

Dissension May Halt Nevills Party At Lee's Ferry, Reported

LEES FERRY, July 11.—(UP) —Dissension among members of the Nevills Colorado river exploration party, which is already believed responsible for the withdrawal of two members from further participation in the trip down the river, threatened today to cause abandonment of plans to continue the journey, it was reported here today.

Official confirmation of the story was lacking because the sponsor of the trip was absent in Mexican Hat, Utah purchasing supplies.

The two women who called the trip the "most thrilling experience" of their lives, and the two men who remain in the party of six who started at Green River, Utah, on June 20, had planned to leave with two new members of the party some time this week.

Eugene Atkinson, University of Michigan zoologist, quit he said, to do research work in Texas and Don Harris, U. S. geological engineer, said he was forced to return to work because of a transfer.

Norman D. Nevills, veteran riverman and leader of the expedition,

said before leaving for Mexican Hat that he was trying to get two friends, Del Reid of Medicine Hat, and Jack Stockstill of Hutchinson, Kansas, to take the places of Atkinson and Harris.

The members of the expedition were staying in Marble Canyon, seven miles south of Lee's Ferry.

It was reported that Reid and Stockstill had accepted the invitations to join the party.

Before the party, if they continue, are 245 major rapids similar to the ones which tossed their boats about on the first leg of the long trip. They were delayed several days on the Green River-Lee's Ferry trip and were forced to spend one night on the edge of the roaring river.

Nevills and the two women, Elzada Clover, 40, botany instructor at University of Michigan and her assistant, Lois Jotter, 25, said the purpose of the trip, a study of rare botanical items, had been accomplished. W. C. Gibson, San Francisco photographer, was the other member of the original party.