

FACTS ON ICELAND FISSURE GIVES ASSISTANCE TO STATE GEOLOGISTS

By PHIL F. BROGAN

An earth fissure in Iceland from which three cubic miles of molten rock poured in historic times has provided geologists with some background relative to Oregon's prehistoric past.

The Iceland fissure is the great Skaptar cleft, 20 miles in length. From that fissure in 1783 spilled lava that covered 280 square miles. Some of the tongues of flaming rock reached a distance of 40 miles before chilling. Depth of the lava in places was more than 100 feet.

Flows from the Skaptar cleft were similar to those that spread over many parts of the northwest in the fiery age known as the Miocene and were repeated on a smaller scale until recent times.

A comparatively recent fissure flow is that which spilled into the Crooked river gorge in the Smith rock area long before the coming of the white man to the continent, and even before the first nomads from Asia crossed the Bering land connection to

people the western world. The Crooked river flow has been compared by geologists with some of the recent lavas that filled canyons in Iceland.

Like the lava from the Skaptar cleft, the flaming rock that tumbled into the old gorge of Crooked river was highly fluid, and followed the winding canyon many miles, to the Deschutes river junction, then on north to the confluence of the Metolius river. Finally, when the Crooked river flow cooled, all three gorges were plugged with massive black rock, of the type known to geologists as basalts.

With its ancient channel choked with rock to a depth of nearly 80 feet downstream, Crooked river possibly should have sought a new overflow route and cut its way through the soft Madras formation to a junction with the Deschutes west of Madras. But the Juniper butte volcano, one of the oldest in the area, barred that short cut, and Crooked river proceeded to gouge a new canyon,

Beaverettes Bowling Score

TEAM STANDINGS, APRIL 30	
W.	L.
Pete Lesmeister Ins.	38 18
Freeman's Market	35½ 20½
Kerr Hdwe.	34 22
Tots, Teens, Mincerts	32½ 23½

not through the soft adjacent sediments, but into the hard basalt. The result was a canyon within a canyon.

Through the ages, many ancestral eastern Oregon canyons have been filled with lavas, and in some instances stream diverted by the lava, cut new channels on the side of the once-fluid rock. Where this has occurred, the ancestral gorges remain as sort of "fossil canyons" filled with rock that marks their old courses.

One of the many canyons through which lava once flowed was the gorge of Willow creek. A tongue of lava filled the upper reaches of this creek, in southeastern Jefferson county. The creeping river of rock finally froze in the gorge, about a mile from the present site of Madras.

Sisco Loggerettes	27	29
Don's Cliff House	24	32
Eagles Aux.	17	38
Chetco Cafe	16	40

Yearly High Games—	
Larrie Peterson	214
Clara Goyke	205
Katie Hall	196
Dana Baird	196

Individual Series—	
Clara Goyke	521
Larrie Peterson	504
Dana Baird	493

Team Games—	
Chetco Cafe	892
Pete Lesmeister	881
Sisco Loggerettes	878

High Team Series—	
Pete Lesmeister	2515
Don's Cliff House	2468

Brookings Harbor Pilot 9
Thursday, May 7, 1953

Freeman's Market 2465
Ten High Average: Clara Goyke, 153; Katie Hall, 144; Ver-na Crabb, 141; Dana Baird, 134; Rickey Haggerty, 134; Audrey Keen, 126; Cleo Rogers, 125; Eisa Fisher, 125; Yolande Vaughn, 123; Kathy Karns, 122; Jean Malcolm, 122.

HIGH GAMES APRIL 30
Ind. game: Dana Baird, 186;
Ind. series: Clara Goyke, 513;
Team games: Sisco Loggerettes, 878; Team series: Sisco Loggerettes, 2423.

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