

"Lovers' Leap"



ROBERTSON'S FOLLY,
MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH.



LOVER'S LEAP, MACKINAC
ISLAND, MICH.

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

HAVE you a "Lovers' Leap" in your locality? If you haven't, then it's unique, and you might well capitalize upon that fact and, in advertising to tourists the attractions of your region, assure them that "this is the only place in the United States which does not have among its scenic beauties a single Lovers' Leap."

Just how many of these places there are is unknown. But start anywhere in the East and drive West and you'll find plenty of them. There's one between Little Falls and Danube, N. Y., a rocky hill overlooking the Erie canal and the Mohawk river. Visit Starved Rock park between Ottawa and La Salle, Ill., and you will be shown a rocky projection "from which an Ili-lini warrior and his sweetheart leaped to death in the river, rather than deliver themselves into the hands of their enemies." Visit Independence, Iowa, and they will tell you that Cedar rock, near Quasqueton, is also called "Lovers' Leap" where "the Indian lovers, Wapsie and Pinicon, from whom the Wapsipinicon got its name, are supposed to have plunged to their deaths in the swirling waters of the river." And out in Oakdale, Calif., they will sell you a post card picture of "Lover's Leap on the road between Oakdale and Knights Ferry where a mythical Indian maiden committed suicide by leaping into the river."

While nearly every township or county can boast of at least one Lovers' Leap, Mackinac Island in northern Michigan has the distinction of having two places where love's young dream found a tragic ending. The guide books will tell you of "Lover's Leap"—This lone pinnacle rises to a height of 145 feet above the waters of Lake Michigan about a mile west of the main part of the city. The legend which gives it its name is that in the long ago the beautiful Lotah, an Indian maiden of the Ojibway tribe and only daughter of a famous chief named Wawanosh, watched from this height the departure of her lover, named Geniwegwon, with a war expedition across the water; and to the rock she came day after day to await his coming. At last, the party returning without him, brought word of his death and the distracted maiden not caring for life any longer leaped from this cliff; the lifeless body was found by her father at the foot of the precipice the evening after."

Then there is Robertson's Folly, where "Tis told that a young and beautiful Indian girl was wooed and won by this dashing young Lieutenant Robertson, but the poor maiden soon learned that he was to depart for the East at an early date to marry a white girl. He granted her a last farewell meeting at this their trysting place,



LOVER'S LEAP, NEAR OAKDALE,
CALIFORNIA



LOVER'S LEAP, NEAR
INDEPENDENCE, IOWA

and in a desperate struggle she succeeded in precipitating him and herself over the cliff."

But if you want the story of a Lovers' Leap with a wealth of detail, go to Linn Creek, Mo., where there has been handed down from pioneer days this tale of Lovers' Leap above the clear waters of the Nangua river before it flows into the murky Osage:

"A century ago the mighty Osage and Shawnee tribes dwelt along these streams. They were fighting enemies, and bones of big-framed giants, war clubs of stone, rusted arrow-heads of crudely fashioned metal and other signs of struggle have been found for years by plowboys as they turned over the rich alluvial soil along the river bottoms.

"Grey Eagle was then a medicine man of the Shawnees; his daughter was Laughing Water. A young warrior of the Osage tribe came up the racing waters of the Nangua in his canoe on a pleasant day, and stopped before the birch bark tepee of Grey Eagle. The head of the young warrior flaunted his eagle feathers; a deer-skin shirt and leggings, and buckskin moccasins encased the form of this young giant. Tails of wild animals hung from a wampum belt and a bow and arrow swung across his broad shoulders. These intimate details have been carefully preserved in connection with the world-old story of 'love at first sight.'

"Laughing Water rose gracefully to welcome him, but she reckoned without her haughty father, to whom the sight of an Osage was poison ivy. But none the less, Laughing Water had a mind of her own, as daughters of a tribal chieftain should have, and she encouraged the shots from the love arrow of the Osage warrior.

"Day by day the young couple roamed the forest or floated on the silvery waters of the Nangua. Laughing Water sang like birds in tree tops, or laughed till the forest rang with melody as her lover related his stories of wonderful adventure.

"The Osage warrior came to friendly terms with the Shawnee braves, as their bitter jealousies vanished before evidences of his skill as a fisherman and hunter and prowess as a warrior. They took him into their council, but old Grey Eagle would not mix medicine potions that would enable him to become a son-in-law.

"Courtship of this pair lasted during the summer, and every means of winning the father's consent proved unavailing. Laughing Water was urged to flee the tribal domain and become one of the Osage people. But her Shawnee blood would not permit, so the young couple decided since they could not live together they would die together. Thus united in the land of the great silence their love would be unhindered by the wishes of a medicine chief.

"Face to face and hand to hand the Indian lovers plighted their everlasting troth, sought a high bluff on the river beneath which the waters formed a great swirling eddy, cast themselves far into the channel and no trace of them was ever discovered."

A similar detailed account of another Lover's Leap, which bears the more prosaic name of Jump mountain, was told in a recent issue of the Lexington (Va.) Gazette, prefaced with this editor's note: "The following article has been contributed by a friend who is satisfied that the account is historical."

"At a distance of about three miles from the Baths, and easy of access, is the Jump, one of the mountains that form the Coshen pass, gradually rising in height until at the distance of a mile and a half from the river it terminates abruptly, making a depth to the bottom below of two thousand feet. Near here once took place a desperate battle between the Cherokees and Shawnees, during which a wild shriek was heard, and an apparition, with streaming hair and outstretched arms, was seen flying through the air from the mountain summit, only to disappear mysteriously at its base. This strange and supernatural sight was witnessed by the warriors below. They were awestruck. Their superstition was aroused. The fight ceased. A council was called. The calumet was smoked. The tomahawk was buried. A peace was concluded. Both parties believing that the Great Spirit was angry, and had hid his face under a cloud. From enemies they became friends, and as a pledge of future reconciliation, collected and buried their graves in one common mound.

"The incident which had caused a cessation of hostilities was as tragic as singular. The Cherokees, aware that the fight would be a severe one, had sent all their squaws and papoose some distance to the rear, except a pretty Indian maiden, whose interest in a young chief had induced her to climb a mountain acclivity nearby, from which she could witness the stirring scenes below. In the hottest of the fight, beholding her chief, whose warwhoop was as well known to her as his warlock, fall by the hand of a fierce Shawnee, in a moment of despairing love, with one wild shriek, leaped from the mountain top into the abyss below, following her favorite chief to better hunting grounds. From this incident the mountain obtained the name of Jump."

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OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Assembled for Information of Our Readers.

A new population record was established at the state penitentiary when the official register showed a total of 915 convicts at Salem.

From 8½ acres in the George Christenson farm in the Pleasantdale vicinity near Dayton, more than 45 2-3 bushels of Holland wheat an acre was produced.

Columbia county Pomona grange, with appropriate ceremonies, dedicated its beautiful seven-acre park at Big Eddy on the Nehalem river to the use of the public.

Playfully placing a small caliber rifle to his forehead and pulling the trigger, evidently thinking the gun unloaded, cost Allen Hartley, 21, of Coquille, his life.

The recent hot weather has proved beneficial to the hop crop in Marion county, according to growers. Picking of fuggles will begin August 25 in most of the larger yards.

Ninety miles of county roads have been built in Deschutes county during the past two years, at an average cost of \$293 per mile, according to County Judge De Armond.

Sales of pears were made at Salem at prices ranging from \$25 to \$30 a ton, according to announcement made by growers. Some of the pears were contracted earlier in the season.

The plant at Gold Hill, and quarries at Marble Mountain of the Beaver Portland Cement company, closed down the last three months, resumed operations for an extended run.

The pear crop in both the Hood River and the Yakima district is unusually good this year, and the Hood River apple crop gives promise also of being above normal, according to reports.

Evans Brothers are to resume their greenery business at Florence very soon. This will mean work for 10 to 15 pickers to harvest the ferns and huckleberry shrubbery so abundant there.

The Train lumber mill on the Rogue river near McLeod was destroyed by fire, it has been learned. All machinery was lost and in addition several thousand feet of lumber was burned.

Thousands of tons of rocks, ice and snow crashed down the upper slope of Mount Hood in a gigantic slide that fairly shook the mountain when the hanging glacier, a part of the Cove glacier, let go.

The Fir Lumber company of Lebanon, which has the contract to furnish ties for the Oregon Electric extension between Lebanon and Waterloo, has begun the delivery of 15,000 ties along the new grade.

Harvesting the 1930 wheat crop in the Athena district is verging on the close of a perfect cutting season. Weather conditions have been ideal and not an hour was lost on account of wind or rain.

Plans for a new \$3500 church building to be erected at Malin are materializing. The ground has been cleared in readiness for the construction. The church is to be of bungalow type and modern in every respect.

THE MARKETS Portland

Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, \$1.04½; soft white, western white, 89½c; hard winter, northern spring, western red, 86½c.

Hay—Alfalfa, new crop, \$17.50; valley timothy, new crop, \$18; eastern Oregon timothy, \$22.50@23; clover, new crop, \$14; oat hay, new crop, \$14; oats and vetch, new crop, \$13.50.

Butterfat—36c.
Eggs—Ranch, 17@26c.
Cattle—Steers, good, \$7.75@8.25.
Hogs—Good to choice, \$10@11.
Lambs—Good to choice, \$6@7.

Seattle

Wheat—Soft white, western white, 91c; hard winter, northern spring, 90c; western red, 89c; bluestem, \$1.07.
Eggs—Ranch, 27@34c.
Butterfat—38c.
Cattle—Choice steers, \$7@8.
Hogs—Prime light, \$11@11.15.
Lambs—Choice, \$6@7.

Spokane

Cattle—Steers, good, \$6@6.50.
Hogs—Good to choice, \$11.
Lambs—Medium to good, \$5.50@6.

Milk producers of Corvallis have perfected an organization to be known as the Corvallis Wholesale Dairy association with Walter Locke, president, and Charles Wiles, vice-president.

From two acres on the Clarence Badger farm in the Grand Island vicinity 11½ tons of Royal Anne cherries were marketed this season. Five cents a pound was received for them.

Flames swept two adjacent one-story frame structures at Albany, and caused a loss of approximately \$3000 to buildings and contents. Occupying the buildings were a barber shop, a beauty parlor and hemstitching shop.

A Buff Orpington hen belonging to Mrs. S. P. Robertson, Jefferson county, is proving a champion in producing large eggs. The hen recently laid an egg which measured 7½ inches by 9 inches and weighed 5½ ounces.

Favorable action on the application of the state of Oregon to establish a park on the summit of Camas mountain, west of Roseburg, has been taken by the federal government. The government will lease the 160-acre tract to the state for \$127.50 per year.

The Ashland fire department was called to Bellevue district, south of Ashland, to combat a fierce blaze at the Moon Lumber company's drykiln, in which approximately 150,000 feet of lumber and much machinery were burned. The cause has not been ascertained.

The final shipments of loganberries for the season were made from Estacada last week. Notwithstanding the greatly increased acreage this year, the receipts will only amount to about 175 tons, slightly lower than those of last year, and only about half of what was anticipated.

The state board of control asked for bids for repainting all automobiles and motorcycles used by the state traffic department. The bodies of the cars will be white, while the tops will be black. The insignia of the traffic department will be painted on both the automobiles and motorcycles.

Thirty-five per cent. dividend checks were mailed to depositors of the defunct Astoria savings bank. The total amount of the dividend is \$499,350, according to A. H. Olson, deputy superintendent of banks, in charge of liquidation. This is the first dividend to be paid from the bank, which failed a year ago.

Lane county looks forward definitely to a \$2,752,000 road program to be carried out in the immediate future and to bring to completion all the major projects in this county. Relief of unemployment conditions is anticipated as one of the results of this work, long hoped for by the county court and road enthusiasts.

An ungraded room will be the newest educational plan to be tried out in the Theodore Roosevelt junior high school at Eugene. In the ungraded room will be grouped pupils who have not graduated from the elementary schools but who are approximately 13 years old, and junior high pupils who are irregularly graded.

Farmers surrounding Heppner are said to be having difficulty in obtaining enough farm hands to do their harvesting. This situation, coming at a time when most places are suffering from unemployment, is imputed to the fact that Heppner is not on the main line of the railroad and is rather out of the way of traveling laborers.

Heads of 11 state and national banks in Yamhill county held a meeting at Newberg to consider the problem of duplicate borrowers. It was said that this problem has caused the bankers considerable worry during the last few years, and an effort will be made to determine the extent to which duplicate borrowing has been carried on.

The California Public Service company is burying a lighting cable in the streets of Lakeview at a cost of several thousand dollars, assuming that within a few years the city can afford to have street lights installed. The cable is being laid now so it will not be necessary to tear up the paving now being laid when the city can afford to install the lights.

The Nebergall Packing company, whose slaughtering plant at Eugene was destroyed by fire a short time ago, has started to rebuild. The plant will be larger than the old one, and will be located several hundred feet from the old site.

Stien brothers, Eugene, won the contract for installing boundary lights, obstruction lights and flood lights, grading and graveling a diagonal runway, and providing drainage at the Eugene municipal airport at a meeting of the city council.