

THE WONDERFUL CAVE OF OREGON

*A Natural Wonder which Is not
Appreciated as it Should be
by Oregonians.*

Amazement is expressed in many comments made on the wonderful Oregon cave in Josephine county, and one of the most surprising features of the whole matter is the lack of former knowledge by Oregon people themselves concerning this cave. Joaquin Miller has named it "the Marble Halls of Oregon," and in collaboration with Jefferson Myers, has given separate names to each of the apartments in it.

The cave rooms will be known in future as follows:

First floor—Lower entrance—River Styx, Watson's Gorge, Davidson's Bear Pit, Rachel's Well, Roosevelt's Canyon, Paradise Lost, Moses Chamber, Joseph's Tomb.

Second Floor—Upper entry—Shark's Jaw, Nick's Bed Chamber, Queen's Palace, King's Palace, Pillar Room, King's Highway, Niagara Falls, Windy Passage, Theatrical Stage, Joaquin Miller's Room, Washington's Statue, Nick's Slide (dangerous bottomless pit), Treasurers' Chamber.

Third floor—Golden Stairway, Jefferson Myer's Room, Solomon's Temple (350x150x80), Ghost Chamber, Kincaid's Dance Hall, Holy of Holies.

Fourth floor—Oregon Loft, unexplored.

The location of the great cave, on Sucker creek, near the southern Oregon boundary, is famous for other things. It was on Sucker creek that the Briggs boy discovered a seam of pure gold and picked a fortune from it with a pocket knife. Today the region is a scene of active mining developments, and a number of valuable strikes have been made. The whole district is seen through a halo of golden romance, into which the great cave fits.

From the town of Kerby, the cave is reached by a wagon road and foot trail, built some years ago by Captain A. B. Smith, F. M. Nickerson, A. J. Henderson, Homer and Ernest Harkness, men who successively owned the place and undertook to open it up and attract the public to visit it as one of the world's wonders.

Finally the government, in segregating the Siskiyou forest reserve, withdrew the entire district, including the cave, and it became federal property. It is now in charge of forest rangers.

It is estimated that the cave contains more than 20 miles of rooms. They are on four levels or floors, and connected in various ways by passages. They are entered through a hole in the face of a white marble hill, through which a river pours out and drops with 20 feet fall into the canyon below. Jefferson Myers, describing the formation inside the cave, said:

"The interior is apparently solid white marble. There are many stalactites, some of them over a foot thick and 50 feet long, and as clear as glass.

As Seen by Others.

R. R. Ryan, of Salem, who is making an overland tour of the state, writes of his travels to the Capital Journal, an extract of which article follows:

We camped two miles above for dinner, after noon. We then drove up stream over the hills to Jacksonville, a nice little town at the foot of the mountains. This territory was famous

at one time for placer mining and some of the ground is still worked. Jacksonville has a beautiful location for a town and is the county seat of Jackson county. They seem to be growing, and this is certainly a beautiful valley to live in, with its fine orchards, and great fields of alfalfa. We drove out two miles on the road to Central Point, and camped for the night. The next day we went to Central Point, and took dinner at the Central Point Hotel. J. F. Redcliff, recently from Michigan, is the new proprietor. He sets up a fine meal for 25 cents. We would say to all if you stop here, call on him, and he will treat you nicely. Here we also met Frank Wiley, a son of B. F. Wiley of Salem. Freeman & Wiley are selling agricultural implements and harness, Mr. Wiley being a harness maker. J. W. Gray, formerly of Silverton, is working for them in the harness shop. This town has a fine location, five miles north of Medford.

This afternoon, August 14, we go to Medford then on to Ashland and Soda Springs. Then we will cross the mountains to Klamath.

Leaving Central Point we stopped and took a look over F. H. Hopkins' large orchard of apples and pears. He has picked the most of his Bartlett pears and shipped them, they were fine. He has some fine Newton, Pippin and Spitzenberg apples. His Newtons will go to England direct from the orchard. This whole valley has some magnificent orchards and beautiful alfalfa fields.

We arrived at Medford at 5 p. m. This is a thriving, hustling town of 4000 people. They have just had a street carnival of ten days, which was a great success. We saw F. Holister, formerly of Salem, also Wm. Talent and Dr. J. M. Keen, who is kept close at home on account of his wife's severe sickness. She has been lingering between life and death, but is now somewhat better.

Leaving Medford we passed up the valley to Phoenix, Talent and on to Ashland. We stopped for dinner with David Brooks and sons, who have a fine orchard. They were picking and packing their peaches for market; we took in our share while there, and a supply for our journey.

Ashland is beautifully located, with its peach and apple orchards in every direction and with fine alfalfa fields north and east. The small tracts, 10 to 15 acres, are held at from \$150 to \$500, and some fine places at \$1000 per acre. We met Conrad Hill here. He was sergeant-at-arms in the last legislature. We also met G. W. Cavanaugh and wife. She is a sister of the Cunningham girls of Salem. They have a beautiful home and one of the nicest peach orchards it has been my pleasure to view, and the town of Ashland is, to my notion, the nicest place we have seen on our trip in Southern Oregon.

From there we drove to the Wagner soda springs, 12 miles from Ashland, at the foot of the mountains. Tomorrow we start for Klamath Fall and eastern Oregon points.

Notice to Creditors.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Jackson.

In the matter of the Estate of William Basye, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed by the county court of Oregon for Jackson county, administrator of the estate of William Basye, deceased. All persons having claims against the said estate are hereby notified to present the same, duly verified, to the undersigned administrator at the office of Gus Newbury in Jacksonville, Oregon, within six months from the date of this publication, August 17, 1907.

Charles H. Basye,
Administrator.

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