

# SMITH WRITES OF 200-MILE OREGON TRIP

Under the caption, "An Automobile Trip Through the Mountains of Oregon," S. S. Smith of El Dorado, Kan., who was recently in Medford visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Bert Anderson, in a recent issue of the El Dorado Republican, tells of an auto trip to Crater Lake and Klamath Falls from Medford. The article will do much in an advertising way for southern Oregon. In part it follows:

The crowning feature of our outing, during which we passed through half of Kansas and across the states of Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, California, Arizona and New Mexico, was the 247 mile automobile trip in southern Oregon through the Cascade and Siskiyou range of mountains visiting Crater Lake—one of the world's wonders—Klamath Lake, mountain villages and streams, canyons, gorges, waterfalls, immense forests, spending three days in camp 54 miles up in the mountains, catching trout and hunting deer and having a grand time generally.

We left Medford, Or., at 5 a. m. August 16, going through a beautiful valley for several miles, along acres of sleek limbed healthy pear, apple and prune trees, laden with fruit. Shortly afterwards we plunged into the depths of the huge mountain forests of fir, pine, hemlock and laurel, from which we did not emerge, only for a limited time, for a week. Fifteen miles from Medford we caught our first glimpse of the Rogue river—called the "Italy of America" by Joaquin Miller—one of the grandest, clearest and most beautiful mountain streams in the world. Its source is in the snow-capped mountains, it is fed not only by the ever-melting snow from the mountains, but by many clear mountain streams and springs, and empties its pure waters into the Pacific.

We passed Mill Creek falls, where Mill creek plunges over a precipice 125 feet high and drops into the Rogue, and stopped for dinner at the falls and rapids of the Rogue, where we had our pictures taken, having a kodak along, by which we secured several splendid views of our trip. Below these falls the Rogue drops 600 feet in less than a half mile and our camp was a few hundred yards from this place, being 54 miles up in the mountains from Medford. We remained in camp three days having a most delightful time catching rainbow trout, hunting, climbing around over the mountains, enjoying the clear, cold water, sitting around the fire and pine campfire of nights and enjoying the congenial company.

On the morning of August 20 we broke camp at 8:30 a. m. and started on our 31 miles journey to Crater Lake, entering the heaviest forests in Oregon. The giant fir, spruce and hemlock shoot straight upward it seems to the stars—the fingers of the world pointing to the great beyond. Trees from three to five feet in diameter are here seen by the thousands and many of them are larger. Laurel, some oak and other trees are also found in the forests and on the mountain sides. A trip through Oregon forests certainly dispels the belief that there is danger of a lumber famine. There are a few sawmills in operation in southern Oregon, but the trouble seems to be the lack of railroad transportation. A railroad is being built from Medford to Crater Lake that will develop immense lumber interests.

We started on the ascent of the mountain five miles, stopped half way up, ate our dinner and resumed the journey, making the latter half up the steep mountain, around curves and over rocks to the rim of the lake, 7076 feet above sea level, in 20 minutes, a hard journey indeed to make in autos and here caught the first glimpse of the great wonder, Crater Lake—the sea of silence. It does not seem so sublime at first, but the more you look at the crystal lake, whose waters are blue even to blackness, lying a thousand feet below you, reflecting its walls so perfectly that



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you can scarcely tell the walls from the reflection in the intensely blue water, view its circular wall of 22 miles of shore line towering from 1000 to 2000 feet above the water, with surrounding precipices, some of which tower 9000 feet above the sea, ponder over how this giant cauldron six by four miles, ever filled with water ranging from 50 to 2000 feet deep, remaining pure, sweet and fresh century after century with no visible inlet or outlet, consider the lake's surface is 6239 feet above sea level, and it is estimated that 17 cubic miles of mountain disappeared when the cone tumbled in, one certainly realizes that it is truly a wonder.

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