

Foreign Rocks In Columbia Gorge Caused By Flood

Stones from the distant Rockies found on barren basaltic scablands of the Columbia river gorge in The Dalles area have posed a question for geologists: How did these "foreign" rocks, known to earth-scientists as erratics and composed of minerals unknown in the gorge, get into the river channel 1000 or more miles from their home cliffs?

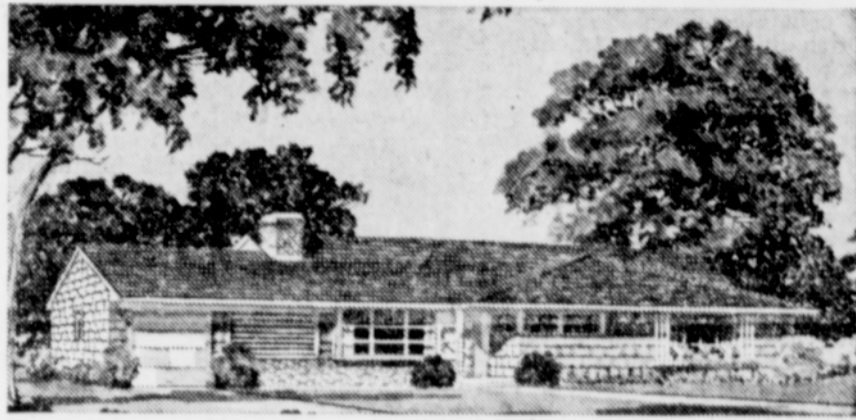
S. C. Sargent, corps of engineers, Portland, presented the answer in a paper presented recently at the joint meeting of the Northwest Scientific association and the Oregon Academy of Science, at Reed college. The erratics were rafted down the Columbia in the tentacles of tree roots, especially pines.

Floods Tremendous

"Tree-rafted Erratics Along the Columbia River" was the title of the engineer's paper. Geologists have long known that a cataclysmic flood of prehistoric times resulted in giant erratics being rafted down the Columbia on ice floes, but not until recently was any great attention given the smaller rocks, mostly granite, schist and quartzite, that are found strewn over the barren lavas of the Columbia gorge.

Twice in historic times, in the Columbia floods of 1894 and 1948,

House of Different Ideas Given First Prize Honors From Small Homes Guide

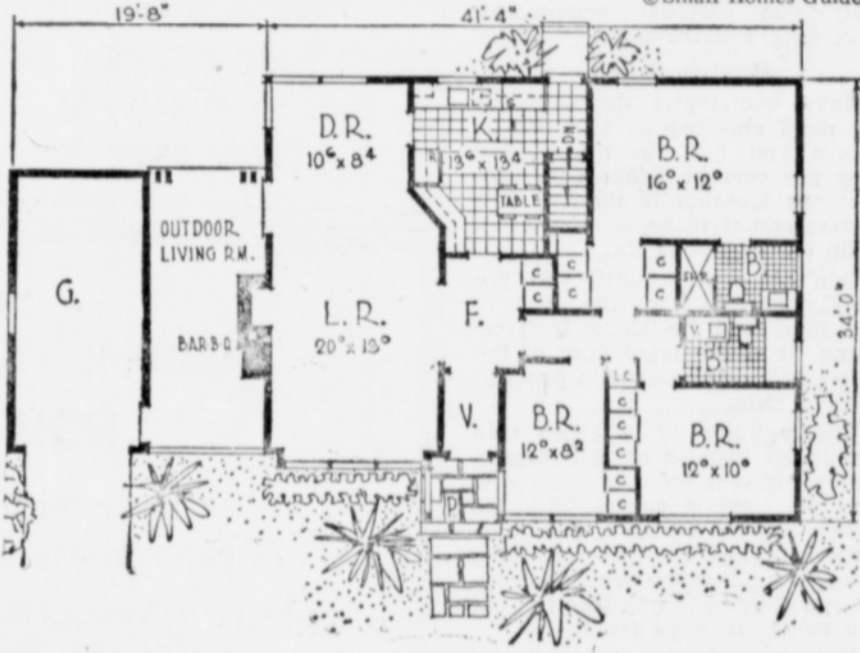


Practical Construction

Here is a design full of "different" ideas by Architect Herman H. York. The house is so practical from both the builder's and the home owner's point of view, that it was almost inevitable for the Small Homes Guide board of judges to award it first prize for excellence of design. Something brand new is the louvered front opening of the breezeway, which ties house and garage together as a unit, yet allows full play to summer breezes. This, combined with attractive treatment at the rear, and the built-in barbecue, (fast becoming a standard item in today's home), makes an outdoor living room of this area.

Another good feature is the double bath arranged back-to-back, with one unit private to the master bedroom. Built-in shower is extra large. Kitchen work area bypasses back-to-front traffic perfectly. Convenience of basement stairway to service entrance is a definite plus. Floor area 1,339 sq. ft. Information on blueprints and cost can be obtained by writing to Small Homes Guide, 82 W. Washington, Chicago 2, Ill.

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Biology of a Rock

A BLASTED GRANITE boulder lies in jagged fragments beside the highway where construction is going on. Exposed for the first time to human sight are planes of mingled black, gray, and white flakes, glinting with bits of mica here and there. Here, on closely written tablets, ancient almost beyond our imagining, is an account of part of the ever-changing growth of the earth. For the silent rocks have their own means of communication. Sealed more surely, more imperviously, than those cylinders holding records of information concerning today's customs, that have been placed in subterranean vaults for possible discovery by peoples of the future, are the archives stored within them.

They all give testimony, they all tell their share of the chronicle. The solitary giant resting on some pasture hill, holding the sun's warmth long after nightfall, its rough sides fringed with lichens, the greenery of ferns clustered about its base. Rugged ledges that for centuries have resisted the sea's intent and rhythmic onset. Even a humble and dusty pebble lying in the midst of the city—come from who knows where?—this, too, offers its contribution. Hold it in your hand and marvel that the unguessable forces pent within it do not shiver it to atoms. There it lies, small dun-covered, yet a sort of small window through which we peer at a world that resounds with tremendous footsteps trampling the heaving ground, the roar of fierce winds through the boughs of colossal trees, the stir and hiss and rumble of volcanic upheaval—all the surging tumult of a planet in the making.

Rocks are the grist of the earth; tirelessly do the mills of weather and time grind them down. But before becoming dust they heard

Brookings Harbor Pilot 5
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their narrative, chapter upon chapter, compactly stored, line after line enscrived in tiny hieroglyphics, with here and there among them, as for illustration, a print of strange leaf or insect, a track of long-vanished beast. And in some, like the illumination in an old manuscript, colored gems whose depths hold a concentrate beauty of light, ready to spring forth in dazzling rays.

Earthfast, absorbed in its busyness of being, a rock lies, continually telling . . . telling.

I am not free.—Eugene V. Debs.

Our whole social life is in essence but a long striving for the victory of justice over force.—Galsworthy.

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Evenings by Appointment

the trunks of trees, with rocks of up-river origin gripped in their roots, have been tossed out over the gorge basalts and left to weather on the river scablands. Most of the tree trunks carried in by the 1948 flood still tightly hold their cargo of rocks in their meshed roots. Tree trunks from the 1894 flood are rotting rapidly, and rocks in most instances have been released, to nestle as strange cousins among the native lava boulders.

Many Large Stones

Sargent in presenting his paper at the Portland conference, said that erratics weighing up to 200 pounds have been found gripped in the roots of trees transported down the Columbia gorge by floods.

Geologists say it is evident that many of the "foreign" rocks found scattered over the river bottom scablands in The Dalles area were rafted in by trees in earlier floods,

some of prehistoric times. The trees that served as rafting agents long ago rotted away and deposited their stones and boulders in an area foreign to their origin.

Most of the tree-rafted rocks are found at high water marks in the Columbia gorge, where the battered stumps and twined roots came to rest as the flood crests passed—Phil F. Brogan in *The Portland Oregonian*.

The ideal society would enable every man and woman to develop along their individual lines, and not attempt to force all into one mould, however admirable.—J. B. S. Haldane.

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