

George Washington Bush had also come down that river, with his family and other parties whose trip to Oregon he had helped finance. When Bush arrived at The Dalles, he learned that the Provisional Government — a government free of both the U.S. and Great Britain who were vying for control of the Oregon Country — had passed a law barring Blacks from Oregon. He turned north and became the first American to settle north of the Columbia in what is now the State of Washington. Bush settled at Tumwater, near Olympia, and his descendents were influential in Washington politics.

Other lesser known Black people had made their way to Oregon — some as shipwrecked sailors, others as fur trappers, and still others as free farmers and trademen, but the racism of the white settlers and their fear of entanglement in the conflict over slavery kept the number of Black settlers small. Although these Black explorers and settlers shared the same hardships and made the same sacrifices and contributions to the struggling frontier settlement as their white neighbors — these Black explorers and settlers have all but been erased from the pages of Oregon's history.

The mighty Columbia along which these Black explorers and pioneers made their way is still as beautiful as it was described by Fremont, although its energy has been harnessed by the great federal dams and it is paralleled by a modern freeway. The sun still sets across the great expanses of water and still sparkles on the snows of Mt. Hood.

#### The Lower Columbia

Astoria was the first permanent settlement in the Oregon Country — established by John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company in 1811. At the turn of the century Astoria was a major west coast port.

A panoramic view of Astoria, the Columbia and the Pacific can be had from the 125

foot tall Astor Column located on Coxcomb Hill. Built in 1926, the column is covered with a multicolored frieze that depicts events in Astoria's history.

Along the wharf can be seen the tall masted fishing boats which are the mainstay of the area's commerce.

**Fort Clatsop National Memorial** is a reconstruction of the site where the Lewis and Clark Expedition spent a stormy winter. A full-scale replica of the original fort has been built using the floor plan drawn by Captain Clark.

#### The Gorge

The Columbia cuts through the Cascade Mountains, forming the spectacular Columbia River Gorge.

Two highways follow the river — the water level freeway, 80-N, and the Columbia River Scenic Highway. The scenic highway, which winds around the sides of the cliffs high above the river offers spectacular views.

The first paved road across the Cascade, the old highway was built in 1915. With its massive stone bridges, stone railings and view points, it offers a leisurely drive through the forests thick with ferns and wild flowers. The road offers close-up views of the many water falls, with hiking trails taking one deep into the forest or to the tip of the falls in a few minutes.

Among the falls — Bridel Veil, Latourell, Wahkiena, Horsetail and many others, Multnomah is the best known. Falling 620 feet in two falls, it is the site of Multnomah Falls Lodge. A trail leads over a stone bridge above the lower falls, up to the top of the falls and up Multnomah Creek.

#### OMSI

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, 4015 S.W. Canyon Road, offers a unique opportunity for children and adults to experience the miracles of science. There are physical science exhibits, a transparent lady that dramatizes the parts of the body, an aerospace hall, a walk-in heart, displays of Oregon fossils, an operating beehive and hatching chicks. The planetarium offers a variety of educational shows.

Recent scientific evidence indicates that recurring explosions are taking place in the very core of the Milky Way. "Echoes of Creation," the new show in OMSI's Kendall Planetarium, looks at what these explosions may reveal about the origin of our galaxy.

Within the past three months, scientists have discovered the existence of both supermassive objects and extreme amounts of anti-matter within the Milky Way's core. Together these result in the annihilation of matter and tremendous releases of energy — i.e., explosions. According to Kendall Planetarium Director Garry T. Stasiuk, these discoveries point to a revolutionary, new theory regarding the origin of the Milky Way. Are the explosions in our galaxy's core, in fact, "echoes" of our creation? The Planetarium presentation studies the evidence.

"Echoes of Creation" shows daily in OMSI's Kendall Planetarium. Showtimes are 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, with an additional 7:30 p.m. showing Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. There is no additional charge, after the regular OMSI admission.

OMSI's Kendall Planetarium will present a special Children's Matinee daily at 11:00 a.m. In "Exploring the Universe with Galactic Life Tours, Inc.," the Planetarium becomes a starship searching for new forms of intelligent life in outer space. There is no extra charge, after OMSI admission.

#### Zoological Gardens

The Washington Park Zoo covers forty acres of land at 4001 S.W. Canyon Road, across from OMSI. The zoo train offers a ride around the zoo to Washington Park. A wide assortment of animals greet the visitors but of special interest are the prolific elephants who, unlike most zoo elephants, continue to multiply. Also residents of the Washington Park Zoo are the chimpanzees, who have become professional artists.

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