

State Parks Draw Tourists to Oregon

(Editor's Note: This is first of series of five articles concerning Oregon's five state park districts. This first article covers state park areas in the Portland headquarters district.

Over 5¼ million people visited Oregon state parks in 1952 and the number is increasing from year to year. For the first time last year, overnight camping facilities were added to a number of state parks and again this year the State Parks division looks forward to accommodating some 50,000 people who like camping holidays in the great outdoors.

State park use from the Portland area, of course, is the greatest and within the Portland headquarters district are 28 state parks, six roadside picnic areas and six parks with overnight camping privileges. The Portland area park which received the greatest patronage last year was Crown Point, where over 341,000 visitors stopped to see the panorama of the Columbia gorge spread before them from the Vista House. Another viewpoint park, Bradley, on the lower Columbia river had a count of over 156,000 visitors. The north coastal park with greatest patronage last year was Ecola with 134,460 visitors.

Within easy driving range of Portland are a great variety of state park areas ranging from surf-washed, sandy beaches to riv-

erside retreats and historic sites.

One of the most historic sites in the Oregon country is included in the Champoe Memorial State park, southeast of Newberg. Here a museum recalls the days of steamboating on the Willamette river and a monument lists the names of all those who voted for American government on May 2, 1843, 110 years ago. The parks division has begun the planting of a labeled arboretum which will include most of the native Oregon trees in a grove on the south edge of the park. There is a considerable demand for the restoration of part of the town of Champoe.

Along the coast are several state parks containing some of the choicest viewpoints and beach areas. Foremost of these is Ecola, just north of Cannon Beach, containing over 1100 acres and a shore frontage of six miles. Sea lions and birds inhabit the offshore seastacks and small herds of elk and deer roam the park at will. No better place along the coast may be found for a surfside picnic.

Over 2400 acres are contained in Short Sand Beach State park, north of Manzanita, at Cape Falcon. This park also contains most of Neahkahnie mountain, steeped in legend of buried treasure and offering the motorist views stretched for miles along Tillamook and Clatsop beaches. A beach, agate caves, creeks, bathing, fishing and clamming are all found in the park, in addition to overnight camping privileges.

Near Wheeler and Brighton is the Nehalem Sand Spit park where clamming at low tide is just about tops. An undeveloped park area at Cape Meares, just to the east of the lighthouse, is a lovely forested area containing an unusual spruce tree some ten feet in diameter.

Destined to some day be the most unusual and outstanding of coastal state parks is Cape Lookout, west of Tillamook. The division is just starting to develop this area with picnic and overnight camping facilities in the offing. Cape Lookout is a point of land that extends some two miles into the sea and on its south side has a sheer drop of 700 feet. It is anticipated that most of the cape will be kept in its natural state with trails leading through the forested areas for the enjoyment of the public.

Off the Sunset highway near Necanicum junction is Saddle Mountain park, favorite with

hunters, and where overnight camping is permitted. The forest service maintains a lookout on the very top of the peak, highest point in the north Oregon coast range. Forest waysides are maintained by the parks division, also, along several miles of both the Wilson River and Sunset highways.

A panoramic view of valleys to the south, north and east is the reward for a visit to Bald Peak State park north of Newberg. This is the highest point in the Chehalem mountains and picnicking facilities are maintained.

Willamette Stone State park, four miles west of Portland's business center, is the site of the crossing of the Willamette meridian and the east-west line used for all government land surveys in the states of Oregon and Washington. A marker connotes this point.

The Columbia River highway is lined with a series of state parks, many of which are perhaps best known by natives and visitors alike. Improved facilities for picnicking are found at Dabney, along the Sandy river; Guy W. Talbot, containing Latourell falls; Benson, near Multnomah falls; Ainsworth, at the foot of St. Peter's dome; Lindsey, on Lindsey

creek; Starvation creek; Viento, bordering a small brook; and Wygant on Perham creek. Overnight camping privileges are obtainable at Dabney, Benson and Viento parks.

Mayer State park, atop Rowena crest, west of The Dalles, offers another inspiring viewpoint at an elevation of 747 feet above the Columbia river. Picnic facilities are maintained at Zibe Dimmick forest wayside, 15 miles south of Hood River on the Mt. Hood highway. This area adjoins the east fork of Hood river.

Other undeveloped areas along the Columbia gorge include the Troutdale-Sandy River parking area, Rooster Rock park, Shep-

pard's Dell park, John B. Yeon park, Bonneville park and Seneca Fouts Memorial park, which includes the area around Mitchell Point tunnel.

In addition to the state park areas described, the landscape division of the highway department maintains roadside picnic areas at Sunset Springs and Wildcat Creek along U.S. 26; near Hood River and Rowena along U. S. 30 and at Tillamook river and Farmer creek on U. S. Highway 101, all in the Portland headquarters district.

(Next article — Salem State Park district)

Announcing Grand Opening

**CHUCK WAGON DINING ROOM
NORTH FORTY LODGE**

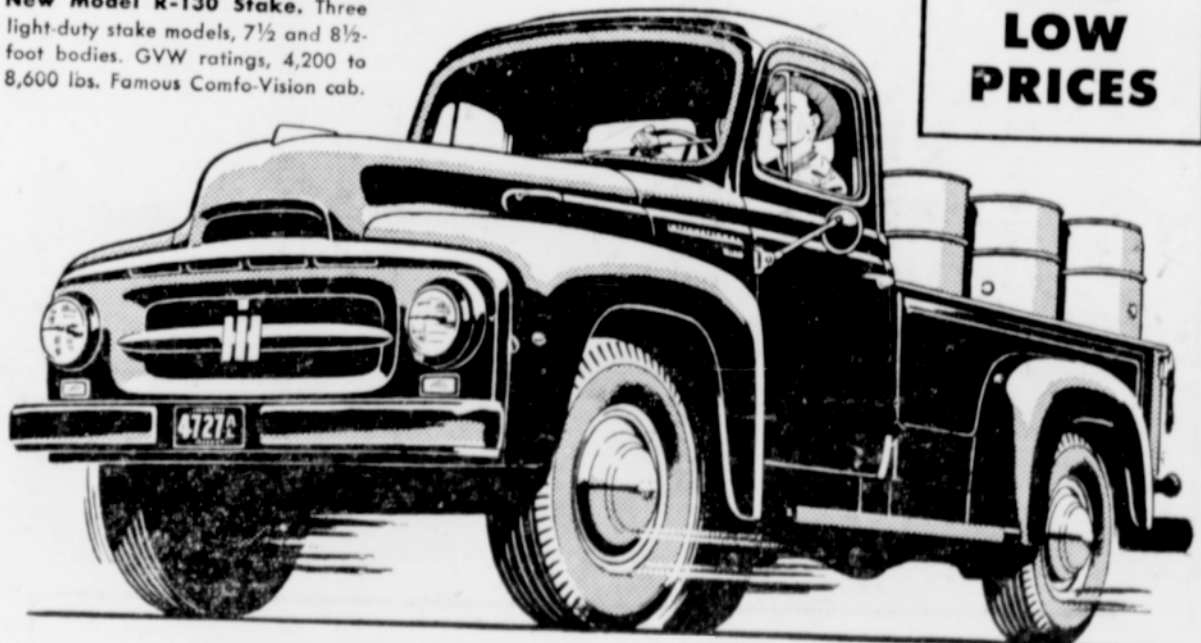
**SMITH RIVER
SATURDAY, JUNE 27**

PLAY IT SAFE

...with International Trucks



New Model R-130 Stake. Three light-duty stake models, 7½ and 8½-foot bodies. GVW ratings, 4,200 to 8,600 lbs. Famous Comfo-Vision cab.



**NEW
LOW
PRICES**

Nine pickup models available. ½, ¾, and 1-ton sizes, 6½, 8, and 9-foot bodies. Powered by famous Silver Diamond valve-in-hand engine.

You don't have to guess when you buy an International because they are proved all 3 ways:

1. Proved BEFORE they're built—at the world's most advanced all-truck engineering laboratory. The results—longer truck life, reduced operating and maintenance costs—give you more truck for your dollar.

2. Proved AFTER they're built—at the "Desert Whipping Post," 4,000-acre Proving Ground in Arizona.

3. Proved IN SERVICE — by cost-conscious truck operators all over America.

Let us show you the new Internationals. Drive them. See for yourself! Convenient terms available.

Davis Truck and Tractor



INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS

Standard of the Highway

Screened Sand, and Gravel

**Salvage Sand
and Gravel**

Top Soil Fill Dirt
Drainage Rock

Phone 2341

Leonard Real Estate

**WARD'S
Propane Service**

We carry a COMPLETE line of Gas Appliances, Wedgwood, Tappan, O'Keefe & Merritt, and Caloric ranges — General water heaters—Servel Refrigerators — Coleman furnaces.

Tanks for rent, sale or lease.

Crescent City Phone 111
At Jet. Hwys 101 and 199

**ADAMS
CHEVROLET**

More Chevrolets Sold Than Any Other Car
Sales and Service

For Curry County

Phone 411

Gold Beach, Ore.

ROY H. BROWN MORTUARY

"Brookings' Own"

Phone 2244—Day or Night

Hillside Street

Brookings, Oregon

"Courteous, Dependable Service"