MESSAGE SAYS PARTY IS SAFE, 100 MILES OUT OF LEE'S

~~National Parks Service
Says No Message Re-
ceived By Their Men~~

4 DAYS OVERDUE

Rivermen Believe Party
Left River Canyon At
Rainbow Bridge

GRAND CANYON, Ariz., July 7. (UP)—Hope for the safety of the Nevills Colorado river expedition, unreported since it left Green River, Utah, on June 20 and four days overdue at Lee's Ferry, boomed to a new high today when an amateur radio operator, "somewhere along the isolated banks of the stream," reported that "the Colorado river party is 100 miles above Lee's Ferry."

This message, if it was authentic, was interpreted to mean that the adventurers had negotiated Cataract Canyon, which is above Lee's Ferry, and which is considered one of the danger spots of the trip.

Harry Franse, national parks service employe, who is watching the river for some traces of the party, told the Review-Journal, in Las Vegas, Nevada, that the parks service had not been informed of the radio message and that his organization had received no direct word from the party since the day before it left Green River.

A LETTER, written by one of the members of the party to Emory Kolb, veteran river man who has shot the rapids of the river on numerous occasions, said that the expedition planned to reach Lee's Ferry by July 4, and hit Kaibab Bridge, in the Grand Canyon between July 12 and 15.

Franse said that it was the opinion of the men in that section of the canyon, that the party had left the canyon at Rainbow Bridge, where a side canyon will allow them their only egress from the chasm until they reach Lee's Ferry, and were portaging their boats around the dangerous portions of the stream.

FRANSE TOLD the Review-Journal that his organization still had hopes that the party was safe and that they would negotiate the journey safely.

A U. S. geological survey reading today showed the water's flow had dropped almost half, indicating the early summer rain run-off was passing.

F. S. ANDERSON, government employe stationed at the ferry, said he believed the "unusually high water" had forced the party to use greater caution and had slowed them up several days.

"Provided the three boats haven't already been smashed on the rapids," Anderson said, "they should be arriving at Lee's Ferry very soon."

It was understood an extensive airplane search of the river would be asked if the explorers did not arrive by Friday.

While Anderson and A. J. Hanson, only residents of Lee's Ferry, kept their day and night vigil

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Radio Message

for the missing party, the huge air transports of the TWA line which make four flights daily along 200 miles of the Colorado deviated their routes the 25 miles allowable by air commerce regulations to watch for the river travelers.

THE TWO WOMEN and four men of the expedition left Green River, Utah, June 20, announcing they planned to navigate the first stretch of rapids and reach Lee's Ferry by July 4 for a brief rest before continuing through the Grand Canyon to Boulder Dam. No word has been heard from them.

Miss Elzada Clover, 40, and Miss Lois Jotter, 25, both botanists from the University of Michigan, hoped to be the first of their sex to conquer the inaccessible canyons of the Colorado. Their companions were Norman D. Nevills, guide; Eugene Atkinson, Michigan zoologist; Don Harris of the U. S. geological survey, and W. C. Gibson, San Francisco artist-photographer.