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Legend of Otter Rock.

The many shell beds scattered along the bluffs of the Oregon coast, notably in Lincoln county, between the Alsea and the Siletz bays, where in places the county is building roads with the shells that were gathered from the rocks along the ocean beach and carried to the high bluffs, indicate that Indian camping grounds and many of the larger villages were situated overlooking the old ocean. These shell beds vary in extent from a few rods to several acres in a place. In many localities the bluffs are breaking off and falling into the ocean, and it is impossible to tell how much land was at one time embraced in these shell beds. The depth of the shell beds varies from a few feet to 20 or 30 feet.

The shells are mostly of the mussel variety, mingled with the bones of many different kinds of animals, sea-lions' tusks and elk teeth, also rock mortars and other implements made of rock used by the Indians that lived along the Oregon coast, in the long ago. These Indians in choosing their camping ground or village sites settled along the coast usually at the mouth of the numerous bays or inlets that indent the Oregon coast or behind the capes or headlands

that extend out into the ocean. These capes or headlands break the heavy winds and leave the water on the lee sides calm. The Indian could go out upon the ocean in his little dugout canoe and gather the large mussels that cling to the rocks. Such places were Seal rocks, Whale cove, Depot bay, Cape Foulweather and Otter rock. At all these places are large shell beds and much evidence is found that many Indians lived there at one time.

Many people have the wrong impression as to where Cape Foulweather is situated. They know where it is on the map, but from newspaper items many people who visit Newport gather the idea that Yaquina heads, where the lighthouse is located, is Cape Foulweather. As a matter of fact Cape Foulweather is four miles north of Yaquina heads lighthouse. On the plateau on the south side of Cape Foulweather and at the hill was located one of these ancient Indian villages, and the old shell beds are still much in evidence, although many of these beds have been washed away by the continuous grind of the ocean waves as they have for ages cast their white spray over this portion of Oregon's rockbound coast.