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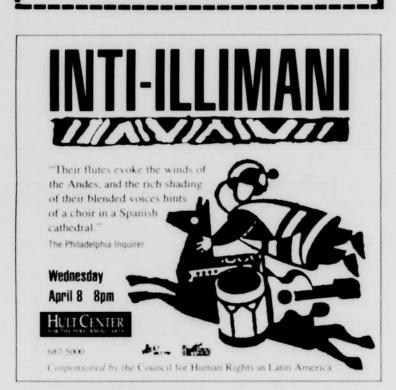
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## **OREGON**

Oregon's southeastern corner, which exemplifies those qualities Oregonians are

That southeastern corner, roughly th region south of U.S. Highway 20 from Ri ley east to the Idaho border and east of U.S. Highway 395 from Riley south to the California border, contains the most iso lated of Oregon's communities, as well as the state's most desolate stretches of land

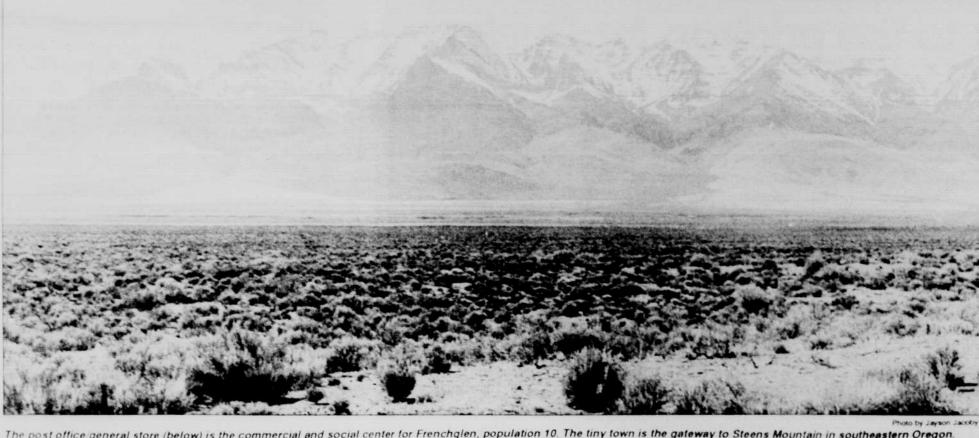
Aptly called Oregon's "Big Country" by

the Cascade mountains block much of the moisture and mild winds blowing inland from the Pacific Ocean, the eastern two thirds of the state is generally hotter in the summer and colder in the winter than on the west side of the mountains.

Summer temperatures above 100 de grees are common in Oregon's Big Country, as is below zero weather in the winter

southeastern Oregon is a region dominatters: Lakeview, Burns and Ontario, are loated far apart and on the region's fringes. orner; the vast gulfs of open space have turned even the tiniest commi social and commercial hubs.

Southeastern Oregon is also the home



ffice general store (below) is the commercial and social center for Frenchglen, population 10. The tiny town is the gateway to Steens Mountain in southeastern Oregon



lated ranches scattered throughout the rehundred miles long. Because of the long few people they do encounter. distances from their homes to the school students stay in dormitories during the

try's few boarding high schools. Crane's not found in most cities. Most locals students - most of them live on the iso- passed on the thousands of miles of lone-

> share of broken dreams and heartbreak. the residents of today seem to be at peace with the nature they have tamed just probably the most widespread animal in perience it.

press any discontent with their chiefly noise from cars and other man-made solitary lives. Instead, they praise the vir-sources. This is truly the wildest corner of tues of the region and its lack of people, Oregon.

But perhaps the overriding feeling of Oregon's "Big Country" is its sense of valleys that often form between them space. Here it is possible to drive 50 miles make up what geologists call the Basin without passing a single dwelling. This is and Range, a region that includes most of the home of wild animals more than it is Nevada and Utah and parts of other

If fact, it is likely that the visitor will see more species of animals and birds sands of mule deer and pronghorn antelope. Although the sagebrush desert some instances a long way off. seems desolate, it is home to countless species of small animals, birds and rep-

Here the yips and yowls of the coyote,

enough to plant permanent roots. Few ex-

southwestern states

Yet for all its rugged terrain and harsh than people. The region is home to thou- land for exploring and for explorers who aren't afraid to veer off the beaten path, in

> And whether the visitor enjoys the region enough to return, Oregon's Big Country seldom fails to be at least impressive, and often awe-inspiring, to those who ex-



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