



The Sawmill at Stave Spring

Flanigan searched in vain for financial backers to build a sawmill. Fortunately, sawmills of the day were often relatively small and portable, so an existing mill could be moved to Cable Mountain. In 1904, Flanigan purchased the Rube Jolley sawmill, which had been operating near Mt. Carmel.

Flanigan moved this steam-driven mill to a good stand of timber in the vicinity of Stave Spring. The spring probably supplied water needed to run the mill, but it may not always have been sufficient. The diary of William Flanigan, David's brother, mentions that

snow was sometimes melted for use in running the equipment.

Once the mill was established, several families moved to the location. The operation, however, was not particularly profitable, in part because the mill had been in poor condition and required substantial repairs. So, in 1907, Flanigan sold the mill and cable works to the Gifford, Crawford, and Stout families. David Lemmon purchased the operation in 1914, eventually moving the mill to Lemmon Spring, where it was later dismantled.

Riding the Cable

Riding the cable to the top required only that one dangle 2000 feet in the air. Riding to the bottom, clutching the cable and a load of lumber, could be considerably more exciting, in part because it could be *very* fast if the person operating the brake failed to slow the descent.

William Flanigan's diary reports that the cable's first living passenger was the Flanigan's dog, who made the trip in 1901.

William's diary notes that afterward, the dog was "real scart." The cable's first human passenger was a young surveyor named Quimby Stewart, who rode the cable to the bottom in 1910. Following this, some of the workers at the mill used the cable as a means to get to and from work.

The Final Chapter

Lumber cut in the Stave Spring mill and transported by the cable was used in constructing many local buildings, including homes in the town of Springdale. The last major use of the cable works was in 1924, when it carried lumber used in

building the original Zion Lodge. After about 1925, little usable timber remained on the mesa. For the sake of public safety, the National Park Service removed the cable in 1930; but the cable works frame is still visible today.



The original Zion Lodge, 1929