

Columbia River Highway

(Cover Picture)

By ERNEST A. ROSTEL

Who could soon forget the scenic thrills of a motor trip over the famed Columbia River Highway where such spectacular rock formation as Bishop's Cap, with its crown of lofty firs, is only one of many inspiring sights?

The highway executes easy curves around the towering block of basalt as it approaches from cool, green Shepherd's Dell state park with its tumbling Young's creek happily on its way from upland snow fields to the mighty Columbia, River of the West.

One day last month Ralph Gifford, State Highway Commission Travel Information Department photographer, found the mood of lights and shadows just right for his latest picture of Bishop's Cap, adding new photographic beauty and meaning to a familiar subject.

It is easy to understand why the grandeur of the Columbia river gorge, the eternal beauty of Mt. Hood, Crater Lake's symphony in blue, the ceaseless surf of the Pacific nurture a pride, strong and deep, in the hearts of Oregonians. With the nation's expansion westward came covered wagon trains of heroic men and women who in days of courage set up homes in the untried wilderness to lay foundations for what is the great state of Oregon today. They took great pride in the present and the future of their new homeland. Not only is this pride peculiar to native Oregonians and early pioneers. It soon captures the fancy of those from other states who have adopted this state as their home in more recent years.

Trips to such impressive areas as the Willowa mountains of northeastern Oregon, to the sparkling lakes and shining peaks of central Oregon, to the great outdoors of southeastern and western Oregon and to countless other vacation lures can only serve to inspire all Oregonians to be increasingly more proud of their state. They know it is a privilege to live in Oregon, which holds so much beauty for one lifetime.

"ONCE UPON A TIME" IN OREGON

By Marcia M. Hill, School Reference Librarian, Oregon State Library

Speaking from a literary standpoint, did you come to Oregon via *The Covered Wagon*? Perhaps you have not read a fiction title about Oregon since. There are several novels that have now become classics, although their publication dates are, for the most part, in the 1930's and 1940's. We are suggesting a few for summer time reading. When you travel in Oregon you may visit one of the places mentioned. Some of us live in historic spots and do not appreciate our surroundings. All of us thrill to the description of a familiar place when it appears in book form.

Since the days when William Cullen Bryant wrote in *Tbanatopsis*, "Where rolls the Oregon, and hears no sound save his own dashings—" the Columbia has meant "the river" to Oregonians. It is not strange that at least two titles contain the word river, *Swift Flows the River* by Nard Jones and *They Came to a River* by Allis McKay. Pioneer days on the Columbia form the background for *Swift Flows the River*. The hero is Caleb Paige whose parents were killed in 1856 in the assault of the Indians on the Cascades. Caleb's ambition was to become a river boat pilot. He had an instinct for his chosen work. Before he was thirty the river was his great passion. Caleb's wife, Mary, felt at home only when she was surrounded by fields, cattle and the security of possessions. The river frightened her. That was one reason why Caleb turned to Victoria, who felt the excitement of the river and understood how it could hold a man. Nard Jones is writing about something he loves and understands. Those who have never seen the Columbia will still "feel" the river and appreciate the craftsmanship which has gone into the book.

They Came to a River is the story of the development of the apple growing