

# MARBLE HALLS OF OREGON

## The Wonderful Caverns of Southern Oregon—Impenetrable Passages.

(By W. L. Crissey in Oregonian.)

Few people in Oregon, to say nothing of our country in general, are aware that in the southern part of this state is to be found a series of caverns second only to the world famous Mammoth cave of Kentucky. Indeed the Oregon caves may be granted first place, for no attempt at thorough exploration has ever been made, though the main passages have been penetrated to a distance of more than seven miles, with no indication of the end.

It was in 1874 that Elijah Davidson, out hunting in the mountains, followed his dogs on a fresh bear track to find them baying before a dark opening in which the wounded animal had taken refuge. From the cavern rushed a stream of limpid water, through which Mr. Davidson had to wade in entering. A few feet inside the bear was killed, but the discoverer had seen enough to fill him with wonder and curiosity, and as soon as neighbors could be enlisted in the expedition, the party returned.

### Hotel Is Planned.

The country being thinly settled, it was some time before the caves were sufficiently known to attract visitors from abroad. Then a party of San Francisco capitalists became interested and decided to develop them as a commercial enterprise. Men were hired to cut a trail over the mountains, others worked inside, enlarging small passages, that they might be more easily traversed, a big hotel was planned and all was hustle and activity. The promoters themselves camped at the entrance, spending many hours daily in the caves. Cards whiled away the time and games for princely stakes were played in a chamber known still as the "gamblers' hall." At the close of the summer the capitalists departed, with assurances that money would be sent to pay the workers, but the paymaster never appeared. It was a great disappointment to the sturdy mountaineers, who had worked for a small wage and then lost that.

After several years had elapsed two young men built them a cabin and undertook to establish their residence there, so that by "squatting" they would be given a title to the claim when the government surveyed the land. Several bridges were constructed over the mountain streams, more work was done on the trail and the boys worked hard, but seeing that the desired survey was indefinite and uncertain of accomplishment, they reluctantly abandoned their cabin. Within the past year the United States government has recognized the caves as one of the scenic marvels of its domain by withdrawing the spot from entry and designating it a national park, a fitting sequel to its romantic history.

### Scenery Most Picturesque.

"The Marble Halls of Oregon" lie in the midst of the most picturesque mountain scenery imaginable. Descending into a little valley over rugged granite boulders, the forest-covered mountains rising on every side, one comes to Cave creek, which bursts from the foot of a perpendicular granite wall 100 feet in height. Nature has draped the white facade with luxuriant green moss, in beautiful contrast to its unworked portions. It is like a grand overture introducing the theater of wonders to follow.

Entering a low passage by following the bed of the stream, one gradually ascends over rugged rocks to the upper levels, leaving the water below. A hundred feet and the real beauties begin to disclose themselves. The walls are of creamy whiteness, while slender stalactites depend like icicles from the ceiling; stalagmites rise from the floor; fantastic formation of the same soft white abound on every hand. Darkness, absolute and impenetrable, is but intensified by the candles as one moves through the larger chambers. Silence as in a vacuum reigns—not a sig of life exists in air or water. Every stalactite has its drop of crystal liquid, yet it never seems to fall, and the caves are in most places remarkably dry. The air is pure and fresh, the temperature remains at 60 degrees the year around.

### Queen's Palace and Ghost Chamber.

One of the first rooms is the "Queen's Palace." At the sides, rising in tiers like the seats of an amphitheater, are shelves draped with translucent stalactites, couches lying with fairy tapestry. It is a royal apartment in very truth.

Not so large as some others, but unique in its attractiveness, is "The Organ Loft." Down the center hangs a row of enormous stalactites of different lengths. Struck gently with a bit of stone, they send forth mellow sounds like deep-toned bells, the pitch of the different pipes sometimes varying as much as two octaves, yet no two alike. These reverberating chimes give an indescribably weird and beautiful effect in the silent chambers.

"The Ghost Chamber" is modeled on the grandest scale of all, though so irregular in its outline that dimensions convey but little meaning. Emerging into its great salon, one is startled by a gleaming shadowy white outline lost in the obscurity of the further end. Unlike most of the other rooms, the "Ghost Chamber" is hollowed out of a brownish rock, and the stalactite formation only appears in one place, where it covers the wall like a crystallized waterfall, producing the spectral effect that names the room. The dome is fully 100 feet in height, while the length of the room must be as much or more.

### Maze of Passages.

Scores of passages lead from the "Ghost Chamber" in every direction, yet the fact that but a single one leads to the outer entrance gives an idea of the intricacy of the caverns and the danger in attempting to visit them alone. Occasionally someone goes in by tying a string at the entrance and unwinding the ball to serve as a return guide. Dozens of these cords have been left in place, and they give one the uncanny feeling that if they were but followed to the end there would be found a dead man, for so seldom are the caves visited at certain seasons and so isolated is the locality that this might happen to an over-daring explorer.

Soon after the discovery of the place the complete skeleton of a bear was found in one of the inner rooms, and if brute instinct did not serve to liberate him from that terrible maze, there would be little hope for a human being.

### The Golden Stairs.

"The Golden Stairs," a wonderful natural flight, lead out of the Ghost Chamber and ascend for many feet, sometimes through a passage so small that one crawls on his stomach—or stays behind if inclined to eubonpoint. Appropriately enough, "The Chapel" is soon reached, and here is a charming little lake of the coldest, clearest water, lying at one side of the room, where the wall and ceiling approach to within a couple of feet of each other. Hollow stalactites, like clear glass rods, connect them, and where these have been broken away to allow visitors to drink the delicious water, the remaining fragments carry many a feminine tress as a reminder of fair visitors.

On and on, now climbing a ladder or descending by clinging to the rocks and stalactites, until the guide starts his charges by whispering "There must be someone else in the cave." Far, far below, in a seemingly bottomless pit, glimmers a candle. It is but a stub left by the guide in the Ghost Chamber, and we are on an upper level, near its dome, where a single misstep would mean a fatal accident.

Climax of beauty and grace is the "Pond Lily Room," most difficult of access, richest in its adornment. The ascent by long ladders and slippery walls is fraught with danger at every turn, yet the risk is well repaid. Covering the walls of this room, as though carved in wax, are stalactites shaped as lily pads and blossoms, while from the ceiling hang immense fluted chandeliers of the most delicate formation. Everything in the room is of dazzling purity and whiteness. As though this were not enough to enchant the beholder, dainty marine shells are found in strata near the floor, presenting an interesting problem to the geologist. "Holy of Holies" this room has been called by later visitors, and certainly it does inspire reverence—somewhat lessened when the guide gives his version of the name as "Holiest of Holies."

### Names for Chambers.

Some of the names bestowed are almost as picturesque as the rooms themselves—"Old Nick's Bedroom," "Kincaid's Dancehall," "and the 'Shark's Mouth.'" At one place is an immense pillar the thickness of a man's body, reaching from floor to vaulted roof; again there is a broad shelf covered with minute crystals resembling the tracery of frost on a window pane; here the floor lies in little ridges like sand on the beach as the tide goes out, and so strong is the likeness that one is voluntarily stoops to take a handful.

### AGED WOMAN LONES FORTUNE THROUGH LACK OF MEMORY

APPLETON, Wis., August 4.—A name, a silver buckle and a silver knife and fork stand between Mrs. Frederica Lorenz, 95 years old, and an estate said to be worth \$50,000,000.

While there seems to be no doubt as to her identity, the aged woman cannot establish her right to the estate, which was left by her great grandfather, unless she is now able to recall his name and produce the buckle and knife and fork. The will provides that she call his name and show the silverware, but she cannot do either. Mrs. Lorenz says the silverware was taken by relatives and that her memory is so poor that she cannot remember the name. The buckle was presented to Lorenz by the king of Prussia. The property has been tied up for half a century and may soon pass to the Prussian government and other relatives of Mrs. Lorenz.

### REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

SH. K. Smith et al. to Samuel Cavin, 2 acres in D L C 39, township 39, range 1 E. \$3000  
H. P. Pohland to G. R. Slingerland, lot 7, block A, Boulevard addition to Ashland. 10  
Mellie R. Myer to G. R. Slingerland, lot 15, block R, Railroad addition to Ashland. 10  
B. R. Stevens to James C. Beagle, property in Ashland. 10  
James C. Beagle to B. A. Stevens, property in Ashland. 10  
W. H. Bostwick to A. W. Sturgis, release of bond for deed. 1  
A. W. Sturgis to Robert Holzgang, land in D L C 42, township 38, range 3 W. 1500  
E. Ben Parker to Cyrus P. Briggs, N 1/2 lots 1 and 2, block 24, Battle Falls. 50  
H. Ben Parker to Oliver Adams, N 1/2 lots 1 and 2, block 24, Battle Falls. 50  
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Evans spent Sunday at Gold Bay. Mrs. Evans again demonstrated her skill as an angler by landing a large head.

Medford Tribune, 50c per month.

# Oak Park Addition

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situated where an advance in price is assured, and where the first benefit will be derived from the completion of the railroad to the timber?

It pays to figure on such investments in a live town like Medford, and the present prices for these lots will look like a veritable gift to the buyer in a year or two hence. For full particulars apply to the

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Our elaborate new summer book gives a concise description of Newport, including a list of hotels, their capacity and rates. Call on, telephone or write  
A. S. ROSENBAUM, Local Agent, Medford  
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## It is up to You What Will You Do?

If you do a lot of thinking, if your brain is active and the strain is wearing out your nerves and breaking down your system day by day, then you may reflect for a moment, if it would not be wise to drink the strength of roasted grains, to buy at your grocery store a package of

# Golden Grain Granules

No man can consume his strength and retain it at the same time; he ought to replenish an equal amount daily. GOLDEN GRAIN GRANULES is far superior to Coffee, although it looks like coffee, tastes like coffee and smells like coffee. A big package can be had in any grocery store for 25c. Order a package today. All grocery sell it.

### NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Medford, Oregon, July 24, 1908.  
The city of Medford, Oregon, will receive bids at the office of Benj. M. Collins, recorder, until 6 p. m. Thursday August 3th, 1908, for all materials and labor necessary to construct a twenty-mile gravity pipeline, diversion works, reservoir, etc. A certified check for \$10,000, payable to the recorder of the city of Medford, will be required as a guarantee of good faith.  
Approximate quantities: 1,200,000 feet board measure, staves; 1,000,000 pounds steel bands; 40,000 cubic yards excavation; 500 barrels cement.  
BENJ. M. COLLINS, Recorder.  
W. J. ROBERTS, Consulting Engineer.

The first "try" in any line of effort is not usually enough. "Try again" is a slogan as old as experience of human affairs.

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will apply to the city council of the city of Medford, Oregon, at the meeting to be held on August 3, 1908, for a license to sell spirits, vinous and malt liquors in quantities less than a gallon, at his place of business, at lots 10 and 11, in block 21, in said city, for a period of six months.  
Dated July 20, 1908.  
JOHN HARRINGTON.

"Something which is of considerable interest to the public generally and which is perhaps not generally known is the system of prepaid orders now in effect between stations of the Southern Pacific company and all points in the United States. By means of this system tickets may be purchased at Medford from any place in the United States and mailed or telegraphed direct to the party wishing to come here. Sleeper accommodations and small amounts of cash in connection with these tickets may also be furnished at the same time."

Medford Tribune, 50c per month.

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### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will apply to the City Council of the City of Medford, Oregon, at the next meeting for a license to sell spirits, vinous and malt liquors in quantities less than a gallon, for the period of six months, at his place of business at lot 14, in block 20, in the City of Medford, Oregon.  
Dated July 16, 1908.  
HARRY CAMPBELL.

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will apply to the city council of the city of Medford, Oregon, at the next meeting for a license to sell spirits, vinous and malt liquors in quantities less than a gallon for the period of six months, at his place of business at lot 11, in block 20, in the city of Medford, Oregon.  
Dated July 16, 1908.  
G. M. JONES.

### THE OLD HOWARD RANCH

Three miles south of Medford and 2 1/2 miles west of Phoenix, is now cut up in small tracts to suit the purchaser. One fourth cash, balance in three payments. This is a rare opportunity for men of small means. Listed with all the agents.  
Medford Tribune, 50c per month.

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will apply to the city council of the city of Medford, Oregon, at the next meeting for a license to sell spirits, vinous and malt liquors in quantities less than a gallon for the period of six months, at his place of business at lot 13, in block 20, in the city of Medford, Oregon.  
Dated July 15, 1908.  
H. O. WILKINSON.  
Medford Tribune, 50c per month.

### G. M. JONES, City Scavenger.

Garbage of all kinds removed on short notice. Leave orders with chief of police.

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Our circulation is legitimate and large for a city of this size—larger than any other paper in Oregon can show for population.